



On the Move: Your Quarterly Transportation News & Updates

New plan adoptions, two county transportation discussion, I-25 updates, Summer Summary, and Ozone reclassification. Read on for the latest transportation updates along the North Front Range.

Visit our Website

NFRMPO 2045 Regional Transportation Plan Adopted



NFRMPO staff recently completed work on several federally- and state-mandated plans, including the 2045 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). The 2045 RTP and its associated plans, including the 2045 Regional Transit Element (RTE), the 2019 Congestion Management Process (CMP), the FY2020-2023 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), were adopted by the NFRMPO Planning Council over the last year to ensure the NFRMPO remains in compliance with Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) requirements and can continue to obligate funding for transportation projects within the region.

The 2045 RTP was adopted by the NFRMPO Planning Council on September 5, 2019. The 2045 RTP relies on information gathered from multiple data sources around the region. This process began in November 2016 with data collection and Travel Analysis Zone (TAZ) updates for the Land Use and Regional Travel Demand Models. NFRMPO staff began the process of developing the 2045 RTP in Spring 2018.

For more information on the 2045 RTP, please visit: <https://nfrmpo.org/rtp/>

The transportation conformity analysis, required on all projects in the 2045 RTP for ozone and carbon monoxide (CO) emissions, was conducted in August 2019 by the appropriate agencies. The results of all projects in the 2045 RTP passed all budget requirements in the North Front Range region. A public hearing was held at the September 5, 2019 Planning Council meeting. The Air Quality Control Commission (AQCC) concurred with the NFRMPO Planning Council's Air Quality Conformity

For detailed information on the 2045 RTP Conformity Determination, please visit:

<https://nfrmpo.org/air-quality/>



Freight Northern Colorado
Adopted August 1, 2019



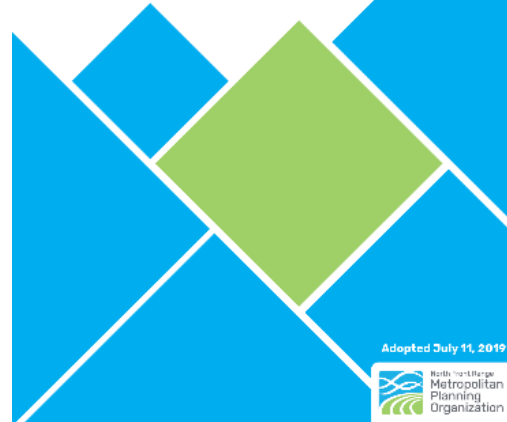
NFRMPO Adopts its First Regional Freight Plan

On August 1, 2019, the NFRMPO Planning Council adopted a guiding document for the improvement of freight movement across the North Front Range, the first of its kind for the region. While the NFRMPO, its member agencies, and other planning partners have conducted various project and corridor-specific studies and reports, Freight Northern Colorado (FNC) provides a holistic view of the freight industry and positions the region to pursue funds for a variety of freight-benefiting projects.

Creating a regional freight plan was recommended by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) in the NFRMPO's quadrennial review in 2014. Identifying freight-related needs and constraints as well as potential solutions and action steps allows the NFRMPO and its member agencies to improve their planning processes and remain competitive for freight-related funding opportunities. FNC also reaffirms the importance of recommendations and implementation steps identified in other recent statewide planning efforts such as the Colorado Freight Plan (2019), the Colorado Truck Parking Assessment (2019), and the Statewide Freight and Passenger Rail Plan (2018) as well as local agency plans with freight-related components.

Adoption of FNC aligns well with other regional planning efforts like the 2019 Congestion Management Process, adopted in July 2019, and the 2045 Regional Transportation Plan, adopted in September 2019.

2019 Congestion Management Process



New Congestion Management Process (CMP) Adopted

Traffic congestion is a major concern of those who live and travel in the North Front Range region. The NFRMPO addresses congestion through a systematic and strategic process documented in the Congestion Management Process (CMP) and updates the CMP every four years. In July 2019, the NFRMPO adopted the 2019 CMP which identifies an objectives-driven, performance-based process to reduce regional transportation congestion and meets federal requirements. The 2019 CMP includes congestion reduction goals, objectives, performance measures, targets, and strategies.

The 2019 CMP identifies congested Regionally Significant Corridors (RSCs) based on congestion performance measures and presents a variety of region- and corridor-specific strategies. Through a collaborative and strategic approach to congestion management, the region will benefit from improved safety, reduced travel times, and better air quality.

To learn more about the 2019 CMP, visit <https://nfrmpo.org/cmp/>.

Larimer and Weld Counties Host Transportation Discussion



Image Credit: NFRMPO staff

On July 31, 2019, Weld County Commissioner Barbara Kirkmeyer and Larimer County Commissioner Tom Donnelly hosted the Northern Colorado Transportation Discussion at the Windsor Community Recreation Center. The discussion also included the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) Executive Director Shoshana Lew, Director of Transportation Development Rebecca White, and Chief of the Office of Innovative Mobility Sophie Shulman. The discussion focused on the mobility needs of individuals with disabilities and older adults living within both counties. Attendees included transportation providers, advocates, local elected officials, and local community representatives who focus on public health, bicycle and pedestrian, and mobility issues.

The discussion focused on the need for investment in mobility for older adults and individuals with disabilities. Staff from CDOT, the NFRMPO, and County Commissioners were able to answer questions, discuss existing efforts at local, regional, and state levels, and discuss processes for addressing the issues highlighted at the meeting.

Planning efforts and projects discussed at the Northern Colorado Transportation Discussion included the [Statewide Transportation Plan](#), the [One Call One Click Center](#), and efforts being made by the [NoCo Bike and Ped Collaborative](#).

Colorado Commits an Additional \$310M for I-25 North Express Lanes



The Colorado Transportation Commission agreed to provide additional State funding to the *I-25 North Express Lanes: Johnstown to Fort Collins* project allowing the project to be built on the permanent alignment and reducing project costs over the long term. The additional \$310M in State funding brings the project's total funding to \$657M.

Prior to receiving the additional funding, the scope of the 14-mile project included the addition of Express Lanes in each direction from SH402 to SH14, replacement of two I-25 bridges to address flooding concerns, two interchange reconstructions, a “center loading mobility hub” for Express Bus service, six miles of pavement reconstruction, and eight miles of interim widening and pavement overlay. With the additional State funding, the expanded project scope allows all 14 miles of pavement to be reconstructed on the permanent alignment, funds the US34 and I-25 interchange reconstruction and other bridge replacements, and addresses the flooding concerns of the Kechter Road overpass.

While expanding the scope of the project will postpone the project's completion from 2021 to 2023, it

also will improve safety, preserve the median for future multi-modal solutions, replace aging infrastructure, and save taxpayers significant funds compared to deferring the improvements.

For more information on the project, visit <https://www.codot.gov/projects/north-i-25/johnstown-to-fort-collins/>.

North I-25 Segment 6 Groundbreaking



On September 12, 2019 the groundbreaking for the next phase of the I-25 North Express Lanes project from SH402 to SH56 was held at the SH56 Interchange. In addition to local, state, and national officials at the event, students from Ivy Stockwell Elementary's STEM program were also in attendance. This \$250M project will add to the North I-25 project currently under construction from SH14 to SH402 and is anticipated to be completed in 2023. The project will add an Express Lane in each direction, replace aging bridges, make interchanges safer and more efficient, add park-n-ride facilities, add bike and pedestrian access, improve safety along the corridor through improved drainage systems and improvements to the alignment of North I-25, as well as improvements to infrastructure for transit buses along the corridor.

This critical portion of North I-25 received \$20M in Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Grant funds in 2018 to help complete the funding package on this project. More information on the project can be found on the project website: <https://www.codot.gov/projects/north-i-25/johnstown-to-fort-collins>.

2019 Summer Summary: Public Outreach

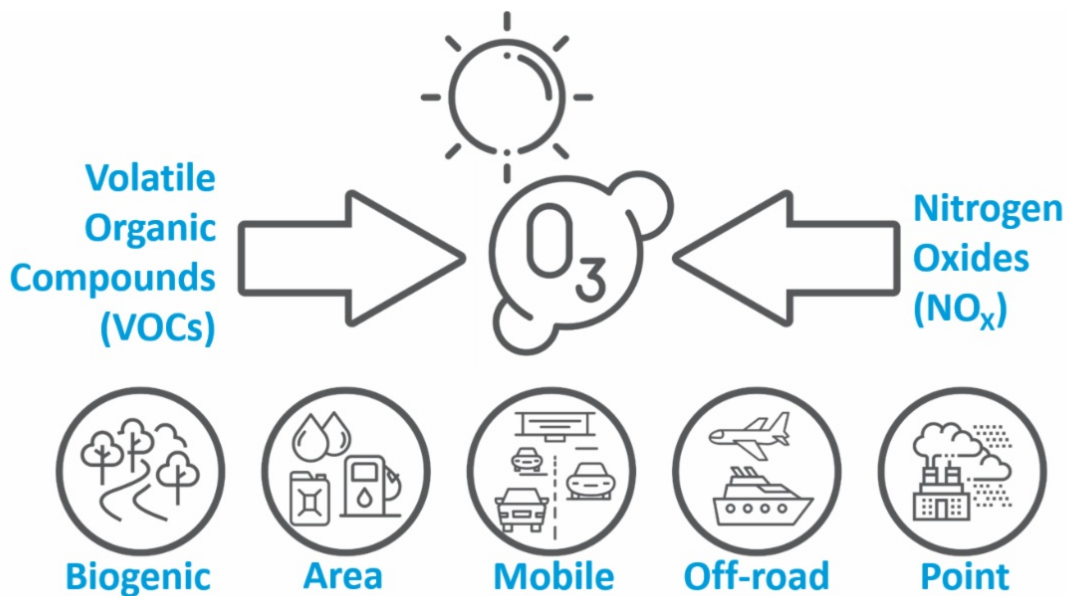


Image Credit: NFRMPO

Between April and September, NFRMPO staff attended 17 community events across the region, at least one event in 12 of the member communities, interacting with 3,452 residents and visitors. During the events, residents of all ages spun the Transportation Trivia wheel and answered questions about the NFRMPO, statewide transportation, transit, bike and pedestrian planning, and air quality to win a variety of prizes. The trivia questions sparked conversations between players and staff about what the NFRMPO does, VanGo™ services, bicycle safety, ozone issues, and how to improve air quality. Additionally, staff was able to update the public on new trail projects including the Great Western Trail and the Poudre River Trail, as well as new transit options like the Poudre Express, a bus line that will

For information about the NFRMPO's public outreach and the 2019 Public Involvement Plan (PIP), read more at: <https://nfrmpo.org/public-involvement/>. For other information about other public meetings and community events, visit the NFRMPO Calendar: <https://nfrmpo.org/calendar/categories/outreach-events/>

EPA Considering Serious Ozone Reclassification



Ozone pollution, a key component of smog, has been an air quality issue in the North Front Range and Denver region for many years. The entire region is classified as a Moderate Nonattainment Area by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for the 2008 ozone standard and was required to attain the standard by July 20, 2018. Despite reductions in emissions, the region did not meet the ozone standard by the deadline and now the EPA is proposing to reclassify the region as a Serious Nonattainment Area.

The new classification would require a new State Implementation Plan (SIP), permitting for additional industrial facilities by lowering the major source threshold from 100 to 50 tons per year, increasing the offset ratio for new sources from 1.15:1 to 1.2:1, and demonstrating a nine percent reduction in ozone precursors between 2018 and 2020.

For more information, visit <https://www.epa.gov/ground-level-ozone-pollution/proposed-action-finding-denver-area-failed-attain-2008-ozone-national>.

Get Involved

See what's happening at the NFRMPO and join us at one of our upcoming events or meetings. For a comprehensive and up to date calendar of events, visit <https://nfrmpo.org/calendar/>, and to download meeting materials, visit <https://nfrmpo.org/meeting-materials/>.

Upcoming Events

November 28-29, 2019
NFRMPO office closed.

December 24-25, 2019
NFRMPO office closed.

January 1, 2019
NFRMPO office closed.

Recurring Meetings

North I-25 Coalition meets the first Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the Southwest Weld County Services Center.

NFRMPO Council meets the first Thursday of each month at 5:30 p.m. The location rotates among the NFRMPO member jurisdictions.

North I-25 Funding Committee meets the first Friday of each month at the Candlelight Dinner Playhouse.

NoCo Bike and Ped Collaborative meets the second Wednesday of each month at 10:00 am at the Windsor Recreation Center

Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meets the third Wednesday of each month at 1:00 p.m. at the Windsor Recreation Center.

Senior Transportation Coalition (STC) meets the first Thursday every other month (October & December) at 1:30 p.m.

at the South Transit Center.

Larimer County Mobility Committee (LCMC) meets the third Thursday every other month (November) at 1:30 p.m. the NFRMPO Office.

Weld County Mobility Committee (WCMC) meets Tuesday, October 22 and Tuesday, December 3 at 1:30 p.m. at a rotating location.