

# ON THE MOVE

North Front Range Transportation News

January –March 2018

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## MPO Links

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## NFRMPO Council and TAC Elections



Larimer County Commissioner Tom Donnelly, 2018 Planning Council Chair

At their December meeting, the North Front Range Transportation & Air Quality Planning Council (NFRT&AQPC) elected new officers to serve for 2018. The Planning Council voted to elect Tom Donnelly, Larimer County Commissioner, as Planning Council Chair and Kristie Melendez, Mayor of Windsor, as Vice Chair. Kevin Ross, Mayor of Eaton, will serve as Immediate Past Chair. The Planning Council officers make up the Executive Committee and work cooperatively to set the Planning Council's meeting agendas. The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) also

elected officers for 2018 at their December meeting. TAC elected David Klockeman of Loveland as Chair and elected Will Jones of Greeley and Greeley-Evans Transit (GET) as Vice Chair. Dawn Anderson of Weld County will serve as Past Chair.



Mayor Kristie Melendez of Windsor, 2018 Planning Council Vice Chair

## Project Update: North I-25 Crossroads Bridge

The *North I-25 Crossroads Bridge Replacement* project is nearing completion. The southbound bridge is expected to be finished by February 2018, with southbound traffic shifting to the new bridge that month. The project, which began in September 2016, is replacing the two bridges on I-25 over Crossroads Boulevard in Loveland. The northbound bridge was completed in March 2017. The new bridges are being built with 28-foot shoulders to accommodate future express lanes on I-25. The bridges will also allow four travel lanes on Crossroads Boulevard underneath I-25 compared with the two lanes currently available. To learn more about the North I-25 Crossroads Bridge Replacement project, visit <https://www.codot.gov/projects/i25crossroadsbridge>.



I-25 roadway near Crossroads. Image Credit: CDOT



## NFRMPO Submitted INFRA Grant Application



The NFRMPO recently submitted an application for the Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) grant program to improve North I-25. The application for the *Growing Economies, Growing Communities: North Interstate 25 Phase II* project was submitted for North I-25 Segment 6 (SH402 to SH56) on November 1, 2017 requesting \$86.5M for this \$295M project.

The local communities within the region have committed \$5M in funding for the required local match for the INFRA grant, in addition to \$200M from the CDOT Transportation Commission and \$3.5M in Region 4 Regional Priority Program (RPP) funds.

There is a total of \$1.44B to \$1.48B available in 2017-2018 for large projects to the INFRA grant program, applications were due on November 2, 2017. The US Department of Transportation (U.S. DOT) will announce projects selected to receive INFRA awards at a later date.

### Growing Economies, Growing Communities...

*If awarded, grant funds would be used for the following eight improvements:*

1. Reconstruct and expand three interchanges;
2. Replace 12 bridges;
3. Provide adequate bridge clearance for non-motorized trail and wildlife passage;
4. Fully reconstruct the interstate along a 5.5-mile segment of the corridor;
5. Increase capacity (third lane) by adding a managed express lane between SH56 and SH402 (same 5.5-mile segment);
6. Provide much needed travel time reliability on this congested corridor;
7. Straighten out a substandard reverse curve on I-25 (the Berthoud Curve) currently creating a bottleneck; and
8. Construct two transit facilities, one at the SH56 interchange, including an expanded 144-space park-and-ride facility and an expanded 90-space park-and-ride facility at SH60.

## 2017 Coordinated Plan Adopted

On December 7, 2017 the NFRMPO Planning Council adopted the *2017 Coordinated Public Transit/Human Services Transportation Plan (Coordinated Plan)*. The *Coordinated Plan* is updated every four years as part of the long-range planning process; the previous *Coordinated Plan* was adopted in December 2013. The 2017 *Coordinated Plan* will act as the strategic plan for the NFRMPO's Mobility Coordination program through 2021. Specifically, it sets out the goals and strategies the region should undertake to improve transportation for vulnerable populations, including older adults and individuals with disabilities. This is in accordance with requirements for entities receiving Federal Transit Administration (FTA) §5310 funds.

The *2017 Coordinated Plan* kicked off in October 2016 with a joint public meeting of the Larimer County Mobility Committee (LCMC) and the Weld County Mobility Committee (WCMC). Over the subsequent year, the LCMC and WCMC provided guidance at their bi-monthly meetings. In addition, NFRMPO staff attended community meetings, senior lunches, and community events throughout the region to discuss the issues faced in transportation for these populations. Throughout this process, transportation needs in the unincorporated areas remained one of the most common themes.

From the input provided by the two Mobility Committees and during public outreach, NFRMPO staff proposed four goal categories and related strategies to help mitigate identified mobility issues:



NFRMPO staff discussed mobility with community members at summer outreach events like the Johnstown BBQ.  
Photo Credit: NFRMPO Staff

## 2017 Coordinated Public Transit/ Human Services Transportation Plan



2017 Coordinated Plan Cover  
Image Credit: NFRMPO Staff

**Inclusion:** the NFRMPO Mobility Coordination program will provide an open forum to discuss mobility issues in Northern Colorado through outreach opportunities, public meetings, and ongoing conversation with community stakeholders;

**Education:** NFRMPO Mobility Coordination staff will distribute information to both users of the transit systems in the region and to drivers and operators who provide the services;

**Improvements in smaller and unincorporated areas:** Ensuring mobility can be challenging in unincorporated portions of the region where residences and businesses are less centralized, so the NFRMPO Mobility Coordination program will support efforts to improve transit on the community and regional level; and

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**Improvements in larger communities:** the NFRMPO will support efforts of the three large transit agencies in the region, provide technical support where needed, and increase connections between the existing services.

Together with the members of the LCMC and WCMC, the Mobility Coordination program will implement these strategies over the next four years. Finally, the program will meet a number of performance measures such as reductions in service gaps and increases in ridership.

The new *2017 Coordinated Plan* is available for download at the NFRMPO website: <http://bit.ly/2zAtQ5B>.

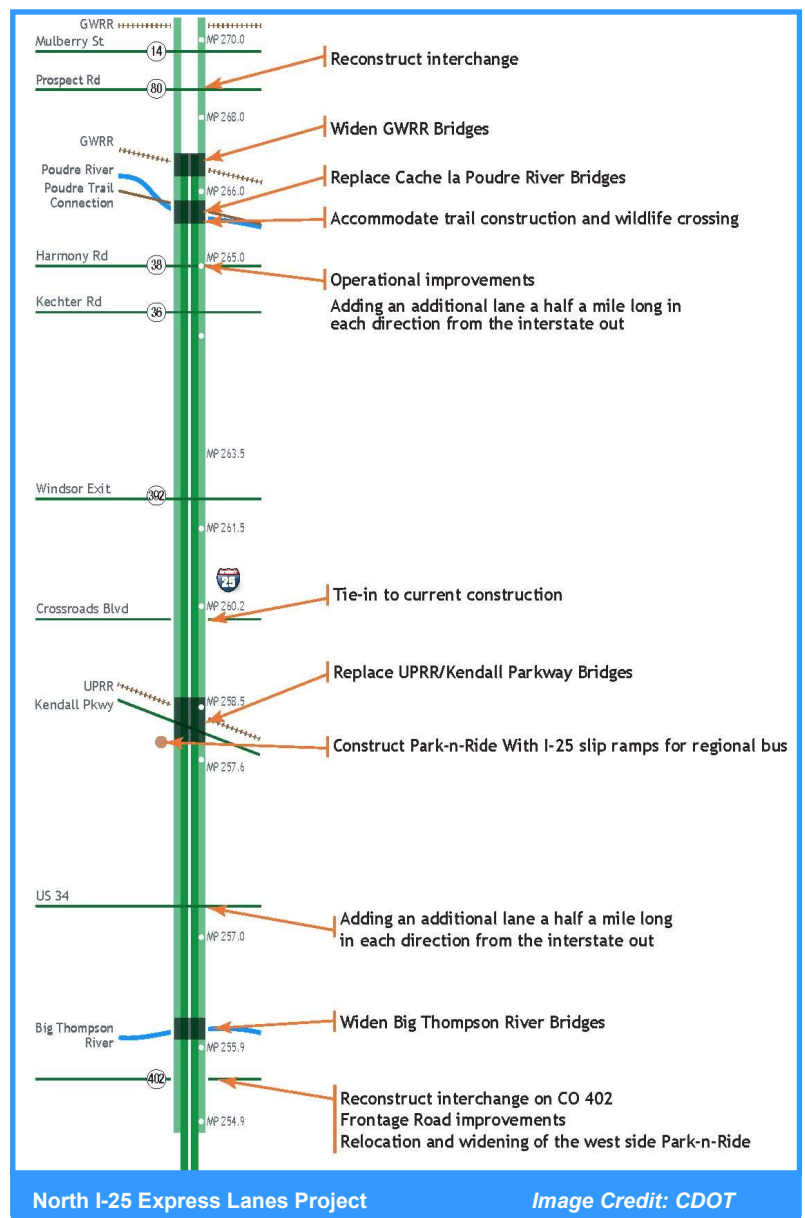
## North I-25 Express Lanes Bid Opening

The *North I-25 Express Lanes: Johnstown to Fort Collins* project bid opening was held by the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) on November 17, 2017. Kraemer/IHC was recommended to CDOT executive management as the apparent selected bidder. Negotiations are underway with Kraemer/IHC in anticipation of announcing the final award.

The project will increase capacity on North I-25 by adding an Express Lane in both directions between SH402 and SH14, replace and widen bridges, create pedestrian and bicycle access under I-25 at Kendall Parkway, connect the Cache la Poudre River Regional Trail under I-25, and improve multi-modal access to regional transit.

Construction on the project will begin in 2018 and conclude by 2021. During construction, two travel lanes will remain open in each direction during the day, with lane closures occurring at night.

For more information on the North I-25 Express Lanes bid opening, visit <https://www.codot.gov/news/2017-news/november/cdot-and-kraemer-ihc-to-begin-negotiations-to-build-north-i-25-express-lanes-johnstown-to-fort-collins>.



North I-25 Express Lanes Project

Image Credit: CDOT

## Winter Driving Tips

Winter driving can be hazardous and frightening, especially with Colorado's sudden weather changes and heavy snowstorms. The following tips provide safety information for winter driving:

**Maintain Your Vehicle:** Check battery, antifreeze, tire tread, and windshield wipers; keep your windows clear; and put no-freeze fluid in the washer reservoir.

**Have On Hand:** cell phone and charger, flashlight, jumper cables, tow strap, first-aid kit, abrasive material (sand, kitty litter, or floor mats), shovel, snow brush and ice scraper, warning devices (flares and emergency triangles), water, and blankets.

**Stopped or Stalled?** Stay in your car, do not overexert yourself, put bright markers on antenna or windows and illuminate dome light. If you run your car, make sure the exhaust pipe is clear of snow, ice, or mud, and run the vehicle 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 Your 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.
- ❄️ Use low-beam headlights in bad weather.
- ❄️ Slow down and increase distance between cars.
- ❄️ Stopping distances are longer on water-covered roads and ice.
- ❄️ The heavier the vehicle, the longer it takes to stop. Four-wheel drive (4WD) vehicles do not stop faster on ice than two-wheel drive (2WD) vehicles.
- ❄️ Do not idle for long periods of time with the windows up or in an enclosed space.
- ❄️ Keep your eyes open for pedestrians and cyclists in the road.

### Tire Stopping Distance

When it comes to winter driving, all-season tires simply can't compete with winter tires.

Dry-, wet- and snowy-pavement brake-test results show stopping distance with different tires. All stops were from 60 MPH.



OPERATION  
TIRESAFE

All data from Consumer Reports.

Winter tires can help you stop sooner in snowy conditions than all-season tires. *Image Credit: CDOT*

# Two Years, Two Trails

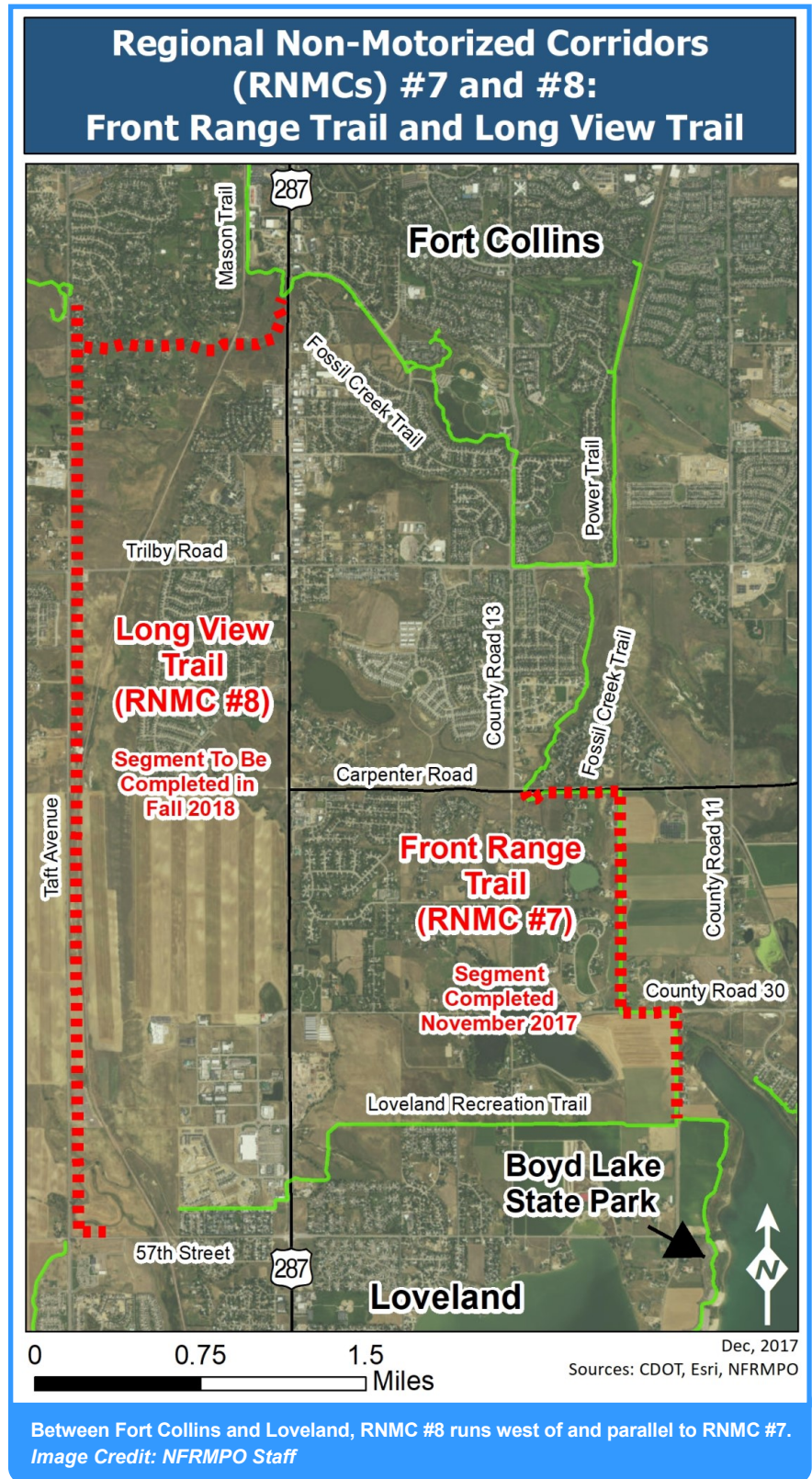
## Connecting Fort Collins and Loveland with Two Bike and Pedestrian Corridors

On November 14, 2017, project sponsors held a ribbon cutting for the newly completed two-mile segment of the Front Range Trail West, NFRMPO Regional Non-Motorized Corridor (RNMCO) #7, connecting Fort Collins and Loveland. The partnership between the City of Fort Collins, the City of Loveland, and Larimer County to construct the first shared-use path connecting the two cities has been in the works since the project began in 2002. The project cost was \$1.2M, with \$800,000 in grant funding from state and federal sources, \$450,000 of which was awarded in the NFRMPO's 2014 Call for Projects.

The trail connects the Loveland Recreation Trail north of Boyd Lake State Park to the Fossil Creek Trail under Carpenter Road. Shortly after the Front Range Trail opened, ground was broken on a second connection between the two cities, this time along the Long View Trail Corridor, RNMCO #8. Construction on the 4.4-mile segment is expected to be completed by fall 2018, and will provide a parallel trail connection roughly following the BNSF rail right-of-way from Fort Collins to Loveland several miles west of the Front Range Trail connection.

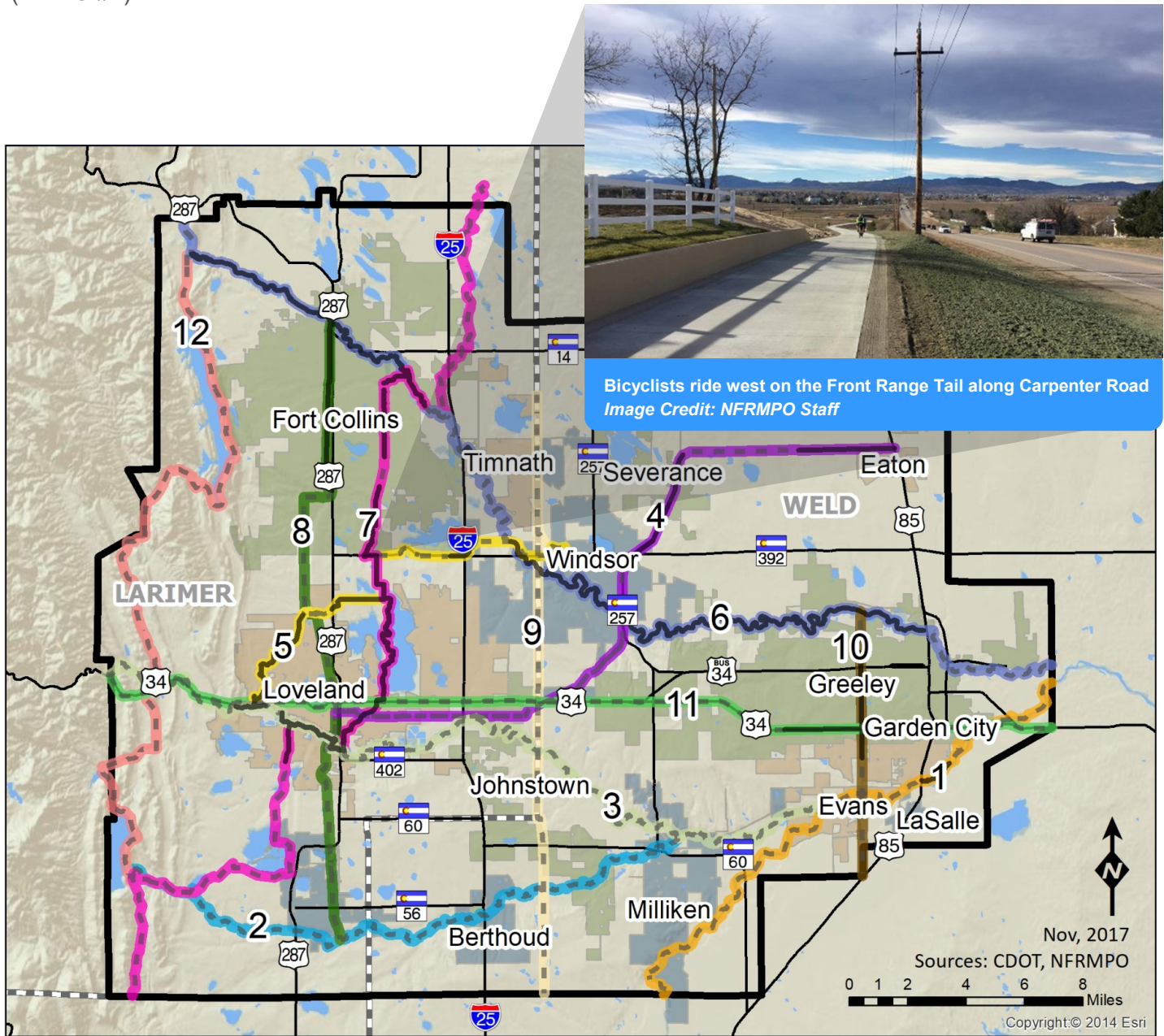
Another intergovernmental effort, the \$4M Long View Trail is partially funded by nearly \$2M in state grants. The Trail will connect the Loveland Recreation Trail at 57th Street to the Fossil Creek Trail at Cathy Fromme Prairie Natural Area.

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The map below identifies the 12 RNMCs originally identified in the NFRMPO 2013 Bicycle Plan. The routes shown here have been updated to reflect recent construction projects, including the Front Range Trail (RNMC #7).



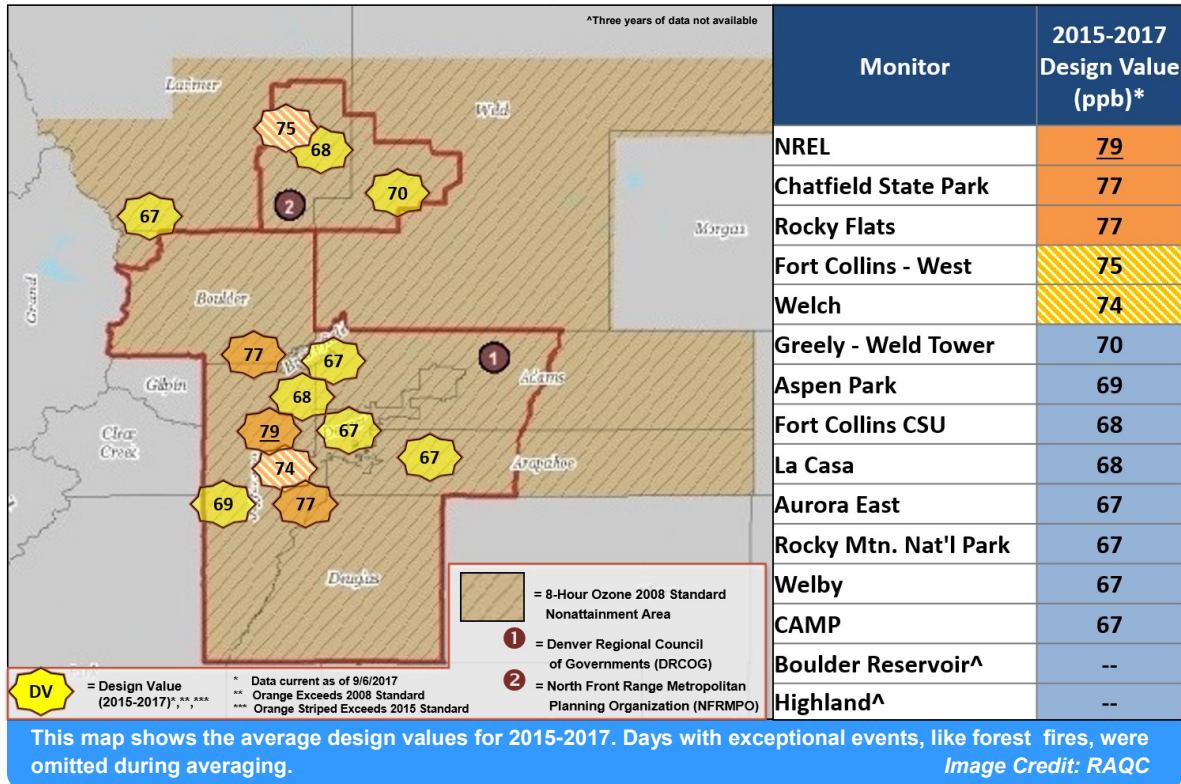
Legend

- Existing Regional Trail
- - - Future Regional Trail
- 1: South Platte/American Discovery Trail
- 2: Little Thompson River
- 3: Big Thompson River
- 4: Great Western/Johnstown/Loveland
- 5: North Loveland/Windsor
- 6: Poudre River Trail
- 7: Front Range Trail (West)
- 8: BNSF Fort Collins/Berthoud
- 9: Johnstown/Timnath
- 10: Greeley/LaSalle
- 11: US 34 Non-motorized
- 12: Carter Lake/Horsetooth Foothills Corridor
- ▭ NFRMPO Boundary
- ▭ County Boundary

# In Review: 2017 Air Quality for the North Front Range

## Another Year of Air Quality Improvement

The Denver Metropolitan Area and the North Front Range region comprise the Denver Metro-North Front Range 8-Hour Ozone Nonattainment Area. As a Nonattainment Area, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) must monitor air quality throughout the ozone season. In the North Front Range, the peak of the ozone season is June through August. There are four monitors in the region: Fort Collins–West; Fort Collins–CSU; Greeley –Weld Tower; and Rocky Mountain National Park. The Denver Metropolitan Region has 11 monitors.



Based on information from the 15 monitors, a three-year average of the fourth-highest maximum daily 8-hour average monitored ozone value, called the design value, is calculated and compared to the National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) set by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Currently, there is a 2008 NAAQS and 2015 NAAQS for ozone: 75 parts per billion (ppb) and 70 ppb, respectively. During the 2017 ozone season, there were 13 days where one or more monitors exceeded the 2008 NAAQS, which is down from 18 days in 2016.

Three monitoring sites in the nonattainment area exceeded the 2008 NAAQS, based on the 2015-2017 three-year average of the fourth-highest concentration, though none were in the North Front Range region. The Fort Collins – West monitor exceeded the 2015 NAAQS, but attained the 2008 standard. There were two days in early September that had ozone exceedances in the Denver region due to wildfire events in upwind states. These days have been flagged as being influenced by an Exceptional Event and may be omitted from annual data if compelling evidence can be submitted to EPA. According to the Regional Air Quality Council (RAQC), there has been considerable improvement in the number of monitors below 70 ppb, with eight monitors in the region reading at or below 70 ppb, while there was only one below this threshold in 2014.





## RAQC Campaigns for Better Air

*Simple Steps. Better Air.* (SSBA) – formerly OzoneAware – is a program that, through increased outreach and public awareness about ground-level ozone pollution, aims to motivate more Coloradans to take action in reducing ozone-causing emissions. As part of this program, RAQC releases “Ozone Action Alerts” during the summer months, notifying the public when ozone levels could potentially reach unhealthy levels. This past summer, 42 ozone action alerts were issued. On Ozone Action Alert days, we ask residents to take the following simple steps to reduce ozone-causing emissions:

- Start with fewer car trips (bike, walk, public transit, pack a lunch, shop online)
- Combine passengers on trips (carpool, vanpool)
- Energize your ride (drive an electric vehicle, hybrid, or fuel-efficient car)
- Take steps at home (choose low VOC products, mow in the evening, use electric lawn/garden tools)
- Challenge yourself (refuel car in the evening, stop at first click when refueling, keep your car well-maintained)

Our outreach and educational campaign also includes radio, outdoor and digital advertising, social media outreach, community event sponsorships, stakeholder partnerships and outreach to media and local governments. Find more simple steps to decrease ozone pollution, sign up for ozone alerts, or log your vehicle trips and ozone-cutting actions in our unique tracking system at [www.SimpleStepsBetterAir.org](http://www.SimpleStepsBetterAir.org).

## Funding for Low-Emission Commercial Lawn & Garden Equipment

The Regional Air Quality Council (RAQC) is requesting applications from public entities to fund the purchase of low-emission, commercial-grade lawn and garden equipment to improve air quality in the Denver Metro/North Front Range ozone nonattainment area. Funding is available for the replacement of gasoline-powered commercial lawn and garden equipment with battery- or propane-powered equipment, and it will be on a first-come, first-served basis with minimum awards of \$1,000 and maximum awards of \$15,000 per entity. The online application will be open continuously until funding is expended.

Grant funding will cover:

- Up to 50 percent of the purchase price of battery electric handheld equipment, batteries, and chargers.
- \$2,000 towards the purchase of a battery-powered commercial grade lawn mower.
- \$1,000 towards the purchase of a propane powered commercial grade lawn mower.
- Propane Conversions to currently owned mowers.

To apply, visit [www.MowDownPollution.org/Commercial](http://www.MowDownPollution.org/Commercial).





Council Member Aaron Pearson  
Photo Credit: Town of Timnath

## Council Member Spotlight

### Aaron Pearson

Council Member, Timnath

NFRMPO Council Member since 2017

I am happy to be serving as the newest member of the North Front Range Metropolitan Planning Council. It is a pleasure to be helping to guide decisions on the long-range transportation and air quality needs of the fast-growing Northern Colorado region. Our decisions will help to improve the quality of life for residents through better traffic management and cleaner air.

The most critical project the council is dealing with currently is the widening of I-25. This vital corridor is the lifeline for economic development of our communities. With 100% population growth predicted by the year 2050, it is imperative that widening the interstate takes place. The council, which represents fifteen local governments, has been able to provide financial support to help make this project come to fruition. Along with the improvements for vehicular traffic, the connecting of the Poudre River Trail under I-25 will ultimately provide a continuous bike and walking route from LaPorte to the City of Greeley.

As a council member of the Timnath Town Council, I am excited about the growth the town has achieved. Projects such as the widening of the Harmony corridor, the future bypass of CR-5 around old town Timnath and the Prospect and Mulberry corridors are keys to Timnath's future prosperity. They also impact the traffic needs of the residents of the expanding communities to the east of Timnath. The NFRMPO plays a role in this coordination of communities to help provide a better transportation system for all the Northern Colorado residents.



## Project Self-Sufficiency: NFRMPO Staff Sponsored a Family for the Holidays

For the seventh consecutive year, NFRMPO staff members 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."

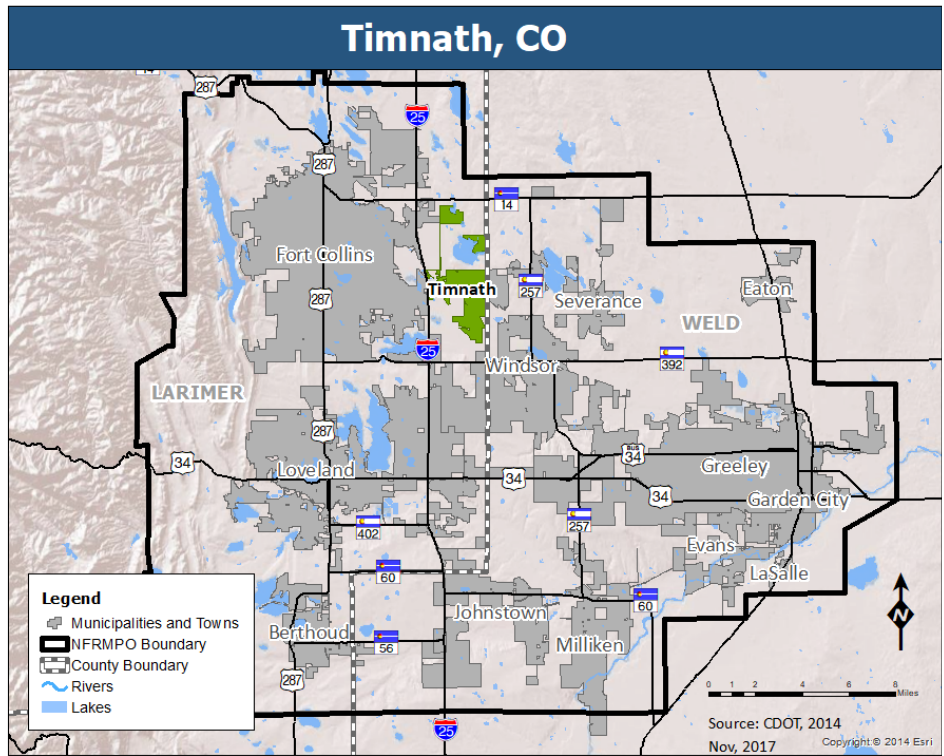
The Holiday Sponsorship Program matches sponsors with families, then the sponsors shop for gifts from a wish list for the child(ren) and their parent. This year, NFRMPO staff purchased gifts for a family and donated the items on December 12, 2017.

PS-S began in 1986 and serves approximately 160 low-income families each year. To learn more about Project Self-Sufficiency, or to donate, visit [bringthepower.org](http://bringthepower.org).

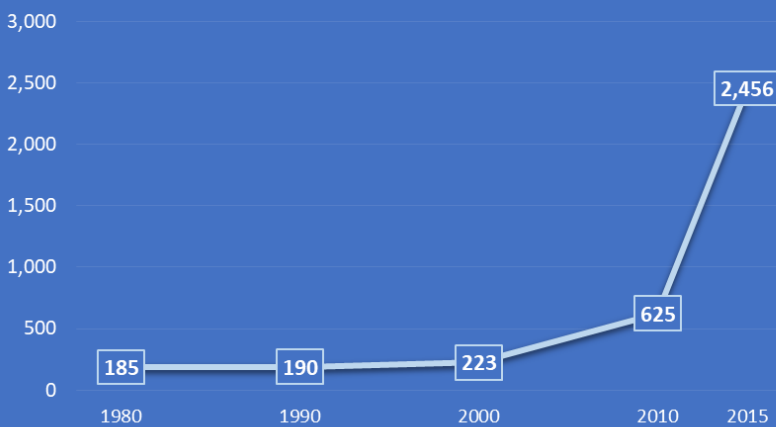
# Quarterly Member Profile

## Town of Timnath

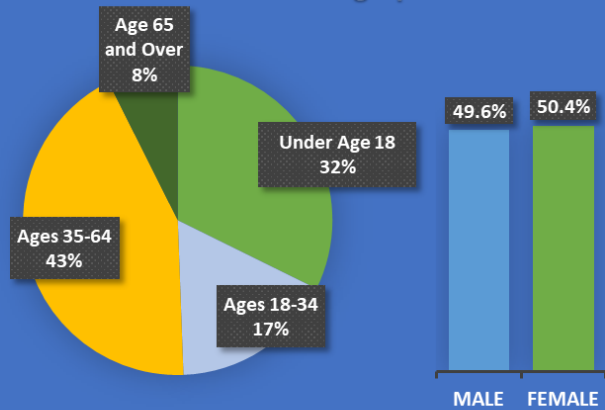
Timnath, Colorado is located in Larimer County east of the City of Fort Collins and northwest of the Town of Windsor. Incorporated in 1990, the Town grew from 625 to 3,165 residents between 2010 and 2016 (U.S. Census Population Estimates Program, July 2016). Timnath sits at an elevation of 4,867 feet, and occupies an area of 5.4 square miles. The charts below provide a snapshot of demographics, commute characteristics, and employment in the Town of Timnath. For more information, visit the Town of Timnath’s website at <https://timnath.org/>.



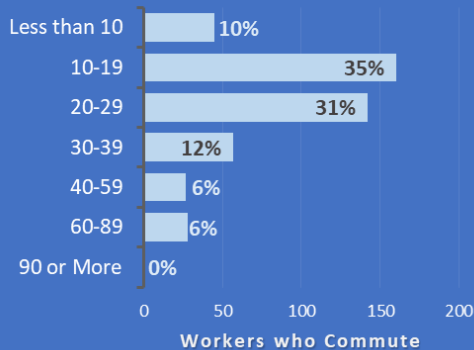
### Population



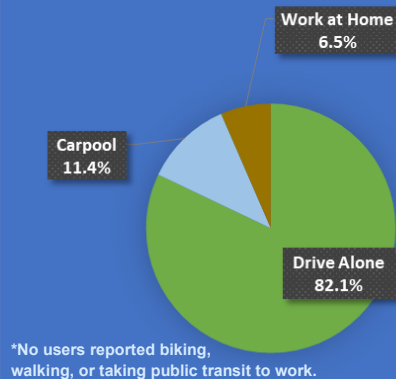
### Demographics



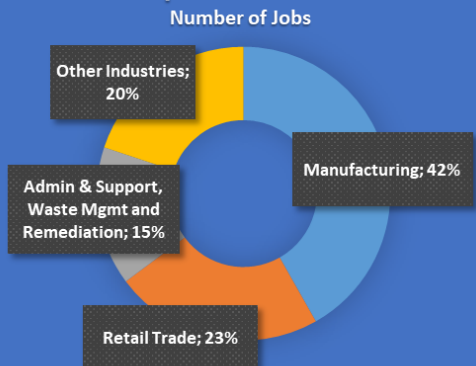
### Commute Time in Minutes



### Means of Transportation to Work



### Top 3 Industries



Sources: Population—Decennial Censuses; Demographics—2010 Census; Commute Time in Minutes and Means of Transportation to Work—2015 5-year American Community Survey; and Industry—LEHD on the Map

# Upcoming Events

For the latest information, visit <http://nfrmpo.org/calendar/>.

January		
<b>1st</b>	<b>NEW YEAR'S DAY</b>	<b>NFRMPO Office Closed</b>
3rd 6:30 pm	North I-25 Coalition Meeting	Southwest Weld County Services Center 4209 Weld CR 24 1/2, Longmont, CO 80504
4th 5:30 pm	NFRMPO Council Meeting	Berthoud Town Hall 807 Mountain Avenue, Berthoud, CO 80513
5th 11:30 am	I-25 Funding Committee	Perkins Crossroads 6020 Stallion Drive, Loveland, CO 80538
10th 10:00 am	NoCo Bike & Ped Collaborative	Windsor Recreation Center, Pine Room 250 N. 11 <sup>th</sup> Street, Windsor, CO 80550
17th 1:00 pm	Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)	Windsor Recreation Center, Pine Room 250 N. 11 <sup>th</sup> Street, Windsor, CO 80550
18th 10:00 am	RTE Steering Committee	NFRMPO 419 Canyon Avenue #300, Fort Collins, CO 80521

February		
1st 1:30 pm	Senior Transportation Coalition	Pathways Hospice, Longs Peak Room 305 Carpenter Road, Fort Collins, CO 80525
1st 5:30 pm	NFRMPO Council Meeting	Weld County Administration Building, Event Center Room 1150 O Street, Greeley, CO 80631
2nd 12:30 pm	I-25 Funding Committee	Perkins Crossroads 6020 Stallion Drive, Loveland, CO 80538
7th 6:30 pm	North I-25 Coalition Meeting	Southwest Weld County Services Center 4209 Weld CR 24 1/2, Longmont, CO 80504
14th 10:00 am	NoCo Bike & Ped Collaborative	Windsor Recreation Center, Pine Room 250 N. 11 <sup>th</sup> Street, Windsor, CO 80550
15th 1:30 pm	Larimer County Mobility Committee	NFRMPO 419 Canyon Avenue #300, Fort Collins, CO 80521
<b>19th</b>	<b>PRESIDENT'S DAY</b>	<b>NFRMPO Office Closed</b>
21st 1:00 pm	Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)	Windsor Recreation Center, Pine Room 250 N. 11 <sup>th</sup> Street, Windsor, CO 80550

March		
1st 5:30 pm	NFRMPO Council Meeting	Carter Lake/Boyd Rooms 200 W. Oak Street, Fort Collins, CO 80547
2nd 12:30 pm	I-25 Funding Committee	Perkins Crossroads 6020 Stallion Drive, Loveland, CO 80538
6th 1:30 pm	Weld County Mobility Committee	Envision Colorado 1050 37th Street Evans, CO 80620
7th 6:30 pm	North I-25 Coalition Meeting	Southwest Weld County Services Center 4209 Weld CR 24 1/2, Longmont, CO 80504
14th 10:00 am	NoCo Bike & Ped Collaborative	Windsor Recreation Center, Pine Room 250 N. 11 <sup>th</sup> Street, Windsor, CO 80550
21st 1:00 pm	Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)	Windsor Recreation Center, Pine Room 250 N. 11 <sup>th</sup> Street, Windsor, CO 80550

JANUARY 2018							
S	u	Mo	Tu	W	Th	Fri	Sat
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28	29	30	31				

FEBRUARY 2018							
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MARCH 2018							
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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  
[nfrmpo.org](http://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.*