

**Meeting Minutes of the  
NORTH FRONT RANGE TRANSPORTATION &  
AIR QUALITY PLANNING COUNCIL**

**October 1, 2020  
Hybrid Meeting  
Johnstown YMCA, 165 Settler Way  
Johnstown, CO**

**Voting Members Present:**

**Dave Clark- CHAIR** -Loveland  
Elizabeth Austin -Milliken  
Kathleen Bracke -Transportation Commission  
Mark Clark -Evans  
Paula Cochran -LaSalle  
Tom Donnelly -Larimer County  
Lanie Isbell -Eaton  
Will Karspeck -Berthoud  
Don McLeod -Severance  
Troy Mellon -Johnstown  
Brett Payton -Greeley  
Paul Rennemeyer -Windsor  
Kevin Ross -Weld County  
Kristen Stephens -Fort Collins

**Voting Members Absent:**

Fil Archuleta -Garden City  
Lisa Laake -Timnath  
Dena Wojtach -CDPHE

**MPO Staff:**

Suzette Mallette, Executive Director; Stuart Kurtz, Accounting Manager; Becky Karasko, Transportation Planning Director; Medora Bornhoft, Transportation Planner II; Alex Gordon, Mobility Coordinator/Transportation Planner II; and AnnaRose Cunningham, Transportation Planner I

**In Attendance:**

Dawn Anderson; Abdul Barzak; Allison Baxter; Frank Bazler; Brad Buckman; Rich Christy; James Eussen; Josie Hadley; Joel Hemsath; Myron Hora; Scott James; Will Jones; Dave Klockeman; AJ McCarthy; Mitch Nelson; Karen Schneiders; Mike Silverstein; Robin Stoneman

Chair D. Clark called the MPO Council meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

**Public Comment:**

There was no public comment.

**Move to Approve Agenda:**

**Rennemeyer moved** to approve the *October 1, 2020 Meeting Agenda as Submitted*. The motion was **seconded** by Karspeck and **passed** unanimously.

**Move to Approve Minutes:**

**McLeod moved** to approve the *September 3, 2020 Council Meeting Minutes as submitted*. The motion was **seconded** by Mellon and **passed** unanimously.

**Lead Planning Agency for Air Quality Agenda**

Chair D. Clark opened the Air Quality portion of the meeting.

Air Pollution Control Division (APCD)

A written report was provided.

Regional Air Quality Council (RAQC)

Mike Silverstein from the RAQC outlined the information in the provided memo provided to council describing the RAQCs recent activities. He reported the Air Quality Control

Commission (AQCC) accepted the draft State Implementation Plan (SIP) for public hearing this fall, which was approved by the RAQC Board at their August meeting. Silverstein discussed the effects of emissions exceedances observed at monitors during the 2020 Ozone season. Donnelly asked how the wildfire smoke affected the Ozone monitoring data. Silverstein stated there had been exceedances at monitors prior to the beginning of the wildfires but the State will be undertaking an evaluation for the determination of exceptional events due to wildfire smoke. The determination of exceptional events should be complete by the State and by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in the next six months. Donnelly asked about the decrease in VMT and other activities during the COVID-19 pandemic effect on monitoring data. Silverstein reported monitors showed decreases in air pollution early on, but summer activities showed only about a 20% decrease in VMT. The RAQC will be completing an analysis of the readings at the sites which saw exceedances to ensure accuracy. Silverstein outlined the RAQC workgroups which have convened to develop strategies for the region to come into compliance. Donnelly asked what happens when a region does come into compliance and if the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) funding would be discontinued. Silverstein and Mallette replied CMAQ funding will continue into the 20-year maintenance period. Ross asked for information on how the modeled values compared to observed values. Silverstein stated that information is in the SIP but that the modeled numbers were close to observed numbers. Mallette noted Dena Wojtach from CDPHE will report on wildfire smoke updates at the December meeting.

### **Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Agenda**

Chair D. Clark opened the MPO portion of the meeting.

#### **Reports:**

##### Report of the Chair:

Chair D. Clark asked council to discuss the process of assigning new work items to staff that come out of Council discussions. Mallette suggested requiring a manager report back to Council on what the work item would look like including staff time required to ensure Council approved of the workload. McLeod stated the Town of Severance does not require further approval for small work tasks, or tasks which will require less than four hours of work time. The group determined that reporting back to Council would be an appropriate plan of action.

##### Executive Director Report:

Director Mallette reported on the following:

- CDOT contracts have been received including the Consolidated Planning Grant, STP Metro, and Multimodal Options Fund (MMOF) contracts which are for the Premium Transit Study and the One Call/One Click Center Mobility Manager.
- The job for the Mobility Manager was posted on September 25 and there have been approximately 25 applicants to date.
- The NFRMPO partnered with the Cities of Loveland and Greeley for the NoCo Active Transportation Challenge during the week of September 20-26 There were 112 participants from 13 communities who reported switching 786 trip miles to an alternative mode including walking, biking, or riding transit.

##### Finance Committee:

A written report was provided.

##### TAC:

A written report was provided.

##### Mobility:

A written report was provided.

#### **Action Items**

##### September 2020 TIP Amendment

Medora Bornhoft, Transportation Planner II, explained the revisions in the September 2020 TIP Amendment which includes a revision to two projects from Greeley Evans Transit. The revision will expand the scope of the projects to include expansion of fleet instead of only replacement of existing fleet. Council action is contingent on no additional public comment being submitted from October 1, 2020 through October 8, 2020.

**Donnelly moved to APPROVE RESOLUTION 2020-19 APPROVING THE SEPTEMBER 2020 TIP AMENDMENT.** The motion was **seconded** by Mellon and **passed** unanimously.

#### FY2019-FY2021 CMAQ & FY2021 STBG Additional Funding Allocations

Bornhoff explained the item is addressing additional allocations of federal funding, approving a request for toll credits, and advancing funding for one project. This item was presented and discussed at the September 3, 2020 council meeting.

**Donnelly moved to APPROVE Resolution 2020-20 APPROVING THE FY2019-FY2021 CMAQ & FY2021 STBG ADDITIONAL FUNDING ALLOCATIONS.** The motion was **seconded** by Rennemeyer and **passed** unanimously.

#### **Discussion Items:**

##### Transportation Services For Vulnerable Populations, Including Seniors

Alex Gordon, Transportation Planner II/Mobility Coordinator, outlined funding which has become available to the region by CDOT and is available to non-profit transportation providers who were not eligible for CARES Act funding. There is \$115,000 which can be used for operating or capital expenses, or ADA upgrades and requires no local match. A survey is currently out to agencies in the area which are eligible for the funding to see what needs currently exist. Gordon stated if any council members knew of other eligible agencies, he will forward the information on to them. Projects will be determined through the mobility committees and final project recommendations will be brought back to the Council for approval.

##### MPO Boundary Update

Karasko and Mallette provided an update on the progress of the MPO boundary discussions. A meeting of the MPO Boundary Committee was held on October 1, discussed several potential scenarios for boundary changes. Mallette explained the next meeting will outline how funding allocations for sources such as CMAQ and STP Metro will be affected with boundary changes. McLeod noted the 2020 Census may influence the decision. James asked how transportation patterns influence the boundaries. Mallette explained urbanized areas are influenced by transportation patterns and then determine membership in an MPO. The largest city in the MPO and 75% of the population need to agree in order to make changes to the boundaries. Mallette explained once the process is complete by the MPOs and TPRs, the scenarios will be presented to the Governor for approval. A meeting will be held in November to provide updates on procedural, financial, and political implications of the scenarios.

##### Executive Director's Evaluation

M. Clark reported the HR Committee met and discussed the 360 evaluation for the Executive Director which is consistent with the prior year will be emailed in the form of a survey to Council members, TAC members, and NFRMPO Staff.

##### GHG Roadmap:

McLeod reported the Colorado Energy Office released the GHG Roadmap for public comment. The Roadmap outlines measures to reduce GHG emissions in the region as a directive of House Bill 19-1261. Public comment will be open through November 1, 2020. Mallette noted the full document includes actions for transportation as well as other sectors such as buildings and oil and gas that member communities may be interested in. Stephens asked if the council is providing comments on the whole document or on just the transportation section. McLeod noted the focus from the Council should be on the transportation aspects of the plan. Mallette noted she will email the link for the Roadmap to the Council. Bracke asked if there was any way the deadline could be extended so the council could discuss at their next meeting prior to submitting comments. McLeod stated he would reach out to the Colorado Energy Office to see if the deadline could be extended and update the group. The group discussed the option of the Council will providing comments on the Roadmap to the Executive Committee who would submit comments on behalf of the Council to the Energy Office. McLeod proposed a motion for this decision, Karspeck seconded and there was no opposition. (Subsequent

conversation after the meeting allows NFRMPO to provide comment with a deadline of November 6<sup>th</sup>).

### **Council Reports:**

#### **Transportation Commission Report**

Bracke reported the following:

- Continuing discussion of budget impacts as the result of COVID-19.
- The Commission has been receiving updates on how the wildfires have impacted the State highway system.
- Performance Measures and targets including asset management, mobility, and transit.
- Scenic and Historic Byways Commission has their annual meeting late in September.
- State Economic Recovery Transportation working group hosted by CDOT Director Lew which discusses ongoing statewide transportation funding needs.

#### **CDOT R4 Update**

Josie Hadley, Assistant Region Planner for CDOT Region 4, reported the following:

- Reopening of the Frontage Road and County Road 20E has occurred along segments 7 and 8 of the North I-25 project
- Railroad maintenance will occur in October in two locations.
- Construction on Highway 34 is progressing over I-25, bridge work is being completed on the North side of the existing structure.
- Design is continuing on segments 4 and 5, and right of way acquisition is being finalized.

#### **I-25 Coalition**

D. Clark reported the meeting will be held on October 7<sup>th</sup>.

#### **STAC Report**

A written report for September was provided.

#### **Host Council Member Report-**

Troy Mellon of Town of Johnstown reported the current meeting is the first to be held at the new YMCA facility. Mellon presented design concepts for Highway 60 over I-25 which will be the new Gateway Bridge as well as designs for the Veterans Memorial in the roundabout on the east side of Highway 402 and I-25. Additionally, paving has been completed on WCR 50 east of I-25.

### **Meeting Wrap-Up:**

#### **Next Month's Agenda Topic Suggestions:**

- GHG Roadmap

The meeting was adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

Meeting minutes submitted by: AnnaRose Cunningham, NFRMPO Staff