

**AIR QUALITY ADVISORY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, MAY 20, 2013**

DATE: Monday, May 20, 2013
LOCATION: 215 N. Mason Community Room
TIME: 5:30 – 8:30 p.m.

For Reference: Joe Piesman, Chair 691-6697
Ross Cunniff, Council Liaison 420-7398
Melissa Hovey, Staff Liaison 221-6813

Present: Michael Lynn, Scott Groen, Dave Dietrich, John Shenot, Rich Fisher, Nancy York, Tom Moore, Greg McMaster, Jim Dennison

Absent: none

Staff Present: Melissa Hovey, Alexis Hmielak, Brian Woodruff, Alan Iverson

Guests: Councilperson Ross Cunniff

Public Comments:

Call meeting to order: Rich Fisher called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

Introduction of new Council Liaison

Board members introduced themselves to new Council liaison Ross Cunniff, stated their expertise regarding air quality and the reasons they were on the board. Ross Cunniff stated his interests in the AQAB and with the City's air quality. Mutual air quality interests:

- How to communicate with citizens of Fort Collins about air quality
- Oil and gas
- Wildland fires
- Climate change issues
- West Nile Virus
- Indoor air pollution
- Effective communication with Council
- Transportation's effect on air quality

Review and Approval of April 22, 2013 minutes

Tom Moore moved and Greg McMaster seconded a motion to approve the April 22, 2013 AQAB minutes as presented.

Motion passed unanimously 9 – 0 – 0

Remarks from Rich Fisher and Discussion of Emerging Issues

AQAB Chair, Rich Fisher, lead a discussion with the Board confirming roles and responsibilities and identifying key current and emerging issues with potential action items.

- Rich Fisher presented the following action items for the AQAB's consideration in 2013:
 - AQAB to meet with or coordinate with other air quality groups in the areas to see who else is concerned about air quality in Northern Colorado.
 - Tour an air quality monitoring site and have an expert explain what it does and doesn't. It was suggested to coordinate the visit when an oil and gas inspector was present on the site.
 - Have a NRAB retreat.
 - Go to an oil and gas facility when the operator and inspector are there to get a better idea of what they're trying to do and what they are actually doing.
 - Assemble a legacy binder of AQAB responsibilities, duties, influences. Also place a digital copy on the AQAB website for about three years. Alexis Hmielak will investigate where they could be posted and viewed by the board.

Harmony Rd. Transit Improvement Project

Aaron Iverson, Sr. Transportation Planner, presented information on the Harmony Road Alternatives Analysis.

- The purpose of the project is to implement multi-modal transportation improvements that enhance mobility and safety along the Harmony Road Corridor. As the city grows, vehicle congestion in this area needs to be addressed. Improvements will support local and regional travel needs, land uses, economic health and environmental stewardship goals.
- The project will be Harmony from I-25 to Shields.
- Harmony Road was previously a state highway that was taken back as a city street in 2005. This project will help to accommodate land uses for local traffic, bicycles and pedestrians that currently do not exist on Harmony Road.
- The Proposed Locally Preferred Alternative would address:
 - Roadway and intersection improvements
 - Widen Harmony (Boardwalk to College) to 6 lanes and intersection improvements.
 - Transit improvements
 - Enhanced bus service with increased frequency, queue jumps at major intersections, and improved bus plazas
 - Bicycle facilities
 - Buffered bike lanes with green marking, along with detached multi-use paths.
 - Pedestrian facilities.
 - Fill in missing sidewalks, pursue over or underpasses and improve crossings at signalized intersections
- Next Steps
 - Conduct final public outreach
 - Develop conceptual cost estimates
 - Develop implementation plan (phasing and funding)
 - Complete ETC master Plan report

- Take to City Council this summer for adoption

Discussion:

- Are there any safety issues with queue bus lanes for bicyclists crossing this many lanes of traffic? (There is already a right turn lane and the light would help keep buses from encountering bikes. A buffered bike lane would improve safety for cyclists. They also want to foster an off-street system.)
- Is keeping traffic flowing with as few starts and stops as possible part of your plan? That would help reduce emissions. It would also be helpful to have someone from Traffic Operations visit the AQAB to explain traffic's effects on air quality.(Traffic Operations has been involved in the planning but that is not explicitly addressed.)
- Will there be any separated grade vehicle railroad crossings? (There will be only one at Trilby.)
- Will you finish Horsetooth east to Strauss Cabin? (It is under consideration because there is a potential housing development there.)
- I suggest you not look at Harmony road in isolation. Also look at Carpenter Road because the more Harmony gets congested, people would use Carpenter Road as an alternative. (Carpenter Road is a state highway. The City is not currently considering taking it over like they did Harmony Road. The Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) is also studying installing commuter rail line from Denver up I-25.)
- I suggest phasing in these changes and building the bike/pedestrian/transit segment before widening Harmony Road. This would work on alternative transportation first to relieve congestion; then widen the road. (The question is funding.)
- Fort Collins does not meet EPA health standards for air quality. It is important you solve transportation problems with air quality as part of your decision making so what you do doesn't make air quality worse.
- Is air quality being considered in your planning? (Yes. We looked it at a high level of impacts of each alternative, mostly regarding reduction of vehicle miles travelled.)
- This would be a good time to think beyond internal combustion engines and encourage electric vehicle use in this area.
- Building additional lanes of traffic will accommodate more vehicles. I don't think we can build our way out of this and am concerned the focus is not on ways to reduce VMTs and improve air quality.
- AQAB agreed to provide Aaron Iverson a brief, bulleted document with ideas your group can respond to regarding air quality issues in this project. Michael Lynn volunteered to compile this document.

Addressing Fugitive Dust Issues

Staff Liaison, Melissa Hovey, provided an overview document of current city codes that address fugitive emissions from housing and commercial developments including: utilities projects; capital improvement projects; large development projects; building permits; contractor licenses; the Municipal Code and Land Use Code. Other inspections and regulations are with Larimer County and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE). The question to the AQAB is if they would like to add anything to the current systems in place to regulate fugitive dust. Suggestions were:

- Having a fugitive dust ordinance
- Creating a guidance document
- Adding test questions for contractor licenses
- Conducting educational sessions with contractors
- Adding requirements to existing codes

Rich Fisher and Tom Moore lead a discussion regarding actions the Board can take to enforce existing codes and design necessary new actions to mitigate the problem.

Discussion

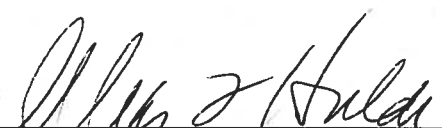
- Fugitive dust in new construction is a problem. It can be controlled by: watering; keeping vehicle speeds down; shut down in high wind; and best management practices.
- The City of Fort Collins has several things on the books that address most of the issues of fugitive dust. A suggestion was to first check if are they really being enforced or is it an education issue. However, nuisance ordinances are legally difficult to enforce. Regulations and standard enforcement practices would be more effective.
- Suggestion – Have an ordinance to clarify the health risk of fugitive dust, set a limit of how much dust can be in the air and monitor it with portable dust monitors. The state and county already regulate this, but it does not really extend into the City of Fort Collins.
- Suggestion – Create a fugitive dust control plan to be submitted before a construction project starts.
- Suggestion – Add regulations to the City’s Land Use Code under health risks or have a general section specifying a fugitive dust plan, to be enforced by code enforcement staff.
 - If you require a plan to get a building permit, violations of the plan can be enforced.
 - One concern is if accurate readings can be gathered to back up violations.
- The group agreed to readdress this issue at future meetings.
- Next steps would be:
 - Draft a modification of the City’s Land Use Code, perhaps based on Larimer County’s ordinance. Tom Moore, David Dietrich and John Shenot volunteered to do this.
 - Brian Woodruff will gather examples of what circumstances would need to happen to enforce it.
 - Melissa will send copies to the board of the CDPHE regulations, Larimer County ordinance and City of Pueblo ordinance as examples of best management practices .

Adjourn

Greg McMaster moved to adjourn

Rich Fisher adjourned the meeting at 8:00 pm.

Approved by the Board on June 17, 2013

Signed 
Alexis Hmielak Administrative Secretary II

6 / 17 / 13
Date