

NoCo Bike & Ped Collaborative



Vision Statement:

Safe, convenient, and cost-effective bicycle and pedestrian network for people of all ages and abilities across Northern Colorado.

Mission Statement:

Advancing connectivity of bicycle and pedestrian networks in Northern Colorado for recreation, transportation and economic development through coordination, promotion and education.

Group Background

Who: NoCo Bike & Ped Collaborative is an independent group advising the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) under the Planning Council (PC) of the North Front Range Metropolitan Planning Organization (NFRMPO). NoCo Bike & Ped brings together agencies, organizations, municipalities, trail authorities, advocates, and people interested in promoting walking and biking across the region.

What: NoCo Bike & Ped provides leadership to the development of the NFR MPO Non-Motorized Plan and its implementation. Supports and promotes active transportation by making funding recommendations to TAC, forming regional collaborative efforts, sharing resources and education, and providing strategic outreach and education.

When: NoCo Bike & Ped has been meeting since 2014. The group is open to anyone that is interested in walking and bicycling issues in the Northern Front Range. Meetings are on the second Wednesday of the month from 10:00 a.m. to noon at the Windsor Recreation Center.

Where: The NFRMPO boundaries serve as our general catchment area but anyone is welcome to be a part of the group. The map on the next page shows the 13 municipalities and the portions of Weld and Larimer counties within the planning boundary.



How: NoCo Bike & Ped Collaborative has established the following goals and objectives:

Goal I: Coordination

Provide an open forum to coordinate, collaborate, and align regional bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure, best practices, and performance metrics.

Objective I: Share experiences and expertise, align efforts, and facilitate regional coordination of bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure.

Objective II: Regularly provide updates and evaluate progress toward the NFRMPO's Regional Non-Motorized Corridors (RNMCs) and other regional projects, coordinate and align future efforts, and learn from ongoing successes and failures.

Goal II: Promotion

Promote investment in bicycle and pedestrian transportation infrastructure.

Objective I: Partner to prioritize and elevate new bicycle and pedestrian projects.

Objective II: Represent regional bicycle and pedestrian interests to the NFRMPO and other transportation planning agencies.

Objective III: Advise the NFRMPO TAC and Planning Council during plan, project, and program development, and the biennial Call for Projects.

Goal III: Education

Share information and best practices that lead to improved safety and connectivity of bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure across the region.

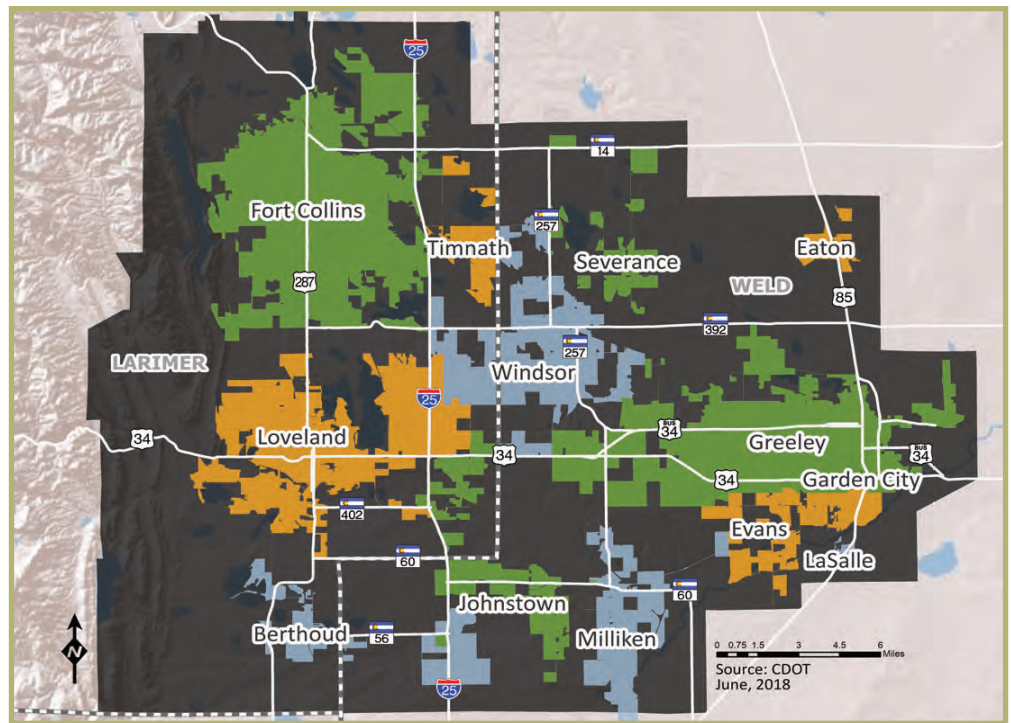
Objective I: Engage experts and share resources identifying the multi-faceted benefits investing in bicycle and pedestrian networks.

Objective II: Coordinate an event annually to engage community leaders and other important stakeholders.

Objective III: Provide expertise on bicycle and pedestrian projects, programs, and processes.

Objective IV: Share grant opportunities and coordinate applications among relevant agencies and organizations.

Objective V: Educate and encourage local, regional, and state leaders to actively support investments in regional bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure



Goal IV: Measure Growth

Measure growth of bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure and usage across the region.

Objective I: Develop standard methods to track the implementation of the NFRMPO's 2013 Regional Bicycle Plan and 2016 Non-Motorized Plan.

Objective II: Report progress to the NFRMPO TAC and Planning Council.

Why This Is Important

Benefits of Active Transportation

Active transportation is transforming the NFRMPO region. Its benefits are far-reaching and bring powerful outcomes to every type of community, including connecting people to jobs, creating opportunities for people to be physically active and outdoors, and revitalizing economies and communities. NFRMPO residents are demanding safe places to walk and bike on a broad scale. Re-prioritizing state and local policies in response to that demand will deliver an outsized return on investment by changing how Northern Colorado residents get around while facilitating vital communities and healthy people.



Image Source: Getty Images

Transportation Benefits:

Reduced traffic congestion, improved safety, calms traffic, preserves road infrastructure.

Economic Benefits:

Increased retail sales (restaurants, lodging, and stores), job creation, enhanced nearby property values.

Environmental Benefits:

Improved air quality and energy conservation.

Social Benefits: Quality of life benefits from living in communities with more open space and greenways, providing more opportunities for walking and bicycling.

Health Benefits: Bike lanes, sidewalks and trails promote healthy choices while impacting physical and psychological health.

Walking and bicycling infrastructure help make our towns and communities more accessible and liveable, promote tourism, reduce traffic congestion, help to improve air quality, and support people to be active and contribute to healthy communities.

Project Examples

Closing the Final Poudre Trail Gaps

By 2023, 45 continuous miles of paved trail will connect Bellvue to Greeley with the help of a \$2M Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) Connect Initiative grant received in late 2019. The grant will help fill the three remaining gaps in the Poudre River Trail, 4.7 total miles, between Fort Collins and Windsor. Work began fall 2019 and will be completed by 2023, shortly after CDOT constructs a trail underpass of I-25 as part of the Poudre River bridge replacement.

The Poudre River Trail is Regional Non-Motorized Corridor (RNMC) #6, as designated by the NFRMPO, and is part of the Colorado Front Range Trail, which will eventually connect New Mexico to Wyoming along Colorado's Front Range. The Poudre River Trail makes dozens of connections to other regional trails, local trails, parks, schools, residential and commercial areas, natural areas and parks, and other amenities. With booming growth expected to continue through around Timnath and Windsor, the geographic heart of the NFRMPO region, the Poudre River Trail's significance for transportation and recreation will increase significantly in the coming years. Partners estimate the trail draws over 300,000 visitors annually.

The successful 2019 GOCO Connect grant application was completed and submitted summer 2019 by Larimer County, the City of Fort Collins, and the Towns of Timnath and Windsor. The 2023 ribbon cutting on these new sections will mark the culmination of decades of planning, design, construction, maintenance, repair, and advocacy among countless partners.

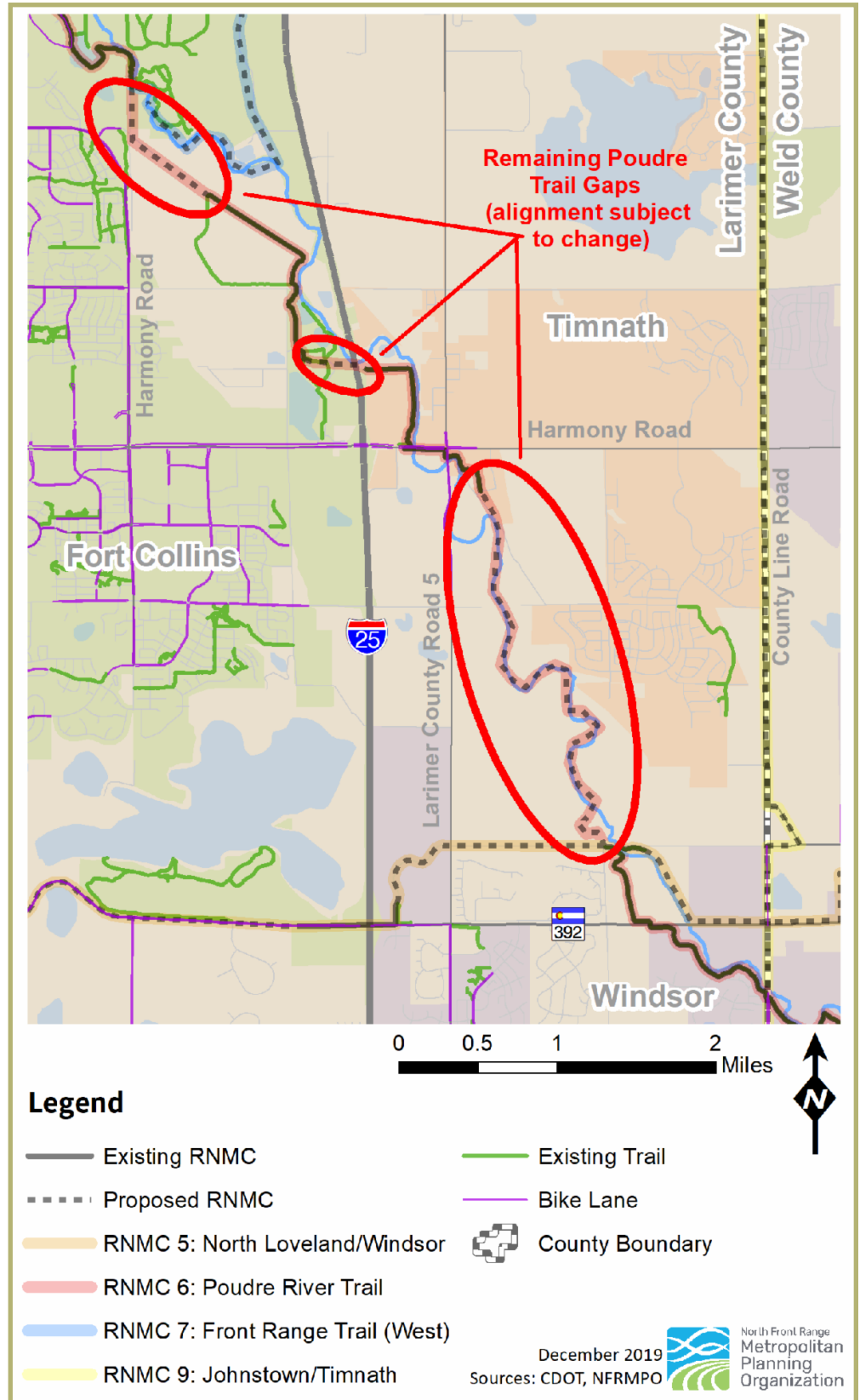




Image Source: NFRMPO Staff

A Walking Audit Around Old Town Berthoud

In the fall of 2019, the Northern Colorado (NoCo) Bicycle & Pedestrian Collaborative teamed up with leadership from the Town of Berthoud to plan a walking audit of the Old Town area. A walking audit is an experiential assessment of pedestrian infrastructure and amenities. It is a tool to gather information from community members on how supportive a street or neighborhood is for walking. Participants document what makes the route feel comfortable and what is missing to potentially inform planning and traffic safety decision. The team identified a 1.6-mile route with characteristics related to safe routes to schools and parks, historic and aging infrastructure, and recent notable infrastructure investments. On October 9, 2019, four groups set out on the route with the following goals in mind:

- Identify characteristics of the built environment that significantly contribute to or detract

from the pedestrian or bicyclist experience.

- Identify potential solutions and next steps to improve the pedestrian and bicyclist experience.

- Develop lessons learned throughout the walk audit to create an improved, replicable model to be used in other neighborhoods in Berthoud and regionwide.

The 21 participants included Berthoud Town leadership, staff, and stakeholders as well as other Northern Colorado representatives with experience in transportation planning, engineering, public health, and mobility advocacy and education. Participants took turns traversing the route on foot, in a wheelchair, and while pushing a stroller to highlight challenges experienced by pedestrians of all types and abilities.

Each group was asked to focus on a specific segment of the route, summarize their most notable

observations, and generate recommendations for next steps. Common themes emerged between participants and groups, and some “quick win” projects were identified. Many participants inventoried missing, heaving, or uneven sidewalks, missing curb ramps, and unsafe railroad crossings. Some found driver or pedestrian sight lines to be reduced at certain intersections such as the Mountain Avenue roundabout due to overgrown foliage. Others highlighted public art, shade, and wayfinding elements that made the experience more comfortable and inviting.

NoCo has since been working with Berthoud leadership to align feedback from the walking audit with Town initiatives, identify local champions to advance walkability, and create community-specific technical assistance resources. NoCo hopes to hold similar events in Loveland and Severance in 2020.

Long View Trail

[Long View Trail](#) is a joint project between the City of Loveland, the City of Fort Collins and Larimer County to create a regional trail from [Sunset Vista Natural Area](#) in Loveland to [Cathy Fromme Natural Area](#) in Fort Collins. The 4.4-mile long, 10-foot wide Long View Trail runs along the east side of North Taft Avenue in Loveland and South Shields Street in Fort Collins and provides a safe, detached, non-motorized alternative to traveling between the two cities. The Long View Trail passes through one City of Loveland natural area (Sunset Vista), three City of Fort Collins natural areas ([Colina Mariposa](#), [Hazaleus](#) and Cathy Fromme Prairie) and one Larimer County open space (Long View Open Space). The five public spaces, consisting of protected agricultural lands and wildlife habitat, offer trail users sweeping views of the foothills and mountains. For more information on the Long View Trail, go to <https://bit.ly/385XGiV>.

Contact Us

Whether you are a small- to mid-sized municipality with limited resources and personnel or a large municipality experienced in bike and pedestrian infrastructure, NoCo Bike & Ped will help you stay connected and informed.

North Front Range MPO

Ryan Dusil

rdusil@nfrmpo.org

(970) 422-1096

nfrmpo.org

Meetings

2nd Wednesday of the month

10 a.m. to noon

Windsor Recreation Center

All are welcome!



Image Source: Getty Images