# ON THE MOVE

**North Front Range Transportation News** 

**April 2015** 

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#### **MPO Links**



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VanGo and Smart Trips

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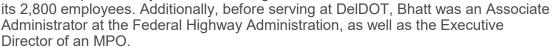
Visit us at <a href="http://nfrmpo.org/News/Newsletter.aspx">http://nfrmpo.org/News/Newsletter.aspx</a> for more information on how to subscribe to the On the Move Newsletter.



#### CDOT Hires New Executive Director

In mid-February 2015, Shailen Bhatt assumed the Executive Director position with the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT). He replaced Don Hunt who left the position in February, after a single, four year term.

Bhatt previously served as the Cabinet Secretary for the Delaware Department of Transportation (DelDOT). There he directed a nearly billion dollar budget, oversaw the state's transportation system, and managed



CDOT Executive Director Shailen Bhatt. Image credit: http://www.deldot.gov/

## **Bustang Service to Denver**

Beginning in late spring 2015, North Front Range commuters will have a new option to travel to Denver. CDOT's Bustang service will serve the Harmony Transfer Center, US 34/Centerra Park-n-Ride, and Denver Union Station. Two mid-day buses will serve the Fort Collins Downtown Transit Center as well. The service will operate Monday through Friday, with six round-trip services each day. The trip is expected to take an hour and 20 minutes.

Fares will be \$9 from the Loveland Centerra Park & Ride and \$10 from the Harmony Transfer Center. 10-, 20-, and 40-ride tickets will also be sold at discounted rates. Persons with disabilities and seniors over 65-years-old will receive a 25 percent discount on walk-up tickets.

The buses are comfortable and convenient and provide bike racks, Wi-Fi, power outlets and USB ports. Additionally, stops were chosen to allow convenient transfers to local bus routes. Customers can transfer to Transfort's Route 16 at the Harmony Transfer Center and to RTD routes at Denver Union

Station. For more information and scheduling, visit CDOT's website at <a href="https://www.codot.gov/travel/bustang">https://www.codot.gov/travel/bustang</a>.



## **Construction Updates**

Spring means construction season is beginning in the North Front Range. A variety of CDOT and local roadway construction projects will begin soon. The map and schedule on the next page show the location, phasing, and scheduling of roadway construction projects.

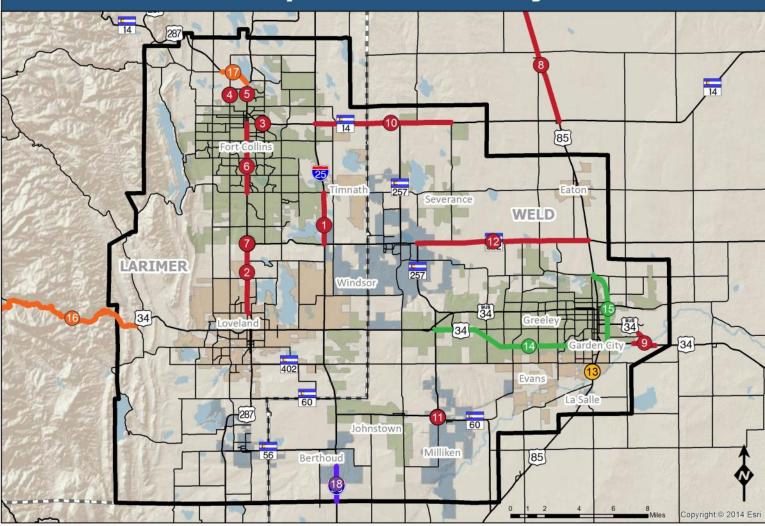
For current information on CDOT's projects, please visit the **Your CDOT Dollar** website at <a href="http://dtdapps.coloradodot.info/otis/ycd">http://dtdapps.coloradodot.info/otis/ycd</a>.

For an updated listing of scheduled lane closures, please visit the CDOT website at <a href="https://www.codot.gov/travel/scheduled-lane-closures.html">https://www.codot.gov/travel/scheduled-lane-closures.html</a>.

Many communities within the North Front Range provide current information on roadway construction and capital improvement projects. A list of websites can be found below for links to individual community resources.

	Local Construction Information
Community	Website
Berthoud	Public Works: <a href="http://www.berthoud.org/Town/works.php">http://www.berthoud.org/Town/works.php</a> Streets Department: <a href="http://www.berthoud.org/Town/streets.php">http://www.berthoud.org/Town/streets.php</a>
Eaton	Planning and Zoning: http://www.eatonco.org/planning-and-zoning.htm
Evans	Public Works: http://www.evanscolorado.gov/publicworks
Fort Collins	FC Trip: <a href="http://www.fcgov.com/fctrip/">http://www.fcgov.com/fctrip/</a> Streets Department: <a href="http://www.fcgov.com/streets/">http://www.fcgov.com/streets/</a> Engineering: <a href="http://www.fcgov.com/engineering/">http://www.fcgov.com/engineering/</a>
Greeley	Public Works: <a href="http://greeleygov.com/services/public-works/transportation">http://greeleygov.com/services/public-works/transportation</a> Map of Capital Improvements: <a href="http://greeleygov.com/government/gis">http://greeleygov.com/government/gis</a>
Johnstown	Streets Department: http://www.townofjohnstown.com/20/Streets
LaSalle	Public Works: http://www.lasalletown.com/Town_of_LaSalle/Public_Works.html
Loveland	Streets Department: <a href="http://www.ci.loveland.co.us/index.aspx?page=171">http://www.ci.loveland.co.us/index.aspx?page=171</a>
Milliken	Public Works: http://www.millikenco.gov/streets-drainageweather.htm
Severance	Public Works: <a href="http://www.townofseverance.org/index.asp?SEC=F4606961-5001-424B-86EE-805436CD1830&amp;Type=BBASIC">http://www.townofseverance.org/index.asp?SEC=BCBC0826-DDD3-4309-9593-228FE5A051B4&amp;Type=BBASIC</a>
Timnath	Engineering: http://timnath-co.gov/business/engineering/
Windsor	Town Projects: https://www.windsorgov.com/index.aspx?nid=575
Larimer County	Public Works: <a href="http://www.larimer.org/publicworks/">http://www.larimer.org/publicworks/</a> Engineering: <a href="http://www.larimer.org/engineering/">http://www.larimer.org/engineering/</a>
Weld County	Public Works Current Projects: <a href="http://www.co.weld.co.us/Departments/">http://www.co.weld.co.us/Departments/</a> <a href="publicWorks/EngineeringandRightofWay/CurrentProjects.html">http://www.co.weld.co.us/Departments/</a> <a href="publicWorks/EngineeringandRightofWay/CurrentProjects.html">PublicWorks/EngineeringandRightofWay/CurrentProjects.html</a>

## **Roadway Construction Projects**



Legend



#### Sources: CDOT, 2014

Mar, 2015

#### **Current Projects**

- I-25: SH392 to Harmony
- SH392 Resurfacing Summer, 2015 completion
- Mulberry Bridge Replacement @ Poudre River November, 2015 completion
- North Shields St @ Poudre River
- US287: Harmony to Mulberry Resurfacing currently out for advertisement\*

- 7 US287 @ SH392 Intersection
- US85: Ault to Wyoming construction bids open
- Repairs Summer, 2015 completion
- SH14: I-25 WCR 23 Resurface currently out for advertisement\*
- SH60 @ SH257 Permanent
- Repairs construction underway

Resurfacing currently out for advertisement\*

#### Spring

(3) Evans Park & Ride construction beginning in April

#### Summer

- US34: Greeley Bypass Adaptive Signals advertisement in June\*
- US85: Greeley Bypass 15 Adaptive Signals advertisement in June

#### Fall

- US34: Big Thompson Canyon Flood Repair Fall 2015 constructio
- LaPorte Bypass re-advertising Fall 2015\*

#### Winter

I-25: Berthoud Hill Truck Climbing Lane

<sup>\*</sup> Advertisement is a published notice of intention to award a contract for construction.

## **GET Proposed Route Changes**

#### Greeley / Evans Transit to Adopt New Route System

Beginning on January 1, 2016, residents of Greeley and Evans will see a new Greeley-Evans Transit (GET) network. As the city prepares to open its new Downtown Transfer Center at 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 2<sup>nd</sup> Street in 2016, GET is updating and coordinating its route system. All system routes and route names will change.

The route changes were identified based on the goals of simplifying and improving the existing system. Routes will be numbered, replacing the current color name routes. Rather than unidirectional loops, routes will operate in both directions along straight lines. The most important shift in the system is routes providing connections rather than attempting to serve every destination. These connections will be made by improving transfer locations.

Route changes were developed through a comprehensive public outreach campaign throughout winter and spring 2015. Staff held two open houses and distributed on board surveys to gain public input on possible route changes. The Citizen Transportation Advisory Board (CTAB) will provide additional outreach opportunities before making final recommendations to the City Manager in late spring 2015.

Updating the route system will benefit riders through an easier, more convenient bus network which will hopefully increase rider ship. GET has recently seen an increase in ridership with their Ride Free Program, which allows school-age children to ride the bus free with proof of age or student status.

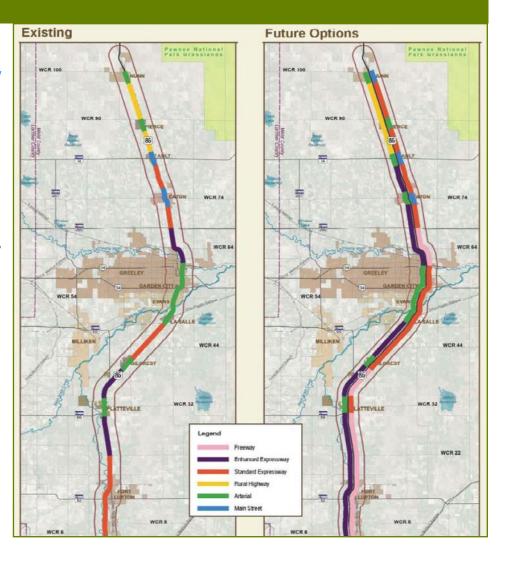
More information about the route changes can be found on the GET website: <a href="www.greeleyevanstransit.com">www.greeleyevanstransit.com</a>.

### U.S. 85 PEL Study

## Upcoming Technical Advisory Committee Meetings

A series of upcoming meetings are scheduled for the U.S. 85 Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study to discuss recommendations with the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC):

- ♦ Monday, April 20th 1:00—3:00 PM
  - •Brighton City Hall, 500 S. 4th Avenue, Brighton, CO 80601
  - Section 1 (I-76 to CR 22). Communities:
     Commerce City, Brighton, Fort Lupton,
     Adams County, Weld County
- ♦ Wednesday, April 22nd 1:00—3:00 PM
  - •Gilcrest Town Hall, 304 8th Street, Gilcrest, CO 80623
  - Section 2 (CR 22 to 1st Avenue in LaSalle).
     Communities: Platteville, Gilcrest, Weld County
- ♦ Thursday, April 23rd 9:00—11:00 AM
  - LaSalle Town Hall, 128 N. 2nd Street, LaSalle, CO 80645
  - Section 3 (1st Avenue in LaSalle to SH 392).
     Communities: LaSalle, Evans, Garden
     City, Greeley, Weld County
- ♦ Thursday, April 23rd 1:00—3:00 PM
  - •Ault Town Hall, 201 1st Street, Ault, CO 80610
  - •Section 4 (SH 392 to CR 100). Communities: Eaton, Ault, Pierce, Nunn, Weld County

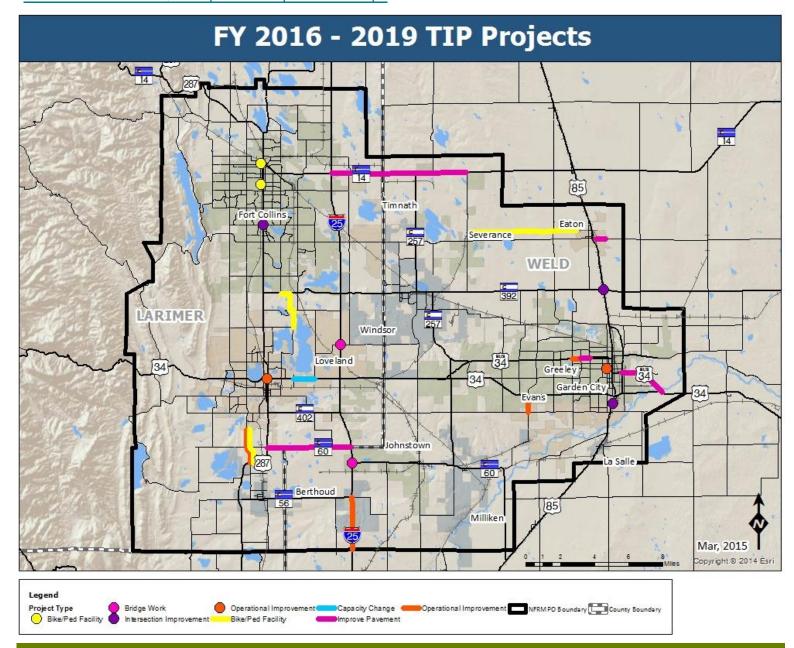


## **Transportation Improvement Program**

#### FY 2016 - 2019 TIP Adopted at March Council Meeting

The North Front Range Transportation and Air Quality Planning Council (NFRT&AQPC) approved over \$27 M in transportation improvement projects in the FY 2016-2019 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) at their March 5, 2015 meeting. The TIP includes transportation projects throughout the region, including road construction and expansion, bicycle and pedestrian trail construction, Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) bus replacements for regional transit providers, CNG vehicle replacements, and traffic signal timing and optimization. The map below shows projects included in the TIP by project type and location.

Projects included in the TIP can be amended at the discretion of the NFRT&AQPC; amendments are processed on a quarterly basis. The FY 2016—2019 TIP also contains a map of all projects and existing Environmental Justice (EJ) areas. EJ is a federal requirement to assess transportation improvement impacts on low-income and minority populations. For more information on the TIP, please visit the NFRMPO website at <a href="http://nfrmpo.org/">http://nfrmpo.org/</a> ResourcesDocuments/TransportationImprovement.aspx.



## Regional Transportation Plan Public Involvement

During January and February, MPO staff attended a variety of public meetings, and events throughout the region seeking public input and comments on the 2040 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and the 2040 Regional Transit Element (RTE). At community meetings, staff provided a presentation which explained the RTP process and RTE corridors. At events, staff brought two posters (of the region and of the RTE corridors) and listened to public comments about the region's transportation issues. In all, staff attended 11 events and meetings.

The events and meetings put MPO staff in direct conversation with the public and municipal staff. Having a table at the Loveland Public Library, the Greeley-Evans Transit Open House, and the Colorado State University provided a forum for the public to discuss their concerns, needs, and expectations for the future. Speaking with the Greeley Citizens Transportation Advisory Board, Loveland Transportation Advisory Board, and the Fort Collins Transportation Board allowed municipal staff to ask guestions and gain insight into the Plan.

In addition to these events and meetings, MPO staff prepared a short survey asking residents about their commuting habits and what transportation issues should be addressed. More than 350 responses were received and will influence the completion of the plan.

The most common responses from the survey and community events revolved around regional transit, intersection improvements, and improvements to the I-25 corridor. Respondents requested improved east-west transit connections to/from Greeley, an expanded I-25 corridor to improve speeds and safety, and various improvements to intersections in Fort Collins, Greeley, and Loveland. Staff will consider and incorporate survey responses into the draft and final RTP and RTE.



**Community Remarks Interactive Map for the 2040 RTP** 

Community Remarks, a new tool being used by the MPO to gather public feedback, mixes aspects of social media with an interactive map. Staff has added a variety of GIS layers to the base Google map, including railroads, the potential RTE corridors, bike lanes, park-n-rides, and transit. Those who visit the website can toggle these layers and provide comments on what they feel the North Front Range region needs. The tool adds the interactivity of social media through this commenting experience by allowing people to "vote up" if they agree or "vote down" if they do not agree with other comments. People who "vote down" must explain why they do not agree with the comment. This voting system will provide further input to MPO staff to include in the 2040 RTP. The tool can be accessed via <a href="https://www.communityremarks.com/northfrontrange/">www.communityremarks.com/northfrontrange/</a>.

Public outreach will continue as the RTP is completed. Events will continue to be posted on the NFRMPO's website as they are scheduled.

NFRMPO

FRONT RANGE

METROPOLITAN PLANNING

ORGANIZATION

## **Air Quality Conformity Results**

#### Updates on Ozone and Carbon Monoxide

The NFRMPO is located within the larger Denver/North Front Range 8-hour Ozone Nonattainment Area . This means the region must comply with Clean Air Act requirements and work within parameters developed by the State's Air Pollution Control Division (APCD) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to recommend measures to address air quality issues and ensure short- and long-range regional Transportation Plans comply with air quality standards.

The NFRMPO is responsible for transportation-related air quality conformity for Carbon Monoxide (CO) and Ozone in the Northern portion of the Nonattainment area, including portions of Larimer and Weld counties. The NFRMPO is the state-designated lead air quality planning agency for CO in the Greeley and Fort Collins maintenance areas. The Regional Air Quality Council (RAQC) is the lead air quality planning agency for Ozone in the Denver/North Front Range Ozone non-attainment area.

The Denver/North Front Range Ozone non-attainment area has been designated as a marginal nonattainment for the 2008 8-hour ozone standard (0.075 parts per million or ppm). The area is required to attain the standard by July 20, 2015 to comply with the December 23, 2014 D.C. Circuit Court Ruling. If attainment is not met the region will be moved up to a Moderate classification, requiring a new State Implementation Plan (SIP) and requiring new budgets to reach attainment.

On December 17, 2014, EPA requested comments on revised primary and secondary 8-hour ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) in the range of 0.065 – 0.070 ppm. This would make the standard tighter. The EPA is required by the court ruling to finalize the proposed rule by October 1, 2015.

The NFRMPO continues to provide daily air quality notices (e.g., Air Quality Index) on the NFRMPO website at <a href="http://www.nfrmpo.org/AirQuality.aspx">http://www.nfrmpo.org/AirQuality.aspx</a>. Raising awareness on air quality issues encourages people to take simple steps to help be part of the solution. Driving smart can reduce pollution and save money (e.g., follow a vehicle's maintenance schedule, combine shopping trips, cutting back on idling, and avoid filling the tank on hot summer days). Additional tips can be found at

www.ozoneaware.org.

BOULDER

BROOMFIELD

GIPLIN

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## NFRMPO Department Spotlight: VanGo

The VanGo Vanpool Program links people with similar daily commutes together to share a van. Vanpool members pay a monthly fee which covers the costs of the administration of the program, fuel, maintenance, and insurance. Driving responsibility is shared among the vanpool members. Vanpool riders are able to sleep, read, talk, or work during their daily commute. Many employers provide financial incentives or subsidies as well as preferential parking for employees who vanpool.

The NFRMPO VanGo Team provides resources, information, and incentives to help commuters join the VanGo Vanpool Program. Choosing VanGo means less road related stress, more money in vanpooler's pockets, and less traffic congestion for everyone.

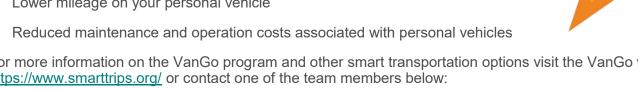
#### What is a vanpool?

A vanpool is a group of six to eight people with similar commutes of 20 to 80 miles to and from work who share a van. Vanpoolers usually live and work in approximately the same areas and work roughly the same hours.

#### Why Vanpool?

- Save money
- Decrease the stress of your daily commute
- Reduce vehicle related emissions
- Reduce wear and tear on your personal vehicle
- Lower mileage on your personal vehicle

For more information on the VanGo program and other smart transportation options visit the VanGo website at https://www.smarttrips.org/ or contact one of the team members below:



Anne Blair VanGo Program Manager (970) 221-6859 ablair@nfrmpo.org

> Jeff McVay **Business Outreach** (970) 224-6148 jmcvay@nfrmpo.org

Merry Anne Hood Invoices & Technical Support (970) 221-6243 mahood@nfrmpo.org



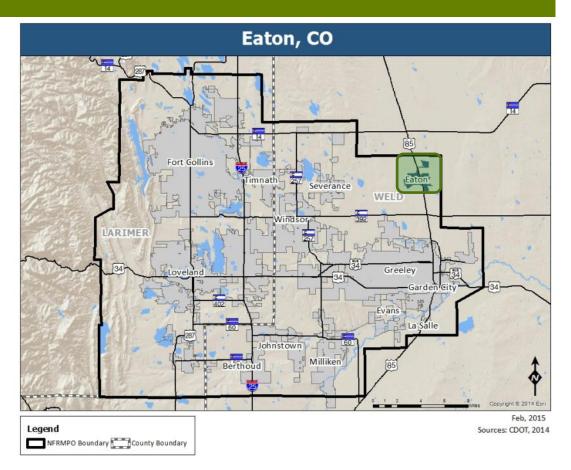


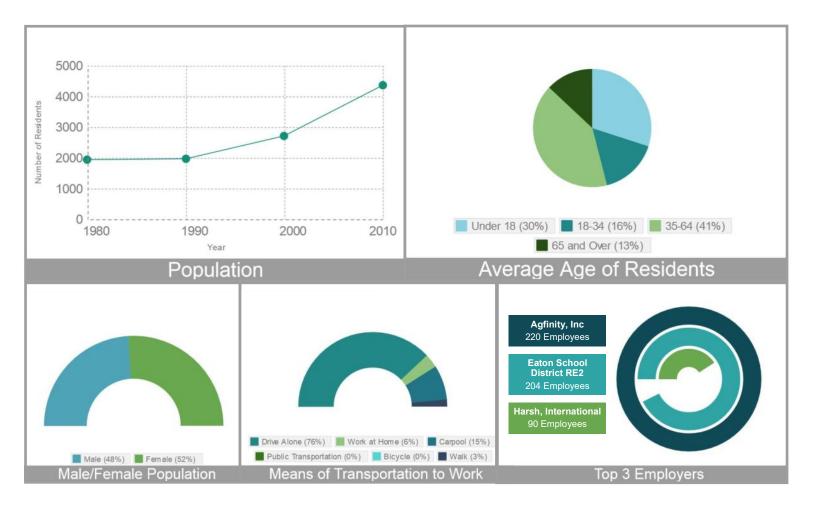
#### Quarterly Member Profile

#### Eaton

Eaton, Colorado is located just north of Greeley along U.S. Highway 85. Incorporated in 1892, Eaton is now home to 4,365 residents (U.S. 2010 Census), sits at an elevation of 4,839 feet, and occupies a land area of 1.9 square miles.

Visit the Town of Eaton website at <a href="http://www.eatonco.org">http://www.eatonco.org</a> for more information. The figures below contain a snapshot of information about Eaton as a community (demographic information comes from the U.S. 2010 Census):





## **Upcoming Events**

April		
1st 6:30 pm	I-25 Coalition	Southwest Weld County Services Center 4209 Weld CR 24 1/2, Longmont
2nd 6:00 pm	NFRMPO Council	Canceled for the month of April
8th	NoCo Bike & Ped	Windsor Recreation Center
10:00 am	Collaborative	250 N. 11th Street, Windsor
15th 1:00 pm	Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)	Windsor Recreation Center 250 N. 11th Street, Windsor
16th 1:30 pm	Larimer County Mobility Council	NFRMPO Offices 419 Canyon Ave, Fort Collins
20th	US 85 PEL Section 1 TAC	Brighton City Hall
1:00 pm	Meeting	500 S. 4th Ave, Brighton
22nd	US 85 PEL Section 2 TAC	Gilcrest Town Hall
1:00 pm	Meeting	304 8th Street, Gilcrest
23rd	US 85 PEL Section 3 TAC	LaSalle Town Hall
9:00 am	Meeting	128 N. 2nd Street, LaSalle
23rd	US 85 PEL Section 4 TAC	Ault Town Hall
1:00 pm	Meeting	201 1st Street, Ault

May		
6th 6:30 pm	I-25 Coalition	Southwest Weld County Services Center 4209 Weld CR 24 1/2, Longmont
7th 6:00 pm	NFRMPO Council	LaSalle Town Hall 128 N. 2nd Street, LaSalle
13th 10:00 am	NoCo Bike & Ped Collaborative	Windsor Recreation Center 250 N. 11th Street, Windsor
20th 1:00 pm	Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)	Windsor Recreation Center 250 N. 11th Street, Windsor
25th	Memorial Day	NFRMPO Offices Closed
26th 1:30 pm	Weld County Mobility Council	Greeley History Museum 714 8th Street, Greeley

June		
3rd 6:30 pm	I-25 Coalition	Southwest Weld County Services Center 4209 Weld CR 24 1/2, Longmont
4th 6:00 pm	NFRMPO Council	Milliken Town Hall 1101 Broad Street, Milliken
10th 10:00 am	NoCo Bike & Ped Collaborative	Windsor Recreation Center 250 N 11th Street, Windsor
17th 1:00 pm	Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)	Windsor Recreation Center 250 N. 11th Street, Windsor
18th 1:30 pm	Larimer County Mobility Council	NFRMPO Offices 419 Canyon Ave, Fort Collins

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.

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#### **Contact Us**

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