

CITIZEN TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY BOARD

The Citizen TRANSPORTATION Advisory Board met September 23, 2024.

- I. Thomas Donkle Called the meeting to the order at 3:02 Pm.
- II. Roll Call – Board members present: Thomas Donkle, Jim Riesberg, James Bailey, Steve Teets, Wendi Young, Bart Smith, and Ally Johnson.
Absent: Jimmy Jones

City staff included Will Jones, Michelle Johnson, Victoria McKenna, Bhooshan Karnik and Steven Younkin.

- III. Approval of minutes – the minutes from August 26, 2024, were approved by a motion and unanimous vote of the board members presents.
- IV. Public comment: None
- V. Staff report:
 - CIP Update: Written Report
 - **MERGE:** It is progressing on and there is a kickoff meeting scheduled on September 24th with FHWA to start going through the RAISE (Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity) agreement documentation for the 20.5 million dollars we received.
 - Continuing to work through the 1601 process with CDOT for the interchanges.
 - Tom Donkle asked if the 20.5 million and the Mobility hub will go regardless of what ends up happening with the ballot initiative. Will Jones said funding perspective and constructability perspective has elements that need to be tied in because as you look at the way it was designed specifically the mobility and pedestrian path underneath highway 34 we will have to raise up the middle.
 - Tom Donkle also asked if there is a time limit on those funds and Will Jones did not know the answer.
 - **16th Street Enhancement Project:** Final Plans are completed, and BID is out for utility work.
 - **9th Street & 10th Street Beautification and Safety Project:** We applied for another USDOT Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) grant RCP (Reconnecting Communities Pilot)
 - **US 34 & WCR 17 Intersection Improvement Project:** With the planned West side development we are evaluating the project scope to align with it.
 - **Poudre River Restoration Initiative:** This was skipped over during the written report update as Victoria gave a more in-depth presentation.
 - **15th Avenue Court Underpass Project:** Survey and fieldwork is still under progress.
 - **Pumpkin Ridge Neighborhood Connection:** Still on track for BID in September and construction in 2024.

- **Safe Streets for All Master Plan:** It is progressing and on December 7th we will be bring forward the Council feedback and then adopting in January.
- **Safe Streets for all Grant:** We are working with IGA to submit for the FHWA. We received about 7 almost 8 million dollars in grant funding for the second largest in the country and larger than most states.
- **23rd Avenue and 4th Street/5th Street Improvement:** 50% design is complete, and project will be completed in two phases. The first phase will be reconstructing the 5th Street bridge over the Greeley #3 ditch with culvert.
- **Keep Greeley Moving:** Still progressing, however there was a little bit of an issue on 6th Street out by McAuliffe. There was a grapevine irrigation ditch that has been leaking and it caused an issue with the subsurface base out there.
- Tom Donkle made a quick suggestion on KGM that communication could be better rather than having the signs up and changing the dates every week. There should be like some sort of email protocol or signs with QR codes for those who walk the neighborhood to use.
- Will Jones mentioned they were going to have a meeting coming up and want to go over what better communication protocol can be done. He also mentioned the 311 app where we can draw a polygon around the neighborhood, and it will blast out communication about that block and any projects on that street.
- **US 34 Transit Service Update:** Everything is moving along but not much was said after because Will was interrupted with the KGM suggestions.
- **Airport Update:** The IG between the airport and city will be in front of Council for action. The IG allow us to start working on the airport projects. There was a meeting between Weld County and City of Greeley Commissioners and the Council. Weld County agreed to give 5 million dollars to jump start the project.
- JBS wants to build hangars there and that would mean we would have to build new taxiways. There also needs to be new water lines put in.
- Next step is to have meetings with FAA to see if there are any grant opportunities to develop the runway and extend it.
- Tom Donkle asked if the 10,000-foot south runway is an asphalt runway and to get the capacity needed for that runway can we do additional lifts.
- Bhooshan Karnik said the issues that happens with runways is the entire LLS system is basically based on the grade of the runway so if we start changing the grade of the runway that dominates into a lot of other things.
- Neighborhood safety: None
- Transportation: Transportation and Mobility update
- **Spin:** Spin was the selected provider for the E-Scooters at this time and are going to start services mid-October.
- **zTrip:** Service Began Thursday, September 19, 2024, we sent letters out to current paratransit providers and Call-N-Ride customers on September 4, 2024.

- There are no changes to the processes, rates and phone numbers. When we made that shift, we took the Paratransit drivers and moved them to express service on some of our fixed routes, as well as we added frequency on route 5 to 20 minutes.
- Steve Teets asked if the paratransit will be using their vehicles or using our paratransit vans and will they all have accessibility to people in wheelchairs. Michelle Johnson answered that they will be using their vehicles not paratransit vans and they will have accessibility accommodations.
- To book a trip they will have to call the same number they would to book a paratransit trip but they will press option 1 and they will be connected with zTrip. Ztrip will then take their reservation, book their trip and send it out to the drivers.
- Steve Teets also asked what the process would be if a passenger had troubles with the driver. Michelle Johnson said they can call the paratransit service number and press 7 to leave a message and they will call back or they can go online and email get@greeleygov.com to make a complaint.
- Tom Donkle asked if zTrip was an annual contract and what the budget for that was. Michelle Johnson answered it is an annual contract with a continuation on one year and the budget through the end of the year is \$280,000 and its negotiated \$30-\$42 per trip.
- **Mobility Development Plan:** We are taking the Mobility Development Plan to City Council on giving them an update on Tuesday October 8, 2024. On Tuesday October 15th we will take it to the City of Evans Council.
- **Summer Ridership:** A chart was shown on comparisons on Free Fare Ridership from 2023 July was 49,783 ridership to July 2024 51,139 ridership and August of 2023 69,541 ridership to August 2024 73,151 ridership.
- Tom Donkle asked what do you think contributed to the increase in over a year. Michelle Johnson said she think the increase in August has to do with UNC being back in school and as well as the days District 6 went into school. She also thinks there is a lot of folks who ride on the bus that really don't have a lot of destinations and get counted quite a bit. They make everyone get off at the mall for safety reasons and then they get back on the bus, so they are counted again.
- Steve Teets asked if there is another remedy now that they are forced to get off during the cold and hot weather. Will Jones stated that this is in alignment with what other agencies do throughout the county and it revolves around a lot of safety and security.
- Ally Jonhson said that the 0 fare was fantastic and she thinks it's great to be able to provide free fare for people to be able to utilize mass transit and get comfortable with it.
- Tom Donkle asked how many scooters they are going to have out in their initial push in October. Will Jones said they are starting off with 50 and them ramp up from there to about 100.
- Jim Riesberg asked if they were going to be free range or point to point. Victoria McKenna said there is a zone that they are going to be contained in. There will be requirements for them once they need to turn in their scooters to leave them at designated locations.
- Engineering: Website Update: There was a color update for the PQI, and they are still working on getting the planned locations mapped so there is more to come.

VI. Director's report: Paul Trombino was not in the meeting however Victoria McKennan gave a presentation on MMOF (Multimodal Transportation & Mitigation Options Fund)

- **Definitions:** Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) creates compact, mixed-use communities near transit where people enjoy easy access to jobs and services.
- Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) is a high-quality bus-based transit system that delivers fast and efficient service that may include dedicated lanes. Busways, traffic signal priority, off-board fare collection, elevated platforms and enhanced stations.
- The Multimodal Transportation and Mitigation Option Funds (MMOF) created in 2018 under Senate Bill 2018-001 and expanded in 2021 under Senate Bill 2021-260 provides funding for an array of capital, construction, operations, planning and Greenhouse Gas mitigation projects, including but not limited to bicycle, pedestrian, ride sharing, or transit projects.
- Steve Teets asked if Victoria could explain a little more on the traffic signal priority and what it entails. Victoria said essentially when a bus gets to an intersection like a signalized intersection, it will communicate with that infrastructure to get a green light so the bus can advance through instead of having to wait. The bus will be on its own dedicated line lane and its own separate light.
- **Goals:** Benefits older adults by making aging in place more feasible
- Benefits residents of communities, in rural and disproportionately impacted communities, by providing them with more accessible and flexible public transportation services.
- Provides enhanced mobility for persons with disabilities.
- Provides safe routes to schools for children and increases access to and/or usage of transit or multi-use facilities.
- Reduces emissions of air pollutants, greenhouse gas emissions are a big component to MMLF as well.
- Some of the eligible project types are operating and capital costs for fixed route transit operating and capital costs for on demand transit, transportation demand management (TDM Programs), Multimodal Transportation Studies, Modeling tools, Greenhouse Gas and bicycle pedestrian projects.
- As an example, we were awarded MMOF Funds to do Greeley-on-the-Go 2045 Transportation master plan that was funded through the MMOF.
- Vision from the TMP is an ample, easy and connected transportation system providing seamless mobility to enrich lives and promote economic vitality.
- What we are proposing is basically the next step from Greeley-on-the-Go Transportation Master Plan is one of the outcomes of that planning effort was to identify 10th Street as a premium transit corridor.
- What we are hoping to do with this project is the next phase of planning for that corridor and understand potential alternatives for BRT. What that might look like along the 10th Street corridor as well as TOD (Transit-Oriented Development).
- Steve Teets asked how much do you think it would cost doing this. Victoria McKenna answered that they have requested \$900,000 to do planning efforts and this grant we are submitting for is around \$300,000.

- Steeve Teets had a follow up question if the state is going to be providing funding as US business 34 is also own by the state. Victoria McKenna said MMO funds are administered through CDOT.
- BRT or Bus Rapid Transit is a viable option to consider along 10th Street given the existing land uses and the population and employment densities.
- As you go from East to West along the corridor you can see there's a variety of destinations and connections to be made there.
- A mix of land uses, including residential commercial institutional is a good thing. We also want to make sure once folks get to a stop that its an enjoyable place to be and that we are encouraging walking and biking to those facilities as well.
- When we are thinking about potential DRT alignment options as well as the development around that supports that were also considering things like the first and final mile so what are the bicycle and pedestrian facilities that we need to have around those station to really support a variety of mobility options and variety of mobility options and connections.
- Overview of the timing and next steps the corporate projects open October 4th. They will have an application workshop on October 7th. We will submit our Project descriptions to NFRMPO on October 11th and receive feedback. We will then submit our full application on or before October 25th.
- We are hoping to get a letter of support from CTAB given all of the involvement with transportation and city degree league.
- Wendi Young asked is the number of stops in the BRT kind of similar to a normal bus route or is it fewer. Victoria McKenna said it is fewer stops.
- A letter of support from Tom Donkle was approved by a motion and unanimous vote of the board members present.

- **Poudre River Restoration Initiative Master Plan:** The why behind this project is because from 1950 to 2019 the length of the Poudre River within the Greeley city limits decreased by 15% which is actually 2 miles of length. Some of the consequences of that are increased flow speeds, flooding downstream, loss of aquatic life, bank erosion, reduction in the wetlands, and increased sediment flow.
- This is the first we have had a master plan and project that puts the Poudre River at the center. The Poudre River is a big part of Greeley, but we are placing the river in the middle and looking at it through the lens of how we can restore ecological balance while also creating a community anchor for the current residents.
- The river has straightened out over time and has lost some of those natural change.
- Victoria McKenna introduce MVVA the design team and they are a landscape architecture firm, and they do a lot of work designed for humans and the human experience but also creating a natural experience for folks.
- Inter-Fluve are the science and the engineering for this project, they are skilled geomorphologists, ecologist and water resource engineers.
- As part of the project, we want to create some bold vision and examples of projects MVVA were shown to the board members to give an idea of what can be done for this project.

- Phase 1 overview and update: we are in the information gathering phase. It is a lot of data in the river, a lot of site visits and field work to capture information on like the flows and diversions structures.
- There is a lot of pervious studies and other interested parties in Poudre River so capturing all those designs whether they're in process or documented through other initiatives and we are also looking for feedback from the community.
- Jim Riesberg asked if the product project that Richmond is working on is in that bubble. Victoria McKenna said there is a lot of stakeholders involved including private developers.
- We are working closely with other departments such as stormwater, natural areas and trails, and water and sewer to loop in their knowledge and expertise as well.
- We have finished our second pop up event, and we received a lot of great feedback from the community as well.
- We have a live survey on our website on Speak Up Greeley.com and Victoria McKenna encouraged that board members to share that with the community, friends and family for more feedback.
- Tom Donkle attended the first sharing committee meeting on behalf of CTAB and would like to continue that but there was a really diverse group of parks, wildlife, property owners, water users and business owner's downtown were at the meeting. It was a good representation from the different facers of the entities that are impacted by the river and would be great to do assets developing this master plan.
- One of the big things we are looking at is how do people get to the river and can they do that in a safe and accessible way.
- Bhooshan Karnik let the CTAB members know we submitted on the railroad crossing federal grant \$575,000 to look at all of our crossings we have and see if we can plan a great way to separate the crossings.

VII. New business:

- Jim Riesberg spoke about in 2021 a group of disability advocates in the state of Washington started what they call a week without driving to call attention to the 30% of our population that don't drive and how they are getting around in their communities and what are their gaps and challenges. It went national in 2023 and last year there were 41 states that took up that cause. This year Jim decided to bring it to Greeley making us one of six cities in Colorado that from the 30th of September through the 6th of October we were talking about a week without driving. On September 26th at the Rec Center from 6 pm to 7 pm there will be a public forum with a number of speakers who are not drivers, and they will be talking about their issues are, how they get around and if they can what their problems are so that people can have a way to think about it. They will then be challenged during that week to just pick one day to try to plan their day and see how they could possibly complete it without driving. Jim wanted to invite anyone to sign up for the challenge by going on America walks.com and fill 5 questions. There will also be a candle vigil for crash victims on November 19th.

VIII. Round table & Proposed agenda items for October 28, 2024:

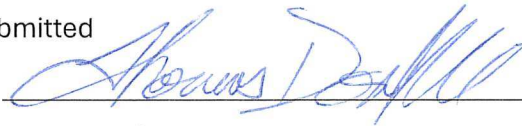
- Kent Hensen and student problems
- Evans – NPO – Letter of Support from the City of Greeley

- Safety Route to Schools
- Update on Allo – Potholes and permits
- Update on Spin and ZTrip
- MMFO & PRRI Update
- KGM Update
- Action Plan – Safet Committee

IX. The meeting adjourned at 4:29 pm

Respectfully Submitted

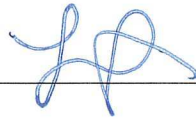
Thomas Donkle
Chairman



Date

11/18/24

Lesley Fuentes
Recording Secretary



Date

11/18/24