



***On the Move:* Your Quarterly Transportation News & Updates**

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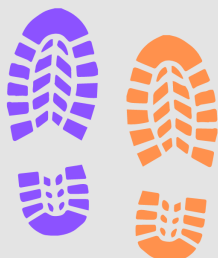
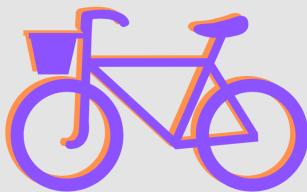
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Read on for the latest transportation updates along the North Front Range.

[Visit our Website](#)

NoCo Active Transportation Challenge

#SwitchATrip



In September, 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 the respondents stated they are now more likely to bike, bus, or walk more often.

To encourage participation, Northern Colorado agencies and businesses graciously donated several prizes that were distributed to participants randomly via a drawing. Greeley Evans Transit (GET) donated five transit day passes; City of Loveland Transit (COLT) donated a 10-ride pass; CDOT donated a Bustang round-trip voucher; Scheels donated two goodie bags, including gift cards and merchandise; the City of Loveland donated several gift cards to area businesses; and the NFRMPO donated bike light sets, hats, water bottles, and other items.

The NoCo Active Transportation Challenge received attention in various newsletters and on social media accounts and platforms, in the Greeley Tribune, the American Association

Project Spotlight: Milliken Pedestrian Enhancements



The Town of Milliken is excited to finish a project improving pedestrian access and connections at three locations along the Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) which runs through Town. New sidewalks were installed at the UPRR crossings of Broad Street, Alice Street, and Inez Boulevard/Weld County Road 46. The project, which was awarded a Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) grant by the Colorado Department of Transportation in 2017, was the result of needs identified during a Safe Routes to School project and a sidewalk gap analysis previously completed. The three locations improve connections between residential areas, schools, businesses, and Old Town.



New sidewalks at UPRR crossings at Alice Street in Milliken.

Image Credit: Town of Milliken

Northern Colorado is Staying Active During COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic began shifting daily routines across the State in early- to mid-March 2020. Since then, Northern Colorado has seen a significant uptick in usage across the region's trails, parks, natural areas, and open spaces. With closures, restricted access, or reduced service affecting things like public transit and indoor recreation facilities, people living in or visiting Larimer and Weld counties have chosen active transportation and outdoor recreation.



Photo taken on a Monday Mid-March showing how crowded recreational areas became, even on weekdays.

Image Credit: Larimer County Department of Natural Resources

From March through June 2020, bicycle and pedestrian usage data was collected at seven continuous count sites across Greeley, Severance, Windsor, Loveland, and unincorporated Larimer County. Collectively, these sites showed an average usage increase of 85 percent, compared with the same period in 2019. With the shift towards remote work, weekday usage during this period was more dispersed throughout the day, compared with the distinct morning, midday, and afternoon peaks seen in previous years.

Although bicycle and pedestrian usage dropped by more than 50 percent at count sites on the Colorado State University (CSU) main campus, the major paths still counted over 308,000 users between March and June 2020. Situated in the heart of Fort Collins, the campus has exhibited its ability to facilitate safe and socially distant options for recreation and active travel modes for many community members. Across an additional 21 count sites in Fort Collins, counts from the same time period were 41 percent higher in 2020 than in 2019, with some up as much as 200 percent.

In terms of access to these facilities, Larimer County Department of Natural Resources has seen daily parking permits increase 20 percent at open spaces and 51 percent at reservoir parks, compared with 2019. Fort Collins Natural Areas experienced a 94 percent increase in visits from March through May 2020, compared with the same period in 2019. These increases have stressed certain roads, parking lots, and trailheads to their limits, creating dangerous conflicts and pinch points where demand has exceeded capacity.

As businesses and other institutions have begun reopening in more recent months, usage has trended slightly back towards pre-COVID levels. From July to mid-September 2020, bicycle and pedestrian usage across 27 sites was up an average of 10 percent, compared with the same period in 2019. It is unclear the extent to which poor air quality days and unseasonably cold and snowy conditions factor into these trends. Nonetheless, with Northern Colorado projected to add another 362,000 residents by the year 2045, trends this year are highlighting the importance of maintaining, improving, and expanding active transportation and recreation options.

Note: The data presented above has been aggregated from various counting devices that may be calibrated differently. The data has been screened for obvious spikes that may be attributed to device malfunction, construction projects, or other abnormal events, which requires the removal of some actual counts. There are many other variables that can affect accuracy at a given location, such as wildlife, device vandalism, or obstructions within the device lens.

Great Western Trail Updates

Earlier this summer the Great Western Trail Authority selected a contractor to complete 5.5 miles of trail improvements from Cheyenne Ave in Eaton to Weld County Road 27 just east of Severance. Over the summer, crusher fines were laid down along the 10-foot-wide trail and the trestle bridge at Roulard Lake finishing completion. The planting of native grasses and signage installation will be finishing touches on this stretch of trail. The remaining 1.5 miles between Severance and Weld County Road 27 is expected to be completed in 2021.



Great Western Trail Bridge over Roulard Lake.

Image Credit: [Great Western Trail Authority](#)

For more information on the Great Western Trail visit their [website](#) and follow the [Great Western Trail Authority on Facebook](#) to receive all the latest updates on the project

Upcoming Transportation Plans in

Northern Colorado

2020 has been a busy year for transportation planning at the local and county level in the NFRMPO region. Five communities have transportation and comprehensive plans underway as of September 2020, while one community adopted its plan earlier this year. These plans are important because they provide data, priorities, and strategies that will be integrated into future NFRMPO plans and programs.

Under Development:



Severance is updating its [Comprehensive](#) and Transportation Plans, with expected Town Board approval in fall 2020. The Comprehensive Plan analyzes strategies to address the Town's current and expected growth, while the Transportation Plan will provide strategies addressing the Town's streets, regional travel, and transportation demand. Check the Town of Severance website for more information as it becomes available.



[Evans Master Plan](#) is an overarching effort by Evans to update the City's Comprehensive and Transportation Plans and will take approximately 18 to 24 months. The Master Plan will be a comprehensive update, including identifying transportation needs and strategies as well as land use needs and community service needs. The Transportation Master Plan was funded with Multimodal Options Funds.



The Weld County [Comprehensive](#) and [Transportation Plans](#) address a multimodal vision for one of the State's fastest growing counties. The Plans will be taken to the Weld County Board of County Commissioners for the approval process in fall 2020.



[Plan Berthoud](#) is an update to the Town's 2014 Comprehensive Plan and will consider the Town's needs to accommodate its current and expected growth. The Plan will be adopted in summer 2021.



[Connect Loveland](#) is an update to the City's Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan, Transit Master Plan, and the Transportation Plan. The Plan will look out to 2040 and is expected to be adopted this winter.



Greeley will be drafting a Transportation Master Plan using Multimodal Options Funds. The TMP will address transit, bicycle and pedestrian, and roadway needs. The Plan is expected to be adopted in fall 2021. Check the City of Greeley website for more information as it becomes available.

Recently Adopted Plans:



Windsor adopted the [2019 Windsor Transportation Master Plan](#) in March 2020. The Plan identified multimodal short-term and long-term strategies to address the Town's growth and development.

VanGo™ Still Going

It seems as if March is so distant, yet it just wasn't that long ago. At the first hints of COVID-19 the VanGo™ team met and created policy exceptions to best serve our participants. Met with many kind responses and thanks, it was our ability to act quickly and remain customer focused that has kept the program moving forward.

While neither 100% of routes nor participants are 'back-to-normal' the VanGo™ program does have vans operating daily, assisting people with their commutes, and helping to reduce traffic congestion and air pollution.



VanGo™ will remain customer-focused and push through the current times. We have been offering commuters an easy and affordable solution for nearly 30 years. People still need to get to work and we are still here and will remain here to help them do just that. The program has added new participants for two months straight now; a sign of businesses beginning to bring people back to the office and a sign that the program is needed and respected. We assume, as times goes, to welcome back more and more participants—both new and current—and await seeing our entire fleet return to putting rubber to the road.

NFRMPO Awards Additional Funding to Transportation Projects

On October 1st, the NFRMPO Planning Council approved additional awards of federal funding to seven projects that had previously been selected for funding. A total of \$4.8M was awarded, including:

- \$1.6M to two bus projects for Greeley-Evans Transit (GET)
- \$1.1M to two bus projects for City of Loveland Transit (COLT)
- \$491K to Fort Collins' *Timberline Road Corridor Improvements* project
- \$176K to Loveland's *US34 Widening – Boise Avenue to I-25* project
- \$1.4M to Greeley's *83rd Avenue Roadway Improvements* project



The award for Greeley-Evans Transit includes \$551K in federal funds to replace local match payments with the use of toll credits provided by the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT). More information on toll credits is available at <https://www.codot.gov/news/2020/june-2020/cdot-offers-local-communities-flexibility-to-continue-projects>.

NFR Projects in CDOT's 10-Year Vision

CDOT's *Statewide Transportation Plan*, adopted in August 2020 by the Colorado Transportation Commission (TC), identifies transportation priorities across the state out to 2045. For the North Front Range Region, CDOT relies upon the NFRMPO's *2045 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)* and directly incorporates the entirety of NFRMPO's *2045 RTP* into the *Statewide Plan*.

In addition, the *Statewide Plan* incorporates the projects in CDOT's 10-Year Vision, also known as the 10-Year Strategic Project Pipeline, which was approved by the TC in April 2020. The 10-Year Vision presents a comprehensive picture of the State's highest priorities for transportation. The Vision is divided into two sets of projects: those prioritized and ready for funding in the next four years and an additional list of projects for years 5-10 set to move forward as funding becomes available.

Within the North Front Range region, there are seven projects included in years 5-10 of CDOT's 10-Year Vision:

- North I-25 Transit Service between Fort Collins and Cheyenne (Project ID 1802)
- North I-25 Express Lanes from SH 56 to SH 66 (Project ID 2603)
- I-25 and SH 14 Interchange Improvements (Project ID 2604)
- Transit Service between Loveland and Greeley (Project ID 2605)
- Mobility Hubs in CDOT Region 4 (Project ID 2606)
- Bustang Service in Region 4 (Project ID 2690)
- US 85 and US 34 Interchange (Project ID 2695)

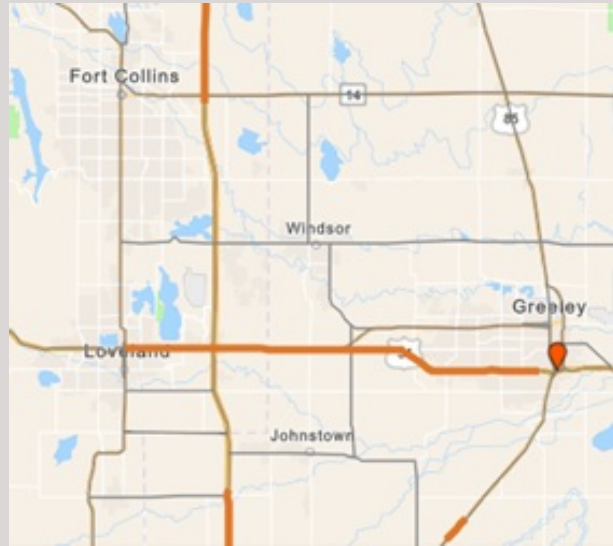


Image Credit: [CDOT](#)

Information on each project, such as location, project cost, and benefits if funded are available in the [Region 4 Fact Sheet](#). You can also explore CDOT's interactive project map at <https://www.codot.gov/programs/your-transportation-priorities/unfunded-projects>.

I-25 North Express Lanes Project Celebrates Progress

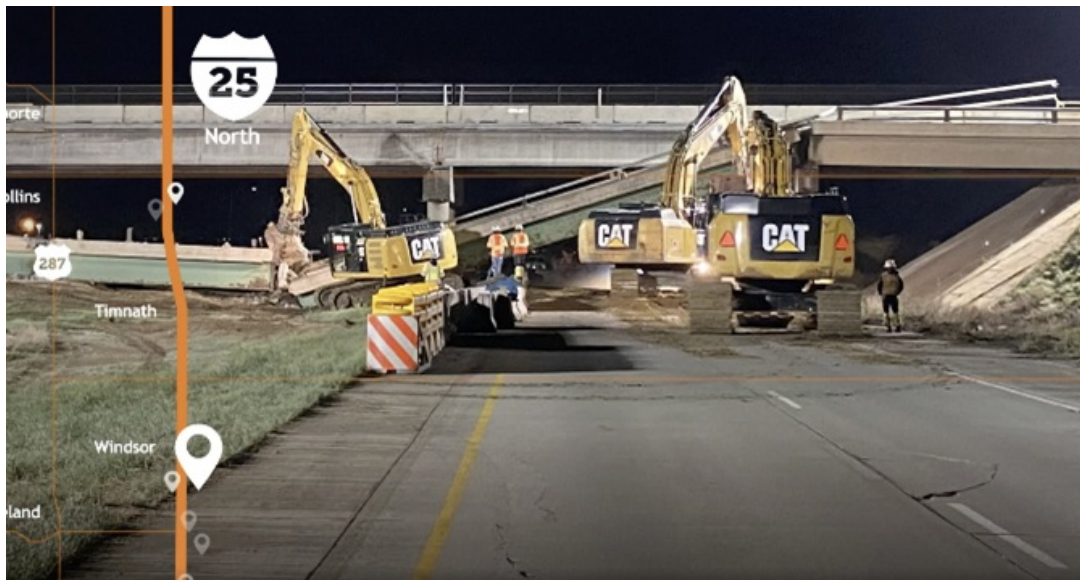


Image Credit: [CDOT](#)

As Coloradans across the state find ways to make the most of summer, there's no time off for crews on the I-25 North Express Lanes Project. Crews are taking advantage of the warm weather and long days to continue highway improvements and build Express Lanes between Berthoud and Fort Collins.

Right now, 25 crews are working in 10 different areas of the North I-25 corridor and have already completed many major milestones. In lieu of outreach events this summer due to

COVID-19, the project team produced this video to highlight the progress.
The video is here: https://youtu.be/KTLhj_HIYMg

Read full update including what has been completed and what is still to come in the project [here](#).

Get Involved

See what's happening at the NFRMPO and join us virtually 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>.



Due to the current circumstances regarding COVID-19 many meetings are being conducted virtually. Please check our [Events Calendar](#) for the most up to date information.

Upcoming Events

October 1, 2020
Planning Council

October 7, 2020
I-25 Coalition Meeting

October 14, 2020
NoCo Bike & Ped Collaborative

October 21, 2020
Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)

October 27, 2020
Weld County Mobility Committee (WCMC)

November 26-29, 2020
Thanksgiving Weekend -
NFRMPO Office Closed

December 24-27, 2020
Christmas Weekend -
NFRMPO Office Closed

January 1-3, 2021
New Years Weekend -
NFRMPO Office Closed

Recurring Meetings

North I-25 Coalition meets the first Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. Meetings are currently being held virtually.

NFRMPO Council meets the first Thursday of each month at 6:00 p.m. Meetings are currently being held virtually.

NoCo Bike and Ped Collaborative meets the second Wednesday of each month at 10:00 am. Meetings are currently being held virtually.

Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meets the third Wednesday of each month at 1:00 p.m. Meetings are currently being held virtually.

Mobility and Access Priority Group (formerly the Senior Transportation Coalition) meets the first Thursday every other month (August) at 1:30 p.m. Meetings are currently being held virtually.

Larimer County Mobility Committee (LCMC) meets the third Thursday every other month (November) at 1:30 p.m. Meetings are currently being held virtually.

Weld County Mobility Committee (WCMC) meets the fourth Tuesday every other month (October & December) at 1:30 p.m. Meetings are currently being held virtually.