2

Section 2

Socio-Economic Profile

A. Population

The population within the North Front Range has grown rapidly since the 1980s. As shown in **Table 2-13**, each jurisdiction has outpaced the State's annual growth rate between 1980 and 2017, with the exception of LaSalle. The fastest growing communities (Severance, Timnath, Johnstown, Windsor, and Milliken) are all located along major transportation corridors. These communities are expected to see continued rapid growth given their access to the I-25 corridor and access to agricultural and manufacturing jobs. Between 1980 and 2017, Weld County grew at a slightly higher rate compared to Larimer County, owing largely to the smaller base-year population.

Table 2-13: Historical Population Trends by Annual Growth Rate 1980-2017

	1980	1990	2000	2010	2017	Growth Rate
Severance	102	106	672	3,204	4,239	10.6%
Timnath	185	190	286	629	3,312	8.1%
Johnstown	1,535	1,579	4,459	9,987	15,825	6.5%
Windsor	4,277	5,062	10,256	18,768	26,319	5.0%
Milliken	1,506	1,605	3,040	5,634	6,913	4.2%
Evans	5,063	5,876	10,448	18,651	20,975	3.9%
Berthoud	2,362	2,990	5005	5,127	6,828	2.9%
Eaton	1,932	1,959	2783	4,384	5,197	2.7%
Loveland	30,215	37,357	51,893	67,033	76,797	2.6%
Fort Collins	65,092	87,491	12,0236	144,888	164,810	2.5%
Garden City	123	199	346	235	246	1.9%
Greeley	53,006	60,454	78,559	93,262	104,947	1.9%
LaSalle	1,929	1,803	1,852	1,967	2,324	0.5%
Weld County	123,438	131,821	183,076	254,230	304,435	2.5%
Larimer County	149,184	186,136	253,088	300,532	343,853	2.3%
Colorado	2,889,964	3,294,394	4,301,261	5,029,316	5,607,154	1.8%

Source: DOLA County and Municipal Population Timeseries

An Aging Population

The population within the North Front Range has been aging. **Figure 2-24** and **Figure 2-25** show the age distributions for Larimer County and Weld County, respectively. Both show a large share of population in the 55 to 65 year old cohort in 2017 shifted from the 30 to 40 year old cohort in 1990. This fundamental change in the region's population composition will require a close examination of the transportation services available for older adults. The older adult population is explored in greater detail in the **Environmental Justice** section of this Chapter.

Compared to Weld County, Larimer County has a much larger percentage of its population in the 20 to 24 year old cohort, likely owing to Colorado

State University (CSU) and several community and technical colleges in the County. Weld County retains a much larger portion of its population in the 30 to 45 year old cohort, likely due to lower home values in Weld County.
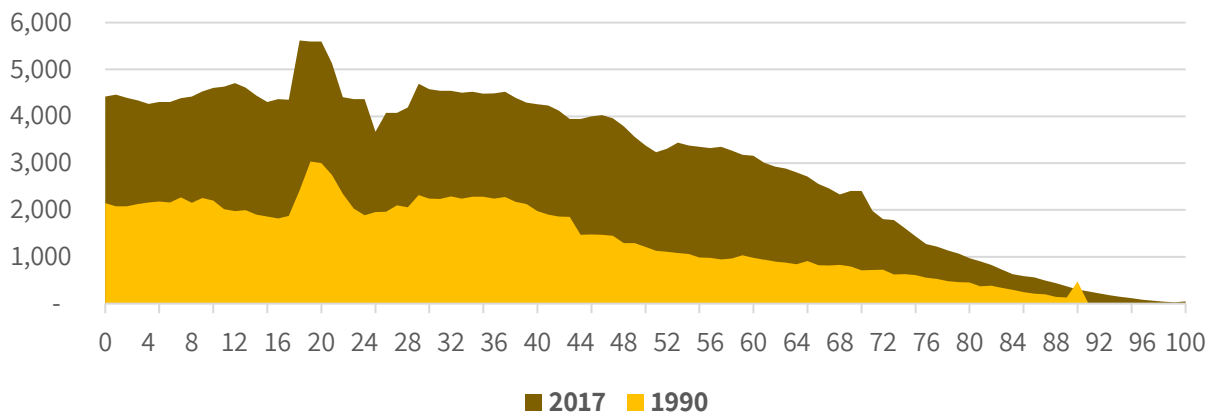
Attainable housing for new and young families may also explain the larger 0 to 20 year old cohort in Weld County, compared to Larimer County.

Figure 2-24: Larimer County Age Distribution for 1990 and 2017
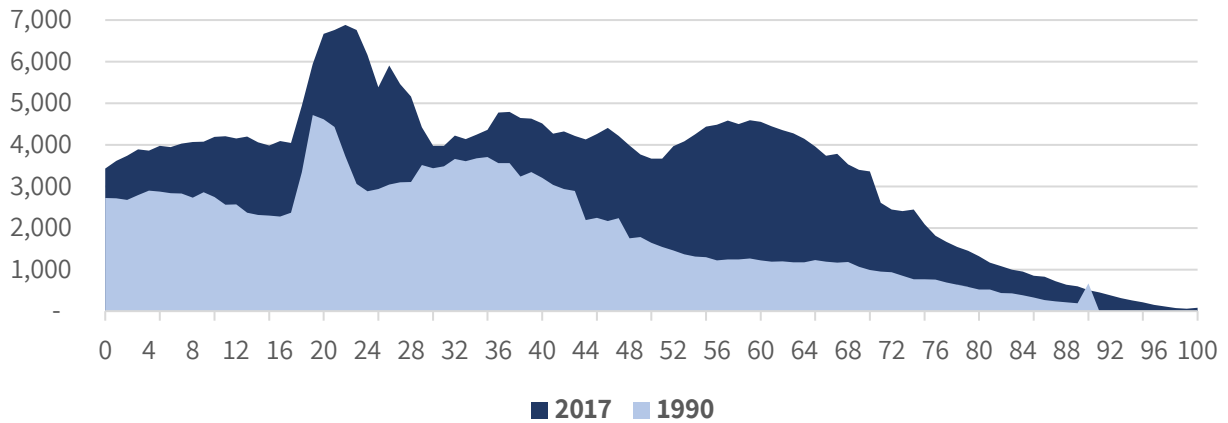
Source: DOLA Single Year of Age Data

Figure 2-25: Weld County Age Distribution for 1990 and 2017

Source: DOLA Single Year of Age Data

Racial and Ethnic Diversity

Table 2-14 shows the percentage of the population for Larimer and Weld counties by race, regardless of ethnicity. In 2017, 91 percent of Larimer County residents and 88 percent of Weld County residents were White. Despite this overwhelming majority, the population has diversified over the past two decades, a trend expected to continue. In 2017, approximately 11.2 percent 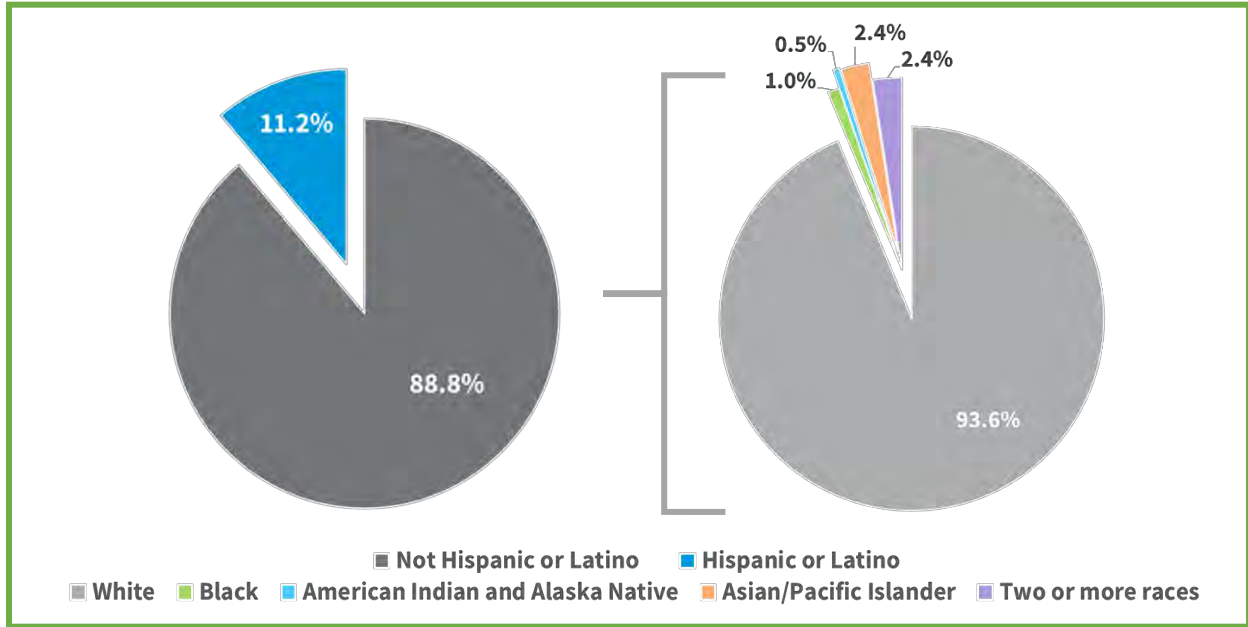of Larimer County's population was Hispanic or Latino, whereas 29 percent of the Weld County population was Hispanic or Latino, as shown in **Figure 2-26** and **Figure 2-27** respectively. Of the non-Hispanic portion of the population in both counties, only 6.4 percent were non-Hispanic, non-White. Minority populations are discussed in greater detail in the **Environmental Justice** section of this Chapter.

Table 2-14: Weld and Larimer County Population by Race (2017)

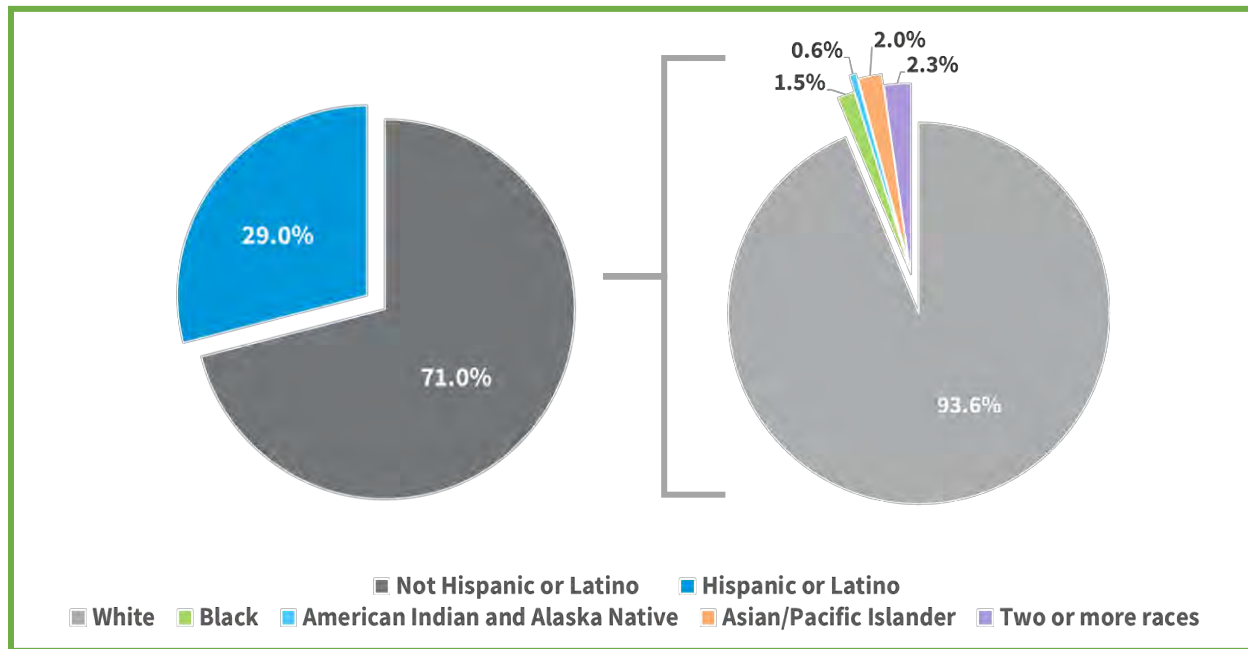|	Larimer County		Weld County	
	Estimate	**Percent**	**Estimate**	**Percent**
Total	330,976	*****	285,729	*****
White	302,008	91.2%	253,742	88.8%
Black or African American	3,053	0.9%	3,199	1.1%
American Indian/Alaska Native	2,130	0.6%	2,070	0.7%
Asian	6,797	2.1%	3,880	1.4%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	299	0.1%	259	0.1%
Some other race	6,251	1.9%	14,835	5.2%
Two or more races	10,438	3.2%	7,744	2.7%

Source: 2013-2017 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Figure 2-26: Larimer County Population by Hispanic/Latino and by Race

11.2%
88.8%
0.5%
2.4%
1.0%
2.4%
93.6%

■ Not Hispanic or Latino   ■ Hispanic or Latino
■ White   ■ Black   ■ American Indian and Alaska Native   ■ Asian/Pacific Islander   ■ Two or more races

Source: 2013-2017 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Figure 2-27: Weld County Population by Hispanic/Latino and by Race

29.0%
71.0%
0.6%
2.0%
1.5%
2.3%
93.6%

■ Not Hispanic or Latino   ■ Hispanic or Latino
■ White   ■ Black   ■ American Indian and Alaska Native   ■ Asian/Pacific Islander   ■ Two or more races

Source: 2013-2017 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

B. Economic Trends

Figure 2-28 shows the top 15 sectors of employment for Weld and Larimer counties. Both counties are dominated by the government sector, though the retail, heath services, manufacturing, construction, and accommodation and food services sectors make up a large portion of remaining jobs between the two counties. While the counties share several similarities, there are many economic differences. Larimer County has a large portion of professional, scientific and technical services, while some of Weld County's top sectors include mining and agriculture. Even some of the counties' shared sectors, such as manufacturing break down into much different subsectors. While the majority of manufacturing jobs in Larimer County are computers and electrical equipment, the majority of manufacturing jobs in Weld County are related to food and beverage products.

### Figure 2-28: Top 15 Employment Sectors by County in 2017
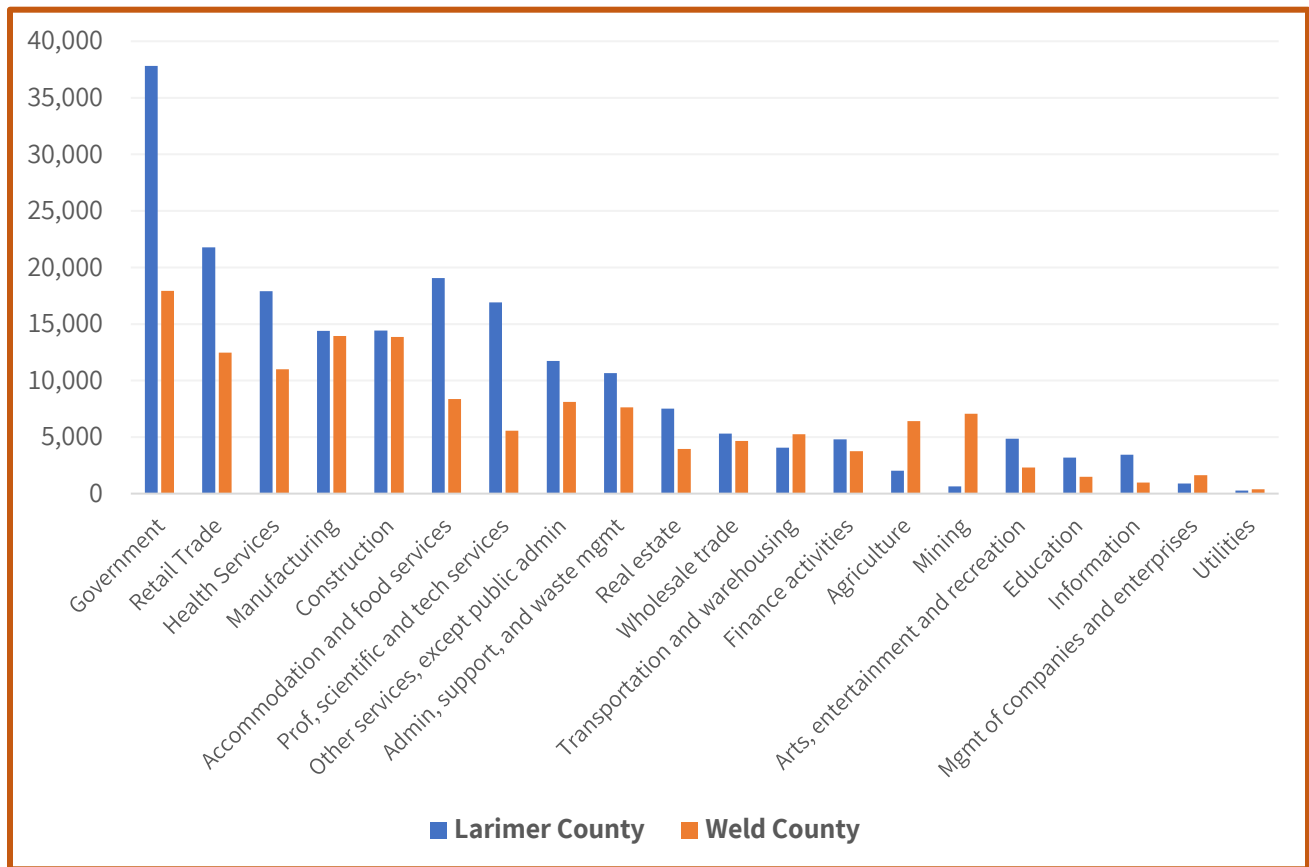
Source: DOLA State Demography Office Data Page, Jobs by Sector

As shown in **Figure 2-29**, the majority of employment remains centralized around major transportation corridors including I-25, US287, US34, US85, and SH14. Locations of major employment include downtown areas, the Harmony corridor, Windsor Industrial Park, and the US34/I-25 intersection. Major employers include Woodward Inc, UC Health Medical Center of the Rockies, McKee Medical Center, Northern Colorado Medical Center, CSU, University of Northern Colorado (UNC), Aims Community College, and Front Range Community College (FRCC). The three largest employers in the region are the University of Colorado Health, CSU, and JBS Swift and Company. Together, these three organizations provide nearly 20,000 jobs within the North Front Range.

Figure 2-29: Employment Density, 2015
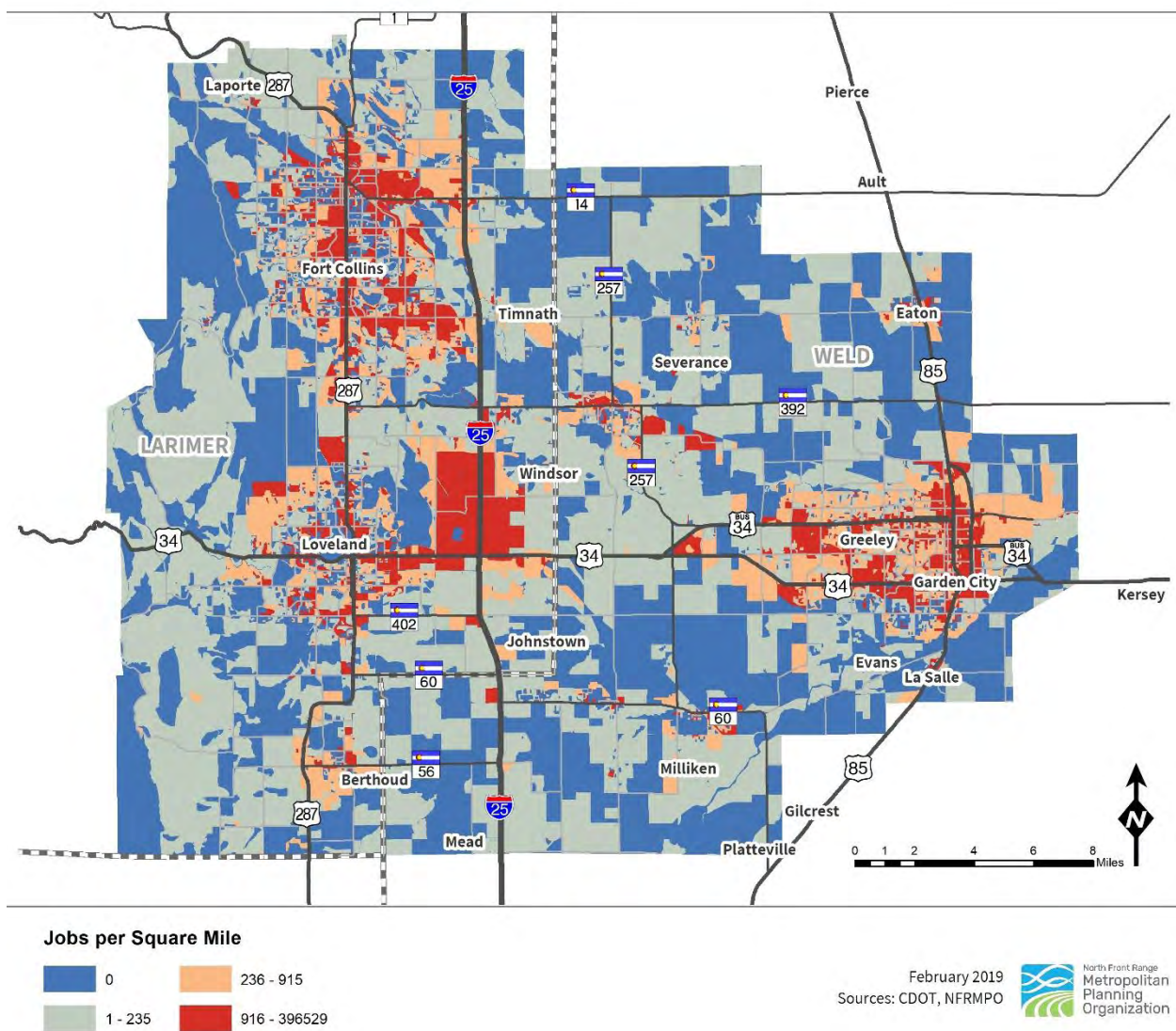
Source: 2015 Forecast, 2010 Base Year UrbanCanvas Land Use Allocation Model

C. Environmental Justice

Executive Order 12898, *Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice (EJ) in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations (1994),* was enacted to reinforce Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. The Civil Rights Act states that, "no person in the United States shall, on grounds of race, color, or national origin be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance." **Executive Order 12898** also states, "each Federal agency shall make achieving environmental justice part of its mission by identifying and addressing, as appropriate, disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of its programs, policies, and activities on minority populations and low-income populations."

In May 2012, DOT issued an updated internal Order, *Actions to Address EJ in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations (DOT Order)*. The DOT Order updates the Department's original EJ Order, which was published April 15, 1997. The DOT Order continues to be a key component of the USDOT's strategy to promote the principles of EJ in all DOT programs, policies, and activities.

Environmental Justice Analysis

Though **Executive Order 12898** defines environmental justice (EJ) populations as minority and low-income communities, the NFRMPO has expanded the definition to include additional populations, including persons with Limited English Proficiency (LEP), persons with disabilities, persons over the age of 60, and zero-car households. An expanded analysis including these additional groups will be presented in the

NFRMPO's Environmental Justice Plan currently under development. The following sections provide an overview of the traditional and expanded EJ populations within the NFRMPO Planning Region.

An EJ analysis is completed for all location-specific individual projects included in or amended into the TIP and RTP. If a project is located in, within ¼ mile of, or adjacent to an area with a substantial EJ population, it is considered to be an EJ project. If it does not, it is considered to be Non-EJ. The benefits and burdens of each project must be examined individually, regardless of its EJ status. An overall analysis on projects in the TIP determines if it meets EJ requirements. The analysis process follows three guiding principles outlined in *DOT Order 5610.2(a)*:

1. To avoid, minimize, or mitigate disproportionately high and adverse human health and environmental effects, including social and economic effects, on minority and low-income populations in relation to transportation improvements.
2. To ensure the full and fair participation by all potentially affected communities in the transportation decision-making process.
3. To prevent the denial of, reduction in, or significant delay in the receipt of benefits by minority and low-income populations.

Under this DOT Order, an adverse effect means:

- Bodily impairment, infirmity, illness, or death;
- Air, noise, and water pollution and soil contamination;

- Destruction or disruption of man-made or natural resources;
- Destruction or diminution of aesthetic values;
- Destruction or disruption of community cohesion or a community's economic vitality;
- Destruction or disruption of the availability of public and private facilities and services;
- Vibration;
- Adverse employment effects;
- Displacement of persons, businesses, farms, or non-profit organizations;
- Increased traffic congestion, isolation, exclusion, or separation of individuals within a given community or from the broader community;
- Denial of, reduction in, or significant delay in the receipt of benefits of USDOT programs, policies, or activities.

An EJ analysis also includes a determination of whether the activity will result in a "disproportionately high and adverse effect on human health or the environment," defined in *DOT Order 5610.2(a)* as:

- Being predominately borne by a minority population and/or low-income population, or
- Suffered by the minority population and/or low-income population and is appreciably more severe or greater in magnitude than the adverse effect that will be suffered by the non-minority population and/or non-low-income populations.

All EJ analysis procedures are completed by NFRMPO staff.

Table 2-15 lists the benefits and burdens reviewed for EJ or Non-EJ projects. **Chapter 3, Section 5** includes an overall EJ analysis of regionally significant projects included in the FY2020-2023 TIP and 2045 RTP. This process may be re-evaluated as part of the NFRMPO's upcoming Environmental Justice Plan.

Table 2-15: Environmental Justice Benefits and Burdens

Benefits	Decrease in travel time
	Improved air quality
	Expanded employment opportunities
	Better access to transit options and alternative modes of transportation (walking and bicycling)
Burdens	Bodily impairment, infirmity, illness, or death
	Air, noise, and water pollution, and soil contamination
	Destruction or disruption of man-made or natural resources, aesthetic values, or availability of public and private facilities and services
	Adverse impacts on community cohesion or economic vitality
	Noise and vibration
	Increased traffic congestion, isolation, exclusion, or separation

Minority and Low Income

The EJ Analysis currently looks at low-income and minority populations as shown in **Figure 2-30**. EJ populations – block groups which have a higher percent population of low-income and/or minority populations than the county or regional average – are located across the region.
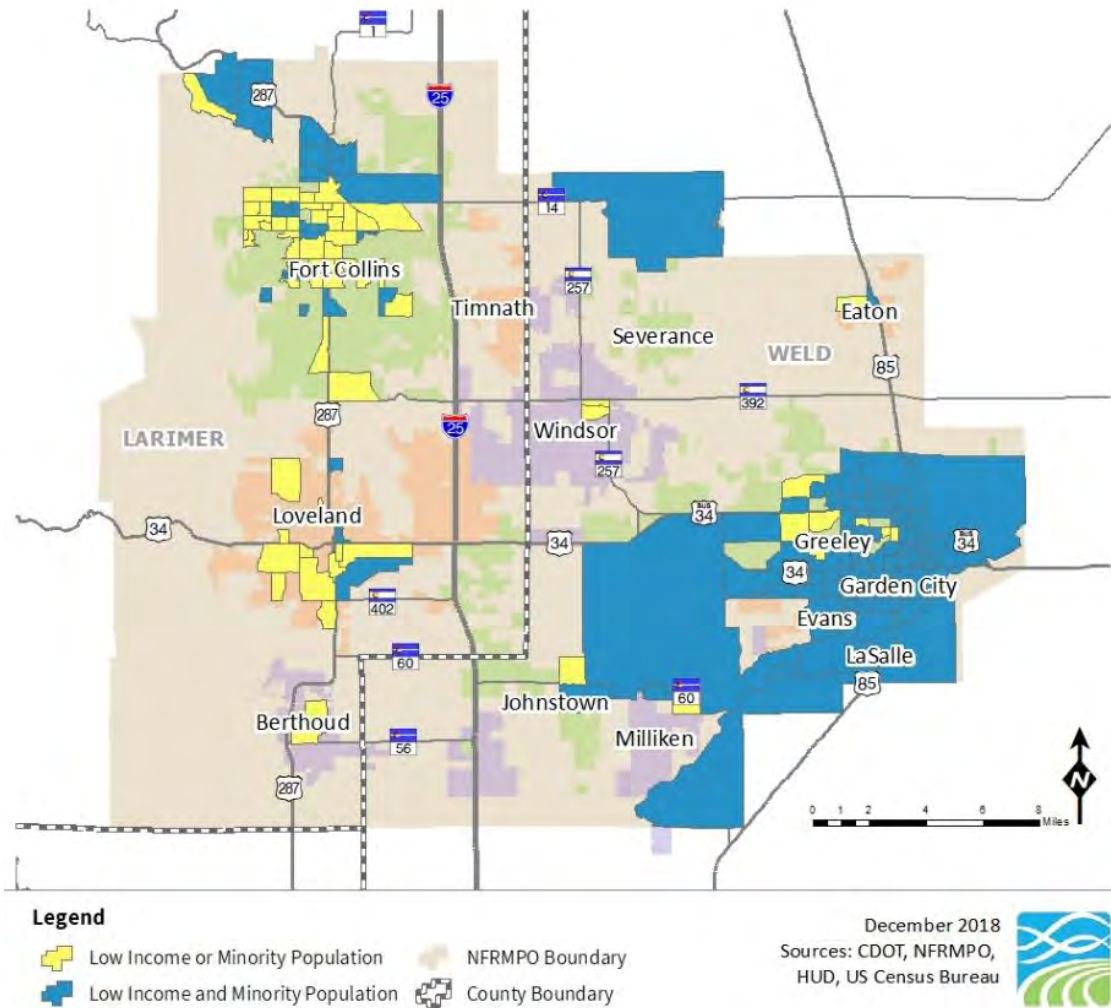
NFRMPO staff used the CDOT National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) methodology and FY2018 US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) county-specific Income thresholds by household size, to determine low-income thresholds for Larimer and Weld counties, respectively. Data for each block group is compared to the county average based on its average household size. If the block group has a higher percentage than the county threshold for that household size, it is considered to have an EJ population.

Minority status is based on 2013-2017 American Community Survey (ACS) data based on reported race and ethnicity. The minority population includes all persons who do not identify as white non-Hispanic. Data for each block group is compared to the regional average. If the block group has a higher percentage than the regional average, it is considered to have an EJ population.

Areas in Fort Collins with higher low income and/or minority populations are clustered near CSU, and north and central Fort Collins. CSU maintains a highly diverse student group. Northeast Fort Collins is the location of the historic Tres Colonias neighborhoods. Greeley, Evans, and LaSalle are home to JBS, agricultural, and oil and gas jobs, which often attract immigrants. The area north of Timnath and Severance is predominantly agricultural, attracting seasonal migrants.

Figure 2-30: Low Income and Minority Populations in the NFRMPO Region

Legend

- Low Income or Minority Population
- Low Income and Minority Population
- NFRMPO Boundary
- County Boundary

December 2018
Sources: CDOT, NFRMPO,
HUD, US Census Bureau

Limited English Proficiency (LEP)

LEP populations are defined by the US Census as individuals who do not speak English as their primary language and who have a limited ability to read, speak, write, or understand English. *Executive Order 13166, Improving Access to Services for Persons with Limited English Proficiency*, requires recipients of federal funds to examine the services they provide and identify any need for services to LEP populations. LEP languages spoken in the region include Spanish, Asian Languages, African Languages, Arabic, and other languages. **Table 2-16** shows the LEP language categories defined by the ACS, the population of the NFRMPO region who speak the language, and the percent of the regional population. The region maintains a relatively low LEP average (4.53 percent) as a proportion of its overall population. **Table 2-17** shows the Larimer and Weld counties breakdown of LEP populations within the North Front Range.

Table 2-16: LEP Languages and Population

	Speak Languages other than English	Percent of Population
Spanish	42,840	10.9%
Asian Languages	5,452	1.4%
Other Indo-European Languages	5,638	1.4%
Other Languages	2,210	0.6%
Total	**56,140**	**14.30%**

Source: 2013-2017 ACS 5-Year Estimates

Table 2-17: Percent of Population with LEP by Community

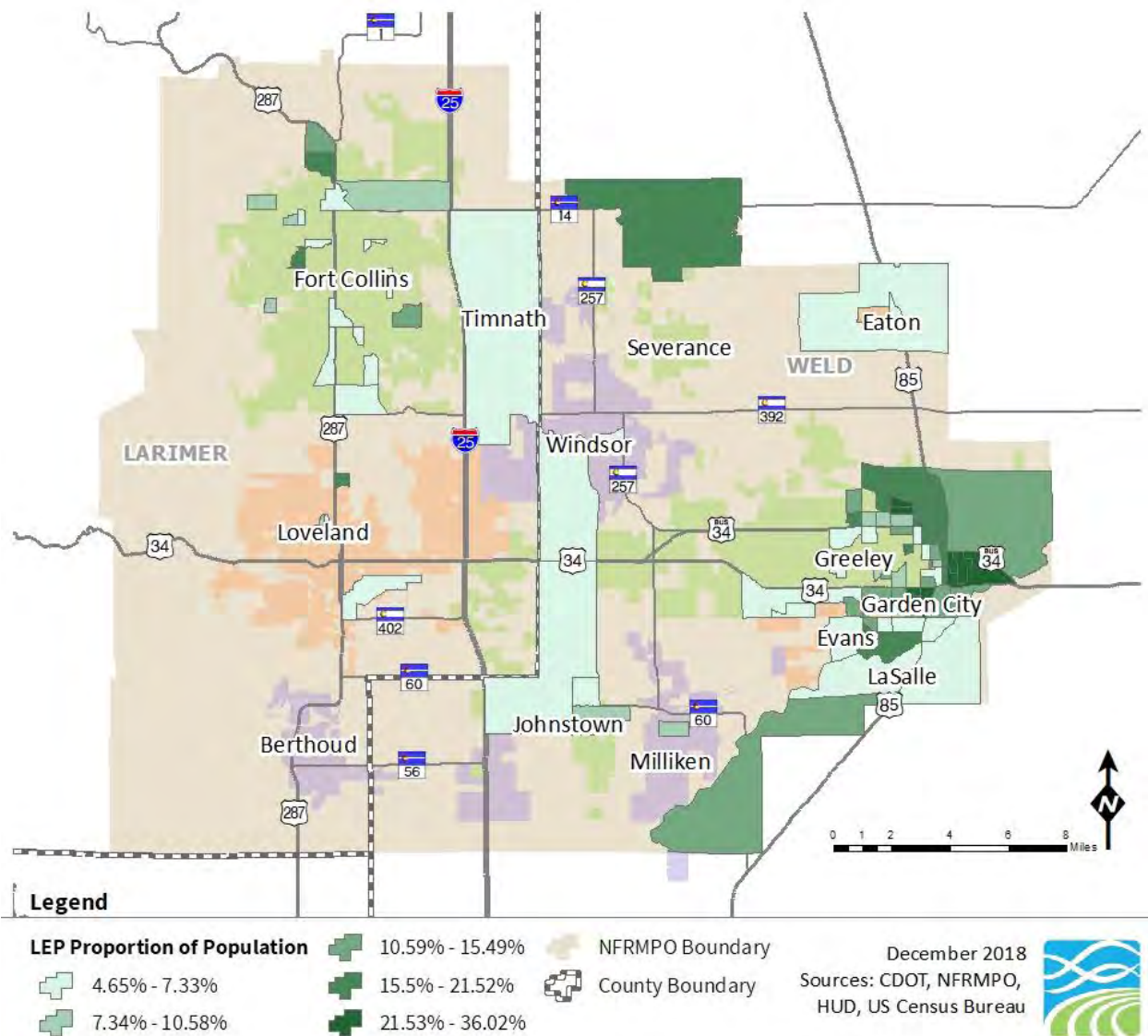| Geography	Total Pop. five years +	English Speakers Only	Pop. Speaking Language Other than English	LEP Population	% LEP Population
Larimer County	284,828	257,737	26,165	7,151	2.5%
Weld County	172,600	135,701	37,465	13,468	7.8%
NFRMPO Region	**457,128**	**393,438**	**63,630**	**20,319**	**4.5%**

Source: 2013-2017 ACS 5-Year Estimates
*Note: "Data is based on the Block Groups that align with the NFRMPO boundary, not the full counties.

Census block groups with a moderate to high percentage of residents who are proficient in another language, but speak English "less than very well," are considered supplemental EJ populations for the 2045 RTP. **Figure 2-31** shows the Census block groups with higher LEP proportions as compared to the entire region. Some block groups are slightly over the regional average like in Timnath, while other block groups have nearly a third of their population identified as LEP.

Figure 2-31: Proportional LEP Map

Legend

LEP Proportion of Population

- 4.65% - 7.33%
- 7.34% - 10.58%
- 10.59% - 15.49%
- 15.5% - 21.52%
- 21.53% - 36.02%

NFRMPO Boundary

County Boundary

December 2018
Sources: CDOT, NFRMPO,
HUD, US Census Bureau

Older Adult Population

For a variety of reasons, older adults will comprise an increasing proportion of the region's population. Trends include the "baby boomer" population (individuals born between 1946 and 1964) hitting retirement age, migration, medical breakthroughs allowing people to live longer, and the desire to "age in place."

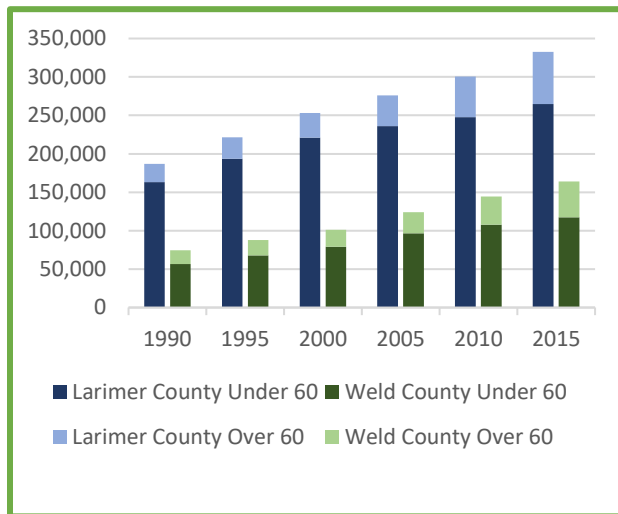Estimates from the Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) between 1990 and 2015 show steep growth in the population over 60 living in Larimer and Weld counties. Between 1990 and 2015, the older adult population in Larimer and Weld counties grew by more than 173 percent. As shown in **Figure 2-32**, the proportion of adults over 60 has increased for both counties.

In 1990, 12.7 percent of Larimer County residents and 24.1 percent of Weld County residents were over the age of 60. By 2015, the percent of

Larimer County residents over 60 had increased to 20.5 percent and Weld County residents to 28.3 percent. Overall, the proportion of adults over 60 to the total population for the region has increased from 16.0 percent to 23.1 percent between 1990 and 2015.

The municipal breakdown of percent of the total population over the age of 60 is shown in **Table 2-18**. Municipalities range between 9.4 percent and 28.7 percent for percent of population over the age of 60.

Figure 2-32. Larimer and Weld County Older Adult Population Trends (1990-2015)

Source: DOLA, 2019

Table 2-18. Percent Older Adult Population

Community	Over 60	
	Percent	Actual
Garden City	28.7%	66
Loveland	24.6%	18,226
Eaton	20.9%	1,029
Windsor	19.6%	4,576
LaSalle	19.2%	529
Johnstown	18.9%	2,719
Berthoud	18.8%	1,129
Timnath	16.8%	408
Greeley	16.7%	16,802
Fort Collins	14.4%	22,957
Severance	12.7%	485
Milliken	12.2%	774
Evans	9.4%	1,868
Total	**17.1%**	**71,568**

Source: 2013-2017 ACS 5-Year Estimates
*Note: "Total" reflects sum of municipalities listed and does not include unincorporated Larimer and Weld Counties.

As shown in **Figure 2-33**, Larimer County residents aged 60 and above grew by 185 percent between 1990 and 2015. The 80 and above age group grew by 169 percent and the 75-79 age group also grew by 169 percent. The 60-64 and 65-69 age categories grew at 247 percent and 190 percent, respectively. As shown in **Figure 2-34**, Weld County residents over the age of 60 more than doubled between 1990 and 2015, growing by 158 percent. Like Larimer County, Weld County residents aged 60-64 grew at the highest rate, increasing by 206 percent. Residents aged 65-69 grew by 179 percent and those aged 70-74 increased by 137 percent. Residents aged 75-79 and 80+ grew by 110.8 and 125 percent, respectively.

Figure 2-33: Larimer County Population Over 60 (1990-2015)
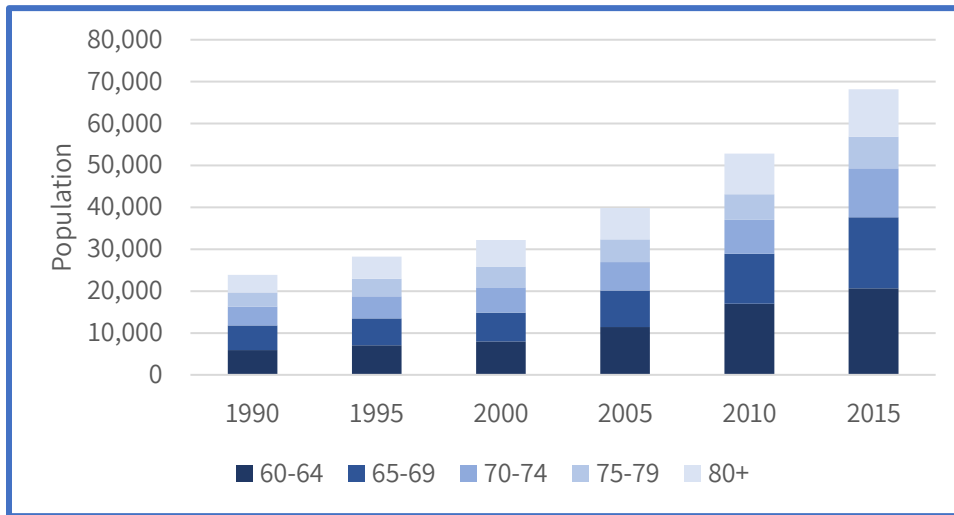
Source: DOLA, 2019

Figure 2-34: Weld County Population Over 60 (1990-2015)
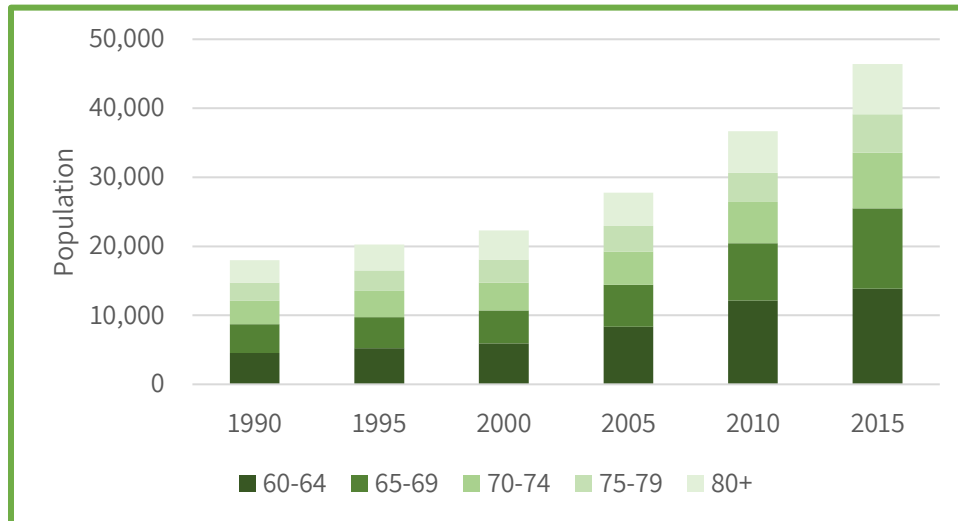
Source: DOLA, 2019

Population with Disabilities

Census tracts with a moderate to high percentage of residents who are disabled are considered to be supplemental EJ populations within the region. Census tracts were selected as the unit of analysis due to limited data availability at smaller geographies.

The ACS defines the following disabilities:

- **Hearing difficulty**: defined as deafness or serious difficulty hearing;
- **Vision difficulty**: defined as blind or serious difficulty seeing;
- **Cognitive difficulty**: defined as having difficulty remembering, concentrating, or making decisions due to a physical, mental, or emotional problem;

- **Ambulatory difficulty**: defined as difficulty walking or climbing stairs;
- **Self-care difficulty**: defined as difficulty bathing or dressing; and
- **Independent living difficulty**: defined as difficulty doing errands alone due to a physical, mental, or emotional problem.

Table 2-19 shows the population with a disability under the age of 65 for each municipality and the percent of the municipality's population. Disabled populations face different transportation and mobility challenges which may increase the need for safety improvements in the roadway and pedestrian system, increased transit, paratransit, and demand-response transportation systems, and a higher need for mobility coordination efforts throughout the region. Additional information about existing and potential future transportation services are discussed in the 2045 RTE.

Table 2-19: Percent of Population with a Disability Rolling Average (2013-2017)

Community	Percent with a Disability	Population with a Disability	Total Population
Berthoud	12.7%	764	6,018
Eaton	12.7%	625	4,931
Evans	8.7%	1,741	19,967
Fort Collins	8.0%	12,654	159,150
Garden City	20.4%	47	230
Greeley	11.3%	11,128	100,760
Johnstown	7.4%	1,066	14,386
LaSalle	10.9%	299	2,754
Loveland	12.0%	8,856	74,125
Milliken	7.0%	446	6,362
Severance	7.0%	266	3,816
Timnath	5.2%	126	2,422
Windsor	6.8%	1,574	23,386
Total	**9.5%**	**39,592**	**418,307**

Source: 2013-2017 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates
*Note: "Total" reflects sum of municipalities listed and does not include unincorporated Larimer and Weld Counties.

Zero-Car Households

Zero-car households are self-reported households which do not currently have a vehicle. It does not acknowledge access to bicycles, work vehicles, or other autos. A plurality of residents in the NFRMPO region have access to two cars, while 3.5 percent of the population have no access to vehicles. This should be taken into consideration in planning transportation options and when the NFRMPO plans outreach events in Fort Collins, Garden City, Greeley, LaSalle, and Loveland. These five communities have the highest number of residents with no access to a vehicle. A breakdown of the number of vehicles available per household in each community is shown in **Table 2-20**.

Table 2-20: Number of Vehicles Available

Community	Number of Vehicles Available			
	0	1	2	3 or more
Berthoud	0.9%	26.3%	42.2%	30.6%
Eaton	2.5%	25.1%	46.5%	25.9%
Evans	3.4%	26.7%	41.6%	28.4%
Fort Collins	4.8%	29.8%	42.4%	23.0%
Garden City	10.0%	50.8%	33.1%	6.2%
Greeley	6.3%	30.7%	37.9%	25.1%
Johnstown	1.2%	20.1%	45.2%	33.5%
Larimer County	4.1%	26.5%	42.2%	27.2%
LaSalle	5.8%	24.2%	32.4%	37.6%
Loveland	4.7%	28.5%	42.1%	24.8%
Milliken	0.0%	24.1%	33.9%	42.0%
Severance	1.9%	11.4%	52.1%	34.6%
Timnath	1.3%	11.2%	64.7%	22.7%
Weld County	3.8%	24.0%	40.3%	31.9%
Windsor	2.4%	21.1%	44.8%	31.7%

Source: 2013-2017 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates