

# ON THE MOVE

North Front Range Transportation News

October 2016

## Inside This Issue

- N I-25 Expansion Moves Ahead with TIGER Award: P1
- 2017 C-Plan Under Development: P2
- VanGo™ Annual Fall Safety Meetings: P2
- Bustang's 1<sup>st</sup> Year: P3
- Non-Motorized Plan Under Development: P4
- 2016 Transportation Summit: P4
- Department Spotlight: VanGo™ Team: P5
- Project Updates: P6-7
  - \* N I-25 Crossroads Bridge
  - \* N I-25 Climbing Lane
  - \* US 34 Big Thompson Canyon
- Ozone State Implementation Plan to Receive Hearing: P8
- Quarterly Member Profile: Larimer County: P9
- Upcoming Events: P10

## MPO Links

-  Follow us on Twitter @nfrmpo
-  Read the NFRMPO Blog nfrmpo.blogspot.com
-  VanGo and Smart Trips smarttrips.org

## Subscribe to On the Move!

Visit us at <http://nfrmpo.org/newsletter/> to subscribe to the *On The Move* Newsletter.

## N I-25 Expansion Moves Ahead with TIGER Award

The Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT), the N I-25 Coalition, the Fix N I-25 Business Alliance, and the local communities who committed funding were rewarded in August with news that

the I-25 Express Lanes project had been awarded \$15M from the federal TIGER grant program. The project is a model of cooperation between CDOT, local governments, businesses, and the federal government working together to fund the \$237 M project. Prior to the collaboration, original funding estimates put the project completion year at 2035. The project was awarded the 2016 BizWest Regional Spirit Award on August 17. On August 31, Larimer County hosted the Colorado Congressional delegation, including U.S. Senator Michael Bennet, U.S. Senator Cory Gardner, U.S.

Congressman Jared Polis, and U.S. Congressman Ken Buck, who were instrumental in supporting the grant application.

The project, which is scheduled to begin in February 2018 and be completed by the end of 2020, will replace the Poudre River and UP Railroad bridges, widen the Great Western Railway and Big Thompson River bridges, and add one HOV/toll lane in each direction between SH 14 (Mulberry Street) in Fort Collins and SH 402 in Johnstown. The project will also extend Kendall Parkway, construct a Park-n-Ride lot, and increase the height of the Poudre Bridge to allow connection of the Poudre Trail. The \$25M in local project contributions were provided by:

Larimer County and local communities	\$10M
McWhinney Developments	\$6M
City of Fort Collins	\$2.25M
City of Loveland	\$2M
Weld County	\$2M

City of Windsor	\$1M
Town of Johnstown	\$1M
Town of Timnath	\$0.5M
Town of Berthoud	\$0.25M



Elected Officials and CDOT Officials at N I-25 Reception  
Image Credit: Fix N I-25



BizWest Regional Spirit Awards  
Image Credit: BizWest



## 2017 C-Plan Under Development

Starting in October, the North Front Range MPO will begin work on the 2017 Coordinated Public Transit/Human Services Transportation Plan (C-Plan). In conjunction with the Larimer and Weld County Mobility Committees, the NFRMPO will create a plan to address federal mobility management goals established in SAFETEA-LU, continued in MAP-21, and carried forward in the FAST Act. The 2017 C-Plan will be adopted by the Planning Council in December 2017, after a year of development including public outreach, focus group discussions, and presentations.

Both the Larimer and Weld County Mobility Committees are made up of human service and transit agency representatives. By bringing these agencies together, the region can address the needs, issues, and concerns of those with mobility issues. The 2017 C-Plan will outline the strategies, goals, and desired outcomes of each Mobility Committee. These strategies, goals, and desired outcomes will address the underlying transportation issues which impact those with mobility challenges.

The 2017 C-Plan will build on the 2013 C-Plan, which has guided the Mobility Committees for the past three years. According to the 2013 C-Plan, Larimer County's primary challenge is limited access to needed transportation, especially for seniors, low-income individuals, and people with cognitive and/or physical disabilities. In Weld County, the primary challenge is connectivity, accessibility and gaps in services, especially between Greeley and communities to the west and north.

The 2017 C-Plan will kick off with a joint Larimer and Weld County Mobility Committees meeting on Wednesday, October 19. Those who wish to be part of the process should contact Alex Gordon at [agordon@nfrmpo.org](mailto:agordon@nfrmpo.org) or (970) 416-2023.

## VanGo™ Annual Fall Safety Meetings

VanGo™ held their annual Fall Safety Meetings for their vanpool participants on September 14 and 15, 2016. VanGo™ program updates were shared. A short presentation was given by FC Bikes on sharing the road with cyclists and their Bicycle Friendly Driver Program. Attendants were also asked to consider their van's preparedness for the upcoming winter season, were provided with collapsible shovels for their vans, and were reminded of all emergency procedures. At least one person from each active vanpool was required to attend a safety meeting. Participants were provided with lunch or dinner before the program began. New NFRMPO staff were introduced at the meeting.



Date	Location	Number of Attendees
September 14, 2016 Lunch Meeting	Larimer County Courthouse Building 200 West Oak Street, Fort Collins	6
September 14, 2016 Evening Meeting	Larimer County Courthouse Building 200 West Oak Street, Fort Collins	38
September 15, 2016 Evening Meeting	Greeley Family Funplex 1501 65th Avenue, Greeley	13

# Bustang's 1<sup>st</sup> Year

## Service Metrics Exceed Expectations

June 2016 marked the completion of Bustang's first full year of operation. CDOT's Bustang system operates three separate lines: the North Line, connecting Fort Collins and Loveland to Denver; the South Line, connecting Colorado Springs and Monument to Denver; and the West Line, connecting Glenwood Springs, Eagle, and Vail to Denver. All lines connect at Denver's Union Station, where riders can transfer to RTD buses, light rail, or commuter rail. In Fort Collins, the service connects to Transfort.

Bustang offers metrics to quantify the success of the service, including load factor and farebox recovery ratio. Load factor measures the number of seats filled compared to the total number of seats available. Farebox recovery ratio measures the amount in fares paid compared to the operating cost for service. Initial financial projections sought a farebox recovery ratio of 30 percent in the first year, with an expected ridership of 85,000 riders.



Bustang Bus

Image Credit: CDOT

Bustang North Route  
Image Credit: CDOT

All three lines carried more than 100,000 passengers. The North Line has the highest total ridership, followed by the South Line. The West Line has the highest load factor and farebox recovery ratio, with only one daily roundtrip. Additional services were added to meet the additional demand, including the addition of the RamsRoute and weekend service on the West Line. The RamsRoute leaves Colorado State University's (CSU) campus on Friday evening for Denver Union Station and returns to CSU on Sunday afternoon throughout the school year.

The North Line offers six daily roundtrips, and served nearly 43,000 riders in the first year. On average, weekday seats were 28 percent filled, and the farebox recovery averaged 38 percent. The weekend RamsRoute, which is counted separately, handled 1,448 passengers over its 60 days of service, averaging a 40 percent farebox recovery ratio.

CDOT will pilot a Bustang to the Broncos for the October 9 and October 30 games in Denver for \$30 roundtrip.

The success of the North Line has allowed for additional service to be added. All trips were extended up to the Downtown Transit Center in Fort Collins from the Harmony Road Park-n-Ride. An additional trip was added on Fridays, leaving Denver Union Station at 2:00 PM and arriving in Fort Collins at 3:30 PM.

For more information about the Bustang service, visit [www.ridebustang.com](http://www.ridebustang.com).

## Non-Motorized Plan Under Development

NFRMPO residents bike and walk to destinations throughout northern Colorado every day. The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the NFRMPO recognize these non-motorized modes as critical for moving people, reducing emissions, and improving resident's quality of life. The NFRMPO is responsible for regional bicycle and pedestrian planning in northern Colorado.

This year the NFRMPO is developing the *Non-Motorized Plan* to update the *2013 Regional Bicycle Plan* by adding a pedestrian component for a more comprehensive plan. The Plan is expected to be adopted by Planning Council in December 2016. A major effort of the Plan included mapping all sidewalks, trails, and on-road bicycle facilities in the NFRMPO region.

Additional items featured in the plan include:

- Regional Non-Motorized Benefits
- 2040 Regional Transportation Plan Goals, Objectives, Performance Measures, and Targets
- Outreach and Data Collection Efforts
- NFRMPO Member Community Non-Motorized Resources Review
- Non-Motorized Crash Data
- Funding Opportunities
- Emerging Trends
- Next Steps
- Tools and Templates



Poudre River Trail

Image Credit: Aaron Buckley

The NFRMPO created a *Non-Motorized Plan* survey to collect bicycle and pedestrian data. With over 200 responses, the NFRMPO incorporated community feedback into the plan. The survey will remain active until November 1<sup>st</sup>. To provide comments and feedback on non-motorized transportation in the region, please visit <http://ow.ly/10DyK0>

## 2016 Transportation Summit

Event Sold Out - Waitlist Available

The annual Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) Transportation Matters Summit will take place

on Tuesday, November 1st in downtown Denver. This year's summit will focus on the customer experience and showcase how technology and best practices in transportation and other industries can elevate and possibly even transform that experience. As noted by CDOT, users of the transportation system pursue freedom and connection through travel, and nearly every aspect of their lives is impacted by transportation.

The Summit will be held at the Grand Hyatt in downtown Denver and includes a lunch keynote and two rounds of break-out sessions. Registration opens at 10:00 AM, with the lunch keynote at 11:00 AM followed by breakout sessions, and networking reception at 4:30 PM. The breakout sessions will be held in the 38<sup>th</sup> floor Pinnacle Club meeting rooms, featuring 360-degree views of the Front Range and Denver metro region.

The event has sold out. To learn more about the event, or to be added to the waitlist, visit <https://www.codot.gov/summit>



## Department Spotlight: VanGo™ Team

The VanGo™ Vanpool Program provides groups of people with similar commutes to and from work with a comfortable van. Vanpoolers pay a monthly fee that covers the costs of the van, fuel, maintenance, and insurance. Driving responsibility is shared amongst the vanpoolers. Vanpoolers are able to sleep, read, text, talk, or work on their daily commute. Many employers provide financial incentives or subsidies as well as preferential parking for employees who vanpool.



The NFRMPO VanGo™ Team has four members: the Financial & Operations Manager, Accounting Clerk/NTD Reporter, VanGo™ Services Coordinator, and an Administrative Specialist. The team provides available resources, information, and incentives to help individuals join the VanGo™ Vanpool Program. Choosing VanGo™ means less road stress, more money in your pocket, and less traffic congestion for everyone.

VanGo™ will be contracting for a fare study and development of an app to report National Transit Database submissions. The VanGo™ program also will be purchasing up to 15 vans this year.

The VanGo™ Team recently updated to a more user-friendly website. For more information on the VanGo™ program and other smart transportation options visit <http://smartrips.org> or contact one of our team members below.

**Crystal Hedberg**  
Financial & Operations  
Manager  
(970) 416-2638  
[chedberg@nfrmpo.org](mailto:chedberg@nfrmpo.org)

**Merideth Kimsey**  
Accounting Clerk/NTD  
Reporter  
(970) 416-2252  
[mkimsey@nfrmpo.org](mailto:mkimsey@nfrmpo.org)

**Shane Armstrong**  
VanGo™ Services  
Coordinator  
(970) 221-6859  
[sarmstrong@nfrmpo.org](mailto:sarmstrong@nfrmpo.org)

**Val Vollman**  
Administrative  
Specialist  
(970) 221-6243  
[vvollman@nfrmpo.org](mailto:vvollman@nfrmpo.org)



VanGo™ Team Left to Right: Shane Armstrong, Merideth Kimsey, Crystal Hedberg, and Val Vollman

## Project Update: N I-25 Crossroads Bridge

Work began on the N I-25 Crossroads Boulevard bridge replacement project on September 11, 2016 and is expected to continue through November 2017.

The bridge replacement project will widen the existing roadway of N I-25 for approximately 1.5 miles, including wider pavement, shoulders, and improved roadway grades. The widening will allow for the addition of the express lane on N I-25, to be completed through a separate project, which will alleviate congestion on N I-25.

The project will also widen Crossroads Boulevard to two lanes in each direction under N I-25 and extend Byrd Drive by two-thirds of a mile to connect with Goldco Drive. The Byrd Drive extension will include a 7-foot bike lane, 6-foot tree lawn, and 6-foot sidewalk in each direction.

The first step of the project includes installing a temporary bridge to provide access on N I-25 over Crossroads Boulevard. Northbound traffic on N I-25 will be switched to the temporary bridge in early November 2016. The existing northbound bridge will be demolished in early November, and construction on the new northbound bridge will begin in early December. The southbound bridge will be demolished in early April 2017, and construction of the new southbound bridge will begin in May 2017.



N I-25 Crossroads Bridge Replacement Project Work Area Image Credit: CDOT



N I-25 Crossroads Bridges

Image Credit: CDOT

The normal working hours for the project are Monday through Friday from 7:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Some nighttime and weekend work will occur as needed, and some nighttime lane closures are expected. During daytime hours, two lanes of traffic will be maintained in each direction on N I-25 throughout the project.

The \$22.1 Million project is funded primarily through the Responsible Acceleration for Maintenance and Partnerships (RAMP) program and is supplemented by a contribution from the NFRMPO.

For more information on the project, visit the CDOT project page at <http://bit.ly/2cdl4Oe>

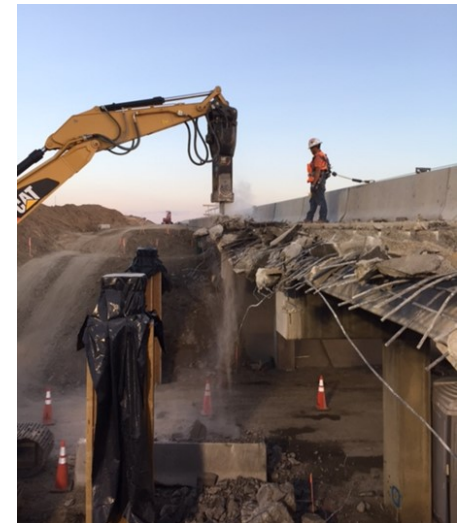
## Project Update: N I-25 Climbing Lane

The N I-25 Climbing Lane project is ahead of schedule and is expected to be completed by December 2016.

The project began in May of this year and is adding a climbing lane on N I-25 from mile point 245.87 to mile point 249.84 to allow trucks, oversized, and other slow-moving vehicles an additional travel lane to climb Berthoud Hill. Most of the construction is occurring at night.

In addition to the climbing lane, the project includes mill and overlay on all northbound and southbound lanes, widening the bridge at Valley Road, and improving embankments and drainage along the corridor.

For additional information on the project, please visit <https://www.codot.gov/projects/i-25-climbing-lane>



N I-25 Climbing Lane Demolition  
Image Credit: CDOT

## Project Update: US 34 Big Thompson Canyon

Permanent repairs to US 34 through Big Thompson Canyon are underway to repair damage caused during the 2013 floods. The permanent repairs will replace much of the temporary asphalt, embankment fill, and temporary channel protection, and re-vegetate areas, replace guardrails, and repair fencing.

Major rock-blasting and road construction work will close US 34 to through traffic between mile point 77 (just east of Drake) and mile point 80 (in the Cedar Cove area) from October 2016 through June 2017. Only canyon residents, VanGo™ Vanpools\*, and essential and emergency services will have access to US 34 between Drake and Cedar Cove through a permitting process. Permitted vehicles will be allowed access from 6:00 – 8:30 AM and 4:00 – 7:00 PM.



Damage to US 34 from 2013 Floods  
Image Credit: CDOT

Travel on US 34 will be allowed east of mile point 80 and west of mile point 77. The detour route for travel between Estes Park and Loveland will be US 36 and CO 66. Additional information and project updates are available at <http://bit.ly/2c96KYx>

### \*Permits Available for VanGo™ Vanpools

Commuters wishing to travel US 34 through Big Thompson Canyon during the closure can join the VanGo™ program. VanGo™ vanpools are eligible to receive permits for travel through the canyon from 6:00 – 8:30 AM and 4:00 – 7:00 PM. Vanpools consist of six people with similar commutes (consistent start time and destination) of 20 to 80 miles to and from work. The van is provided by the VanGo™ Vanpool Program, and the Guaranteed Ride Home service ensures vanpoolers who have an emergency, illness, or an unexpected schedule change have a way to get home. The Town of Estes Park has agreed to store a van for the Guaranteed Ride Home service.

# Ozone State Implementation Plan to Receive Rulemaking Hearing

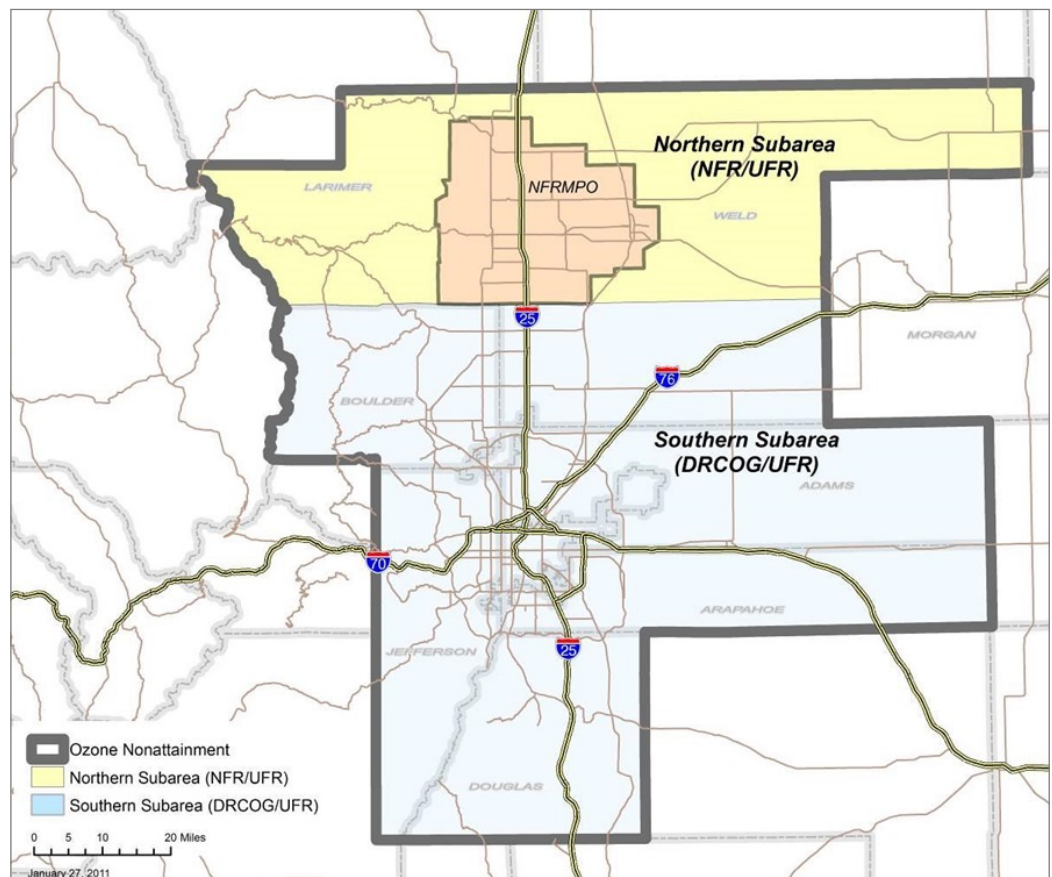
Ground-level ozone is an air pollutant that presents health concerns for everyone. The North Front Range region, along with the Denver metropolitan area, has a history of exceeding the national air quality standards for ozone. In 2012, the Denver Metro / North Front Range (DM/NFR) region was designated as a marginal ozone nonattainment area by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for the 2008 ozone standard. The EPA established an attainment date of July 2015 for meeting the ozone standard, which the region did not meet. In May 2016, the EPA reclassified the region as a moderate ozone nonattainment area and set a new attainment date of July 2018.

The North Front Range Metropolitan Planning Organization (NFRMPO) region is contained within the Northern Subarea of the DM/NFR nonattainment area. The nonattainment area also covers the Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG) and a portion of the Upper Front Range (UFR) Transportation Planning Region (TPR).

Each state is required to develop a State Implementation Plan (SIP) to identify how the state will attain and/or maintain the national air quality standards. Due to the designation of the DM/NFR region as a moderate nonattainment area for ozone, Colorado's SIP is being revised to address the moderate nonattainment area requirements in the Clean Air Act (CAA). The SIP revision includes emissions inventories, Reasonably Available Control Technology (RACT), Reasonably Available Control Measures (RACM), and other requirements to demonstrate how the state will meet the 2008 ozone standard by July 2018.

A rulemaking hearing will be held November 17 and 18, 2016 by the Colorado Air Quality Control Commission (AQCC) in Denver to consider the revised SIP for the 2008 ozone standard. The public is encouraged to provide comments orally at the hearing or submit written comments to the AQCC by November 1.

The revised SIP was developed by the Regional Air Quality Council (RAQC) and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment's (CDPHE) Air Pollution Control Division (APCD) based on months of analyses, modeling, and nearly 40 RAQC Board and public meetings.



Denver Metro/North Front Range 8-hour Ozone Nonattainment Area and Subareas

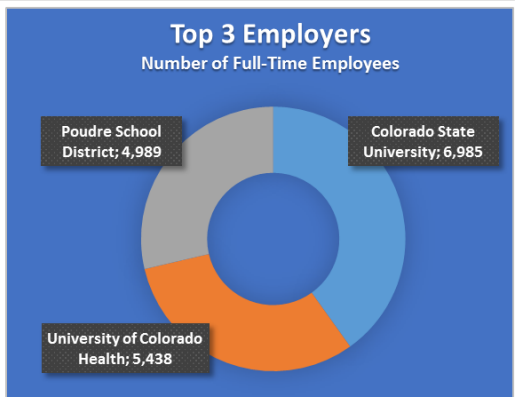
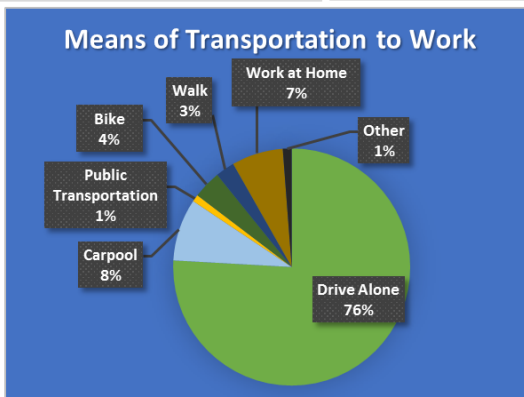
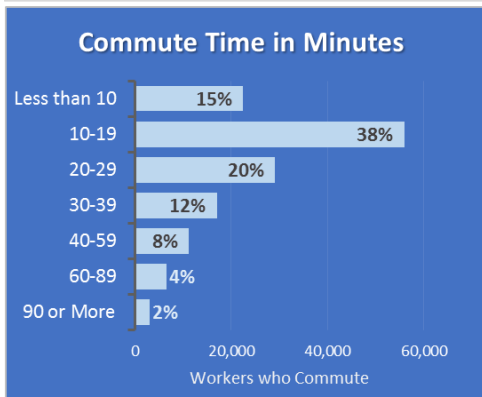
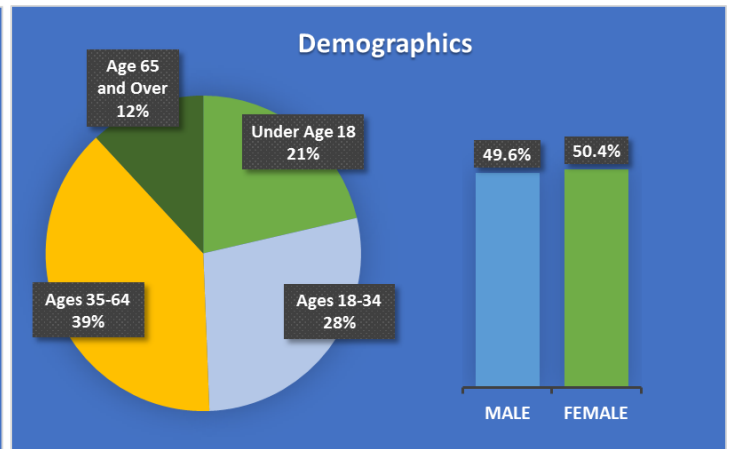
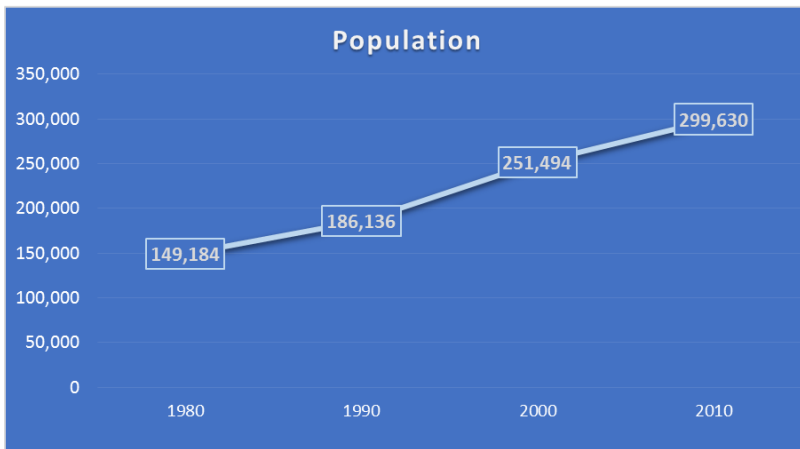
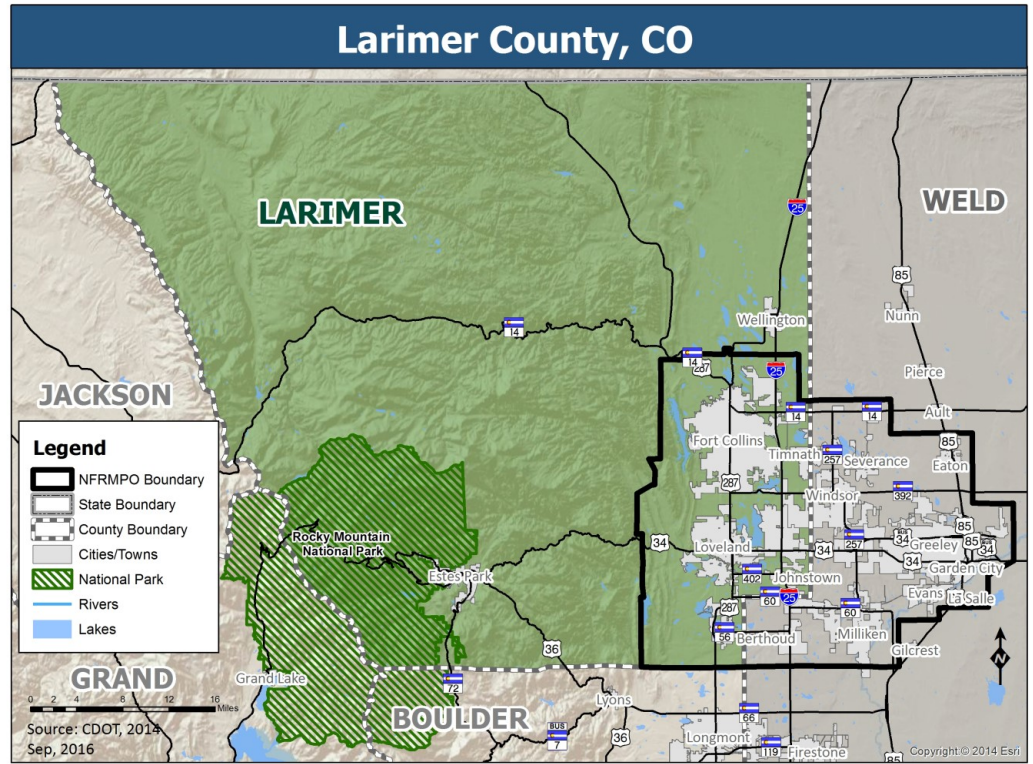
For more information on the rulemaking hearing and the revised SIP, please visit <http://bit.ly/2csEG2V>



# Quarterly Member Profile

## Larimer County

The NFRMPO region includes 13 percent of Larimer County by area and 87 percent by population. Larimer County's population increased to over 330,000 residents as of 2015, an increase of 30,000 since 2010. Larimer County covers 2,634 square miles and ranges in elevation between 4,800 and 13,562 feet. Additional NFRMPO member governments located entirely within Larimer County include Fort Collins, Loveland, and Timnath. The towns of Berthoud, Johnstown, and Windsor are located in both Larimer and Weld counties. Visit Larimer County's website at <http://www.larimer.org/> for more information.



Sources: Population—Decennial Censuses; Demographics—2010 Census; Commute Time in Minutes and Means of Transportation to Work—2014 5-year American Community Survey; and Employers—Various

# Upcoming Events

October		
5th 6:30 pm	I-25 Coalition	Southwest Weld County Services Center 4209 Weld CR 24 1/2, Longmont 80504
6th 1:30 pm	Senior Transportation Coalition	Pathways Hospice 305 Carpenter Road, Fort Collins, CO 80525
6th 3:30 pm	US 34 Coalition	Johnstown Community Center 101 Charlotte Street, Johnstown, CO 80534
6th 4:30 pm	Electric Vehicle Ride and Drive	Johnstown Community Center 101 Charlotte Street, Johnstown, CO 80534
6th 5:30 pm	NFRMPO Council Meeting	Johnstown Community Center 101 Charlotte Street, Johnstown, CO 80534
7th 11:30 am	I-25 Funding Subcommittee	Perkins Crossroads 6020 Stallion Drive, Loveland, CO 80538
10th	Columbus Day	NFRMPO Offices Closed
12th 10:00 am	NoCo Bike & Ped Collaborative	Windsor Recreation Center, Maple Room 250 N. 11 <sup>th</sup> Street, Windsor, CO 80550
19th 10:00 am	Coordinated Plan Kickoff Meeting	Windsor Recreation Center, Pine Room 250 N. 11 <sup>th</sup> Street, Windsor, CO 80550
19th 1:00 pm	Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)	Windsor Recreation Center, Pine Room 250 N. 11 <sup>th</sup> Street, Windsor, CO 80550
27th 2:30 pm	Northern Colorado Highway 287 Corridor Coalition	Loveland Public Library, Gertrude Scott Meeting Room, 300 N Adams Avenue, Loveland, CO 80537
November		
2nd 6:30 pm	I-25 Coalition	Southwest Weld County Services Center 4209 Weld CR 24 1/2, Longmont 80504
3rd 5:30 pm	NFRMPO Council Meeting	Eaton Public Library 132 Maple Avenue, Eaton, CO 80615
9th 10:00 am	NoCo Bike & Ped Collaborative	Windsor Recreation Center, Maple Room 250 N. 11 <sup>th</sup> Street, Windsor, CO 80550
16th 1:00 pm	Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)	Windsor Recreation Center, Pine Room 250 N. 11 <sup>th</sup> Street, Windsor, CO 80550
24th & 25th	Thanksgiving	NFRMPO Offices Closed
December		
1st 1:30 pm	Senior Transportation Coalition	Pathways Hospice 305 Carpenter Road, Fort Collins, CO 80525
1st 5:30 pm	NFRMPO Council Meeting	Fort Collins Community Room 215 N. Mason Street, Fort Collins, CO 80524
6th 1:30 pm	Weld County Mobility Committee	Greeley Chamber of Commerce 902 7th Avenue, Greeley, CO 80631
7th 6:30 pm	I-25 Coalition	Southwest Weld County Services Center 4209 Weld CR 24 1/2, Longmont 80504
8th 2:30 pm	Northern Colorado Highway 287 Corridor Coalition	Loveland Public Library, Gertrude Scott Meeting Room, 300 N Adams Avenue, Loveland, CO 80537
9th 11:30 am	I-25 Funding Subcommittee	Perkins Crossroads 6020 Stallion Drive, Loveland, CO 80538
14th 10:00 am	NoCo Bike & Ped Collaborative	Windsor Recreation Center, Maple Room 250 N. 11 <sup>th</sup> Street, Windsor, CO 80550
15th 1:30 pm	Larimer County Mobility Committee	NFRMPO Office 419 Canyon Ave, Suite 300, Fort Collins, CO 80521
21st 1:00 pm	Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)	Windsor Recreation Center, Pine Room 250 N. 11 <sup>th</sup> Street, Windsor, CO 80550
23rd & 26th	Christmas	NFRMPO Offices Closed

## OCTOBER 2016

Su	Mo	Tu	W	Th	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

## NOVEMBER 2016

Su	Mo	Tu	W	Th	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

## DECEMBER 2016

Su	Mo	Tu	W	Th	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

## Contact Us

**North Front Range MPO**  
419 Canyon Avenue  
Suite 300  
Fort Collins, CO 80521

(970) 221-6643

Visit us on the web at  
[www.nfrmpo.org](http://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.*

