

Northern Colorado Bike & Ped Collaborative

Minutes – Wednesday, October 14, 2020

GoToMeeting Virtual Meeting



Introductions

- ❖ **Aaron Buckley**, Colorado State University
- ❖ **Aaron Fodge**, Colorado State University
- ❖ **Abdul Barzak**, Town of Severance
- ❖ **Allison Baxter**, City of Greeley
- ❖ **Betsy Jacobsen**, CDOT Bike/Ped/Byways Section
- ❖ **Candice Hartley**, Lamp Rynearson
- ❖ **Dave Dixon**, Bike Fort Collins
- ❖ **Evan Pinkham**, Weld County Public Works
- ❖ **Gary Odehnal**, Lamp Rynearson
- ❖ **Katie Guthrie**, City of Loveland Public Works
- ❖ **Kelly Zuniga**, City of Loveland Open Lands
- ❖ **Kristen Debo**, City of Evans
- ❖ **Leslie Beckstrom**, Weld County Department of Public Health and Environment
- ❖ **Nancy Nichols**, City of Fort Collins Safe Routes to School (SRTS)
- ❖ **Ryan Dusil**, NFRMPO
- ❖ **Tom Jones**, Great Western Trail Authority
- ❖ **Suzanne Bassinger**, City of Fort Collins Park Planning
- ❖ **Will Karspeck**, Mayor – Town of Berthoud

Favorite thing about Autumn

Crisp, cool air; soups; spooky season - haunted houses and mazes and scary movies; colorful leaves; the sound of aspen leaves; dried corn husks in fields or as decorations; roasting pumpkin seeds; planting garlic; cooler weather; football; picking apples and making cider; riding bikes in cooler weather; riding the Poudre River Trail; burning piles of leaves (when and where it is safe).

Roundtable Updates

Jones stated the 5.5-mile section of the Great Western Trail is complete between Severance and Eaton. The Great Western Trail Authority will be installing a permanent counter near the Eaton Community Center this week.

Bassinger stated her department is still ironing out details for the Poudre River Trail connection to I-25.

Nichols stated the City of Fort Collins Safe Routes to School (SRTS) program is waiting for K-12 students to return to in-person instruction to figure out what programming will be possible. The City will be applying for a CDOT SRTS grant for Siphon Overpass and Mail Creek Trail to connect southeast Fort Collins neighborhoods to the Power Trail.

Beckstrom she is leaving WCDPHE to take a new position as the Health Promotions Division, Program Manager for Wake County Public Health in Raleigh, North Carolina.

Zuniga stated Loveland's trail project to connect Sunset Vista Natural Area across the BNSF railroad received interest from 21 companies. The City has been installing nature play features at parks to encourage multigenerational interaction.

Guthrie stated the Connect Loveland draft will go to Loveland City Council in December, and hopefully be adopted in January or February.

Pinkham stated Weld County's Transportation Master Plan and Comprehensives Plan are being reviewed by the Board of County Commissioners and the County recently approved its five-year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP).

Dixon stated Bike Fort Collins (BFC) is working with the City of Fort Collins SRTS team to deliver programming, when possible. BFC is also working with Wish for Wheels to provide bikes to students Title I Poudre School District (PSD) elementary schools. Larimer County will also be getting new Bikes May Use Full Lane and Three Feet to Pass signs on US34 this year, as well as on SH14 in the spring. Larimer County will be putting up 60 additional signs in the next few years.

Jacobsen stated CDOT will be piloting a new 1.5-hour virtual training for engineers on providing bike/ped detours through construction zones. The training will likely be rolled out statewide. The US Department of Agriculture has released new guidance allowing e-bikes on trails, which applies to US Forest Service Trails. The CDOT SRTS grant application closes on November 4, 2020. CDOT's Revitalizing Main Streets grant program still has money available for grants up to \$50,000. Jacobsen is retiring at the end of the month and CDOT is currently working to hire a new Bicycle/Pedestrian/Scenic Byways Program Manager.

Baxter stated the City of Greeley hopes to sign a contract in November for their Transportation Master Plan, which will be roughly an 18-month process.

Barzak stated the Severance Comprehensive Plan is soon to be adopted and open houses for their Transportation Master Plan are underway now. The Town plans to release a Request for Proposals (RFP) soon for their SRTS project funded through the Multimodal Options Fund (MMOF).

Fodge stated CSU was awarded two main street grants and both are underway. The projects include bicycle wayfinding and trail expansion in a congested area, both to encourage social distancing.

Buckley stated the Fort Collins Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC) is putting together its 2021 work plan and will likely prioritize updating the City's Bicycle Master Plan.

Karspeck stated the Town of Berthoud will be adopting its Comprehensive Plan in Spring 2021. The Town is waiting on Excel Energy to do some utility work before starting their SRTS project and will break ground soon on a project that will complete a 2-mile loop using MMOF grant funding. The Town also recently passed the Idaho Stop/Safety Stop law allowing bicycles to treat stop signs as yield signs and stop lights as stops signs. The Town will begin rolling out education to increase awareness of the law.

Approval of August Minutes

The September 9, 2020 minutes were approved unanimously.

NFRMPO Updates

TAC Call for Project Discussion

Guthrie and Dusil highlighted the major takeaways from the September TAC discussion, including:

- TAC members want to delay Call for Projects to 2021 due to the impacts of COVID-19

- There was some support for bike/ped set-aside or targets
- TAC would like to defer set-aside discussions to the Planning Council
- TAC is open to other changes to application and scoring, but is concerned about overcomplicating the Call
- TAC would like to hear more from small communities that don't typically apply for funding about their challenges and barriers

The basic agenda for the October TAC discussion is:

- 2018 Call for Projects Process Review
 - Project requirements
 - Request limits and community targets
 - Scoring criteria
 - CMAQ Results
- Proposed Improvements to CMAQ
 - Updated FHWA Cost-Effectiveness

NoCo members are encouraged to talk with the TAC members and consider attending an upcoming meeting.

FAST Act Transportation Bill Extension

Dusil stated the FAST Act was extended to September 20, 2021 in lieu of proposed legislation that would have increased nationwide bike/ped funding by roughly \$5B.

NFRMPO Boundary Discussion

Dusil highlighted the discussions CDOT, the Transportation Planning Regions (TPRs) and Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) are having regarding boundary changes, as well how Urbanized Areas boundaries are defined. NFRMPO staff are expected to present a recommended course of action to the NFRMPO Planning Council by the end of 2020. NoCo members expressed interested in writing a memo to the interregional working group to emphasize the value of working as a region, highlighting the plans that are in place for regional active transportation and transit connections and coordination. Dusil will talk with NFRMPO staff about the best avenue to provide feedback and then work with the NoCo Leadership Team.

Quick Win Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements

Dusil stated CDPHE approached NFRMPO, LCDHE, and WCDPHE staff to identify shovel-ready, quick win projects that could immediately improve active living in the region. Up to \$5,000 was available for up to four communities, with no local match required. Communities were contacted that had projects impacting vulnerable populations, safe routes to school, connectivity issues, and that had previous working relationships. Project sponsors highlighted the following projects:

- **Berthoud** – improvements at the intersection of Third Street and Welch Avenue to narrow and delineate pedestrian crossing areas using paint and bollards, which will complement the SRTS project soon to break ground
- **Greeley** – improvements to the new trailhead at Island Grove Regional Park which serves as a much-needed gateway to the Poudre River Trail for nearby vulnerable populations
- **Loveland** – installation of three bike repair stations at two parks and a regional transit stop as well as the installation of Bikes May Use Full Lane signs along 57th Street where there is no shoulder, complementing a sidewalk/path project funded through a CDOT TAP application that will break ground next year

- **Severance** – improvements to intersection of the Great Western Trail and WCR75 in downtown Severance to repair damage done by vehicles parking on the trail, plant seed, and narrow the entrance using fences and boulders, to protect the trail for non-motorized uses only

The projects will all be completed by the end of 2020. An additional project in Wellington is underway. CDPHE indicated there may be additional funding available. The Town of Milliken and the Great Western Trail Authority have submitted proposals for the following projects:

- **Milliken** – wayfinding to community parks and some informational signage in the highest-priority parks
- **Great Western Trail Authority** – trail access improvements at 11 county roads, similar to the project completed in downtown Severance

Final Words

The November meeting will be moved in observance of Veteran’s Day. The date/time are TBD. Upcoming agenda items were discussed, including:

November

- Virtual Walk Audit Train-the-Trainer Workshop

December

- Larimer and Weld County 2019 Community Health Survey Results
- Larimer County Front Range Trail Updates