

**Weld County Mobility Council**  
**Meeting Notes**  
March 22, 2011  
1:30 p.m., Greeley Recreation Center

**Council Members:**

Kevin Thompson, North Range Behavioral Health  
Brad Taylor, Weld Advocacy Network on Disabilities (WAND)  
Brad Patterson, Greeley-Evans Transit (GET)  
Beth Danielson, Connections for Independent Living  
Mary Lu Walton, Envision

NFRMPO Staff: Mary Warring, David Averill  
Public – Steve Teets

**Meeting Objective:**

**Discussion – Regional Transit/Coordination Plan Update**

1. **Review of Agenda** –Added discussion of letter of support for expansion of transit services to the agenda.
2. **Public Comment** – Mr. Teets stated that he had attended a meeting where Representatives Jim Reisberg and Glenn Vaad spoke about transportation and school budgets. The emphasis was made to coordinate school transportation services with public transit and also there is consideration of parents paying for student's transportation.
3. **Approval of Meeting Notes** – Walton made a motion to approve meeting notes as written, Danielson seconded.

**4. Presentation**

Regional Transit Element (RTE) Update

David Averill, NFRMPO Senior Transit Planner, gave an overview of the RTE and defined the focus as a regional network of transit services for the future. He clarified that the MPO was not defining local service options but outlining regional connections based on projected demand for the next 30 years.

The idea of the RTE is to build on local transit plans and link them together that also -

- are built on federal regulations
- look at corridors in the region
- have local and state support as determined through focus group participation
- has public input through open house meetings
- is data driven as well as looking at trends including the fact that currently funding for regional transit project is not solid.

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The plan lays out four options that look at specific corridors, future demand and potential funding streams and costs.

The four options include;

- Status Quo – or the do nothing plan.
- Basic - \$4.1 million (all cost estimates are in 2010 dollars) – A regional network of primary corridors except Hwy 85. This option is also in the North I-25 Environmental Impact Study (EIS).
- Moderate - \$10.8 million – The basic option with hours of additional operational hours of service (beyond peak hour service).
- High Service Level - \$16.1 million – The basic plus moderate with the addition of peak hour operational service on Hwy 85.

The funding for the RTE would need to be a mix of funding. Averill stated that there would be an open house Monday April 4<sup>th</sup> from 4:30 – 7:30 at the Greeley Recreation Center. Averill added that he was looking for feedback from the WCMC on the Update and would like to know what the LCMC's preferred option would be.

Comments/Questions:

Danielson asked if the MPO Planning Council will vote on the Plan. Averill answered that he was not sure if they would adopt an option.

Taylor stated that he preferred the moderate option, Thompson voted for the moderate option and Walton believes the high option should be the preferred option. Averill thanked the WCMC for their time and input and will make sure they are informed of any final decisions by the MPO Planning Council.

**5. Discussion Items**

Coordination Plan Update – Warring distributed handouts of the draft coordinated plan update and said that it is being scaled back to a progress report to be included in the Regional Transportation Plan Update (RTP). Since the federal transportation bill reauthorization is still pending it seems better to wait for any legislation that might come out of the bill that could affect mobility management and the coordinated plan. Warring will bring the final draft to the WCMC next month.

Membership/Bylaws – Warring discussed with the council the possibility of updating the bylaws to reflect membership guidelines dealing with lack of participation and attendance. The council indicated that they would like



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to solicit new members and that any process to remove existing members should be clear and include notification of state and federal contacts since participation with the mobility council might affect funding from these sources. All agreed that lack of attendance at three consecutive meetings warrants notification and inactive status. Warring will draft changes to the bylaw membership rules and bring to the next meeting. Letter of Support for Transit Expansion – Danielson discussed the upcoming Greeley Citizens Transportation Advisory Board (CTAB) letter of recommendation to expand the frequency of transit service for the Red Route in Greeley. She would like to see the WCMC support the recommendation to expand the service as well and send a letter of recommendation to the Greeley City Council. All agreed and would like Warring to draft a letter for approval.

**6. Updates/new business**

Speak Out Session Update – Thompson shared that the speak out session was well attended (75 +people) and that several speakers covered multiple issues that are of interest and concern to the mobility council. Thompson and Taylor did not speak at the session as they both felt the issues had been well covered by the other speakers. In all, they felt the meeting sent a strong message to the Greeley City Council regarding the value of transit to the community.

Special Meeting/Open House – Taylor reported that there would be an open house regarding the Medicaid buy-in option at the First Methodist Church on Thursday March 24<sup>th</sup>. Anyone interested in Medicaid would benefit from attending.

Mobility Coordination Funding Report

Warring said she is back in the mobility management business as CDOT had delivered the 5310 contract she had been waiting for since January 1, 2011. CDOT would not reimburse for any mobility management activity until the contract was delivered – so with delivery of the contract all activities can resume.

**7. Council Member Reports**

Walton – No new resources for care hours so that may be capped in the future. Money follows person grant has gone from \$22M to \$80M and the increase in funding may remove the ability to pursue case management but the increase is a spot of good news they welcome.

Danielson – Funding looks constant for the year and Connections is

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planning a move to their new location on May 1<sup>st</sup>. Their new location will be 1331 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

Patterson – Very pleased with new hybrid bus – gets 3-4 miles more per gallon (total efficiency approx. 9-10 mpg). Also felt the speak-up session sent a positive message to the City Council regarding the value of transit services. Pointed out that the new business item regarding the transit letter had not been discussed. Thompson suggested the member reports be interrupted so the council could discuss the missed discussion item. Discussion comments are reflected in Section 5 of the notes.

Thompson – The CTAB needs members and he would like to see the WCMC communicate more with CTAB and other city and county boards. North Range will not have any mental health cuts and was recently named 9<sup>th</sup> in quality of care in the state while at the same time CO was named 46<sup>th</sup> in funding. A huge discrepancy that underscores how well they are doing especially with the budget allowed.

**8. Adjournment** – Meeting adjourned at 3:55

**Next Meeting:**

**Tuesday – April 26, 2011**