



# 2020 ANNUAL REPORT



North Front Range  
Metropolitan  
Planning  
Organization

## To the North Front Range Metropolitan Planning Organization communities and residents:

The [North Front Range Metropolitan Planning Organization \(NFRMPO\) staff](#); the [Technical Advisory Committee \(TAC\)](#), consisting primarily of engineers and planning staff from local member agencies; and the [Planning Council](#), which is comprised of elected officials from each of the NFRMPO members, had another very productive year. During 2020, the NFRMPO completed, with assistance from the TAC, input from the public and stakeholders, and guidance and approval of the Planning Council, the following:



**Dave Clark**  
**2020 Planning Council Chair**

- Completed an annual audit with an unqualified opinion;
- Approved the 10-Year Development List of Projects for the NFRMPO region;
- Approved the Multimodal Options Fund (MMOF) Call for Projects;
- Adopted the NFRMPO Safety Vision: Toward Zero Deaths policy;
- Conducted an MPO Boundary assessment to determine the best path forward for the NFRMPO;
- Hired a Mobility Manager to begin implementing the region's One Call/One Click Center;
- Adapted the NFRMPO's annual summer outreach to be conducted online with the creation of a variety of interactive activities and posts across the NFRMPO's various social media platforms due to COVID-19; and
- Continued to work cooperatively to ensure the funding for North I-25 Segments 7 & 8 (SH14 to SH402) and Segment 6 (SH402 to SH56) was in place and the projects could remain on schedule.

These accomplishments continue to keep the NFRMPO eligible to spend federal funding. These documents are explained more fully in this Annual Report and are available on the NFRMPO website at [nfrmpo.org](http://nfrmpo.org).

Even with the COVID-19 pandemic, the VanGo™ Vanpool Program continued providing safe, reliable, and economical transportation for commuters along the North Front Range with 23 active vans.

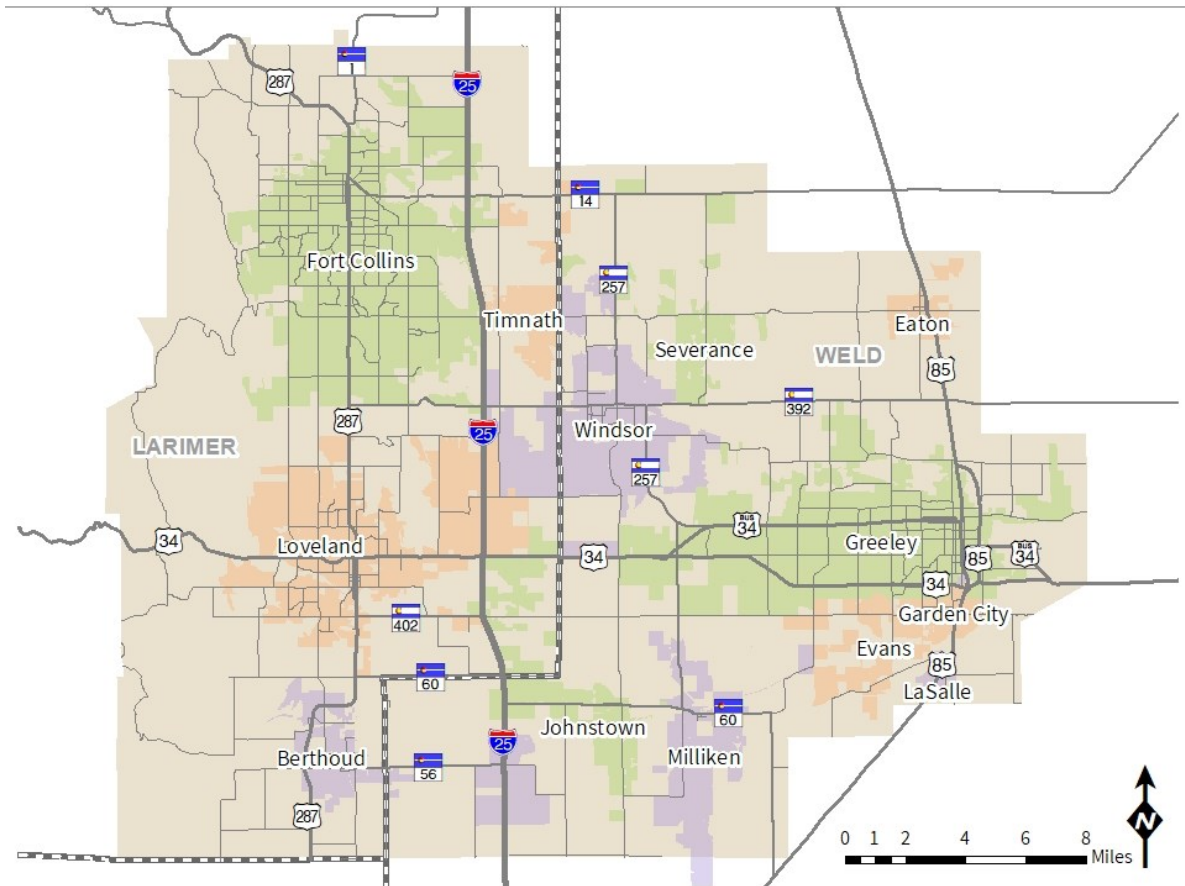
To support and foster regional cooperation, the local communities rotate hosting the Planning Council meetings and dinners; however, with the stay-at-home order and social distancing requirements meetings from April through September and in December were held virtually. In October and November, the Planning Council hosted Hybrid meetings, with Planning Council members attending in person and all others attending virtually. The NFRMPO has also continued to support the I-25, US34, and US85 Coalitions; which has led to increased and continued cooperation and regionalism.

It has been my honor and pleasure to serve as the NFRMPO Planning Council Chair during this especially challenging yet productive year and I sincerely thank you for the opportunity.



*Dave Clark*

**Councilmember Dave Clark**  
*2020 Planning Council Chair*

# NFRMPO Planning Area



## Legend

-  County Boundary
-  NFRMPO Planning Area

May 2020  
Sources: CDOT, NFRMPO



## 2020 Accomplishments

- **Online Public Comment and Outreach strategies** — Ongoing
- **Creating Virtual MPO Training Videos** —Ongoing
- **10 Year Strategic List of Projects** — February 6, 2020
- **Adoption of Federal 2016-2020 Roadway Safety Targets** — February 6, 2020
- **FY2020-21 UPWP** — June 4, 2020
- **NFRMPO Safety Vision: Towards Zero Deaths Policy** — September 3, 2020
- **NoCo Active Transportation Challenge** — September 20–26, 2020
- **Adoption of Revised Federal 4-Year Pavement Targets**—December 3, 2020

# NFRMPO Region At a Glance

## TRANSPORTATION

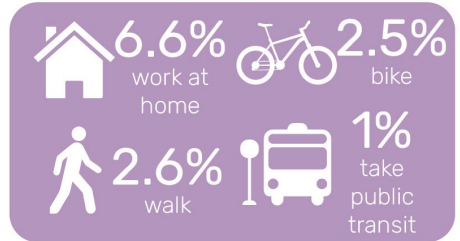


\*CDOT; Transit Agencies; Member Communities

### Commute to Work



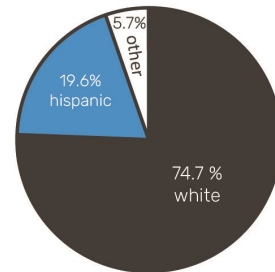
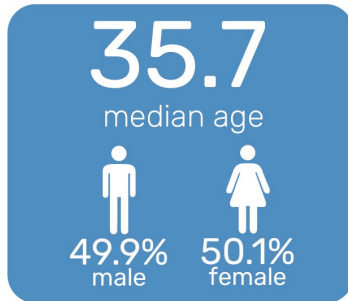
\*2014-2018 5-year American Community Survey



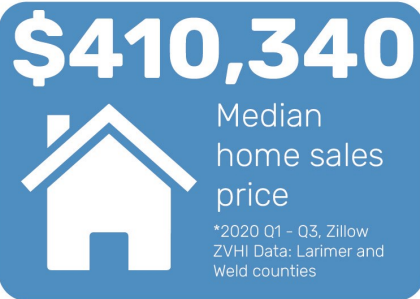
## DEMOGRAPHY & HOUSING

**526,402**  
population

\* 2019 DOLA estimate



\*2014-2018 5-year American Community Survey

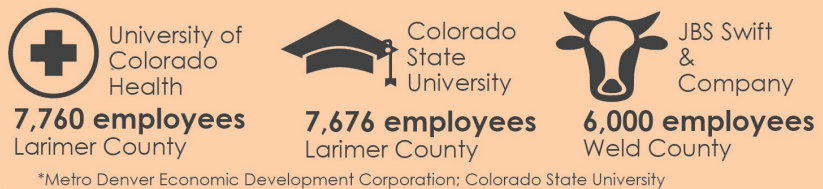


## INDUSTRY

### Top Agricultural Sales



### Largest Employers

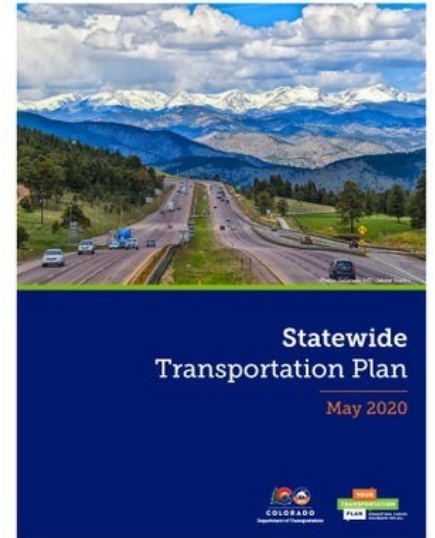


### Top International Exports



# Statewide Transportation Plan, STIP, and 10-Year Strategic List

CDOT adopted its **Statewide Transportation Plan (SWP)** on August 20, 2020. CDOT invested significant funding into outreach for the SWP, attending events and meetings throughout Colorado. This input helped shape the priorities identified in the SWP. More information about the SWP is available at [www.coloradotransportationmatters.com](http://www.coloradotransportationmatters.com).



On January 16, Planning Council and TAC members attended a work session to identify and prioritize projects beyond the projects identified in the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Criteria for the projects were identified by the Transportation Commission (TC), and included safety, mobility, economic vitality, asset management, strategic nature, and regional priority. At this meeting, projects like *North I-25 Express Lanes: WCR38 to SH56* and the interchanges of I-25 and US34 and SH14 were identified as roadway priority projects; transit connecting Loveland to Greeley and Eaton to Denver were identified as transit priority projects; and non-motorized projects along US34 and trail grade separations were identified as non-motorized priority projects. This list of projects was submitted to CDOT and included in the SWP.

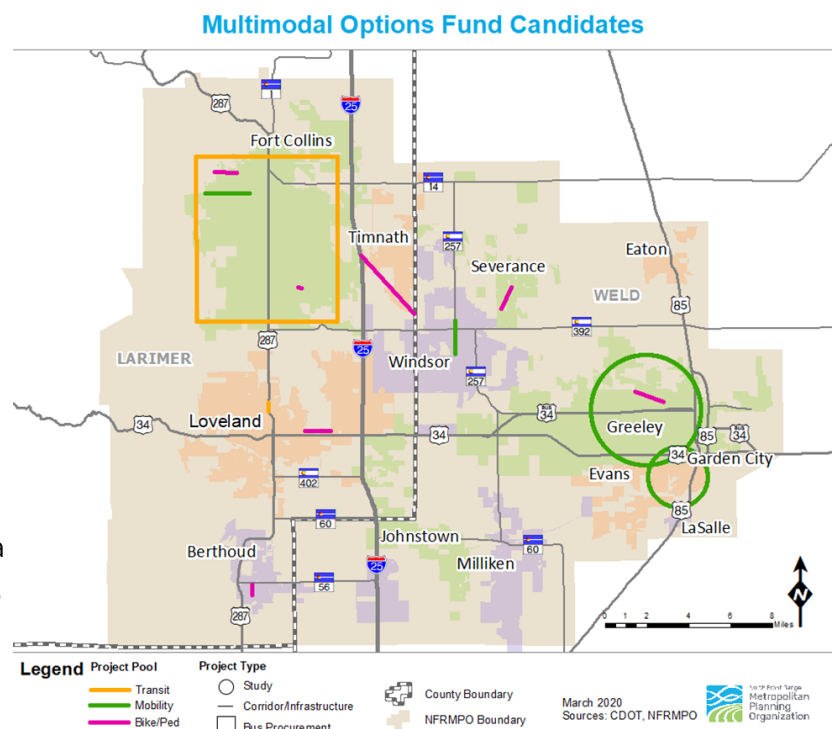
## MMOF Call for Projects

As part of Senate Bill (SB) 18-001, the NFRMPO region received \$5.6M in Multimodal Options Funds (MMOF). NFRMPO member communities submitted applications for projects that will benefit seniors by making aging in place more feasible and residents of rural areas by providing them with flexible public transportation services, provide enhanced mobility for persons with disabilities, provide safe routes to school for children, and increase access to and /or usage of multi-use facilities.

Eight NFRMPO member communities submitted a total of 13 projects. Of the 13 projects, seven were bike and pedestrian projects, four were for multimodal studies, and two were transit.

Planning Council approved two funding set-

asides for projects sponsored by the NFRMPO: *Expansion of the Mobility Program* including creation and operation of a One Call/One Click Center and staff support, and the *North Front Range Premium Transit Analysis*. A Scoring Committee made up of applicants reviewed projects and made a recommendation to TAC, which discussed the projects. After TAC recommended Planning Council approval, Planning Council approved all of the projects and funding recommendations at their meeting on April 2.



## Safety Vision

NFRMPO staff, TAC Members, and the Planning Council worked together to better prioritize safety in planning efforts. On September 3, 2020 the Planning Council adopted the NFRMPO Safety Vision: Towards Zero Deaths Policy. This policy, which builds off ongoing efforts of the NFRMPO member communities have implemented and federally required performance roadway safety targets, was crafted recognizing there is no acceptable number of deaths or serious injuries on the roads in the region. The Policy outlined the NFRMPO will continue to prioritize safety in the Call for Projects and analyze crash data to help NFRMPO staff and member communities make more informed decisions for safety related projects. Additionally, the NFRMPO will integrate the Towards Zero Deaths framework in planning initiatives such as the Environmental Justice and Active Transportation Plans, the Congestion Mitigation Process, and the Regional Transportation Plan.



## I-25 Update

Major progress has been made on the *I-25 North Express Lanes* project between Berthoud and Fort Collins. Major accomplishments in 2020 include reconstructing the I-25 bridge over the Little Thompson River; closing the I-25 frontage road between SH56 and WCR 46; building a sound wall near the Mountain Range Shadows neighborhood; demolishing and reconstructing the Prospect Road bridge over I-25; constructing the first phase of the mobility hub at Kendall Parkway in Loveland; and the completion of the new interchange at SH402 and I-25.

Next phases of the project underway include preliminary work to move the SH56 bridge under the highway; rebuild the US34 bridge and ramps; reconstruct the LCR 20 bridge; and reconstruct the southeast Frontage Road and bridge over the Big Thompson River.

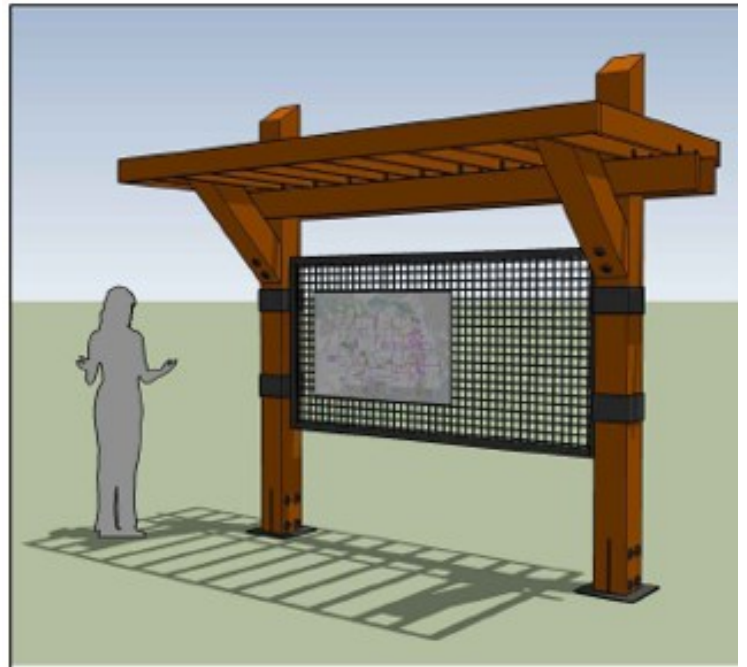


SH402 roundabouts under construction. **Source: CDOT**

## Bike & Ped

Six NFRMPO member communities were awarded up to \$5,000 to make low-cost, quick implementation improvements that encourage and support biking and walking. Throughout 2020, CDPHE worked with staff from the NFRMPO, the Weld County Department of Public Health and Environment (WCDPHE), and the Larimer County Department of Health and Environment (LCDHE) to identify projects that impact vulnerable populations, support Safe Routes to School (SRTS), and/or address known bike/ped network connectivity issues. The funding recipients and their projects include:

- **Town of Berthoud** – Painted curb extensions and bollards at the intersection of Third Street and Welch Avenue to narrow the pedestrian crossing distance, improve driver behavior, and increase visibility of pedestrians. This project will be completed in early 2021.
- **Town of Milliken** – Wayfinding signage to the community’s parks to increase awareness and usage. This project will be completed in early 2021.
- **Town of Severance** – Fencing, seeding, and mulching along the Great Western Trail near Weld County Road (WCR) 74. The improvements will discourage motorized vehicles from accessing the trail, easing trail safety and maintenance concerns. This project was completed in Fall 2020.
- **Great Western Trail Authority** – Fencing at various county road access points of the Great Western Trail between Eaton and Severance to discourage motorized vehicles from accessing the trail. These improvements will complement 5.5 miles of recently constructed trail. This project will be completed in early 2021.
- **City of Greeley** – Trailhead amenities, such as benches and a bicycle repair station, at the new Poudre River trailhead at Island Grove Regional Park. The improvements will improve access to active transportation and recreation opportunities in an underserved area of the City. This project will be completed in early 2021.
- **City of Loveland** – Bicycle repair stations installed at the northbound FLEX regional bus stop at US287 and 57<sup>th</sup> Street, Sunset Vista Natural Area, and Mehaffey Park, as well as “Bikes May Use Full Lane” signage on 57<sup>th</sup> Street between Taft Avenue and US287. These projects were completed in Fall 2020.



CDPHE identified Northern Colorado as a focus area following a walking audit event hosted by the NoCo Bike & Ped Collaborative near Old Town Berthoud in fall 2019. The event resulted in a list of recommended actions, including proposed improvements at the intersection of Third Street and Welch Avenue in Berthoud. The Collaborative plans to host additional walking audits and showcase many of these quick win projects to encourage similar investments across the region.

## Bike & Ped

NFRMPO staff are in the process of developing a Regional Active Transportation Plan (ATP) for Northern Colorado. The ATP will serve as an update to the NFRMPO's *2016 Non-Motorized Plan*, the region's long-range current guiding document for bicycle and pedestrian transportation within and between communities. The title of the plan is changing from non-motorized to active transportation to be more inclusive of motorized pedestrian devices such as electric wheelchairs and scooters, as well as electric-assist bikes (e-bikes).

The ATP will complement and reinforce local planning efforts and serve as a toolkit for planning partners across the region. Components of the ATP will include:

- An inventory of existing conditions, programs, policies, and plans in the region;
- Guidance for local and regional planning efforts, including best practices from across the nation, and;
- Short-, medium-, and long-term recommended actions for the NFRMPO and its partners

In 2020, NFRMPO staff held one ATP Steering Committee meeting, presented at two community events and 11 board/committee/commission meetings, collected 55 survey responses, and received over 150 comments via the Community Remarks interactive map. NFRMPO staff will continue engaging local partners, the ATP Steering Committee, and other stakeholders in 2021. The ATP is scheduled for adoption for the NFRMPO Planning Council in Spring or Summer 2021.



In September 2020, the NFRMPO, the City of Greeley, and the City of Loveland partnered on an initiative to encourage Northern Coloradans to try an alternative mode of transportation. Participants in the NoCo Active Transportation Challenge took the #SwitchATrip Pledge to switch one car trip to a bike, bus, or walk trip during the week of September 20-26. 112 people across 13 communities took the Pledge for exercise, to improve air quality, or just to have fun. Greeley came in first place with the most participants, trips, and total miles switched.

55 of the participants responded to a follow-up survey, reporting a total of 138 car trips switched to an active transportation mode. These trips saved an estimated 786 vehicle miles traveled (VMT) across the week. Over half of these respondents stated they are now more likely to bike, bus, or walk more often.





## Air Quality

**SIP Development**—In late 2019, the EPA downgraded the nine-county Denver Metro/North Front Range (DM/NFR) region from its status of Moderate to Serious Nonattainment due to the region’s failure to attain the 2008 ozone standard by the deadline set in the Clean Air Act (CAA). As a result, the State had to develop a revised State Implementation Plan (SIP) identifying how air quality would be improved. The SIP includes a variety of strategies to control pollutants, such as Motor Vehicle Emission Budgets (MVEBs), which set an upper limit on emissions from motor vehicles. In 2020, the NFRMPO worked with partner agencies, including the Regional Air Quality Council (RAQC), to develop new MVEBs for inclusion in the SIP. The State’s Air Quality Control Commission (AQCC) approved the SIP in December 2020.



The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has two standards for ozone currently in effect: the 75 parts per billion (ppb) standard, which was set in 2008, and the more stringent standard of 70 ppb, which was set in 2015. In addition to being a Serious Nonattainment Area for the 75 ppb standard, the DM/NFR is designated by the EPA as a Marginal Nonattainment Area for the 70 ppb standard. Efforts to control ozone continue as the region works toward attaining the 75 ppb standard as well as the 70 ppb standard, which will require additional reductions and the development of another SIP.

**Ozone Season**—The ozone season, which lasts from June through September, was hotter and dryer in 2020 compared to recent years and included multiple wildfires. Smoke from wildfires increases ozone levels, especially in areas downwind of the fire where the chemicals in the smoke have more time to interact in the presence of sunlight and create ozone.



*Cameron Peak Fire Image Credit: Poudre Fire Authority*

Ozone data for 2020 is currently being validated by the State’s Air Pollution Control Division (APCD) and will likely be

evaluated for exceptional events due to the wildfires. An exceptional event demonstration would remove some of the ozone exceedances but is not expected to prevent the region from being downgraded by the EPA to a status of Severe in early 2022.

**Greenhouse Gases**—In addition to the work on ozone, the NFRMPO was also involved in the State’s efforts targeting greenhouse gases (GHGs). In 2020, the Colorado Energy Office (CEO) developed and released the Draft *Colorado Greenhouse Gas Pollution Reduction Roadmap* (“GHG Roadmap”). The NFRMPO provided comments on the GHG Roadmap and will continue its involvement in 2021 as the AQCC considers setting GHG budgets for regional transportation plans.

## Mobility & Transit

**Mobility Manager and the One Call/One Click Center**—The NFRMPO Planning Council approved up to \$1.2M in Multimodal Options Funds (MMOF) for the One Call/One Click Center project under development. This funding will support the new Mobility Manager and support staff, marketing, and the purchase of software and hardware needed to implement the project. Cory Schmitt, the Mobility Manager, started in December and will be out in the community throughout 2021 and beyond.



**Transportation Services for Vulnerable Populations**—Non-profit transportation providers who did not receive federal CARES Act funding were eligible for funding from the Colorado Legislature called Transportation Services for Vulnerable Populations, including Seniors. The program set aside \$1M in funds that will be used to help offset losses or reduced funding related to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Mobility Committees discussed the funding, and NFRMPO distributed a survey to eligible agencies. Two agencies in the North Front Range region applied for this funding and include 60+ Ride and Envision, Creative Support for People with Development Disabilities. This funding will benefit older adults and individuals with disabilities living in Weld County.

**Poudre Express**—Through partnerships with Windsor, Fort Collins, Colorado State University (CSU), and CDOT, Greeley Evans Transit (GET) began operation of the Poudre Express on January 2. The new service operates seven roundtrips per day and connects the Greeley Regional Transportation Center, University of Northern Colorado (UNC), Windsor, the Harmony Transfer Center, and CSU. Along the route, riders can connect to Express Arrow, and Bustang, as well as other GET routes, and Transfort routes including MAX and the FLEX to Boulder. The Poudre Express is the first route from the **2045 Regional Transit Element (RTE)** to be implemented.



The Poudre Express is the first route from the **2045 Regional Transit Element (RTE)** to be implemented.

**New \$5310 vehicles** —The NFRMPO and Envision partnered on a grant through the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT). The grant will allow Envision to purchase a new wheelchair accessible vehicle, providing more reliable service to their clients throughout Weld County. The vehicle is expected in late 2020 or early 2021. Adeo, formerly known as Greeley Center for Independence, received their vehicle in February.



## Outreach in a Virtual World

Each summer, NFRMPO staff attend as many community events as possible to discuss transportation and air quality with residents of and visitors to Larimer and Weld counties. Unfortunately, due to many event cancellations and restrictions during the COVID-19 pandemic, the NFRMPO was only able to attend one community event at the beginning of the year. Instead, the NFRMPO worked this year to engage the community through online platforms. The NFRMPO updated the Community Remarks website as a way for residents to provide feedback for the upcoming **Active Transportation Plan**. Staff also collected and created fun and educational activities for people to download on the website including coloring pages, activity books, and a transportation scavenger hunt. Additionally, staff gave presentations at virtual meetings and trainings throughout the year, helping educate and keep the community up to date on transportation happenings in the North Front Range.



218 Followers  
18,607 Total Reach  
837 Engaged Users



548 Followers  
154 Link Clicks  
103 Likes  
7 Replies



130 Followers  
146 Engagements



58 Posts  
2,273 Views



9 Video Uploads  
213 Views



2 Community Events



2,288 Successful Newsletter Deliveries  
32% Average Open Rate  
12% Click Rate



150+ Community Remarks Comments



55 Survey Responses

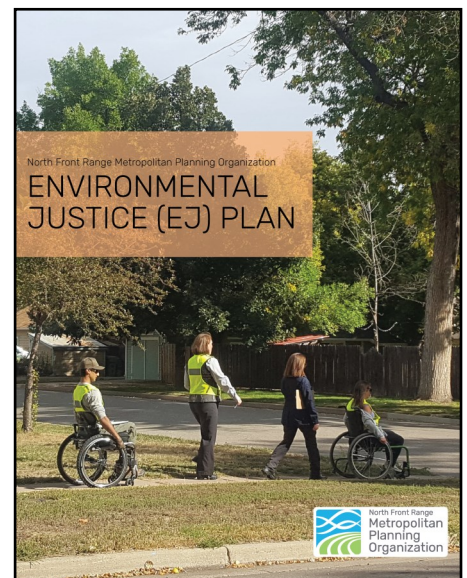


35 Presentations

## EJ Plan

NFRMPO staff began work on the **Environmental Justice (EJ) Plan**, an effort to improve the NFRMPO's planning and programming related to low-income and minority residents in Northern Colorado. The **EJ Plan** will also identify additional communities of concern. NFRMPO staff wants to ensure that regional plans reflect the needs and priorities of the entire region. The **EJ Plan** will include an analysis of the history of EJ in the region, existing conditions, and trends; recommendations to improve the NFRMPO's plans and programs; and a best practices guide that will be shared with local communities and partners. The recommendations and best practices guides are based on conversations with local governments, non-profits, and residents. In these conversations, individuals identified what has worked, not worked, and what should be improved. It is expected the **EJ Plan** will be completed in mid-2021.

A key takeaway from the **EJ Plan** is the need to go into communities, build partnerships, and have conversations using language that people understand.

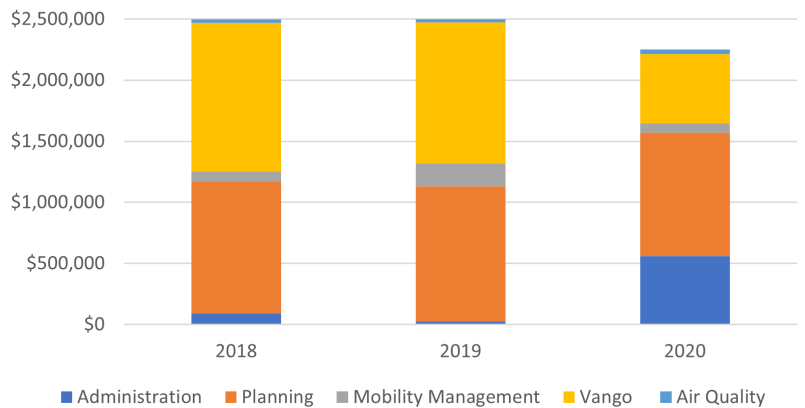


# Finance and Administration

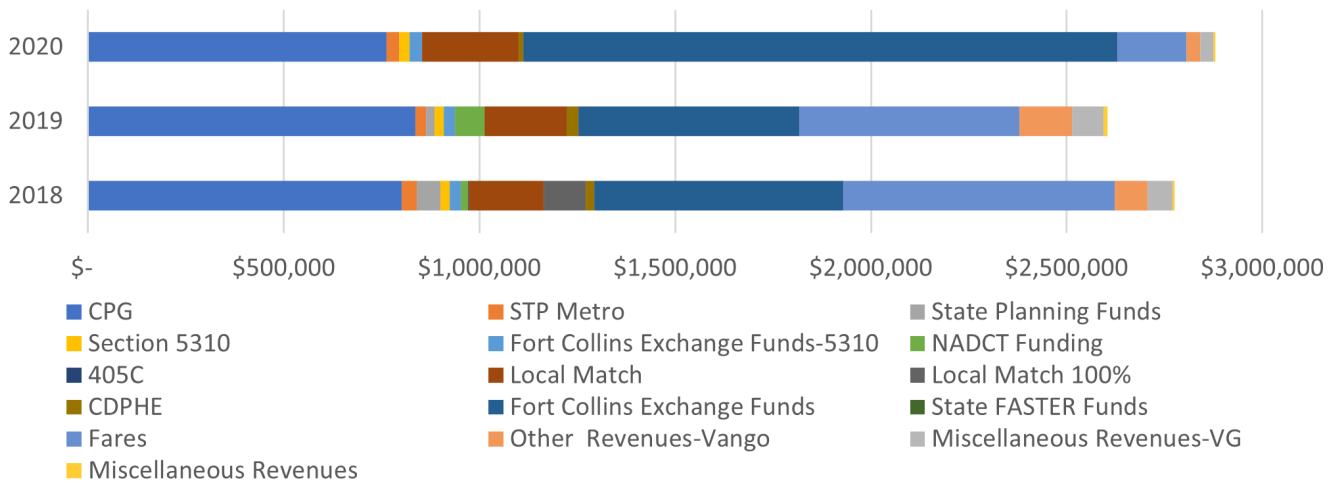
2020 marked another unqualified opinion issued by the NFRMPO’s auditors, MHP, LLC, on the organization’s 2019 Audited Financial Statements. The 2019 Audited Financial Statements are available for download under the Administrative Documents dropdown menu on the NFRMPO Document Library page:

<https://nfrmpo.org/library/>.

Expenditures by Program 2018-2020



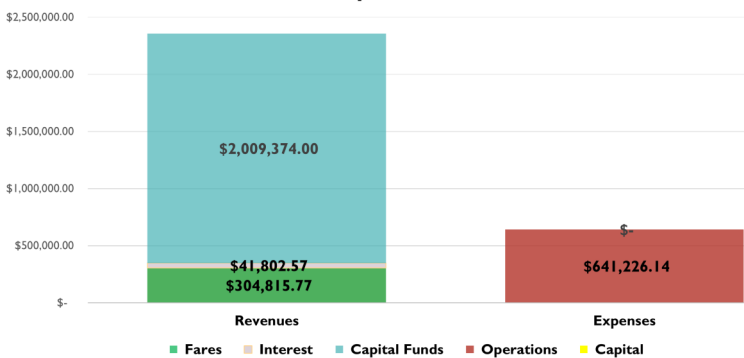
Funding Sources 2018-2020



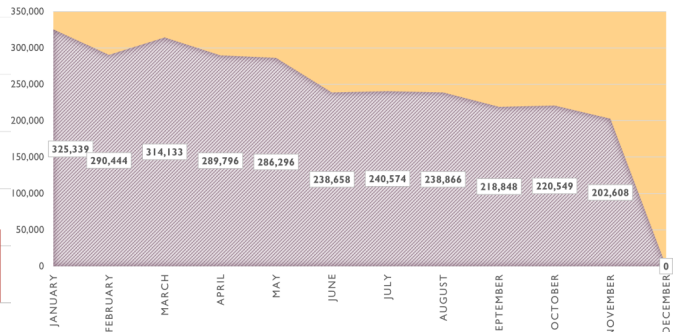
## VanGo™

The VanGo™ program continued operation through the COVID-19 pandemic by instituting policies that offered more flexibility to its participants. The VanGo™ program, in addition to having sound financial standing to manage a decrease in ridership and utilization, also received capital revenue from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. In addition, due to COVID-19 related issues and a decrease in vehicle usage, the situation allowed the VanGo™ program to avert purchasing vehicles in 2020 and to decrease its excess fleet by sending units to auction. All of these actions/funding will aid VanGo™ in moving forward in 2021.

Revenue/Expenses Year-To Date



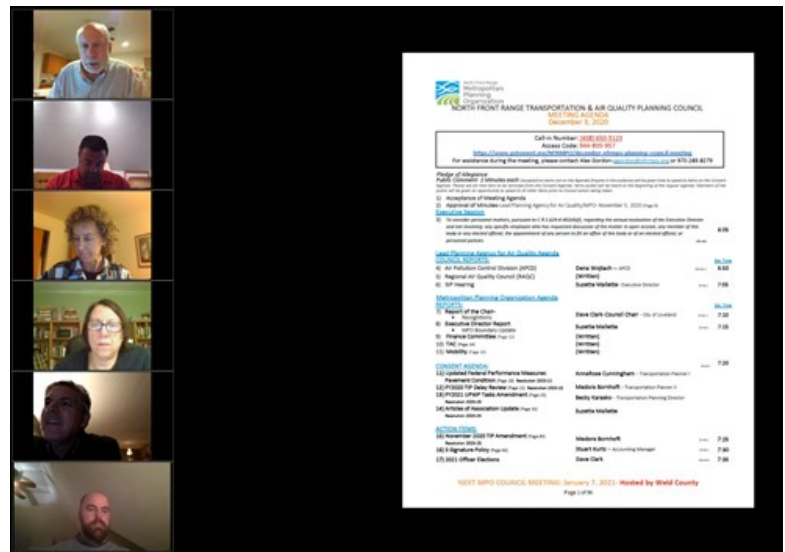
MILES SAVED



# Planning Council

Member governments promote regional cooperation while working on many tasks at the monthly Planning Council meetings. Every community is given the opportunity to host a monthly meeting. The NFRMPO and its members benefit greatly when a local government invites them to their community. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, meetings were held virtually using GoToMeeting beginning in April. Below are the hosts of each meeting.

<b>January 9</b>	Berthoud
<b>February 6</b>	Eaton
<b>March 5</b>	Fort Collins
<b>April 2</b>	Weld County
<b>May 7</b>	Evans
<b>June 4</b>	Windsor
<b>July 9</b>	CANCELED
<b>August 6</b>	Greeley
<b>September 3</b>	Severance
<b>October 1</b>	Johnstown
<b>November 5</b>	Loveland
<b>December 3</b>	Larimer County



## 2020 NFRMPO Planning Council Members

**Chair:** Councilmember Dave Clark, Loveland

**Vice Chair:** Mayor Don McLeod, Severance

**Past Chair:** Commissioner Tom Donnelly, Larimer County

Mayor William Karspeck, Berthoud

Mayor Pro Tem Lanie Isbell, Eaton

Mayor Pro Tem Mark Clark, Evans

Mayor Pro Tem Kristin Stephens, Fort Collins

Mayor Fil Archuleta, Garden City

Councilmember Brett Payton, Greeley

Councilmember Troy Mellon, Johnstown

Trustee Paula Cochran, LaSalle

Mayor Elizabeth Austin, Milliken

Trustee Lisa Laake, Timnath

Commissioner Kevin Ross, Weld County

Mayor Paul Rennemeyer, Windsor

Dena Wojtach, CDPHE APCD

Commissioner Kathleen Bracke, Transportation Commission

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.



North Front Range  
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**Instagram:** [@nfrmpo](https://www.instagram.com/nfrmpo)  
**Blog:** [nfrmpo.blogspot.com](http://nfrmpo.blogspot.com)  
**Facebook:** [facebook.com/nfrmpo](https://facebook.com/nfrmpo)  
**LinkedIn:** [linkedin.com/company/nfrmpo](https://linkedin.com/company/nfrmpo)