



1445 Market Street  
Suite 260  
Denver, CO 80202

This is the RAQC.

Overview of the  
Regional Air Quality Council

# Our Vision:

## Working together, so we can all breathe easier

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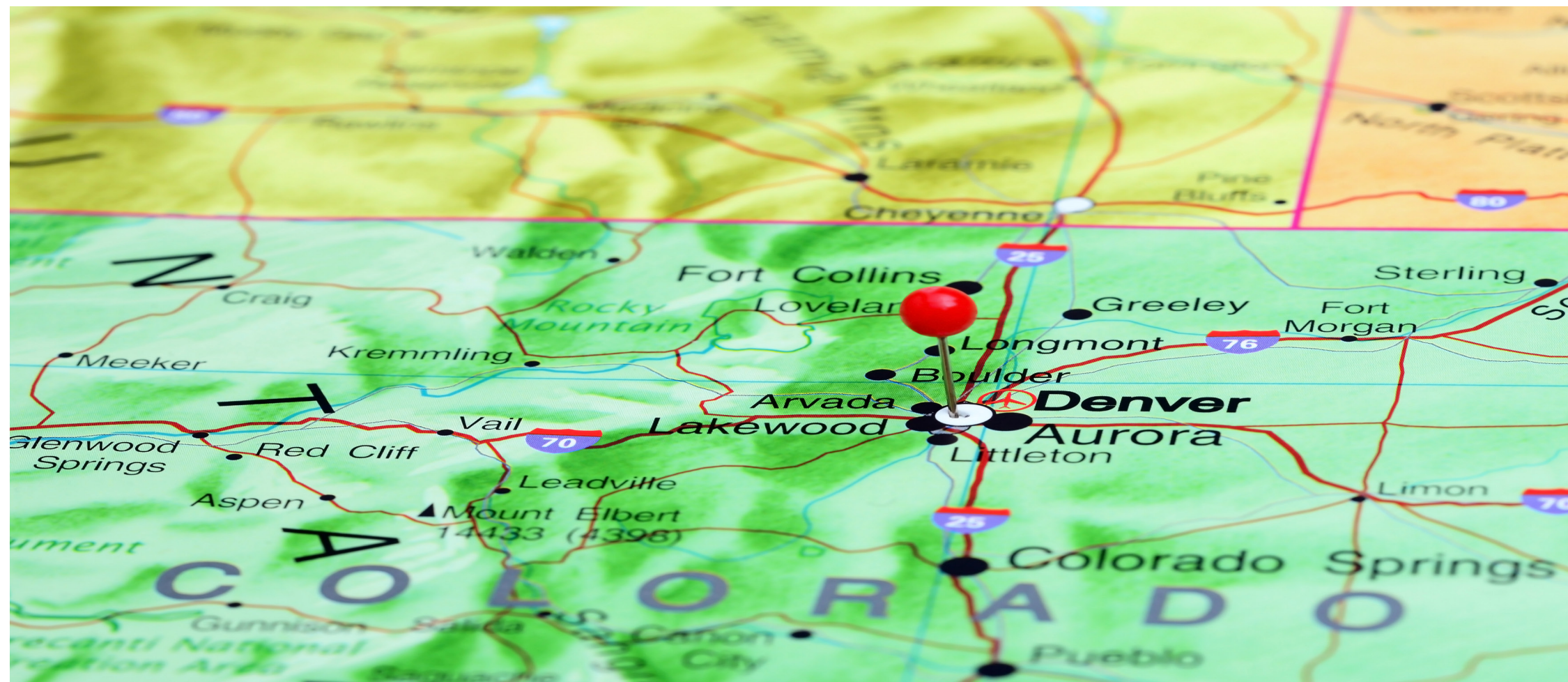
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Photo courtesy of the Colorado Department of Transportation.





## What is the RAQC?

The Regional Air Quality Council (the “RAQC” or “Council”) is the lead air quality planning agency for the nine-county Denver Metro/North Front Range Ozone Nonattainment Area. First established by executive order of the Governor 1989, and most recently reauthorized by executive orders issued in 2009, 2011, 2012 and 2013, the RAQC is charged to work with all sectors of our community and economy to better understand the air quality issues confronting the region. Our mission is to develop and propose to the State Air Quality Control Commission (“AQCC”), local governments and the private sector effective and cost-efficient initiatives, with input from local government agencies, the private sector, stakeholder groups, and citizens. The RAQC also partners with public and private entities to reduce emissions from vehicles, industry, and other sources, and we implement a variety of outreach and education efforts.

The RAQC’s primary task is to prepare air quality plans that demonstrate and ensure long-term compliance with federal air quality standards and that provide acceptable public health and environmental protections for the region. The RAQC provides these plans to the AQCC for consideration and approval. The Council also administers public education through the “Simple Steps. Better Air.” program, and directly reduces vehicle emissions through the Charge Ahead Colorado, Mow Down Pollution, and the ALT Fuels Colorado programs. The Council serves as an educational resource on air quality issues to elected city and county officials, many of whom have served or continue to serve on its board. Finally, the Council participates in rulemaking proceedings affecting air quality programs in the region.

Over the years, the RAQC has successfully developed air quality plans for carbon monoxide, particulate matter and ozone, as required by the federal Clean Air Act. While significant progress has been made in improving air quality - achieving federal air quality standards for carbon monoxide and particulate matter, and reducing the visible brown cloud - there is more work ahead to improve public health, especially for children and other sensitive populations. Ozone pollution is the most pressing air quality issue facing the Denver region – achieving compliance with federal ozone standards has been and will continue to be the RAQC’s main focus under the existing Executive Order.

As the RAQC continues to address ozone and other local air quality matters, attention will be paid to the larger issue of climate change. The RAQC will consider how, and to what degree, its actions and programs affect the region’s emissions of greenhouse gases. Helping Colorado achieve climate protection goals is a priority for the RAQC.

## Who serves on the RAQC?

Members of the RAQC Board are appointed by the Governor of Colorado, and the Board currently consists of 26 members, as follows:

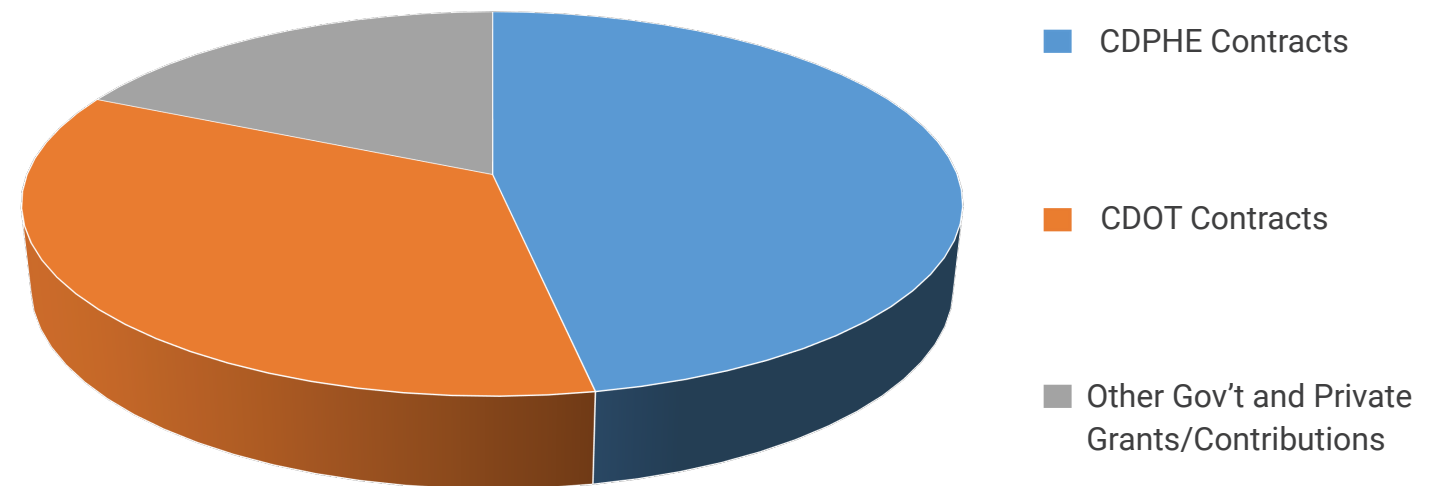
- At least six representatives of Local Governments in the Denver Metropolitan Region
- One representative from the Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG)
- One representative each for Larimer and Weld County
- One representative from the North Front Range Metropolitan Planning Organization (NFRPO)
- One representative for Stationary Sources
- One representative of Automotive-related Businesses
- One representative of the region's Transportation Management Agencies
- Two representatives of the General Business Community
- One individual with Transit expertise
- A Member of the Public with appropriate Transportation experience
- A Member of the Public with appropriate Land Use Planning experience
- A Member of the Public to represent the Conservation Community
- A Member of the Public to represent the Broad Public Interest
- Two Citizens At Large
- The Executive Director - Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment (CDPHE)
- The Executive Director - Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT)
- The Executive Director - Department of Local Affairs (DOLA)
- The General Manager - Regional Transportation District (RTD)

John Putnam is the current appointed Chair. Biographies of all members presently serving can be found on the [RAQC website](#).

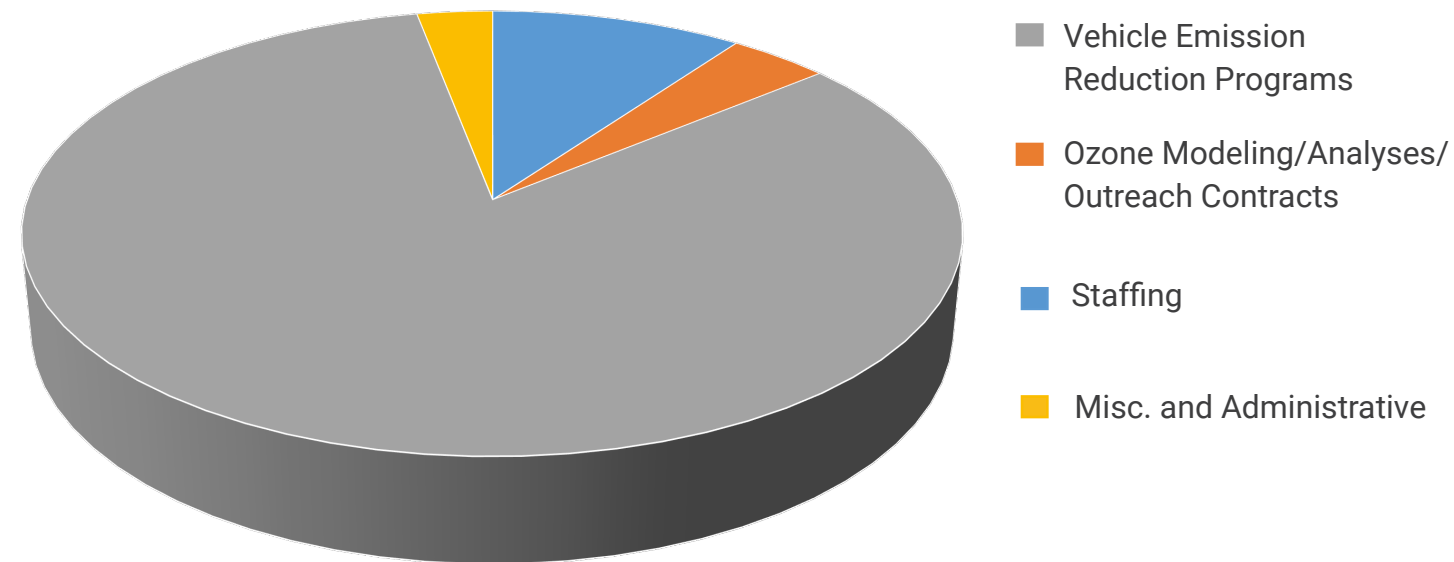
## How is the RAQC funded and what are its expenditures?

The RAQC receives its funding from four primary sources: local governments, planning funds from CDPHE, Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) program grants from DRCOG administered through CDOT contracts, and private sector contributions. In 2019, the Volkswagen settlement trust funds will become a significant portion of RAQC revenue. The majority of the RAQC's expenditures include staffing, ozone modeling, analyses and outreach contracts, and vehicle emission reduction programs.

2019 Revenue (%)



2019 Expenses (%)



# What does the RAQC do?

The RAQC develops effective and cost-efficient air quality planning initiatives with input from local government agencies, the private sector, stakeholder groups, and citizens. The RAQC also assists with regional public/private initiatives to reduce emissions from vehicles, industry, and other sources, and implements a variety of public outreach and education efforts. The RAQC's programs operate as models to determine their real-world costs and benefits; data collected from our efforts influence which measures might be included in future air quality plans.



## Air Quality Planning

The RAQC develops both voluntary and mandatory emission control measures and plans designed to improve air quality in the most cost-effective manner. We work with State agencies, local government, industry, environmental groups and citizens to develop science-based approaches, presently focusing on ozone.

[www.RAQC.org/AQ-Planning](http://www.RAQC.org/AQ-Planning)



## Simple Steps. Better Air.

Simple Steps. Better Air. is a program that, through increased outreach and public awareness about ground-level ozone pollution, aims to create behavior change around air quality issues and motivate more Coloradans to take action in reducing ozone-causing emissions.

[www.SimpleStepsBetterAir.org](http://www.SimpleStepsBetterAir.org)



## Charge Ahead Colorado

Charge Ahead Colorado provides financial support for electric vehicles (EV) and charging stations in order to encourage the widespread adoption of EVs throughout the State. Applications occur three times a year.

[www.CleanAirFleets.org/Charge-Ahead-Colorado](http://www.CleanAirFleets.org/Charge-Ahead-Colorado)



## ALT Fuels Colorado

The ALT Fuels Colorado grant program incentivizes the purchase of medium and heavy duty electric, compressed natural gas and propane vehicles for public, private, and non-profit fleets statewide. Applications occur three times a year.

[www.CleanAirFleets.org/ALT-Fuels-Colorado](http://www.CleanAirFleets.org/ALT-Fuels-Colorado)



## Mow Down Pollution - Commercial

The RAQC's Mow Down Pollution – Commercial program is aimed at encouraging and incentivizing public agencies and their contractors to purchase low emission, commercial-grade, lawn and garden equipment, including battery electric equipment and mowers and propane mowers.

[www.MowDownPollution.org/Commercial](http://www.MowDownPollution.org/Commercial)



## Mow Down Pollution - Residential

The Mow Down Pollution – Lawn Mower Exchange program offers deep discounts to people who choose to replace their gas-powered lawn mowers and lawn and garden tools with rechargeable, electric lawn mowers and lawn and garden tools.

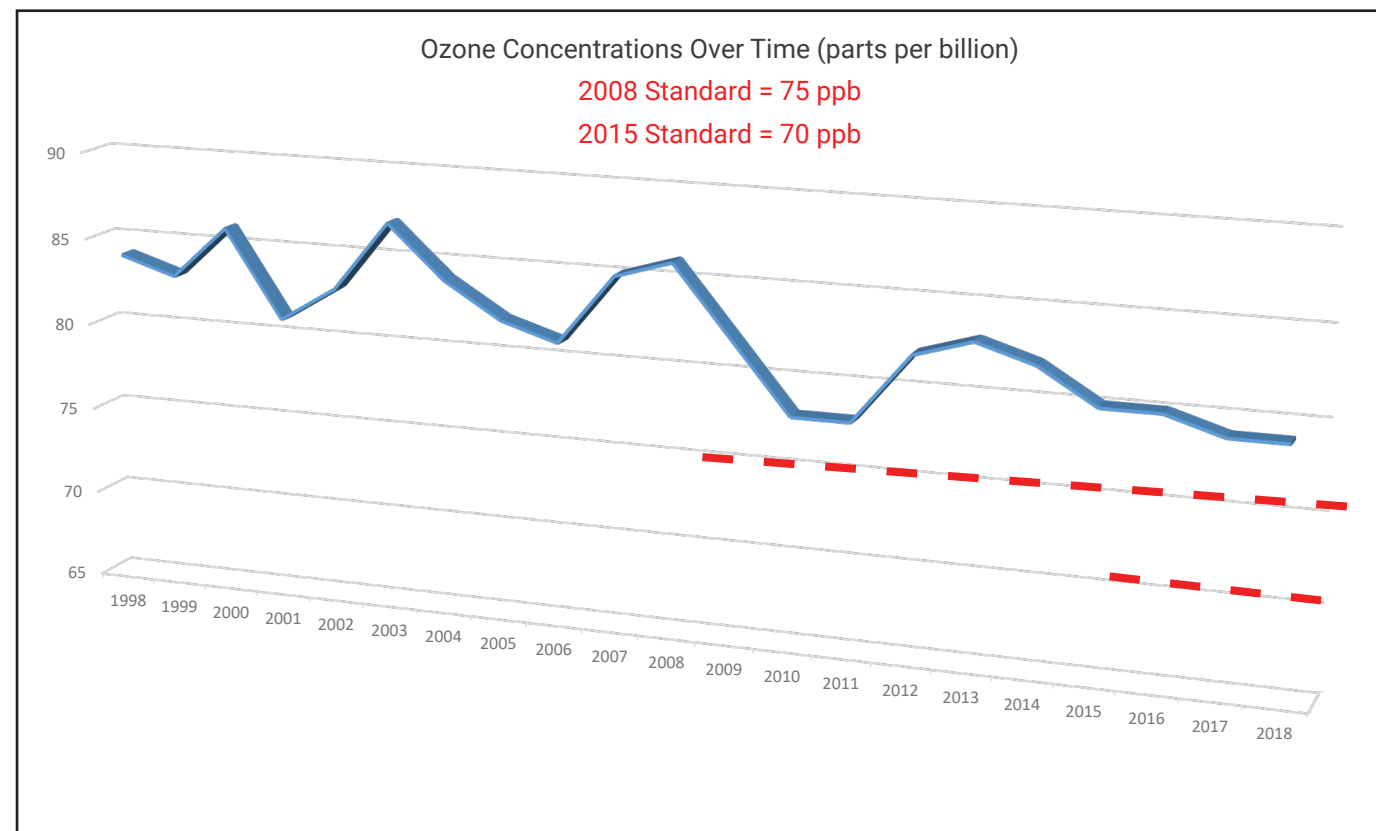
[www.MowDownPollution.org/Residential](http://www.MowDownPollution.org/Residential)

# What are the RAQC's priorities?

The RAQC's priorities are focused on planning and strategy development to reduce emissions and meet air quality standards, as well as implementing incentive programs to reduce emissions from mobile sources and lawn/garden equipment. Other RAQC priorities include administering programs of public information and education on air quality matters, and continuously improving the RAQC's business practices, particularly budgeting, contract management, and human resources.

## Ozone Planning & Technical Analyses

The RAQC is working to develop plans and strategies designed to attain federal air quality standards for ozone. Though the region has made significant improvements in reducing summertime ozone concentrations, monitors throughout the Front Range region frequently measure ozone in excess of federal health standards.



These values represent the 3-year average of the annual 4th highest daily maximum 8-hour ozone concentration for each monitor.

Because these values exceed current ozone standards, the RAQC is convening three committees in 2019 to evaluate strategies to reduce ozone-forming emissions from mobile sources, industrial operations, residential activities, and the transportation network. Board Members and staff will convene stakeholders, technical experts, and the public to gather the best information and debate options. The goal is, by the end of 2019, to recommend cost-effective approaches that will bring the region into attainment with the ozone standards by the early- to mid-2020s.

Accompanying this process are complex technical analyses presently underway that will inform the Committees of future ozone projections and benefits that could be achieved by strategically reducing emissions. The RAQC will work closely with the State, the EPA, experts in the region's research institutions, and its contractors to perform state-of-the-art modeling and research throughout 2019.

## Incentive Programs to Reduce Emissions from Mobile and Lawn & Garden Sources

For a number of years, the RAQC has developed and implemented emission reduction programs through partnerships with other agency and public/private stakeholders. These programs have focused on retrofit and alternative fuels programs for heavy- and medium-duty diesel vehicles, programs to reduce emissions from passenger vehicles through high-emitter repairs, developing electric vehicle charging infrastructure, and lawn/garden equipment modernization.

In 2019, the RAQC will make available more than \$15 million granted to it to assist government agencies, school districts and private fleets to:

- Purchase cleaner alternative-fuel heavy duty and medium duty vehicles;
- Incentivize the expansion of the electric vehicle charging infrastructure and purchase of electric vehicles by government fleets and non-profit organizations; and
- Continue lawn mower and garden equipment change out programs that encourages electric equipment purchases.

The RAQC will continue to seek funding and other resources that will ensure these efforts can continue through 2019 and beyond.

## Education, Awareness & Partnerships

The RAQC will continue to implement and improve its Simple Steps. Better Air. ozone education and awareness program. This effort is critical for:

- Raising awareness of ozone pollution in the region; an
- Motivating behavior change to reduce ozone-causing emissions from everyday activities.

Tactics for 2019 will continue to include evaluation analysis (research), a multimedia campaign (paid media advertising, earned and social media), website development, community outreach and events, partnership and stakeholder building.

Long-standing efforts to work closely and cooperatively with its transportation planning partner agencies and local governments will proceed.

- This ensures close coordination between transportation and air quality planning.
- This also allows the RAQC to assist local governments throughout the region with implementing air quality programs with public outreach tools and materials, funding and technical assistance efforts.

## Business Management

Utilizing outside resources and relying on the expertise of Board Members and staff, the RAQC will deploy accounting innovations, modernize its policies and procedures, strengthen its information technology capabilities, and continue to seek stable funding sources to ensure long-term financial stability.

- The organization will seek outside consulting and guidance to continuously improve its management of contracts and bookkeeping;
- Employers Council with its comprehensive resources has been retained to help guide the office's HR program;
- Our reliance on our current consultant will expand in an effort to keep up with the ever-changing IT landscape; and
- We will reach out to current partners and establish new relationships for the purpose of demonstrating the RAQC's value to the Front Range region.



# Who Staffs the RAQC?



**Mike Silverstein**  
Executive Director

Mike leads the RAQC, focusing on air quality planning and business improvements. Mike joined the RAQC in 2018; he spent the previous 32 years with the State of Colorado and the Environmental Protection Agency in air quality planning and management.



**Misty Howell**  
Operations Manager  
Board Secretary

Misty manages daily operations of the office including financial grant management, payroll, and accounting functions, manages corporate records and human resources, maintains the website, and serves as the Board Secretary for the Council. Misty joined the RAQC in 1995.



**Steve McCannon**  
Deputy Director

Steve coordinates the preparation of the RAQC's annual work plan and budget, oversees the Charge Ahead Colorado, ALT Fuels Colorado, and Clean Air Fleets mobile sources programs, and provides policy guidance for all RAQC programs. Steve joined the RAQC for the second time in 2002, bringing 10 years of previous public sector and business experience.



**Amanda Brimmer**  
Technical Program Manager

Amanda coordinates the development of the RAQC's State Implementation Plans (present focus is ozone), designs and oversees complex air quality analyses, develops emission control measures, and manages the commercial Mow Down Pollution program. Amanda joined the RAQC in 2014 with extensive air quality knowledge and experience from her work in North Central Texas.



**Sara Goodwin**  
Communications Director

Sara plans and implements communications, public outreach, education and community relations initiatives for the RAQC's Simple Steps, Better Air, ozone awareness and mobile sources programs, as well as manages content for RAQC websites. Sara joined the RAQC in 2015 and has 19 years of previous marketing and communications experience in the private sector here in Colorado.



**Kaylyn Bopp**  
Program Coordinator

Kaylyn manages program implementation and outreach for the RAQC's ALT Fuels Colorado program, which promotes and funds compressed natural gas, propane, electric, and bi-fuel vehicles for fleets. Kaylyn joined the RAQC in 2015.



**Kelley Grubbs**  
Program & Data Analyst

Kelley analyzes data from the RAQC's various mobile sources programs to help quantify program benefits, assists with program implementation and outreach, tracks ozone throughout the season and assists with street sanding mitigation activities. Kelley joined the RAQC in 2015.



**Matt Goble**  
Program Coordinator

Matt communicates air quality issues to the public and stakeholders, manages the residential Mow Down Pollution program and assists in the implementation and management of ozone outreach and mobile source programs. Matt joined the RAQC in 2014.



**Matt Mines**  
Program Coordinator

Matt manages program implementation and outreach for the RAQC's Charge Ahead Colorado program, which incentivizes electric vehicles and electric vehicle supply equipment, as well as the RAQC's Diesel Retrofit program. Matt joined the RAQC in 2015.



**Jessica Ferko**  
Air Quality Planner & Analyst

Jessica specializes in air quality planning, control strategy evaluation, and stakeholder engagement. Jessica previously worked as an Air Quality Engineer focusing on air permitting and compliance and air dispersion modeling. Jessica joined the RAQC in 2019.





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[www.RAQC.org](http://www.RAQC.org)

## Ground-Level Ozone Fact Sheet

**Summertime ground-level ozone is our region's most critical air quality issue.**

- Emissions from vehicles, industry, household products, vegetation, and lawn/garden equipment combine with sunlight on hot, dry, stagnant summer days to form ozone.
- Unlike the good, protective ozone layer in the stratosphere, ground-level ozone is a harmful air pollutant that affects all of us, triggering asthma attacks, aggravating pre-existing respiratory conditions, and making breathing difficult. This is especially true for the young, elderly and those who are active and work or exercise outdoors.
- High ground-level ozone hurts our economy by increasing health care expenditures and impacting economic growth – environmental health influences corporate decision making!

**The Denver Metro and North Front Range region has been experiencing high ozone levels for decades – we are a “nonattainment area”.**

**Although many pollution control programs are in place, which have improved ground-level ozone levels over time, more needs to be done to achieve ozone health standards and improve air quality overall.**

**The Regional Air Quality Council (RAQC), which is the lead air quality planning agency for the region, along with its state, local, industry and citizen partners, are evaluating additional strategies to reduce emissions from:**

- Vehicles and fuels;
- Industrial and commercial operations; and
- Everyday household products and landscaping/lawn care equipment.

**The RAQC is stepping up its education and outreach programs designed to better inform residents about ground-level ozone pollution and what they can do to make a positive impact. *Simple Steps. = Better Air.***

**Working hard to achieve our ozone goals will improve public health, protect vegetation and sensitive ecosystems, and heighten economic output.**

**Falling short is not an option - federal requirements require quick action. We need to protect the public's health, environment, economy and our quality of life.**

# TRANSPORTATION MATTERS SUMMIT 2019



## WHOLE SYSTEM. WHOLE SAFETY.

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This year's half-day summit features a set of three breakout sessions, any of which you can attend during two time slots in the agenda.

### Breakout Sessions

#### IN the car

Focuses on behavioral issues, including topics like driver behavior; impaired driving; communications; and National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) Grants

#### ON the road

Looks at the built environment, and explores topics including striping; rumble strips; guardrail; worker safety; our highway safety planning; technology; and autonomous vehicles

#### ALONGside

A discussion on micro mobility; bicyclists and pedestrians; transit; hubs; scooters; and positive train control

### Agenda at a Glance

*Full details coming soon*

*Thursday, Oct. 3, 2019*

9-11 a.m.	Registration opens
11:30 a.m.	Welcome, Lunch
Noon	Keynote presentation
1:15 p.m.	Breakout Round 1

2:15 p.m.	Networking break
3 p.m.	Breakout Round 2
4 p.m.	Conference adjourns

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## Summit Details

11 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
Thursday, Oct. 3, 2019  
[Hyatt Regency - Colorado Convention Center](#)  
650 15th Street  
Denver, CO 80202

PLEASE CONTACT RENAE OR SUZETTE IF YOU WOULD LIKE A SEAT AT THE MPO TABLE BY SEPTEMBER 20<sup>TH</sup>.

Renae: [rsteffen@nfrmpo.org](mailto:rsteffen@nfrmpo.org)

Suzette: [smallette@nfrmpo.org](mailto:smallette@nfrmpo.org)

**Weld County Mobility Committee (WCMC)—MINUTES**  
**August 27, 2019**  
**1:32 p.m. – 2:58 p.m.**

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**1. Call Meeting to Order, Welcome and Introductions**

- Moira Moon, CDOT
- Dori Baker, Frontier House
- Megan Kaliczak, zTrip
- Robyn Upton, Greeley Citizens Bus Committee
- Lori Chevron, Greeley Citizens Bus Committee
- Leiton Powell, GET
- Janet Bedingfield, Senior Resource Services/60+ Ride
- Steve Teets, WAND
- Margie Martinez, United Way of Weld County
- Julie Glover, Greeley Center for Independence
- Larry McDermott, the Arc of Weld County
- Collin Morey, Connections for Independent Living

NFRMPO staff: AnnaRose Cunningham; Alex Gordon

**2. Review of Agenda**

**3. Public Comment (2 minutes each)**

**4. Approval of June 25, 2019 Meeting Minutes**

Steve motioned to approve the minutes. Dori seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**1) Transit Survey Discussion**

Alex stated Steve had asked to review new surveys from the 2045 Regional Transit Element. New maps and themes were provided. Steve added the 34 Xpress is a needed service. The region needs to build on the successes of GET, Transfort, and COLT. There is a need to connect Greeley to the rest of the region by transit.

**2) One Call/One Click Center Project Discussion**

Alex discussed the progress of the project and asked how the group would like to begin the process of expanding the project to Weld County. It could be done through surveys or through outreach, building partnerships, etc. Larry stated his experience is that there is a need for transportation and assistance for individuals with disabilities transitioning out of high school. Janet suggested letting existing agencies be the face of the survey and outreach because there is familiarity. Margie said United Way collects demographic information for callers a few times per year and gives recommendations for low- or no-cost transportation. Suggestions for who to include in the planning process are: Weld County Area Agency on Aging; United Way; the Arc of Weld County; North Range Behavioral Health; Envision; Northern Colorado Veteran Resource Center; law enforcement; Greeley Center for Independence and Connections for Independent Living; medical representatives; Greeley Chamber; Vocational Rehabilitation; and transition teams from school districts.

The group discussed the need to include healthcare professionals in the transportation planning process. They can help find efficiencies and provide important feedback loops. The group also



discussed the possibility of an RTA, the Multimodal Options Fund (MMOF) from CDOT; and the need for more data.

### **GREELEY EVANS TRANSIT NEWS AND UPDATES**

Leiton reported GET is still working on planning for the Poudre Express. Stops are finalized in Fort Collins and Windsor and stops in Greeley are being finalized currently. GET received six new buses that are currently being readied for service. Outreach events for the new service are being planned around opening day in January. GET is hiring new drivers. Work continues on the fare reciprocity program with City of Loveland Transit (COLT) and Transfort. Two new passes are in the works: a Fort Collins/Loveland pass called the Foothills Pass; and a Range Pass which will include Greeley Evans Transit. The three agencies are currently working on a transfer pass because the three agencies use different fare technology.

### **WCMC MEMBER REPORTS**

Julie said Greeley Center for Independence is working on their annual fundraiser for September 28. Information is available on the GCI website.

Janet said Senior Resource Services continues to look for volunteers and board members. SRS is pursuing a capital and operating grant from CDOT to help meet the need.

Steve said many of the concerns mentioned at today's meeting match the discussions WAND is having.

Colin said Connections for Independent Living are working on a fundraiser on September 27 as a talent show at the Millennium Events Center.

Margie mentioned United Way is a partner in the Whole Community event hosted by the Weld County Office of Emergency Management.

Moira said DTR is working to support Downtown Colorado Inc. through its American VISTA program.

Dori said Frontier House continues to work on Transitional Employment (TE).

Megan said zTrip is looking for drivers and additional trainings. Weld County has mobility vans. zTrip will work to join the new Intelliride NEMT program with improved communication to help provide riders a better option.

#### **5. Final Public Comment (2 minutes each)**

#### **6. Next Month's Agenda Topic Suggestions**

- Heart&SOUL Paratransit
- Plan for Weld County outreach

#### **7. Next WCMC Meeting: October 22, 2019**