

# MINUTES

CITY OF FORT COLLINS • BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS



## Natural Resources Advisory Board REGULAR MEETING

Wednesday, June 18, 2025 – 6:00 PM

222 Laporte Avenue and via Microsoft Teams

### 1. CALL TO ORDER: 6:03 PM

### 2. ROLL CALL

- a. Board Members Present –
  - Kelly Stewart (Chair)
  - Dawson Metcalf (newly elected Vice Chair)
  - Barry Noon
  - Kelen Dowdy
  - Leslie Coleman
  - Sharel Erickson
  - Xavier Pereira
  - Sara LoTempio
  - Teagan Loew (arrived late)
- b. Board Members Absent –
  - None
- c. Staff Members Present –
  - Grant Stump, Lead Specialist, Acting Staff Liaison
- d. Guest(s) –
  - Amy Gage, Active Modes Data Specialist
  - Rachel Ruhlen, FC Moves Transportation Planner

### 3. AGENDA REVIEW

Chair Metcalf reviewed the agenda items.

### 4. COMMUNITY MEMBER PARTICIPATION

### 5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – MAY 2025

***Metcalf made a motion, seconded by Pereira, to approve the May 2025 regular meeting minutes as written. The motion was adopted unanimously.***

communicate. Gage suggested some of this data is more valuable for the decision-makers.

LoTempio asked what constitutes high- versus low-stress roadways. Gage replied that is changing in terms of how things are evaluated now as different types of protected areas for vulnerable users are installed. She noted there is an individual who developed the level of traffic stress classification system, which is a complex matrix involving the number of lanes, width of bike lane, type of infrastructure, traffic volume, and traffic speed. She noted that system is used to identify stress levels in the road network. Additionally, the high-injury network can be overlayed to identify areas of stress.

LoTempio asked about the community's comfort level with an intersection having a stress rating of 3 for example. Gage replied stress levels 1 and 2 were scored; however, levels 3 and 4 were found to be too uncomfortable for most riders. She noted comfort levels are extremely variable.

Pereira suggested it could be useful to have a benchmark number that could be used to categorize the data in terms of census blocks meeting, exceeding, or being below the criteria for a 15-Minute City.

Loew asked if this information will ultimately be used to inform future development. Gage replied in the affirmative and noted it is only one tool, though the hope is that improvements will be made to make it more useful.

#### **b. Which Wheels Go Where? – August Work Session**

Rachel Ruhlen, FC Moves Transportation Planner, stated Which Wheels Go Where is exploring how to accommodate more kinds of micro-mobility devices, as micro-mobility supports Our Climate Future, Active Modes, Vision Zero, and 15-Minute City goals. She noted the project has occurred concurrently with the Strategic Trails Update.

Ruhlen outlined the current Code regulations for various forms of micro-mobility and noted the current system of categories is somewhat onerous. She stated the proposal is to form two categories: human-powered or lightweight electric, which is defined by going 20 miles per hour or less. She stated anything that can go faster than that would be considered a low-powered scooter. Ruhlen outlined the proposal for addressing where each type of vehicle can be ridden.

Ruhlen discussed the public survey conducted last year related to concerns about each facility and each type of vehicle. She noted the community engagement summary summarized the open comments provided as part of the survey and stated overall themes were related to accommodating more kinds of micro-mobility, protecting pedestrians, people with disabilities, seniors, and children, and the fact that it is not what vehicle is being ridden, it is how it is being ridden that matters.

Ruhlen noted Fort Collins Police had been very concerned that allowing skateboards on streets would lead to severe crashes; therefore, staff had a conversation with Boulder Police as Boulder has allowed skateboards on streets since 2021. Boulder Police reported they were also initially concerned about an increase in crashes; however, that has turned out not to be the case. She stated the safety education approach for

handling issues on trails has been supported. Additionally, Park Rangers utilize an 'authority of the resource' approach when talking with trail users who may have violated speed limits or other regulations.

Ruhlen discussed the CSU regulations for which vehicles are allowed where and noted the proposed changes would help with consistency with the campus. She outlined the staff proposal for allowing all micro-mobility devices to be ridden in crosswalks, on sidewalks, and on paved trails or multi-use paths, with the exception of dismount zones.

Ruhlen noted the Strategic Trails Plan includes a trail safety education campaign which would incorporate messaging on social media and refreshed signage with a focus on behavior. There are also some infrastructure changes proposed as well as a Bicycle Ambassador Program which would include routine trail pop-up events.

Ruhlen requested feedback from Board Members.

Coleman commented on scooters in Denver causing issues on sidewalks due to unsafe and careless riders. She stated the regulations were changed to only allow for riding scooters on the sidewalk if the street speed is above 35 miles per hour. She asked if a citation could be given to an E-scooter rider who was riding on the sidewalk in an unsafe manner. Ruhlen replied staff is looking at ensuring there are ordinances in the Code that would allow for behavior-focused citations. She also noted the trails have a courtesy speed limit of 15 miles per hour; however, there are discussions about codifying that, though Police Services is concerned about having associated enforcement expectations.

### **c. Water Efficiency Plan – Memo Refinement**

Metcalf provided a draft memo regarding the Board's recommendation to City Council concerning the Water Efficiency Plan. Members discussed the Plan's 4% water use reduction goal and it was noted no other alternatives were offered to help determine if that number is reasonable or if the goal should be higher. Metcalf commented on the desire to see more metrics and information related to how benchmarks are created.

Noon commended City staff and commented on how water issues are global in nature. He suggested that what is communicated is the trend in use versus the trends in availability. Dowdy suggested including that information in the upcoming Integrated Water Resources Plan which would address demand and water availability in a better fashion than the Water Efficiency Plan.

Noon stated the extent to which efficiency is important is a function of the difference between demand and availability.

Metcalf stated he wanted to see more education materials about climate-based scenarios in reference to the cost of inaction piece. He also stated he sees every tool as a behavior change tool.

Dowdy commented on taking away barriers to the preferred behavior.

Coleman commented on efficiency being less expensive than purchasing new water and