

ON THE MOVE

North Front Range Transportation News

January 2015

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Weld County Commissioner Sean Conway and Loveland City Councilwoman Joan Shaffer

NFRMPO Elections

At their December meetings, the North Front Range Transportation & Air Quality Planning Council (NFRT&AQPC) and Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) elected new officers for 2015.

The NFRT&AQPC elected Commissioner Sean Conway of Weld County as Chair and Councilwoman Joan Shaffer of Loveland as Vice Chair. The TAC elected Eric Bracke of Greeley as Chair and Suzette Mallette of Larimer County as Vice Chair.

State Transportation “Road Map” Made Available for Public Comment

Comments to be Included in Statewide Transportation Plan

The Colorado Department of Transportation’s (CDOT) blueprint for improving the state’s transportation system over the next 10 to 25 years has recently been available for public comment and review. The Statewide Transportation Plan (SWP) includes goals and objectives to enhance safety, mobility, maintenance and economic vitality. The plan also includes:

- Public and stakeholder input received previously
- Colorado’s multi-modal transportation system
- Transportation needs, revenue and funding gaps
- Overall investment strategies
- Top strategic actions to meet the plan’s goals

Interested parties were encouraged to view and comment on the overall SWP, Colorado’s first Statewide Transit Plan (STP) and the 10 rural Regional Transportation Plans (RTPs) at www.coloradotransportationmatters.com. Comments were accepted until January 4, 2015. The site is divided regionally, allowing citizens to view interactive maps and transportation plans for their area.

Over 60,000 citizens participated in shaping the SWP, the STP, and RTPs. Implementation of the SWP, STP, and RTPs is the first step in planning future projects.

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NFRMPO Staff Donates to Project Self Sufficiency

Staff members at the NFRMPO recently participated in the Project Self-Sufficiency (PS-S) Holiday Sponsorship Program. The mission of PS-S is, “to assist low-income single parents in their efforts to achieve economic independence and become free from community and government assistance while building and maintaining strong, healthy families.”

The Holiday Sponsorship Program matches sponsors with a family. Sponsors shop for gifts on a wish list for the kids and the mom or dad. This year, NFRMPO staff purchased gifts for several families and donated the items on December 10, 2014.



Gifts collected for Project Self-Sufficiency by NFRMPO Staff

NFRMPO Donates Computer Equipment to Veterans Post

The NFRT&AQPC donated two laptop computers to the JM Post Veterans Social Club in Johnstown, Colorado, to support their efforts to help veterans and their family members.

“Just as the MPO works regionally to enhance our transportation system for all of Northern Colorado, we want to help organizations such as the JM Post in Johnstown because of the work they do to help our veterans,” said Jan Dowker, Chair of the MPO Planning Council. “We recognize that although the laptops have reached their useful life for us, they can be put to great use by this organization, providing needed access to online services.”

“Often veterans come into our post looking for help,” said Damien Berg, JM Post Commander VFW #2585. “With these computers, we will be able to sit down with the veteran or their family and help them e-file for their veteran’s benefits. These online claims go much quicker and they have a greater chance to get the assistance they need.”

“We often travel around the state or host different events that support our veterans, and these laptops will allow us to access information needed at a moment’s notice when we are away from our home post,” Berg continued.

The JM Post Club was established in 1947 for members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and American Legion and is home to the American Legion Post 70 and VFW Post 2585 and their respective Auxiliaries, as well as the Sons of the American Legion. They support many Veteran and community projects in the Johnstown Milliken area.



Berthoud Mayor Pro Tem, Jan Dowker, donates a computer to the JM Post Veterans Social Club.

2040 Regional Transportation Plan Public Involvement

NFRMPO Staff to do Public Outreach on Goals and Performance Measures

The NFRT&AQPC adopted the 2040 Goals, Objectives, Performance Measures, and Targets (GOPMT) on September 4, 2014. The GOPMT will guide the development of the 2040 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP).

The four main regional goals focus on: economic development/quality of life, multi-modal, mobility, and operations. Each goal has several objectives, with a variety of performance measures and targets.

The GOPMT follow the national performance goals as established in MAP-21: safety, infrastructure condition, congestion reduction, system reliability, freight movement and economic vitality, environmental sustainability, and reduced project delivery delays. CDOT's goals, objectives, and performance measures were also used in developing the GOPMT.

During January and February, MPO staff will be at a variety of public meetings, events, and locations throughout the region seeking public input and comments on the GOPMT. Information about the 2040 RTP will also be available at these outreach events. All events and locations will be posted on the NFRMPO website as they are scheduled.

Public Involvement Plan

NFRMPO in Process of Updates to PIP

The NFRMPO is updating its Public Involvement Plan (PIP), a document that defines the goals, desired outcomes, and strategies the MPO will use during the public participation process. First written in 2003 and updated in 2011, the PIP acts as the MPO's policy regarding interacting with the public during the planning process. The PIP guides the MPO to be inclusive and accessible as staff prepares plans, documents, and transportation policy. Each project undertaken by the MPO should embrace the public's needs, desires, and feedback for their communities and the region. To do this, the MPO should provide a range of activities,

techniques, events, and meetings to reach a diverse and representative group of citizens. Accordingly, the MPO should make a special effort to reach underserved and underrepresented populations by providing reasonable accommodations to guarantee their participation and interaction in the process.

The updated PIP builds on information provided in previous plans, but provides three important changes:

1. The MPO explicitly states its goals and desired outcomes for the public involvement process. Building off underlying expectations in previous versions, this update will provide MPO staff with clear and concise expectations.
2. The PIP clearly states the expectation the public involvement process must include every section of the population, including elderly, minority, and disabled persons.
3. The MPO must periodically evaluate the PIP to ensure that goals, desired outcomes, and strategies are successful and relevant.



2040 Regional Transit Element

Regional Transit Element to be Updated with Regional Transportation Plan

The purpose of the 2040 RTE is to guide development of transit in the North Front Range region. Local transit services in the region have primarily developed to meet the travel needs of their residents. As the region has grown there has been an increasing need for transit services between communities and to major activity and employment centers, both within and outside of the region.

The region is growing rapidly, with the population projected to increase by 78 percent from 488,513 in 2010 to 896,191 by 2040. Much of the future development in the region is anticipated to occur in the center of the region and in unincorporated areas where transit services may not exist or are not as well developed as in the urbanized areas.

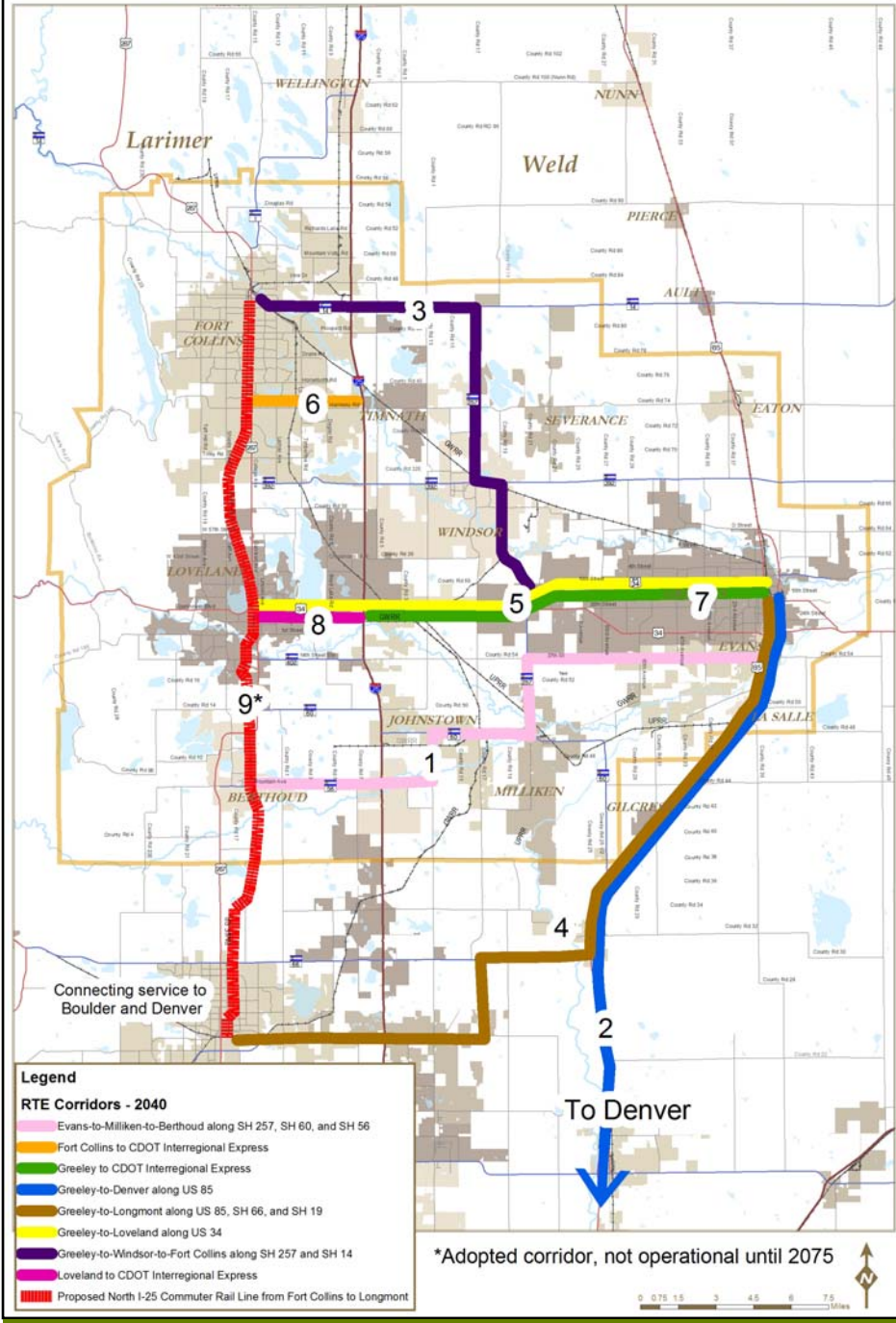
The region's rapid development also taxes the roadway network. Travel forecasts project the levels of congestion in the region will require significant investment in transportation infrastructure for all modes. This raises the issue of the role transit would play in the future regional transportation network. Transit services can be an effective option during peak period travel times.

A significant amount of planning work has gone into addressing the question of what services are needed within and between individual communities, the outstanding issues revolve around how the services will be provided, funded, and delivered.

While it is widely recognized that regional transit services are important to the region's future, an implementation plan does not currently exist for developing such services.

Recognizing these issues and challenges, this RTE update focuses on the practicalities of identifying how to move forward in the implementation of regional transit services.

2040 Regional Transit Element Corridors



The 2040 RTE will focus on nine additional regional transit corridors.

The North Front Range Metropolitan Planning Area includes 15 communities in both Larimer and Weld Counties and includes 2 urban areas. For more information, visit us online at: www.nfrmpo.org.

SmartTrips Program News

VanGo Fare Increase Effective January 1, 2015

Every Fall the VanGo™ program analyzes current vanpool fares, current and projected operating costs, and projected revenue to determine any necessary fare adjustments for the upcoming year. The NFRT&AQPC approved a 1% fare increase for 2015, effective January 1st. Rider fares are pay for the operating costs of the van pool program including fuel, maintenance and insurance and staff to operate the program. Sales tax funds and proceeds from van sales are used for the purchase of vans.



Upcoming VanGo Vehicle Purchase

In late 2013, the FHWA and FTA granted the VanGo™ Program Buy America waivers for van purchases. As a result, the VanGo™ program purchased 35 replacement vans in 2014. The program also purchased an additional 12 vans in 2014 using Regional Transportation District funds.

The program plans to purchase an additional 10 to 15 replacement vans in 2015 using Fort Collins sales tax funds. The 2014 and upcoming 2015 van purchases drastically reduce the age and mileage of the VanGo™ fleet and is expected to reduce fleet maintenance costs. The average age of active vans is now two years, with an average mileage of just under 39,000 miles. The fleet currently consists of 49 Dodge Grand Caravans and 49 Toyota Sienna mini vans.

Winter Driving Tips

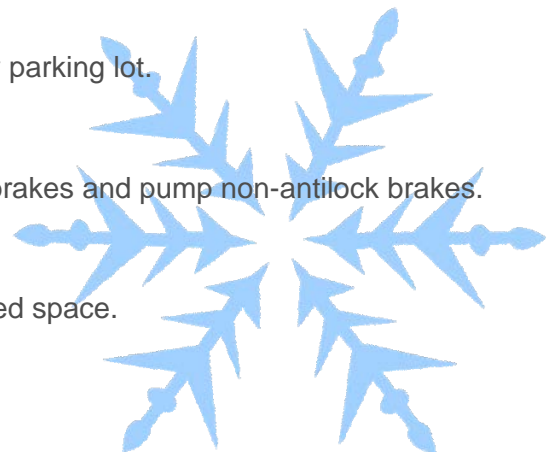
Be Prepared for Winter Driving with These Tips from SmartTrips

Winter driving can be hazardous and scary, especially in Colorado with excessive amounts of snow and ice. The following tips provide safety information when it comes to winter driving:

- **Maintain Your Car:** Check battery, tire tread, and windshield wipers, keep your windows clear, put no-freeze fluid in the washer reservoir, and check your antifreeze.
- **Have On Hand:** flashlight, jumper cables, abrasive material (sand, kitty litter, even floor mats), shovel, snow brush and ice scraper, warning devices (flares and emergency triangles) and blankets.
- **Stopped or Stalled?** Stay in your car, don't overexert, put bright markers on antenna or windows and illuminate dome light, and, if you run your car, clear exhaust pipe and run it just enough to stay warm.
- **Plan Your Route:** Allow plenty of time (check the weather and leave early if necessary), be familiar with the maps/directions, and let others know your route and anticipated arrival time.

Practice Cold Weather Driving!

- During daylight, rehearse maneuvers slowly on ice or snow in an empty parking lot.
- Steer into a skid.
- Know how your brakes operate: apply continuous pressure to antilock brakes and pump non-antilock brakes.
- Stopping distances are longer on water-covered roads and ice.
- Do not idle for long periods of time with the windows up or in an enclosed space.
- Slow down and increase distance between cars.
- Keep your eyes open for pedestrians walking in the road.



Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

New TIP to be Adopted in March 2015

The 2016-2019 Call for Project Process was completed and approved by the NFRT&AQPC on December 4, 2014. The projects selected during the call will be adopted in the Fiscal Year 2016-2019 TIP. The NFRT&AQPC approved \$27 M in transportation improvement projects throughout the region, including road construction and expansion, bicycle and pedestrian trail construction, Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) bus replacements for regional transit providers, CNG vehicle replacements, and traffic signal timing and optimization. Projects included in the TIP must also come from an approved RTP. The new TIP is scheduled to be adopted by the NFRT&AQPC at their March 5, 2015 meeting.

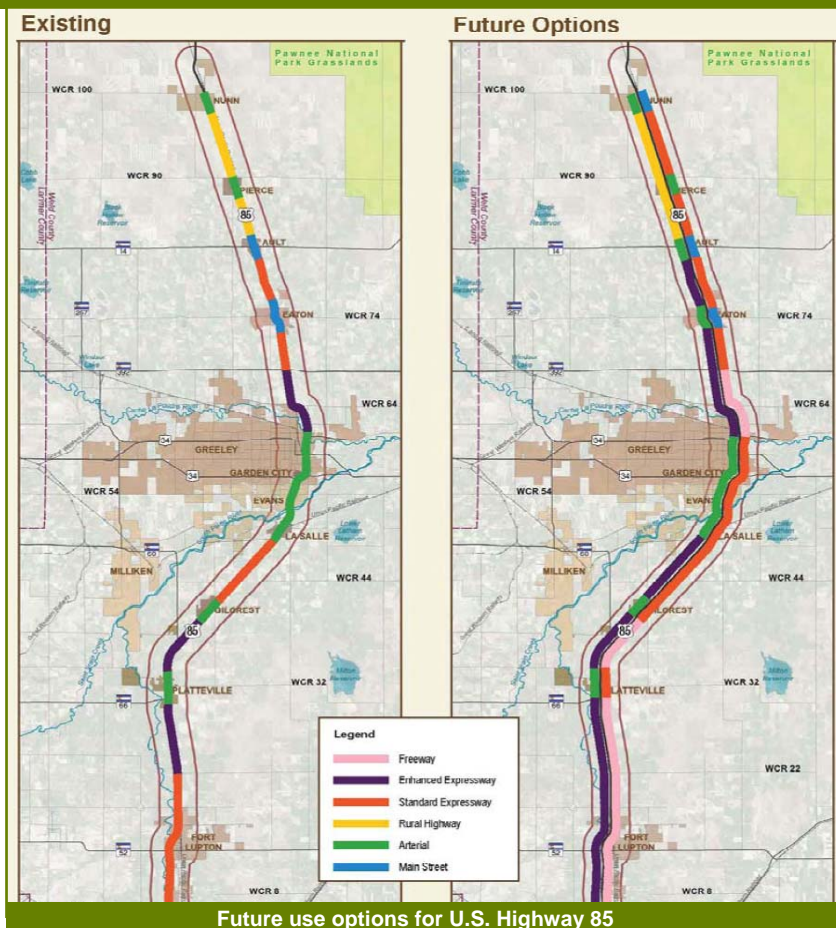
The TIP contains a list of transportation improvement projects and funding pools in the North Front Range region and must remain fiscally constrained. A new TIP is adopted every four years, along with an update to the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). The RTP serves as the long-range transportation plan, while the TIP serves as the short-range program for the region. Projects included in the TIP can be amended at the discretion of the NFRT&AQPC; amendments are processed on a quarterly basis. For more information on the TIP or to see a list of recent amendments, please visit the NFRMPO website at <http://nfrmpo.org/ResourcesDocuments/TransportationImprovement.aspx>.

U.S. 85 PEL Study

Upcoming Technical Advisory Committee and Public Meetings

A series of upcoming meetings are to be held on the U.S. 85 Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study:

- ◆ **Tuesday, January 20th, 9:00—11:00 AM**
 - Brighton City Hall, 500 S. 4th Avenue, Brighton, CO 80601
 - **Section 1 (I-76 to CR 22). Communities: Commerce City, Brighton, Fort Lupton, Adams County, Weld County**
- ◆ **Tuesday, January 20th 1:00 – 3:00 PM**
 - Gilcrest Town Hall, 304 8th Street, Gilcrest, CO 80623
 - **Section 2 (CR 22 to 1st Street in LaSalle). Communities: Platteville, Gilcrest, Weld County**
- ◆ **Thursday, January 22nd 9:00 – 11:00 AM**
 - LaSalle Town Hall, 128 N. 2nd Street, LaSalle, CO 80645
 - **Section 3 (1st Street in LaSalle to SH 392). Communities: LaSalle, Evans, Garden City, Greeley, Weld County**
- ◆ **Thursday, January 22nd 1:00-3:00 PM**
 - Ault Town Hall, 201 1st Street, Ault, CO 80610
 - **Section 4 (SH 392 to CR 100). Communities: Eaton, Ault, Pierce, Nunn, Weld County**

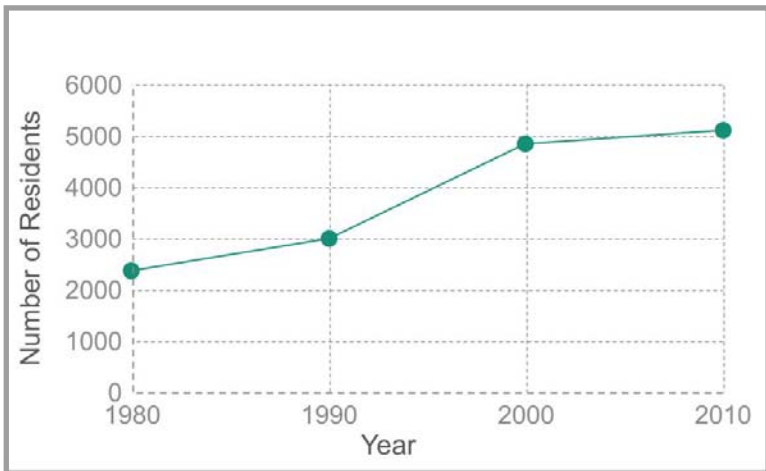
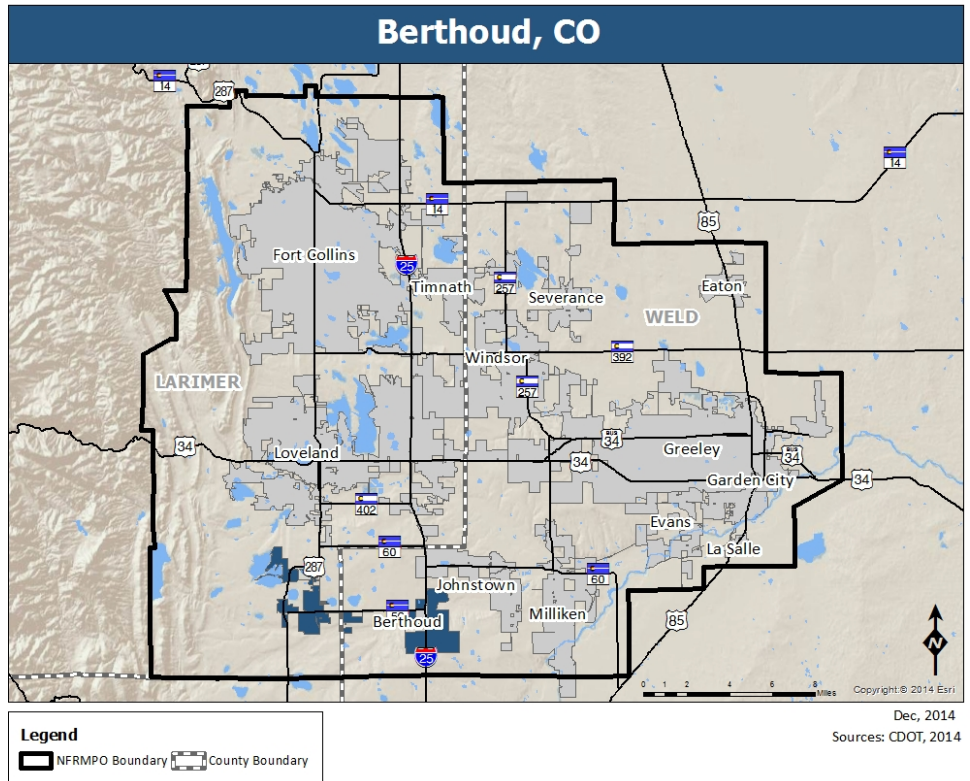


Quarterly Member Profile

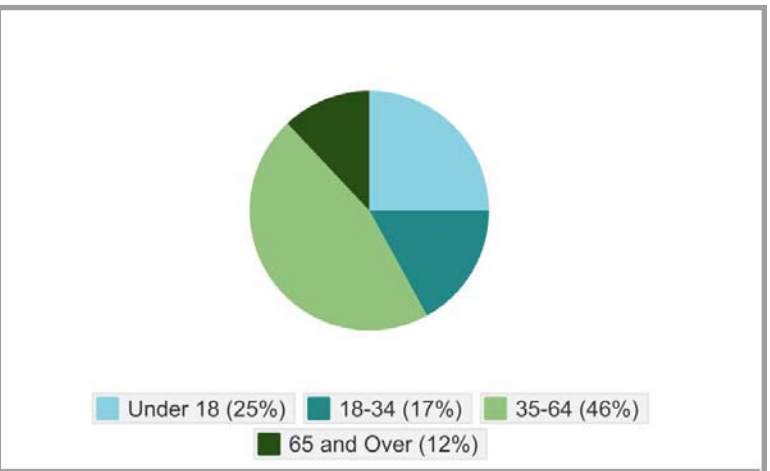
Berthoud

Beginning this quarter, the NFRMPO will feature one community profile in each newsletter to be presented in alphabetical order. Berthoud is the first community to be featured in the quarterly profiles.

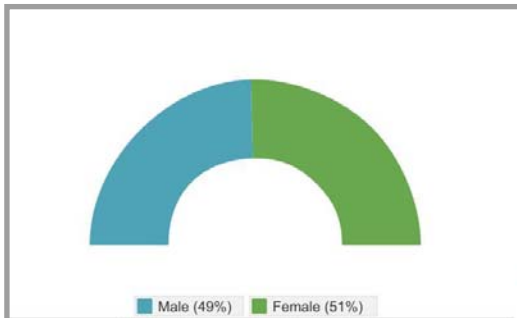
Berthoud, Colorado is located just south of Loveland and Johnstown along U.S. Highway 287 and I-25. Incorporated in 1888, Berthoud is now home to 5,105 residents (U.S. 2010 Census), sits at an elevation of 5,030 feet, and occupies a land area of 12.2 square miles. Visit the Town of Berthoud website at <http://www.berthoud.org/index.php> for more information. The images below contain a snapshot of information about Berthoud as a community (demographic information comes from the 2010 Census):



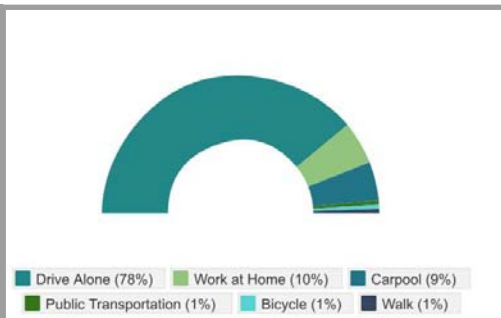
Population



Average Age of Residents



Male/Female Population



Means of Transportation to Work



Top 3 Employers

Upcoming Events

January		
7th 6:30 pm	I-25 Coalition	Southwest Weld County Services Center 4209 Weld CR 24 1/2, Longmont
8th 6:00 pm	NFRMPO Council	City of Fort Collins Community Room 215 N. Mason, Fort Collins
14th 10:00 am	NoCo Bike & Ped Collaborative	Windsor Recreation Center 250 N 11th Street, Windsor
20th 9:00 am	US 85 PEL TAC Meeting	Brighton City Hall 500 S. 4th Ave, Brighton
20th 1:00 pm	US 85 PEL TAC Meeting	Gilcrest Town Hall 304 8th Street, Gilcrest
21st 1:00 pm	Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)	Windsor Recreation Center 250 N. 11th Street, Windsor
22nd 9:00 am	US 85 PEL TAC Meeting	LaSalle Town Hall 128 N. 2nd Street, LaSalle
22nd 1:00 pm	US 85 PEL TAC Meeting	Ault Town Hall 201 1st Street, Ault
27th 1:30 pm	Weld County Mobility Council	Greeley History Museum 714 8th Street, Greeley

February		
4th 6:30 pm	I-25 Coalition	Southwest Weld County Services Center 4209 Weld CR 24 1/2, Longmont
5th 6:00 pm	NFRMPO Council	Larimer County Offices, Carter Lake Room 200 W. Oak Street, Fort Collins
11th 10:00 am	NoCo Bike & Ped Collaborative	Windsor Recreation Center 250 N 11th Street, Windsor
18th 1:00 pm	Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)	Windsor Recreation Center 250 N. 11th Street, Windsow
19th 1:30 pm	Larimer County Mobility Council	NFRMPO Offices 419 Canyon Ave, Fort Collins, CO

March		
4th 6:30 pm	I-25 Coalition	Southwest Weld County Services Center 4209 Weld CR 24 1/2, Longmont
5th 6:00 pm	NFRMPO Council	City of Evans Offices, Cottonwood Room 1100 37th Street, Evans
11th 10:00 am	NoCo Bike & Ped Collaborative	Windsor Recreation Center 250 N 11th Street, Windsor
18th 1:00 pm	Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)	Windsor Recreation Center 250 N. 11th Street, Windsow
24th 1:30 pm	Weld County Mobility Council	Greeley History Museum 714 8th Street, Greeley

JANUARY 2015						
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FEBRUARY 2015						
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Contact Us

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Visit us on the web at
www.nfrmpo.org

The goal of the NFRMPO is to enhance mobility and air quality within Northern Colorado by developing cooperative, working relationships and financial partnerships among member governments, the Colorado Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, Federal Transit Administration, and other public agencies as well as the private sector.

