

ON THE MOVE

North Front Range Transportation News

July 2015

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Transportation Summit 2015

A Transportation Summit was held at Island Grove Regional Park in Greeley on June 15, 2015 to discuss the future of transportation in northern Colorado. Weld County hosted the summit which featured panel members and guest speakers addressing major transportation issues including North I-25, US 85, and Weld County Road 49. Panel members and speakers discussed options for repairing the existing transportation system, as well as funding future improvements to handle expected growth in the region. Attendees were able to listen to several high profile speakers, including Colorado Senator Cory Gardner and Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) Executive Director Shailen Bhatt.

Senator Gardner stated elected officials and stakeholders need to create a long-term transportation solution to ensure the future transportation network grows to accommodate future population, housing, and employment projections.

CDOT Executive Director Bhatt agreed northern Colorado is facing a transportation crisis and stated, "If we can find common ground, we can fix this."

NFRMPO staff also attended the summit to obtain public input on planning and transportation initiatives including the 2040 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), 2040 Regional Transit Element (RTE), air quality and ozone issues, VanGo™ vanpooling services, and regional mobility initiatives.



Senator Cory Gardner



Local elected officials speak about northern Colorado's transportation future.



All images courtesy of Weld County: <http://www.co.weld.co.us/Departments/Commissioners/TransportationSummit2015/TransportationSummitPhotoGallery.html>

Mason Trail Counter

CDOT Installs First Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Counter

On April 21, 2015, a combined bicycle and pedestrian counter was installed on the Mason Trail. This counter will quantify the number of trail users along the Mason Trail near the Spring Creek Trail junction in Fort Collins. Since its installation in April, the counter has registered an average of 1,225 pedestrians and bicyclists each day.

The counter works by incorporating two different counting technologies. A series of electrified loops cut into the pavement counts bicyclists and a post-mounted passive-infrared system counts pedestrians. The bicycle counter works by precisely measuring the electromagnetic signature of each bicycle wheel passing over the loops. The pedestrian counter works by registering the heat signature of pedestrians passing by the counter.

Currently, the NFRMPO is working with member communities and regional partners to purchase and install additional bicycle counters in the region in 2015. These counters will come in two varieties: permanent and mobile. Permanent counters create a longitudinal dataset which is used to show the effect of weather events, special events, and other variables on user behavior. Mobile counters provide planners information on the importance of a specific trail or area without the full investment of a permanent counter.

Efforts to count bicycles and pedestrians in a scientific manner is a relatively new practice. In the past, communities have used volunteers to collect counts, but they are statistically unreliable and difficult to use for comparison. Due to time, weather, and location concerns volunteer counters have a limited ability to collect data. Automated counters allow around the clock coverage in all weather conditions. In the future NFRMPO planners will increasingly use these automated counts to justify future bicycle and pedestrian related transportation improvements.



Ozone Aware

The NFRMPO is continuing its partnership with the Regional Air Quality Council (RAQC) throughout the 2015 Ozone season, which lasts from June 1st through August 31st. The OzoneAware Campaign seeks to educate the public about ozone, how to reduce ground level ozone, and ways to live a more environmentally-friendly lifestyle. As part of this campaign, the MPO will bring a banner promoting OzoneAware and other educational materials to 2040 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) Public Outreach Events and other locations within the region. Additionally, the MPO will tweet all Ozone Action Alerts on days when the ozone level is high and potentially dangerous.

OzoneAware began the season with “Electrify Your Summer”, the 2015 kick-off event in downtown Denver. RAQC supports electric vehicles as one of a number of ozone-reducing behaviors to improve the air quality in the Denver Metro and North Front Range region. The event featured information about electric and hybrid cars, financial incentives, tax credits, and charging infrastructure.

Examples of ozone-reducing behaviors include:

- Walking, biking, or taking transit;
- Carpooling or vanpooling (VanGo™);
- Stopping at the click when refueling; and
- Mowing your lawn and refueling your car in the evenings.



For more information about the OzoneAware campaign, please visit <http://ozoneaware.org>.

North Front Range Transit Riders Guide

Based on the North Front Range MPO Riders Guide, *FindMyRide* is a quick and easy interactive tool designed to help individuals find specialized transportation options across the North Front Range. While geared for everyone to use, it's especially designed to meet the needs of older adults and people with disabilities.

Starting with a few prompts, the *FindMyRide* tool helps users find the best transportation option to meet their needs and offers direct links and contact information for North Front Range transportation providers. Give it a try: noco.findmyride.info.

2040 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) Updates

The NFRMPO's 2040 RTP relies on gathering information from multiple data sources around the region. This process began in April 2014 with data collection for the Land Use and Regional Travel Demand Models. These models were then used to establish existing conditions and to forecast land use, employment, and population growth to 2040. This information informs the Existing Transportation System, Socio-economic Profile, Environmental Profile, and Travel Demand Analysis chapters of the 2040 RTP. The 2040 RTP also reports on Performance Based Planning, Transportation Safety and Security, the Congestion Management Process, Fiscally Constrained Plans, and Vision Plans. MPO staff began the process of developing the 2040 RTP document after the Goals, Objectives, Performance Measures, and Targets (GOPMT) were approved in September 2014. The 2040 RTP is scheduled to be adopted in late summer 2015.

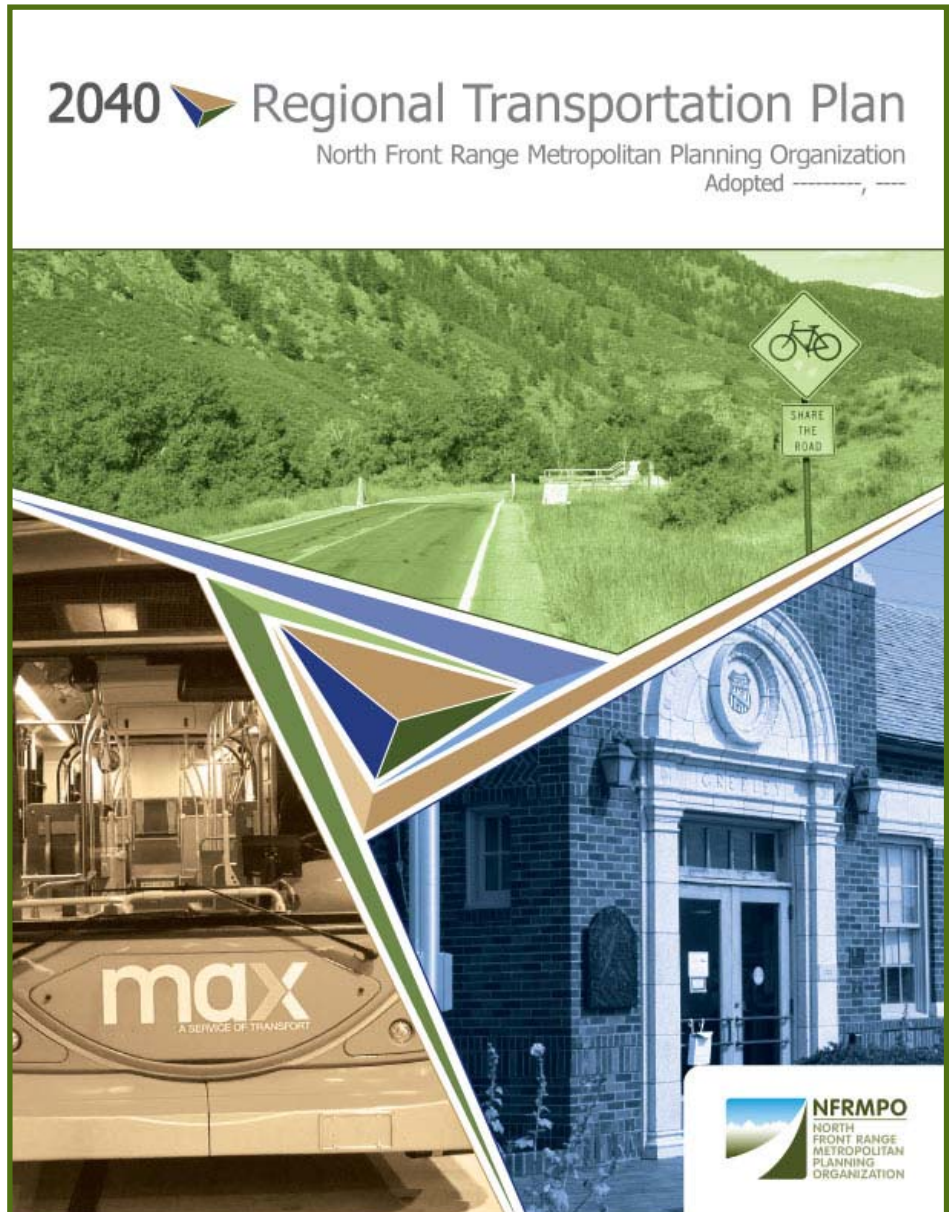
Public involvement has been ongoing and will continue throughout the summer with Phase 2. Phase 2 involves MPO staff attending events in the region to discuss regional transportation needs, the 2040 Regional Transit Element (RTE) recommendation, and to gain feedback about completed efforts for the 2040 RTP. Feedback and suggestions will be incorporated into the final draft of the 2040 RTP. Events are posted on the NFRMPO website and Twitter (@nfrmpo) account, and include:

- Eaton Days, July 11
- LaSalle Day, July 18
- Beef N Bean Day (Milliken), August 8
- Community Safety Day (Evans), August 8
- Severance Day, August 15
- Old Fashioned Corn Roast Festival (Loveland), August 22

The transportation conformity analysis, required on all projects in the 2040 RTP for ozone and carbon monoxide emissions, was conducted in May 2015 by the appropriate agencies. The results of all projects in the 2040 RTP passed all budget requirements for the nonattainment area. The public hearing is scheduled for the July 9, 2015 Planning Council meeting. The plan will be released for final public comment on August 6, 2015 and is scheduled for council approval on September 3, 2015.

For detailed information on the 2040 RTP Conformity Determinations, please visit the NFRMPO Air Quality website: <http://www.nfrmpo.org/AirQuality.aspx>.

For more information about the 2040 RTP, please visit the project website: www.nfrmpo.org/Projects/2040RTP.aspx.

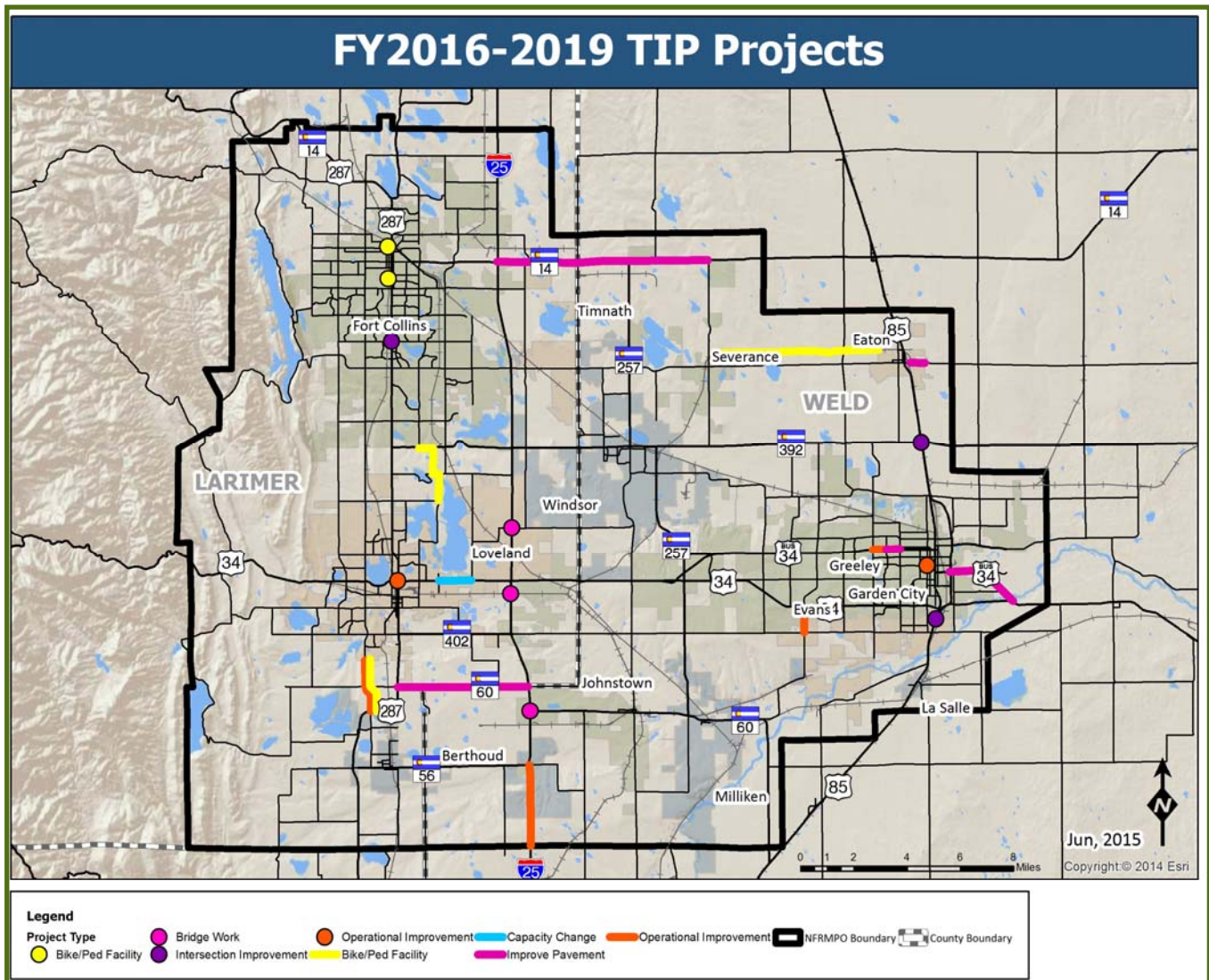


FY2016-2019 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

FY2016 - 2019 TIP to be Re-Adopted in September 2015

The North Front Range Transportation and Air Quality Planning Council (NFRT&AQPC) approved over \$27 M in transportation improvement projects in the FY 2016-2019 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) at their March 5, 2015 meeting. The TIP includes transportation 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. The map below shows projects included in the TIP by project type and location. The NFRT&AQPC will re-adopt the TIP at their September 3, 2015 meeting to remain fiscally constrained under the 2040 RTP. A 30-day public comment period for the TIP and 2040 RTP will open on August 6, 2015.

Projects included in the TIP can be amended at the discretion of the NFRT&AQPC; amendments are processed on a quarterly basis. The FY2016—2019 TIP also contains a map of all projects and existing Environmental Justice (EJ) areas. EJ is a federal requirement to assess transportation improvement impacts on low-income and minority populations. For more information on the TIP, please visit the NFRMPO website at <http://nfrmpo.org/ResourcesDocuments/TransportationImprovement.aspx>.



2040 Regional Transit Element (RTE) Recommendation

The purpose of the 2040 RTE is to guide development of transit in the North Front Range region. Transit services in the region have primarily developed through local governments to meet the local 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.

For the 2040 RTE, the NFRMPO is moving forward with suggested actions based on the recommendations of the three local transit agencies (COLT, GET, and Transfort), TAC, input received during the public outreach phase, and previously completed studies, specifically the 2013

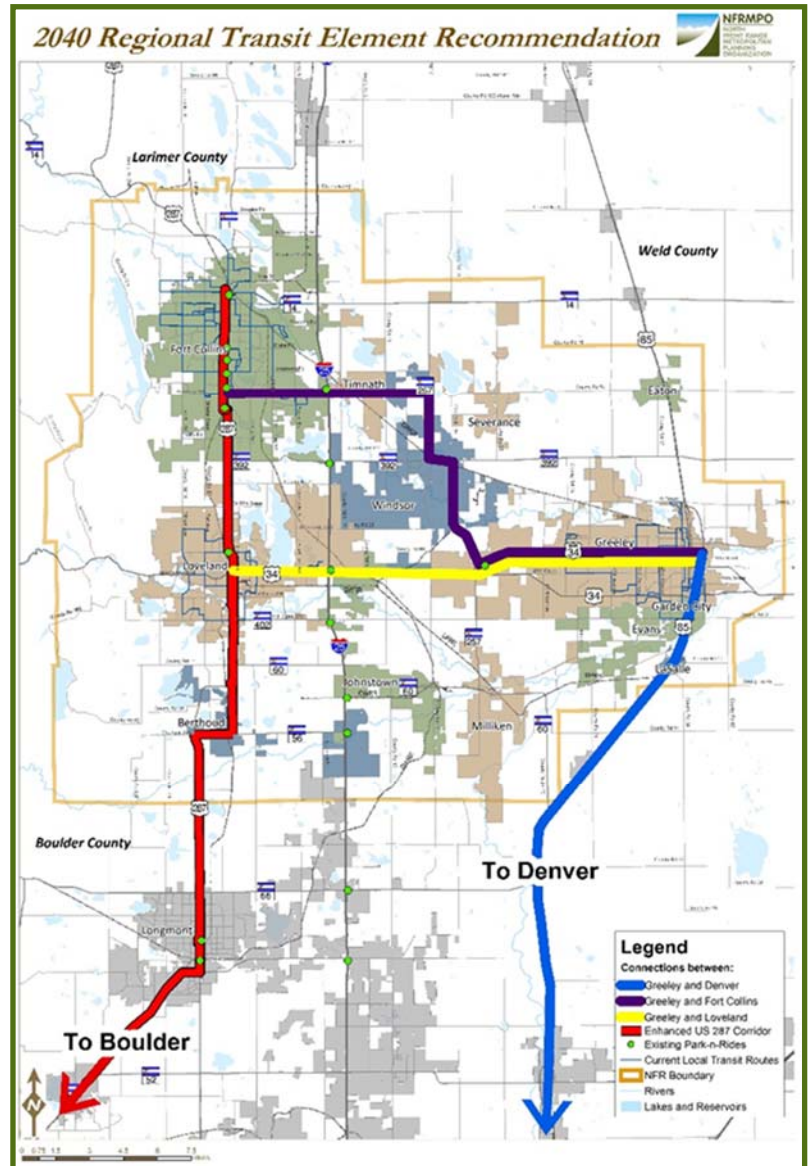
North Front Range Transit Vision Feasibility Study. The recommendation includes:

- Further study into the transit connections between:
 - Fort Collins and Greeley/Evans area;
 - Greeley/Evans area and Loveland; and
 - Greeley/Evans area and Denver.
- Additional service and investment along the US 287 corridor.

Focusing on the broad connections between cities rather than on the corridors themselves allows for a more comprehensive transit analysis. There are a variety of reasons to operate and fund regional transit services, which should be analyzed on a case-by-case basis. Special considerations for transit trips include access to medical facilities and employment centers, and connectivity for transit-dependent groups. In-depth analysis provides the greatest flexibility and allows for unique considerations for each connection.

Rather than focusing on the specifics of each corridor in this document, the 2040 RTE recommends transit in the region expand upon existing services and relationships as well as previous studies. Further studies of the recommended connections will also refine the planning process.

The 2040 RTE provides a long-range vision for regional transit services, but the focus of the recommended actions is short-term as the plan will be updated in four years. Further action should be taken as the connection analyses are completed. The region has had success in working together on transit, as shown by the FLEX service and the partnerships funding GET. It is through cooperative action and many small steps that a regional transit vision will become a reality.



Air Quality Control Efforts

Regional Air Quality Council (RAQC) 8-Hour Ozone Control Efforts

The Denver Metro/North Front Range Area has been in marginal nonattainment for the 2008 National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) since 2012. Because it did not demonstrate attainment of NAAQS by the end of the 2014 ozone season, the region will be “bumped-up” to a Moderate nonattainment area. Moderate nonattainment requires additional efforts from the affected Transportation Planning Regions (TPRs), RAQC, and the state to reduce ozone air pollution. As a result, the region must develop and submit a State Implementation Plan (SIP) to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). As part of the SIP, the region must perform a Reasonably Available Control Measures (RACM) analysis, which provides potential strategies for achieving these standards. EPA defines RACM as measures for an area which are considered economically and technologically feasible.

To evaluate the potential strategies, RAQC has formed three subcommittees:

- **Stationary/Area Sources** considers oil and gas, industrial sources, consumer products, and renewable energy.
- **Mobile Sources/Fuels** considers gasoline fuel strategies, alternative fueled vehicles, in-use vehicles, and non-road vehicles and equipment.
- **Transportation/Land Use/Pricing** considers travel demand management, land use strategies, transportation pricing, and public education and outreach.

More information about the SIP, RACM analysis, and the subcommittees can be found on the RAQC website (www.raqc.org).

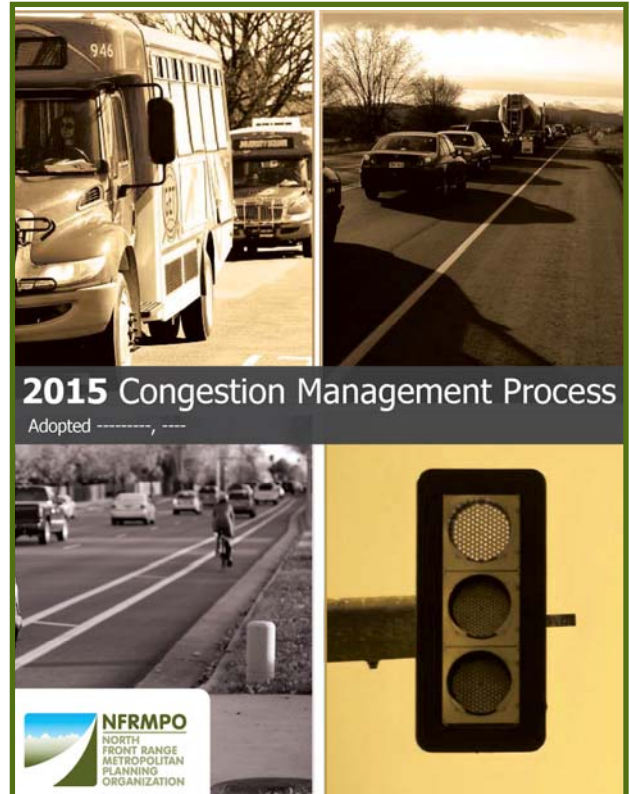
Congestion Management Process (CMP)

The 2015 Congestion Management Process (CMP) Update is an objectives driven, performance-based process to reduce regional transportation congestion. Federal requirements require regions with a population over 200,000, known as Transportation Management Areas, to develop and maintain a CMP and use it to make informed transportation planning decisions.

The purpose of the 2015 CMP Update is to identify the process for collecting congestion data and develop performance measures to direct funding toward projects and strategies that most effectively address congestion. The NFRMPO will use the performance measures outlined in the 2015 CMP Update to quantify regional congestion in the annual CMP reports to the public.

The 2015 CMP Update emphasizes the use of technology to reduce the cost of roadway system operations. An Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) improves transportation safety and mobility and enhances productivity through the integration of advanced communications technologies into the transportation infrastructure and in vehicles. Travel Demand Management (TDM) is focused on increasing transportation system carrying capacity through operational efficiencies or reducing demand.

The 2015 CMP update will be incorporated in the 2040 RTP and includes updated performance measures on travel times, vehicle miles traveled, and transit service in the region.



NFRMPO Department Spotlight: Transportation Planning

The Transportation Planning team at the NFRMPO provides support to local government and transit agencies through the planning process, allowing them to receive federal funding for transportation projects and programs. The process involves maintaining the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) which highlights existing and forecasted growth and long term projects, programming funds for current projects in the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), and completing air quality conformity as well as other federally required documents. In the coming months, the transportation team will be traveling around the region to provide public outreach opportunities on the 2040 RTP, 2040 Regional Transit Element (RTE), air quality, and other current plans and transportation issues in Northern Colorado.

For more information on transportation planning at the NFRMPO, visit our website at www.nfrmpo.org or contact one of the team members below:



Transportation Planning Team Members left to right: Alex Gordon, Becky Karasko, Josh Johnson, Aaron Buckley, and Angela Horn

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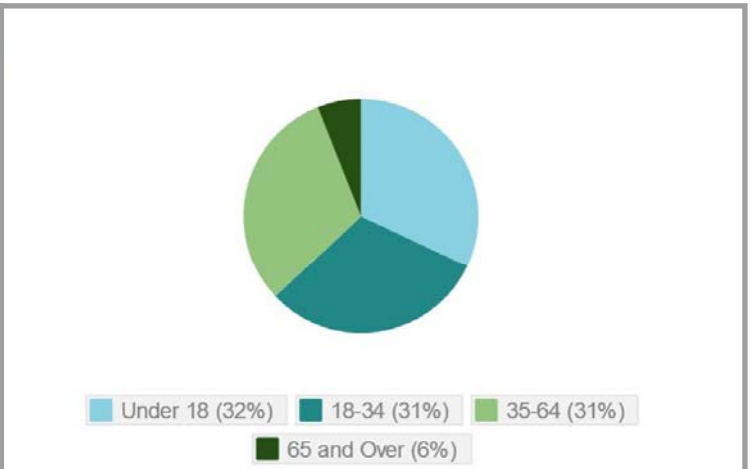
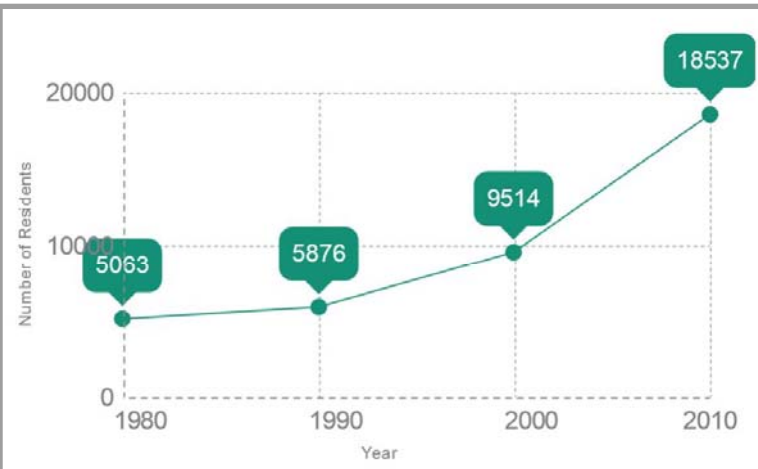
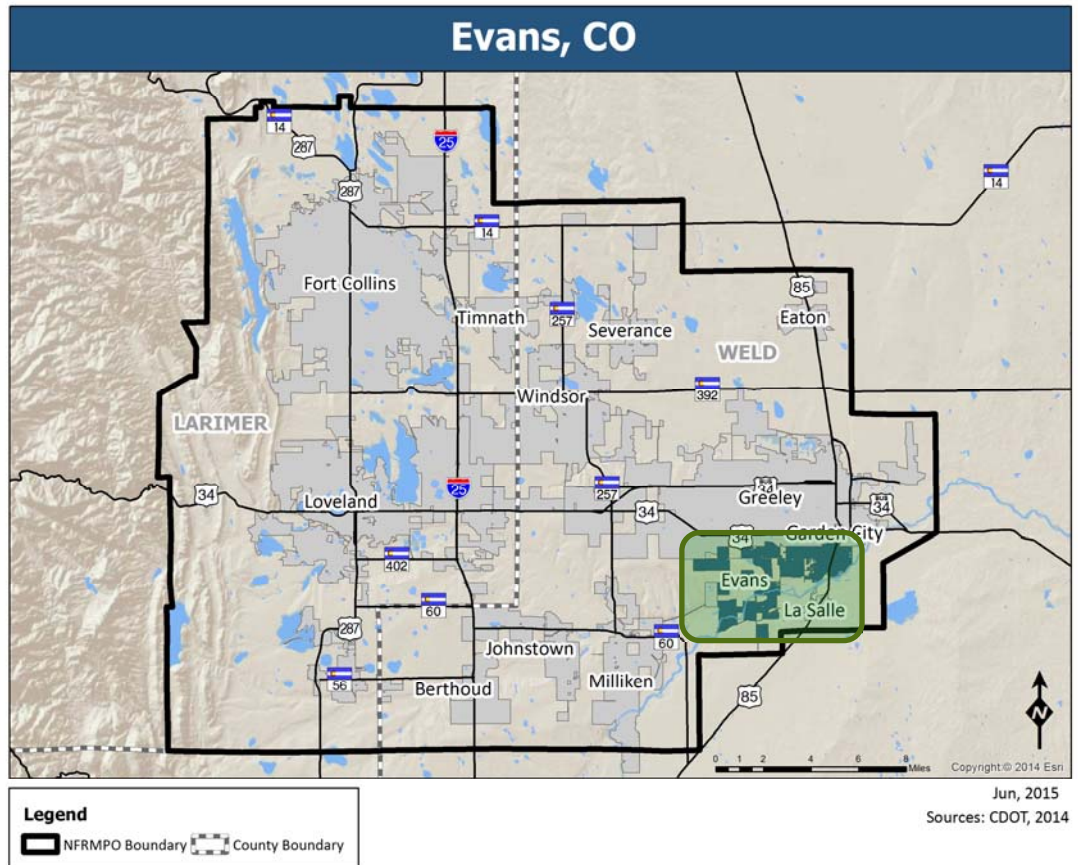
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Quarterly Member Profile

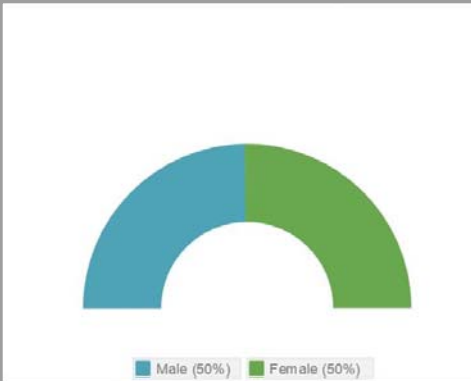
Evans

Evans, Colorado is located just south of Greeley and North-West of LaSalle along US Highway 85. Incorporated in 1885, Evans is now home to 18,537 residents (U.S. 2010 Census), sits at an elevation of 4,652 feet, and occupies a land area of 10.5 square miles.

Visit the City of Evans website at www.evanscolorado.gov/ for more information. The figures below contain a snapshot of information about Evans as a community (demographic information comes from the U.S. 2010 Census):

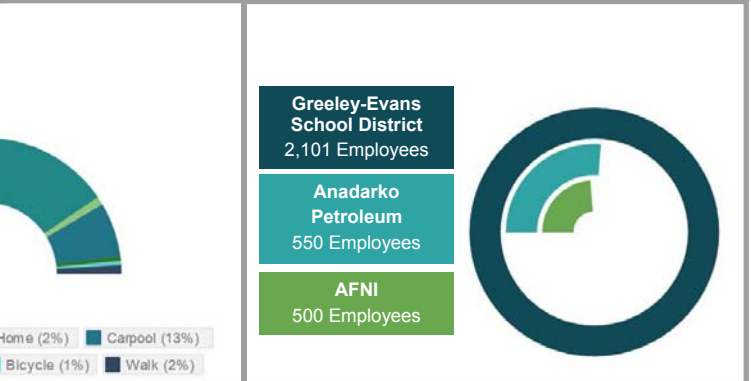


Population

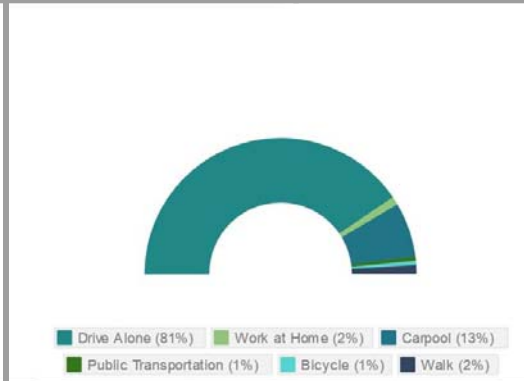


Male/Female Population

Average Age of Residents



Means of Transportation to Work



Top 3 Employers

Upcoming Events

Community events shown in yellow will be attended by NFRMPO staff for public outreach on the 2040 Regional Transportation Plan, 2040 Regional Transit Element, and air quality.

July		
1st 6:30 pm	I-25 Coalition	Southwest Weld County Services Center 4209 Weld CR 24 1/2, Longmont
3rd	NFRMPO Offices Closed	
8th 10:00 am	NoCo Bike & Ped Collaborative	Windsor Recreation Center 250 North 11th Street, Windsor
9th 6:00 pm	NFRMPO Council	Severance Town Hall 3 South Timber Ridge Parkway, Severance
11th	Eaton Days	http://www.eatondays.org/
15th 1:00 pm	Technical Advisory Committee	Windsor Recreation Center 250 North 11th Street, Windsor
18th	LaSalle Day	http://www.lasalletown.com/Town_of_LaSalle/LaSalle_Day.html
28th 1:30 pm	Weld County Mobility Council	Greeley History Museum 714 8th Street, Greeley

August		
5th 6:30 pm	I-25 Coalition	Southwest Weld County Services Center 4209 Weld CR 24 1/2, Longmont
6th 6:00 pm	NFRMPO Council	Weld County Events Center 1150 O Street, Greeley
8th	Milliken Beef 'N Bean Day	http://www.millikenco.gov/beef-n-bean-day.htm
8th	Evans Community and Safety Awareness Fair	http://www.evanscolorado.gov/community/community-safety-awareness-fair
12th 10:00 am	NoCo Bike & Ped Collaborative	Windsor Recreation Center 250 North 11th Street, Windsor
15th	Severance Days	http://www.townofseverance.org/
19th 1:00 pm	Technical Advisory Committee	Windsor Recreation Center 250 North 11th Street, Windsor
20th 1:30 pm	Larimer County Mobility Council	NFRMPO Offices 419 Canyon Ave, Fort Collins
22nd	Loveland Old Fashioned Corn Roast Festival	http://www.loveland.org/TheCornRoastFestival/

September		
2nd 6:30 pm	I-25 Coalition	Southwest Weld County Services Center 4209 Weld CR 24 1/2, Longmont
3rd 6:00 pm	NFRMPO Council	Greeley Family Fun Plex 1501 65th Ave, Greeley
7th	Labor Day	NFRMPO Offices Closed
9th 10:00 am	NoCo Bike & Ped Collaborative	Windsor Recreation Center 250 North 11th Street, Windsor
16th 1:00 pm	Technical Advisory Committee	Windsor Recreation Center 250 North 11th Street, Windsor
22nd 1:30 pm	Weld County Mobility Council	Greeley History Museum 714 8th Street, Greeley
23rd 5:00 pm	VanGo Greeley Dinner Safety Meeting	Greeley Family Funplex, FunZone Room 1501 65th Ave, Greeley
24th 12:00 pm	VanGo Fort Collins Lunch Safety Meeting	Larimer County Administration Building, Boyd Lake Room 200 West Oak Street, Fort Collins
24th 5:00 pm	VanGo Fort Collins Dinner Safety Meeting	Larimer County Administration Building, Hearing Room 200 West Oak Street, Fort Collins

JULY 2015						
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19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

AUGUST 2015						
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SEPTEMBER 2015						
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20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

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