

ON THE MOVE

North Front Range Transportation News

January 2016

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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 2016.



Mayor Pro-Tem Gerry Horak of Fort Collins (image credit: Coloradoan) and Trustee Kevin Ross of Eaton

The NFRT&AQPC elected Mayor Pro-Tem Gerry Horak of Fort Collins as Chair and Trustee Kevin Ross of Eaton as Vice Chair. The TAC elected Dawn Anderson of Evans as Chair and Dennis Wagner of Windsor as Vice Chair.

NFRMPO Donates Computer Equipment to Salida del Sol Academy in Greeley

The NFRT&AQPC donated three desktop computers to Salida del Sol Academy in Greeley to support their efforts to provide a personalized, bilingual education to students. Salida del Sol offers dual-language programs for both non-English speakers and native-born speakers to learn a second language side-by-side in order to promote language and social equity.

Each year, the NFRMPO donates refurbished computer equipment to a recipient of the NFRT&AQPC Chair's choice. 2015 Chair Sean Conway, a Weld County Commissioner, chose to donate the equipment in 2015 to Salida del Sol Academy to support their academic dual-language instruction.

Commissioner Conway, along with NFRMPO Executive Director Terri Blackmore, met with Salida del Sol administration on Friday, December 11, 2015 to donate the equipment. The computers will be used to promote education in the classroom, and to provide parents internet access at the school.



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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 one family and donated the items on December 8, 2015.



Gifts collected for Project Self-Sufficiency by NFRMPO Staff

Northern Colorado Regional Issues Summit Held December 11, 2015

A Regional Issues Summit was held at the Embassy Suites Loveland on December 11, 2015 to discuss the future of Northern Colorado. The Northern Colorado Legislative Alliance and Leadership Northern Colorado hosted the half-day summit which featured presentations, panel discussions, and participant feedback on major issues facing the region, including the regional transportation agenda, water, workers, and energy.

The summit was kicked off with a video address from US Senator Cory Gardner followed by a panel on Transportation Matters. The panel was moderated by David May of the Northern Colorado

Business Alliance and featured remarks from Weld County Commissioner and NFRMPO Planning Council Chair Sean Conway; CDOT Executive Director Shailen Bhatt; Colorado Springs Regional Business Alliance CEO Dirk Draper; Magellan Strategies CEO David Flaherty; RBC Managing Director for Municipal Finance JJ Ament; and Weld County Commissioner and North I-25 Coalition Chair Barbara Kirkmeyer. The six panelists discussed transportation issues within the region, specifically I-25, how to frame the conversation with legislators and the public, and how to fund potential improvements along the I-25 corridor.

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), the 2015 Congestion Management Process (CMP), the 2015 Public Involvement Plan (PIP), air quality and ozone issues, VanGo™ vanpooling services, and regional mobility initiatives.



Panelists speak on transportation issues along the North Front Range.

2015 FRONT Summit Held November 16, 2015

Front Range on Track (FRONT) Hosts Summit to Commuter/Passenger Rail in Colorado

Providing safe, efficient, and quick transportation options between the North Front Range and Denver is a hot topic at the local and state level. On November 16, 2015, more than 70 people attended the Front Range on Track's FRONT Summit at the Rialto Theater in Loveland to discuss commuter/passenger rail transportation options for the Front Range. Attendees included local and state politicians, BNSF Railway staff, Denver's Regional Transportation District (RTD) staff, and other advocates for commuter/passenger rail transportation. Throughout the daylong summit, attendees listened to a variety of speakers who discussed financing, governing, and building a rail transit system along the Front Range particularly from Fort Collins to Denver.

Speakers at the event included a mix of CDOT staff, rail advocates, members of the Colorado General Assembly, Federal Railroad Administration, Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration staff, RTD staff, and a keynote speech by the Vice President of Passenger Operations at BNSF Railway Company. Many speakers provided information about various planning and implementation efforts including the North I-25 Commuter Rail Update, State Freight and Passenger Rail Plan, and the creation of CDOT's Division of Transit and Rail.

Shailen Bhatt, CDOT's Executive Director, began the summit by stating Colorado needs a healthy and modern multimodal system. Funding for transportation is a major obstacle because the State's transportation fund has lost more than half of its purchasing power per capita since 1991, the last time the State's gas tax was raised. As a result, CDOT must prioritize maintenance over expansion.

Colorado Senators Beth Martinez-Humenik and John Kefalas and Colorado Representative Max Tyler contributed on a panel to discuss statewide initiatives for transportation funding. The three elected officials acknowledged transportation is a top priority for Coloradans, but must make sure legislation is sustainable, funded, and appropriate.

Keynote speaker, DJ Mitchell, Vice President of Passenger Operations at BNSF Railway Company, advised advocates to understand what they want the rail project to achieve. Mitchell also recommended projects consider the speed and capacity of the proposed route. Railroads are willing to work with local and state jurisdictions if the project is straightforward and considerate of the freight railroad's needs.

As a wrap-up at the summit, Terri Blackmore led a discussion about potential action items discussed during the summit. Examples of the action items include: having the state legislature direct CDOT to prepare a plan for implementation of rail planning efforts; creating a committee to evaluate potential rail funding and governance options; and building citizen support to make the project a citizen initiative. Other suggestions included: expanding focus to the entire Front Range from Wyoming to New Mexico; including municipalities in planning efforts; and the need for multiple funding sources.



DJ Mitchell (BNSF) speaks on combining passenger and freight rail.



Terri Blackmore (NFRMPO) leads a discussion on action items.

NoCo Bike & Walk Conference Held November 5, 2015

NoCo Bike & Ped Collaborative Hosted Conference to Focus on Designing Healthy Communities

Over 130 planners, engineers, public officials, and active transportation enthusiasts attended the Northern Colorado Bike and Walk Conference at the University of Northern Colorado (UNC) in Greeley on November 5, 2015. Keynote speaker and Active Transportation Consultant, Mark Fenton kicked off the conference by making the case for healthy community design as an economic driver. The Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) Executive Director Shailen Bhatt described some of the initiatives CDOT is currently pursuing before introducing Governor John Hickenlooper. Governor Hickenlooper touched on personal memories of bicycling, the correlation between economic growth and bike-related spending, and addressed concerns regarding backlash from government spending on bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure.

After a networking lunch, groups formed to participate in a neighborhood walking audit or breakout sessions. A walking audit is an assessment of existing pedestrian infrastructure with consideration for pedestrian comfort, accessibility, and future improvement opportunities. The first breakout session discussed transportation funding for bicycle and pedestrian projects. The second breakout session allowed communities in the region to describe successful recent bicycle and pedestrian projects. CDOT Deputy Director, Michael Lewis wrapped up the conference with final thoughts on the future of bicycle and pedestrian initiatives in Colorado.



Governor John Hickenlooper and Shailen Bhatt address the conference (top), Attendees participate in a Walking Audit (bottom)

Weld County Pkwy (WCR 49) Opens

The Weld County Board of Commissioners opened the Weld County Parkway on November 10th during a ribbon cutting ceremony on the Cache la Poudre River Bridge. Exactly 13 months after the Parkway groundbreaking ceremony, Weld County elected officials, project team members from the Department of Public Works, Flatiron Constructors and Atkins were joined by the Platte Valley Fire Protection District, the Weld County Sheriff's Office Honor Guard and Weld County residents to celebrate the grand opening of the road. Also in attendance were the Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) Executive Director Irv Halter and the DOLA Regional Manager for North Central Counties Don Sandoval. Weld County received a \$3.1M grant from DOLA for this project.

"Transportation is a major component of our economy, and this roadway is exactly what Weld County needs for future development," said Commissioner Chair Barbara Kirkmeyer. Commissioner Mike Freeman stated, "not only is the Parkway an additional north-south roadway for residents and the traveling public but also a road that is designed to remain open during a flood emergency like we had in 2013."

Commissioner Sean Conway, Coordinator for the Department of Public Works, stated, "in just 13 months, Weld County was able to turn a bare field into a four-lane road without raising taxes and remaining debt free. It's a very exciting day!" For more information about the Weld County Parkway, visit www.weldgov.com.



Weld County Commissioners Gather to Open Weld County Parkway

Non-Motorized Plan

New Plan Initiated for 2016-2017

The Regional Non-Motorized plan builds upon the 2013 NFRMPO Regional Bicycle Plan by incorporating pedestrian systems and recreational trails. The plan will update completed sections of 12 regional bicycle corridors presented in the previous bicycle plan and the 2040 RTP, and will add recommendations on developing and monitoring bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure, plans, and programs across the region. Health, accessibility, system equity, and environmental aspects will also be incorporated into the plan.



**NON-MOTORIZED
NORTHERN COLORADO**



MPO Staff will complete the Regional Non-Motorized Plan in coordination with local communities and outreach groups. Staff will also request TAC input on plan sections while under development and final review. Planning Council adoption of the plan is tentatively scheduled for September 2016.

FLEX Extension to Boulder

Service to Begin January, 2016

Beginning on January 18, 2016, Transfort will extend the FLEX service from Fort Collins to Downtown Boulder. Currently, there are 18 to 19 trips in each direction on weekdays and 14 to 17 trips on Saturdays. In addition to these currently scheduled trips, five new trips will operate an express route between the Fort Collins' Downtown Transit Center and the CU Boulder campus on weekdays. Funding will be provided by a Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) grant through the Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG), as well as grants from the City of Boulder, Boulder County, City of Longmont, Colorado State University (CSU), and the University of Colorado Boulder (CU Boulder).

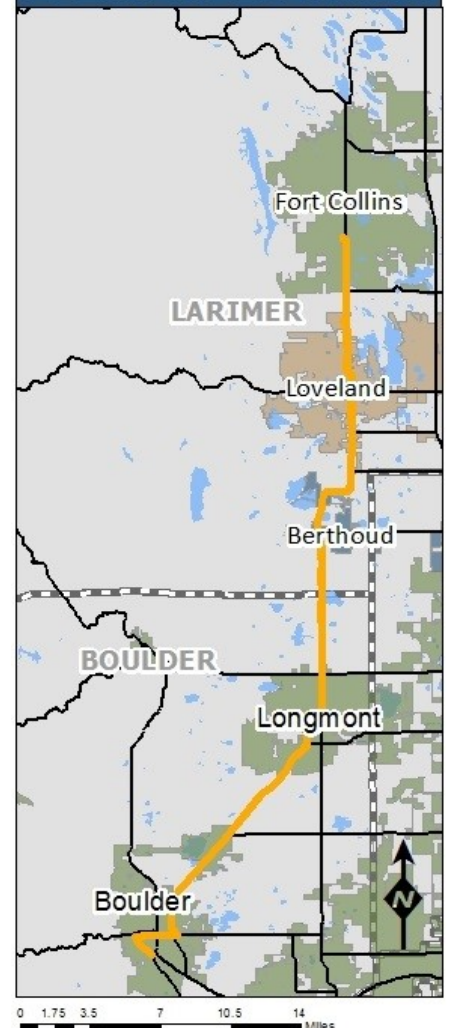
The fare for FLEX will remain \$1.25 per single ride and \$0.60 for seniors, disabled, and Medicare users. Existing Transfort, COLT, and RTD Eco Passes will be accepted as fare in addition to CSU's RamCard. Free transfers will be available to and from the COLT and Transfort systems, but those wishing to transfer to RTD buses will need to pay the RTD fare or use an RTD pass.

In addition to stops at Fort Collins' Downtown Transit Center, MAX stations, and the South Transit Center, the FLEX extension will include the Boulder Transit Center and Pearl Parkway & Junction Place in Boulder, Hover & Ken Pratt Blvd and Coffman & 9th Avenue in Longmont, and Cleveland & 8th or Lincoln & 8th in Loveland. FLEX buses serving Boulder will not stop in Berthoud, but buses terminating in Longmont will continue to serve the Berthoud stop.

The five new trips will be geared toward commuters, with a special interest toward students at CSU and CU Boulder. The trips are spread throughout the day, with two morning runs, one early afternoon run, and two evening runs in each direction. Depending on time of day, the trip between the Downtown Transit Center and CU Boulder will take between 90 minutes and an hour-and-45 minutes.

Schedules and maps of the new FLEX service are available for download at the Transfort website: www.ridettransfort.com/flex.

FLEX to Boulder



Sources: Transfort, 2015

Department Spotlight: Administration

The Administrative Team at the NFRMPO performs the financial and administrative functions necessary to operate the MPO and to receive federal and state funding for transportation, mobility, and VanGo™ projects and programs. These functions include managing contracts with CDOT, FTA and local member entities. The Administrative Team is also responsible for payroll, IT support, facilities, procurement, Title VI coordination, and human resources functions. All but one of the Team either work part-time or have other functions in the organization.

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



Administration Team Left to Right: Crystal Hedberg, Merideth Kimsey, Terri Blackmore, Renae Steffen, and Merry Anne Hood

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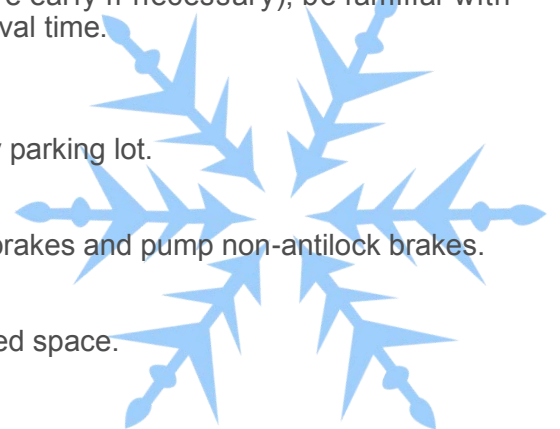
Winter Driving Tips

Winter driving can be hazardous and scary, especially in Colorado with sudden weather changes and significant 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!

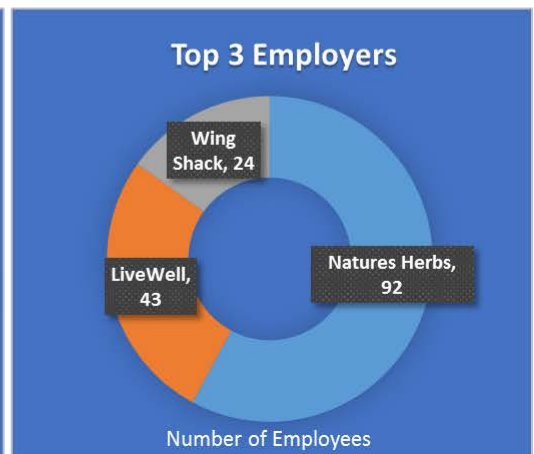
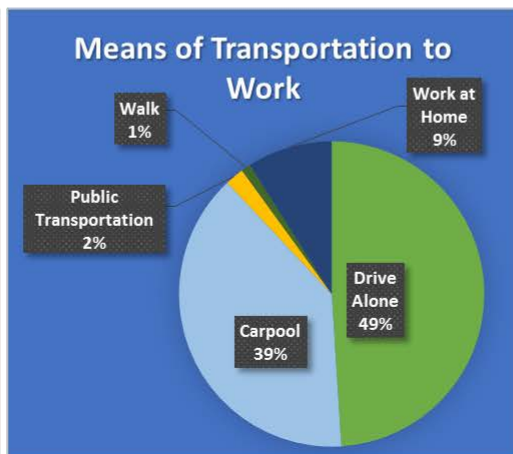
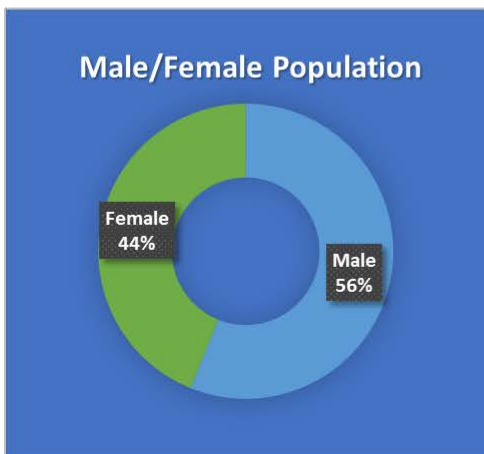
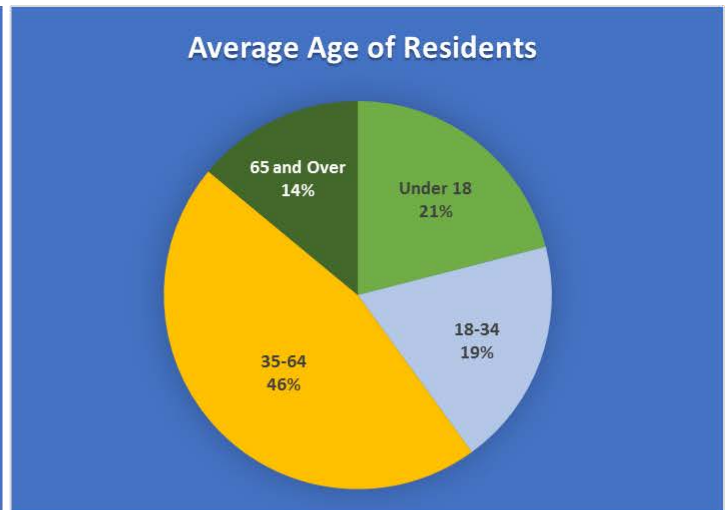
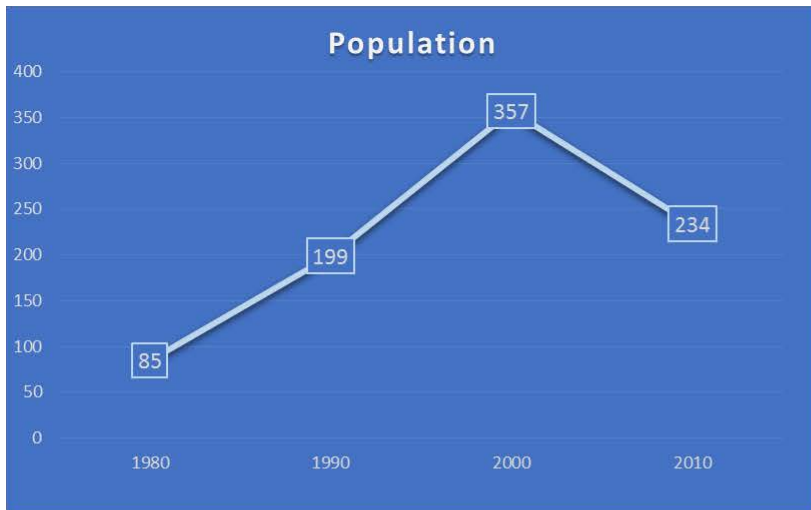
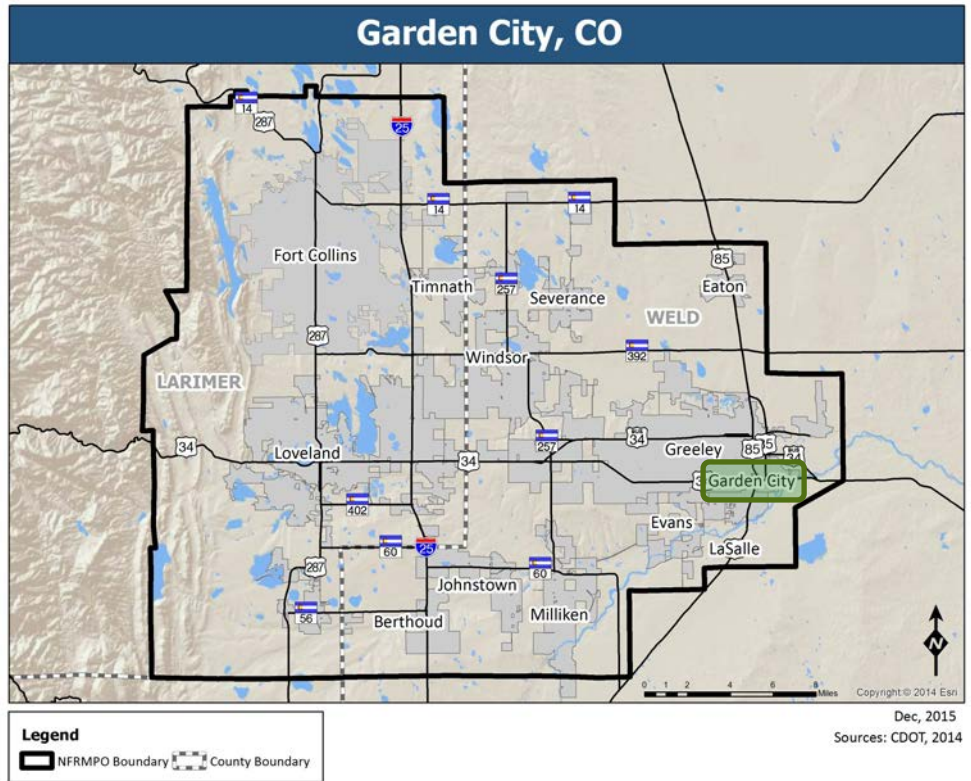
- During daylight, rehearse maneuvers slowly on ice or snow in an empty parking lot.
- Steer into a skid.
- Know how your brakes operate: apply continuous pressure to antilock brakes and pump non-antilock brakes.
- Stopping distances are longer on water-covered roads and ice.
- Do not idle for long periods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



Quarterly Member Profile

Garden City

Garden City, Colorado is located just east of Greeley along US Highway 34 and US Highway 85. Incorporated in 1936, Garden City is now home to 234 residents (US 2010 Census), sits at an elevation of 4,695 feet, and occupies a land area of 0.1 square miles. Visit the Town of Garden City website at <http://townofgardencity.com> for more information. The images below contain a snapshot of information about Garden City as a community (demographic information comes from the 2010 Census):



Upcoming Events

January

1st	New Years Day	NFRMPO Office Closed
6th 6:30 pm	I-25 Coalition	Southwest Weld County Services Center 4209 Weld CR 24 1/2, Longmont
7th xpm	US287 Coalition	Loveland Police Department / Municipal Court 810 E 10th Street, Loveland
7th 4:00 pm	US34 Coalition NFRMPO Council*	Weld County Events Center 1150 O Street, Greeley
13th 10:00 am	NoCo Bike & Ped Collaborative	Windsor Recreation Center 250 N 11th Street, Windsor
20th 1:00 pm	Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)	Windsor Recreation Center 250 N. 11th Street, Windsor
26th 1:30 pm	Weld County Mobility Council	Greeley Chamber of Commerce 902 7th Avenue, Greeley

February

3rd 6:30 pm	I-25 Coalition	Southwest Weld County Services Center 4209 Weld CR 24 1/2, Longmont
4th 4:00 pm	US34 Coalition NFRMPO Council*	Timnath Administration Building 4800 Goodman Street, Timnath
10th 10:00 am	NoCo Bike & Ped Collaborative	Windsor Recreation Center 250 N 11th Street, Windsor
15th	President's Day	NFRMPO Offices Closed
17th 1:00 pm	Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)	Windsor Recreation Center 250 N. 11th Street, Windsor
18th 1:30 pm	Larimer County Mobility Council	NFRMPO Offices 419 Canyon Ave, Fort Collins, CO
25th 2:30 pm	US287 Coalition	Loveland Library, Gertrude Scott Room 300 N. Adams Avenue, Loveland

March

2nd 6:30 pm	I-25 Coalition	Southwest Weld County Services Center 4209 Weld CR 24 1/2, Longmont
3rd 4:00 pm	US34 Coalition NFRMPO Council*	Larimer County Offices, Carter Lake/Boyd Room 200 W. Oak Street, Fort Collins
9th 10:00 am	NoCo Bike & Ped Collaborative	Windsor Recreation Center 250 N 11th Street, Windsor
16th 1:00 pm	Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)	Windsor Recreation Center 250 N. 11th Street, Windsor
22nd 1:30 pm	Weld County Mobility Council	Greeley Chamber of Commerce 902 7th Avenue, Greeley
24th 2:30 pm	US287 Coalition	Loveland Library, Gertrude Scott Room 300 N. Adams Avenue, Loveland

*US34 Coalition meetings begin at 4:00pm. NFRMPO Council meeting follows.

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.

JANUARY 2015

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FEBRUARY 2015

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MARCH 2015

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