

ON THE MOVE

North Front Range Transportation News

April-June 2018

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MPO Links

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Ready! Set! Bike!

Loveland Is Celebrating Bike Month in June

Get ready for Loveland's 2018 Bike Month! All people on bikes can participate in fun, encouraging, and educational bicycle-related activities and events. Wheel over to the website for details: www.cityofloveland.org/BikeLoveland



Loveland Bike Month Calendar of Events

4/30 - 6/27	Bike to Work Challenge for workplace-based teams of commuters
6/1 - 6/30	Bike Month Challenge for all people on bikes
6/2	National Trails Day at the Oxbow Natural Area
6/8	eVOLVE: The Art of Cycling Artistic bike exhibit at the Museum
6/8	Night on the Town and Bicycle Bonanza on 4 th Street
6/9	Northwest Art By Bike Guided Tour
6/10	Loveland Challenge Charity Bike Ride to benefit Meals on Wheels
6/14	Bike istory Lecture by Dr. Robert Gudmestad at the Museum
6/16	Downtown History and Architecture by Bike Guided Tour
6/18	Paint & Sip "Bike to Work Day" artwork with Studio Vino at Verboten Brewing
6/22	Bike Movie at the Rialto Theatre
6/23	Downtown Art by Bike Guided Tour
6/24	Bike to Church Day
6/27	Bike to Work Day
6/29	Bike Month Closing Celebration



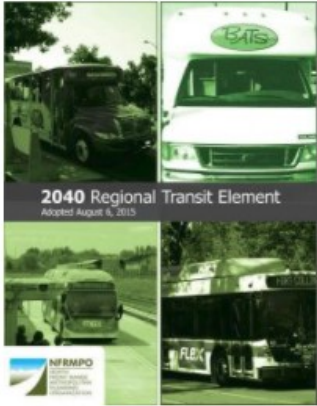
Bike to School Day 2018

The Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) is urging schools and communities to participate in Bike to School Day on Wednesday, May 9th. Students, parents, teachers, and community leaders are encouraged to bike or walk to school together to promote active, safe, and less congested streets for walking and bicycling. Register your Bike to School events at www.walkbiketoschool.org for May 9th, or for any combination of day(s) or week(s) in May. Colorado Safe Routes to School posters, stickers, bookmarks, and more can be ordered at <https://goo.gl/forms/ScnMBFr9yjjEFbpX2>.



2045 Regional Transit Element Kickoff

A Long-Range Look at Northern Colorado's Transit System



NFRMPO staff is updating the *Regional Transit Element (RTE)*. Last adopted in September 2015, the *RTE* is focused on drafting the transit system of the future for the North Front Range MPO region. This is done through an analysis of the current transit system, public outreach, and identification of funding. The *RTE* acts as the transit component of the long-range *2045 Regional Transportation Plan*.

To help guide the process, the NFRMPO convened the 2045 RTE Steering Committee in January 2018. The Steering Committee is made up of staff from the Arc of Larimer County, COLT, the CSU Institute for the Built Environment, GET, Larimer County Department of Public Health and Environment's Built Environment Program, Senior Resource Services, Transfort, the Town of Windsor, and a volunteer SAINT driver.

With each member bringing a different perspective, the group will provide input on scenario planning, share related projects and initiatives each agency is currently involved in, provide important data to be used in the planning process, and partner on public outreach events. Two tools will be used to garner feedback regarding the region's transit system. The first is a survey available in English at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2045transit> and in Spanish at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/esp2045transit>.

The second is an interactive mapping tool, Community Remarks, which allows individuals to click on a map of the region and provide comments about the transit system. This tool will help NFRMPO staff identify key destinations and desired routes for further study. The tool is available at <https://communityremarks.com/northfrontrange/>.

Public Meetings on US34 PEL to be held in May

US34 is a critical east-west transportation link for Northern Colorado's large and growing communities. The US34 Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study is assessing improvement opportunities on US34 from west of Loveland to west of Kersey to address safety, congestion, and mobility. The PEL will identify a common vision for US34 and develop safety and mobility improvements for immediate and future implementation.

Two public meetings will be held to inform and gather input from the public on the US34 PEL Study, vision for the corridor, and potential alternatives. The project team will be presenting roadway, intersection, and interchange alternatives, that support the corridor vision.

To learn more about the PEL, visit: <https://www.codot.gov/library/studies/us-34-planning-and-environmental-linkages-pel-study>.

Save the Date!

Share your thoughts about the US34 Corridor at upcoming public meetings in Evans and Loveland.

Evans: Wednesday, May 23 at Riverside Library and Cultural Center (3700 Golden St, Evans, CO 80634), 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.
Presentation at 5:30 p.m.

Loveland: Wednesday, May 30 at Embassy Suites by Hilton (4705 Clydesdale Pkwy, Loveland, CO 80538), 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.
Presentation at 5:30 p.m.

Fiscal Year (FY) 2019-2022 TIP Under Development

The Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) includes all of the major surface transportation projects scheduled over a four-year timeframe. The NFRMPO maintains the TIP for the North Front Range region and ensures all federal requirements are met, including consistency with the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), fiscal constraint, and conformity with air quality requirements. In recent years, the NFRMPO has adopted a new TIP on a biennial schedule. However, this year the NFRMPO is converting to an annual TIP adoption cycle to better align with CDOT's Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). CDOT converted to an annual adoption cycle for the STIP in 2015. This new adoption cycle will ensure all four years of projects are active.

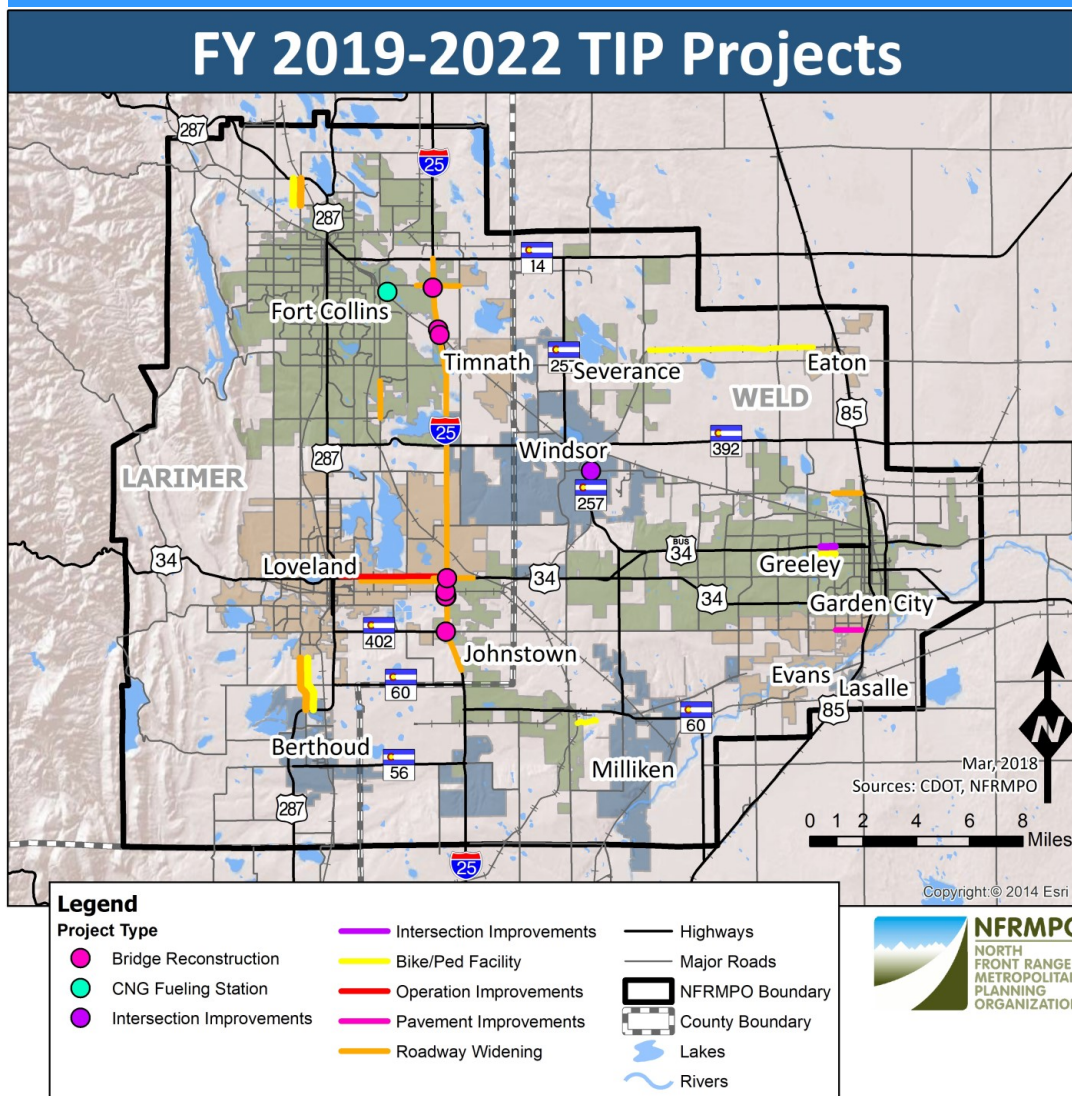
The FY2019-2022 TIP carries forward the TIP policies from the current FY2018-2021 TIP as well as all of the projects with funding in FY2019 through FY2021. The TIP includes projects selected during the approved FY2016-2019 and FY2020-2021 Calls for Projects processes for the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ), Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG), and Transportation Alternatives (TA) programs. Also included are federally funded and/or regionally significant projects selected through the CDOT and Federal Transit Authority project selection processes or programmed by local entities.

In late 2018, the NFRMPO will hold a Call for Projects to award CMAQ, STBG, and TA funding for FY2022-2023.

The 30-day public comment period for the Draft FY2019-2022 TIP opens on April 6, 2018 and closes on May 5, 2018. A public hearing on the FY2019-2022 TIP will be held on May 3, 2018 at the Milliken Town Hall, after which Planning Council will have the opportunity to adopt the FY2019-2022 TIP. During the public comment period, the Draft FY2019-2022 TIP will be available online at <https://nfrmpo.org/tip/>, and comments may be submitted at <https://nfrmpo.org/public-involvement/contact-us/>.

Map of FY19-22 TIP Projects.

Image Credit: NFRMPO Staff.



The Great Western Trail: Making the Most of Regional Heritage



At the February 1, 2018 NFRMPO Planning Council Meeting, the Great Western Trail Authority was awarded \$415,000 in Transportation Alternatives (TA) funds to help construct the remaining seven-mile section of the Great Western Trail between the Towns of Severance and Eaton. The three Towns along the Great Western Trail alignment, Windsor, Severance, and Eaton, each contributed \$50,000 to meet the local match requirement for the TA funds. This award supplements \$550,000 in TA funds awarded to the project in the NFRMPO’s 2014 Call for Projects. Currently, the improved section of the trail is 3.3 miles long and connects Severance to

Windsor. The soft-surface, crusher fines trail is part of the NFRMPO’s Regional Non-Motorized Corridor (RNMC) #4 and will ultimately connect the northeast corner of the NFRMPO region near the Eaton Recreation Center to Downtown Severance, Severance Middle School, the Town of Windsor’s trail system, Windsor Lake, the Poudre River Trail, and many other nearby destinations. Design and Engineering on the remaining trail section is taking place throughout 2018, with construction to begin in 2019. Depending on construction costs, a short section of the 10.5 mile trail alignment may remain unimproved until additional funds can be identified.



The Great Western Trail was also recently chosen as the recipient of a permanent bicycle and pedestrian counting device purchased by the NFRMPO in 2017. The device will be permanently placed on the trail within the Severance Growth Management Area (GMA). Once installed, data from the device will be automatically collected 24 hours a day to help local and state partners understand traffic patterns on the trail as development occurs in the area and as the regional trail network continues to grow. Visit <http://www.gwtrail.com/> to learn more and to view footage from a 2016 drone flyover of the trail alignment.

History of the Great Western Trail

The Great Western Trail sits on the original 12.6 mile alignment of the Great Western Railroad built in 1905 between Windsor and Eaton to carry sugar beets from farms to processing plants. The line carried passengers between the towns until 1972, but continued carrying beets until 1977. The ultimate demise of the rail line came as

Continued on Next Page...

the Great Western Sugar Company began hauling beets by truck. In 1983, Congress passed the National Trails System Act, which allowed for “Railbanking,” a voluntary agreement between a railroad company and a trail agency allowing the rail corridor to be used as a trail until rail service is needed again. In 2004, the Great Western rail line was railbanked by Omnitrac and the rails and rail ties were removed. Shortly after, public meetings were held to discuss plans for a trail on the abandoned line.

In 2006, the Great Western Trail Authority was formed to accept the right-of-way and build a recreational trail. The Towns of Eaton, Severance, and Windsor signed an intergovernmental agreement to develop the trail and exclusive right-of-way was granted to the Great Western Trail Authority. A 2.5-mile stretch of trail was officially opened to the public in September 2008. Since then, the Great Western Trail Authority has worked to plan and extend the trail, improve and maintain the trail surface, install signage, preserve original railroad trestles for the safety of trail users, and seek additional funding. Financial contributions to the trail include grants from Colorado State Trails, Colorado’s Safe Routes to School Program, and the NFRMPO; in-kind contributions; and local matching funds. Learn more about the Great Western Trail at: <http://www.gwtrail.com/>.

The NFRMPO and City of Fort Collins Team Up for Grant



In September 2017, the NFRMPO attended the Growing Water Smart Workshop alongside several Colorado jurisdictions, including the City of Fort Collins. The workshop, hosted by the Lincoln Institute for Land Policy and the Sonoran Institute, helped attendees develop 6- to 12-month Action Plans for better integrating land use planning and water planning. Following the workshop, the workshop sponsors released a Request for Proposals, which allowed participants to apply for funding to help implement Action Plans developed during the workshop.



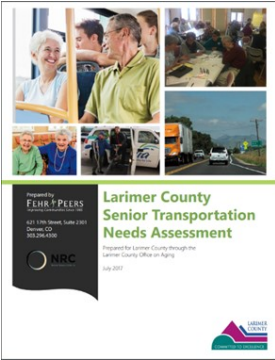
Funding requests up to \$10,000 were considered for single applicants and up to \$20,000 for joint applicants. The NFRMPO and City of Fort Collins submitted a joint application, requesting funding for scenario planning and workshop design and facilitation. The team was awarded the full amount of \$20,000 on February 12, 2018.

The funds will be used to help the NFRMPO and the City develop shared scenarios to visualize how different planning and funding decisions might impact water needs, land use, and transportation in the North Front Range. Remaining funds will go towards designing and facilitating a workshop similar to the Growing Water Smart Workshop, to help facilitate dialogue amongst the key stakeholders necessary for synchronizing land use and water planning in Northern Colorado. The workshop will focus on bringing together water providers and land use planners serving Fort Collins’ Growth Management Area, but will be open to other providers and planners in the NFRMPO planning area.

This grant offers the NFRMPO an opportunity to dig deeper into the region’s land use future and consider how the challenges of water resource management may affect future development and, in turn, the region’s future transportation network.



Larimer County Senior Transportation Study Update



In July 2017, Larimer County approved the *Larimer County Senior Transportation Needs Assessment (Needs Assessment)*, which addresses senior mobility in the unincorporated portions of the County. The *Needs Assessment* includes an inventory of existing services, including transit, paratransit, taxis, and volunteer transportation; and recommends strategies to help address senior transportation gaps in unincorporated Larimer County.

After the approval of the *Needs Assessment*, a Work Group formed to begin crafting a senior transportation program based on the recommended strategies. The Work Group consists of staff from Larimer County, Rural Alternatives for Transportation (RAFT), the NFRMPO, and the Partnership for Age-Friendly Communities (PAFC) in Larimer County.

To create a viable program, the Work Group is applying for grant funding from CDOT to create an Implementation Plan. If funded, the Implementation Plan will create a business and financial plan synthesizing the recommendations of the *Needs Assessment*, the advice and lessons learned from the Work Group interviews, and potential demonstration projects to prove project readiness.

The *Needs Assessment* can be downloaded from the Larimer County website: <http://bit.ly/2FCD8UI>.



Mayor Don Brookshire
Photo Credit: NFRMPO

Council Member Spotlight

Don Brookshire

Mayor, Severance | NFRMPO Council Member since 2010

It has been an honor to serve on the MPO Council and to work closely with the representatives of our neighboring communities. As our region continues to grow, meeting the transportation needs becomes increasingly important and challenging. My experience in working with my colleagues on the Council has shown me that we all care about our communities, and that regionally we are able to work together to achieve our common goals.

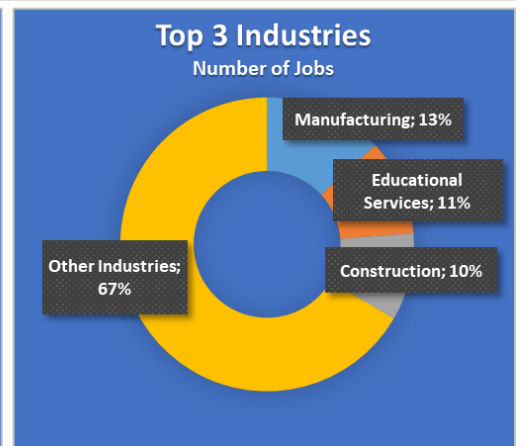
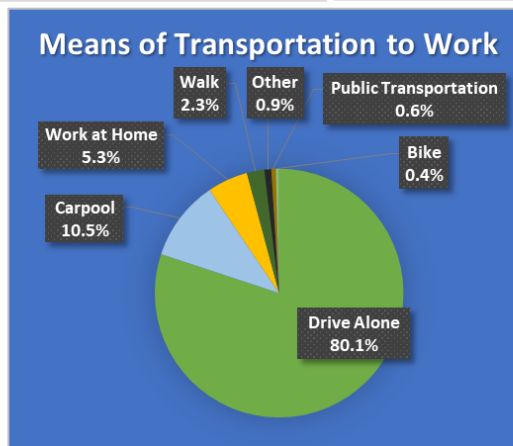
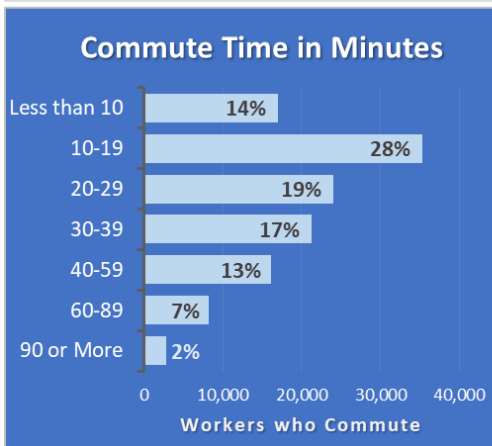
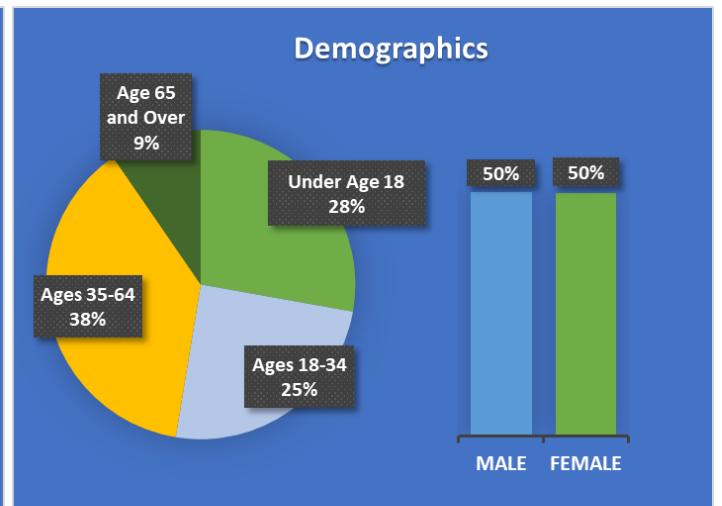
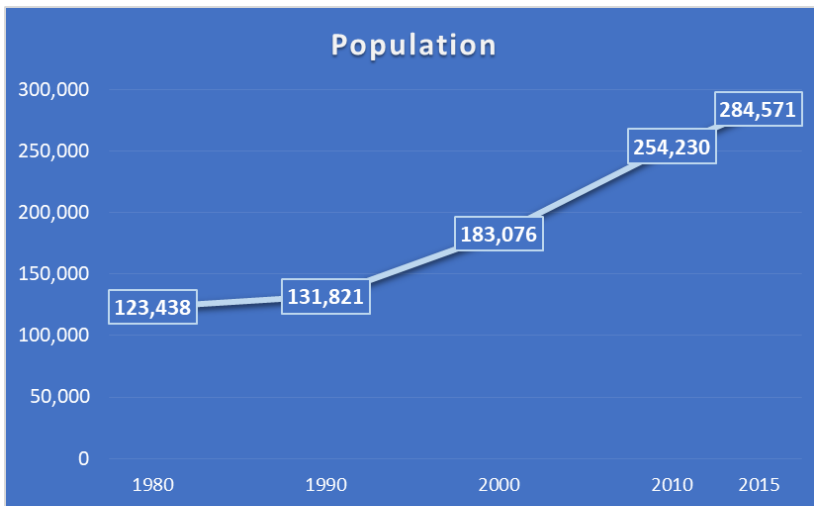
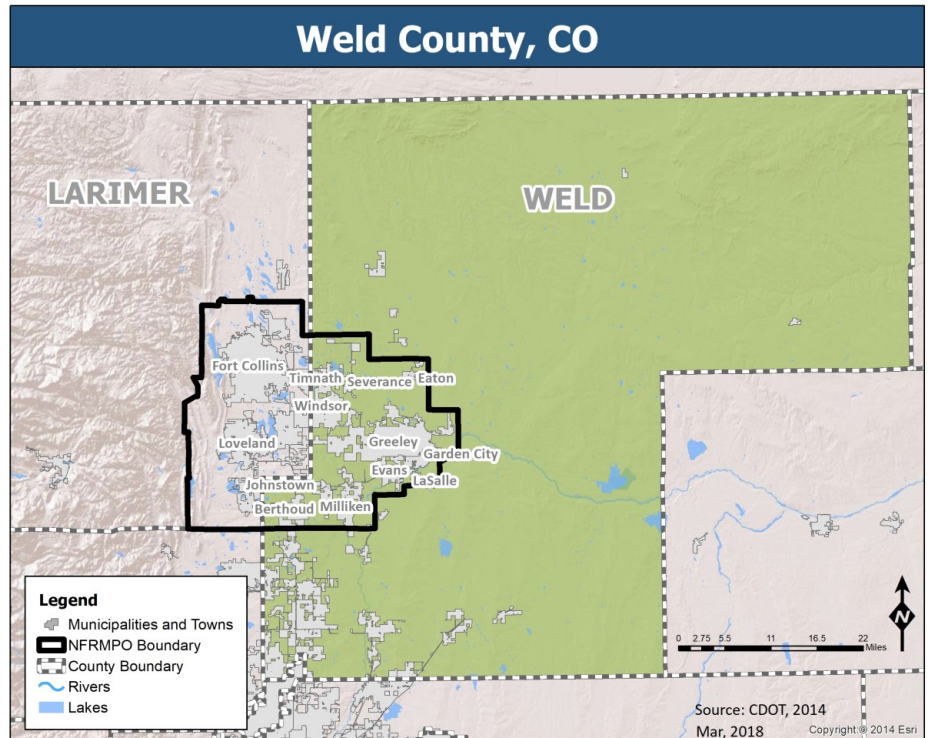
The MPO Council has an important role in bringing transportation improvement projects to the region. With the selflessness shown by each member community in committing the financial support needed for the I-25 corridor, and with the aid of the State and Federal Governments, this project was completed decades ahead of its anticipated schedule. There are many other projects where the Council has demonstrated that by supporting one another, we are helping the entire region meet the demands placed on our transportation systems.

As we move forward, I look forward to working with the NFRMPO to assist with the improvements to Weld County Rd. 74 (CR 74). This is a major corridor that impacts multiple member communities including; Timnath, Windsor, Severance, Eaton, and Weld County. I am grateful for all the support the MPO has shown the Town of Severance through multiple projects. These projects include; funding for the Great Western Trail, and Intersection improvements at CR 23 and State Highway 392. These projects help keep our roads safe and bring amenities to our community that enhance the quality of life.

Quarterly Member Profile

Weld County

The NFRMPO region includes eight percent of Weld County by area and 62 percent by population. Weld County’s population increased to over 294,000 residents as of 2016, an increase of 40,000 since 2010. Weld County covers 4,017 square miles and ranges in elevation between 4,213 and 6,385 feet. NFRMPO member governments located entirely within Weld County include Eaton, Evans, Garden City, Greeley, LaSalle, and Milliken. The towns of Berthoud, Johnstown, and Windsor are located in both Larimer and Weld counties. Visit Weld County’s website at <https://www.weldgov.com/> for more information.



Sources: Population—DOLA County Population Time Series; 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

NFRMPO staff will attend the community events, shown in yellow, for public outreach on air quality, the 2045 Regional Transit Element and the 2045 Regional Transportation Plan. For the most current calendar of outreach events, please visit <http://nfrmppo.org/calendar/categories/outreach-events/>.

April		
4th 6:30 pm	North I-25 Coalition Meeting	Southwest Weld County Services Center 4209 Weld CR 24 1/2, Longmont 80504
5th 1:30 pm	Senior Transportation Coalition	Pathways Hospice, Longs Peak Room 305 Carpenter Road, Fort Collins, CO 80525
5th 4:00 pm	US34 Coalition Meeting	Greeley Family FunPlex 1501 65th Avenue, Greeley, CO 80634
5th 6:00 pm	NFRMPO Council Meeting	Greeley Family FunPlex 1501 65th Avenue, Greeley, CO 80634
6th 12:30 pm	I-25 Funding Committee	Mimi's Cafe 1450 Fall River Dr, Loveland, CO 80537
11th 10:00 am	NoCo Bike & Ped Collaborative	Windsor Recreation Center, Pine Room 250 N. 11 th Street, Windsor, CO 80550
18th 1:00 pm	Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)	Windsor Recreation Center, Pine Room 250 N. 11 th Street, Windsor, CO 80550
19th 1:30 pm	Larimer County Mobility Committee	NFRMPO 419 Canyon Avenue #300, Fort Collins, CO 80521
21st 11:00 am	Fort Collins Earth Day	https://sustainablelivingassociation.org/events/earth-day-fort-collins-2018/
23rd 10:00 am	CSU Earth Week	https://source.colostate.edu/earth-week/
26th 11:00 am	CSU Earth Week	https://source.colostate.edu/earth-week/

May		
2nd 6:30 pm	North I-25 Coalition Meeting	Southwest Weld County Services Center 4209 Weld CR 24 1/2, Longmont 80504
3rd 6:00 pm	NFRMPO Council Meeting	Milliken Town Hall 1101 Broad Street, Milliken, CO 80543
4th 12:30 pm	I-25 Funding Committee	Mimi's Cafe 1450 Fall River Dr, Loveland, CO 80537
9th 10:00 am	NoCo Bike & Ped Collaborative	Windsor Recreation Center, Pine Room 250 N. 11 th Street, Windsor, CO 80550
16th 1:00 pm	Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)	Windsor Recreation Center, Pine Room 250 N. 11 th Street, Windsor, CO 80550
22nd 1:30 pm	Weld County Mobility Committee	Sunrise Community Health 2930 11th Avenue, Evans, CO 80620
28th	MEMORIAL DAY	NFRMPO Office Closed

June		
1st 12:30 pm	I-25 Funding Committee	Mimi's Cafe 1450 Fall River Dr, Loveland, CO 80537
2nd 10:00 am	Johnstown BBQ Day	http://www.johnstownbbqday.org/
2nd 11:00 am	Berthoud Day	http://business.berthoudcolorado.com/events/details/berthoud-day-4445
6th 6:30 pm	North I-25 Coalition Meeting	Southwest Weld County Services Center 4209 Weld CR 24 1/2, Longmont 80504
7th 1:30 pm	Senior Transportation Coalition	Pathways Hospice, Longs Peak Room 305 Carpenter Road, Fort Collins, CO 80525
7th 6:00 pm	NFRMPO Council Meeting	Windsor Public Works Service Facility 922 North 15th Street, Windsor, CO 80550
13th 10:00 am	NoCo Bike & Ped Collaborative	Windsor Recreation Center, Pine Room 250 N. 11 th Street, Windsor, CO 80550
20th 1:00 pm	Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)	Windsor Recreation Center, Pine Room 250 N. 11 th Street, Windsor, CO 80550

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