

**AIR QUALITY ADVISORY BOARD  
REGULAR MEETING  
MONDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2012**

**DATE:** Monday, December 10, 2012  
**LOCATION:** 215 N. Mason Conference Room 1-A  
**TIME:** 5:30 – 8:30 pm

**For Reference** Greg McMaster, Chair - 484-3348  
Ben Manvel, Council Liaison - 217-1932  
Lucinda Smith, Staff Liaison - 224-6085

**Present:** John Schroeer, Hugh Mackay, Dennis Georg, Nancy York, Rich Fisher, Scott Groen, Greg McMaster, Dave Dietrich

**Absent:** Michael Lynn

**Staff present** Alexis Hmielak, Lucinda Smith, Emma McArdle, Melissa Hovey

Greg McMaster called the meeting to order at 5:35 pm.

**Guests:** none

**Review and Approval of November 19, 2012 minutes**

Nancy York made an attendance correction.

John Schroeer moved and Nancy York seconded a motion to approve the November 19, 2012, AQAB minutes as presented.

Motion passed unanimously

**North Front Range Transit Vision**

Emma McArdle, Transportation Planning Specialist II, presented an overview of the North Front Range Transit.

- Background of the Project:
  - In 2000, Fort Collins became the funnel of Federal Funds designated to the Transportation Management Area (TMA)
  - In 2008, Transfort and COLT (Loveland's transit system) began a collaborative update to their strategic plans and a Financial Advisory Committee (FAC) was established to assess the feasibility of consolidating transportation services from Fort Collins, Loveland, Berthoud, Larimer County and the North Front Range MPO.
  - The North Front Range Transit Vision project was initiated in 2012.
  - Current transit services being assessed for consolidation include: Transfort and Dial-a-Ride; COLT (Loveland transit system), and Berthoud Area Transportation Services.

- The purpose of the North Front Range Transit Vision project is, within the bounds of fiscal sustainability, to explore and analyze tools for potential consolidated regional transit services and operations, governance, and decision-making. The aim of the project is to improve service, increase ridership, and improve transit cost-effectiveness.
- The project will do a technical review of operations, study other transit service providers and their experiences with consolidation, and conduct targeted outreach meetings.
- Key findings include anticipated population growth in the area, regionalization of land uses, healthcare, residential and employment, and air quality improvement.
- City-by-city mobility trends were studied to determine origination and destination of work trips in the target areas in order to determine how transportation could be provided for them.

#### Discussion:

- John Schroer: Are CSU student trips considered work trips? (I do not know)
- Rich Fisher: Do you have a specific objective to reduce air quality impacts? (Yes. We want to get more people using transit.)
- Rich Fisher: How many people commute to Denver per day? (1.4% of the total trips go to Denver. We are mainly focusing on our region.)
- Dennis Georg: Given the ups and downs of the economy over the years, what about fiscal sustainability of this project? (Funding is a big challenge. Every two years transit competes with all other city services to get general fund money in the BFO process to fund transportation. Other possibilities could include creating a statutory district like RTD in Denver that has a dedicated transit tax, or an intergovernmental agreement where each community participates in a regional effort and designates funding as they choose.)
  - Rich Fisher: Would it be a plus to be added to the current RTD system? (There are plusses and minuses)
- Dennis Georg: What is the problem you are trying to solve? Are you trying to get a person to their house, or commute to work? Boston has point-to-point transportation. They do not try to have everyone riding a bus. (We are trying to get to a grid system in Fort Collins.)
  - Dennis Georg: You can have a bigger impact with a point-to-point transportation if you make those routes efficient. Regarding fiscal sustainability, you would have to look at your goals and assess what you can afford.
  - Dennis Georg: I suggest you prioritize the project's purpose; determine who the improved service is for. This would help your discussion on sustainability.
  - Dennis George: I suggest you be quantitative not qualitative in order to go in front of this council.
- David Dietrich: MAX should take care of CSU students going to class. How many people commute to work by bus? (2009 was our last rider survey and we can send that to you.)

- Rich Fisher: Why doesn't Transfort run 4 to 10 minute buses down Lemay during rush hour bumper to bumper traffic? (We would like to have better service but budget constraints limit it to 1 hour service.)
  - Dennis Georg: It might be wise to drop some other routes to provide more frequent service. (Because we get federal funding equity is necessary.)
- Dennis Georg: If you want to serve a lot of Fort Collins citizens, have a route to DIA.
- Greg McMaster: I suggest you have a specific focus on how to improve air quality. (This study is not intended to get into that level of detail to reduce carbon.)
- Nancy York: Perhaps have a carbon tax for cars as a disincentive and list vehicle miles avoided in your study.
- Lucinda Smith: Can you describe the steering committee and funding? (Each entity participating, Fort Collins, Loveland, Berthoud and Larimer County have 2 citizen committee members and one elected official. Some are transit advocates; some are not. The committee is well rounded. The project is funded by each agency involved and a CDOT grant, the budget includes hiring a consultant from Denver.)
- Dennis Georg: I suggest this project be market-based, rather than public good-based in order to make it truly sustainable. Don't ignore the public, but start from a different point of view. You need to understand the problem you're trying to solve.
  - Greg McMaster. We need a public transit system for a variety of reasons, all of which need to be addressed. We can't ignore the public good.
  - Dennis Georg: My point is they should have not started with a specific design, but a way to solve the problem.
- Hugh Mackay: We need to be looking at the entire air shed, not just Fort Collins. I like that this project is looking at a larger area from an air quality standpoint.
- Rich Fisher: What do you want from the Air Quality Advisory Board? (We would like any feedback on this study. We can also come back when we have a more definitive recommendation.)
- Lucinda Smith: When you come back in February, perhaps give more background of the transportation strategic plan and an update on why the system is the way it is.

### **West Nile Virus**

Greg McMaster led the Board in a discussion about the West Nile Virus Management Policy and Response Plan. City Council will hold a work session on that topic in the first quarter of 2013.

- Greg McMaster reported that the West Nile Virus technical committee will have a meeting every other week for a while to rehash what happened last year when the decision to spray was given. Darin Atteberry attended to give his perspective of what he's looking for from the committee and to learn more about how the committee is working. They talked about the calls the City got and that people did not want adulticide spraying. However, the Director of Larimer County Health Department, Adrienne LaBailey, wanted to spray based on concern from human cases of West Nile Virus.
- Greg McMaster: We are beginning a process to reevaluate what happened and to go forward. There was discussion about the need to spray, but there was not enough people in the discussion. I am not sure the West Nile Virus Committee technically met the prescribed guidelines last year.

- Greg McMaster: When funding for the West Nile Virus program was reduced two years ago, the City decided to eliminate the backyard and stormwater prevention program. This year the species with the highest infection rate was discovered to be breeding in backyards. As a board, the AQAB recommended funding for this program should be increased because it is preventative. However, at what point does the City say it has done its best to prevent West Nile Virus and personal responsibility by citizens takes over?
- Greg McMaster: The main question is how can we do a better job of educating the public to the increasing danger of West Nile Virus. It is difficult to get announcements in the Coloradoan newspaper. The City had to pay for an ad in the paper when I think they should have reported it for free.
- David Dietrich: Spraying is very common in some areas. For example, I am in a home owners association that regularly sprays for West Nile Virus.

### **Review draft 2012 AQAB Report to Council**

The group reviewed the AQAB annual report that is due January 30. It is a mandatory report to Council to summarize board's activity. Lucinda recapped that it was a busy year with 7 recommendations to Council.

Scott Groen moved and Dennis Georg seconded a motion to adopt the 2012 Air Quality Advisory Board 2012 annual report as presented.

Motion passed unanimously

### **Work Planning**

The board reviewed and evaluated the 2013 Work Plan presented to City Council and began discussion of suggested topics and presentations for the first quarter of 2013.

- Nancy York: I would like to revisit climate change,
  - Lucinda Smith: the Energy Board is interested in looking at the City's energy policy with a possibility of updating it in 2013, one year sooner than required. They are considering evaluating the City's carbon goal to see if it is strong enough.
- Dennis Georg: I would like to review the Keep Fort Collins Great (KFCG) funding to determine what impacts have positively affected the Air Quality Plan or Climate Action Plan. The budget decisions have been made but what is the progress? We should think of them as investments.
- Dennis Georg: I suggest the CDPHE Air Quality Control Commission give us a report on their findings.
- Dennis Georg: There are opportunities for innovation in oil and gas.
- Hugh Mackay: Air Quality visibility was high in the public survey; however, it had low priority in the AQAB 2013 work plan. I am concerned that citizens do not realize our area is out of compliance. The impact from particulates will only get worse.
  - Lucinda Smith: The lower priority items in the work plan were not actually prioritized. I see this falling into communication and outreach.

- Greg McMaster: How about looking at the data in January and determining the status and then decide whether the AQAB should do a white paper on why it is important to bring it to Council's attention.
- Nancy York: What about a report to community on visibility. That could be a beginning.
- Lucinda Smith: Brian Woodruff will report on the community-based social marketing study about what are barriers for people to not mitigate for radon.
- Dennis Georg: When is oil and gas coming back to council? (There is a 7 month moratorium. However, the advisory committee may reconvene.)
  - David Dietrich: I would like to see a review of the oil and gas monitoring strategy.
- Rich Fisher: I think we should determine where we should best spend our time and what things would be of most interest to the community and Council regarding air quality? We should be proactive.
- Dennis Georg: It would be useful for Council to know what the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission (COGCC) are considering.
  - Lucinda Smith: Dan Weinheimer is the City's representative to the CPGCC. I can share their agendas with the AQAB. You might also want to invite Councilman Ben Manvel to address the AQAB because he is also a member of the Regional Air Quality Council (RAQC).
- Greg McMaster: Think about the 2013 work plan. If you have any more ideas send them to Alexis to be sent out in the January packets.

**Announcements**

- Greg McMaster thanked outgoing AQAB members, Dennis Georg, Hugh Mackay and John Schroeer, for their service to the board.
- Nancy York announced the Colorado legislators have a forum issue every month and February's issue will be oil and gas. Members of the board might want to attend.
- Nancy York suggested members of the board go to [www.communityfunded.com](http://www.communityfunded.com) to keep the Bike Library going. The deadline is December 20, 2012.

**Adjourn**

Nancy York moved and Rich Fisher seconded a motion to adjourn.

Greg McMaster adjourned the meeting at 7:55 pm.

Approved by the Board on January 25, 2013

Signed

  
Alexis Hmielak Administrative Secretary II

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/ / Date

