NFRMPO and TAC Elections

At their December meeting, the North Front Range Transportation & Air Quality Planning Council (NFRT&AQPC) elected new officers to serve during 2017. The Planning Council voted to elect Kevin Ross, Mayor of Eaton, as Planning Council Chair and Tom Donnelly, Larimer County Commissioner, as Vice-Chair. Gerry Horak, City of Fort Collins Mayor Pro-Tem, will serve as Immediate Past-Chair. The Planning Council officers make up the Executive Committee and work cooperatively to set the Planning Council’s meeting agendas.

The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) elected officers for 2017 at their December meeting. TAC reelected Dawn Anderson of Evans as Chair and reelected Dennis Wagner of Windsor as Vice Chair.

NFRMPO Staff Sponsors Project Self-Sufficiency Families for the Holidays

For the sixth consecutive year, staff members at the NFRMPO participated in the Project Self-Sufficiency (PS-S) Holiday Sponsorship Program.

The mission of PS-S is “to assist low-income single parents in their efforts to achieve economic independence and become free from community and government assistance while building and maintaining strong, healthy families.”

The Holiday Sponsorship Program matches sponsors with families, then the sponsors shop for gifts from a wish list for the children and their parent. This year, NFRMPO staff purchased gifts for two families and donated the items on December 12, 2016.
CDOT’s HOV Express Lanes Now 3+

The Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) Express Lanes changed from HOV 2+ to HOV 3+ on January 1, 2017. HOV 3+ equals a driver and at least two passengers. The change affects US 36 and I-25, two corridors with HOV Express Lanes in operation and/or under development.

With the State’s population exploding and transportation funding decreasing, CDOT and the High Performance Transportation Enterprise (HPTE) must look at innovative ways to move traffic reliably. The move to HOV 3+ helps provide more reliable travel in the Express Lanes as well as funding to help offset costs of the lane, including operations and maintenance. Drivers always have the option to travel for free in the general purpose lanes.

To ensure drivers are not surprised by the HOV 3+ change in 2017, CDOT and HPTE are working with the Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG), the Regional Transportation District (RTD), Smart Commute Metro North, the North Front Range Metropolitan Planning Organization (NFRMPO), 36 Commuting Solutions, and others to help people find additional ways to carpool or take other modes of transportation.

In addition, if drivers plan to carpool/vanpool only, they will be able to receive the $15 switchable HOV transponder for free without establishing an ExpressToll account in Spring 2017 as another way to help ease the transition. Drivers who have already purchased the Switchable HOV Transponders and have not used them in TOLL mode for the past six months will be reimbursed if they call ExpressToll to cancel their account.

Learn more at the CDOT Express Lane website and sign up for email alerts to stay informed.

About Express Lanes: Express Lanes increase roadway capacity and help manage congestion on the highways. The use of toll pricing during peak travel times reduces delay, manages congestion, and maintains reliable travel times. Express Lanes are currently open on I-25 between downtown Denver and 120th Avenue; US 36 between Denver and Boulder; and on I-70 between Idaho Springs and Empire. For more information, visit www.codot.gov/programs/expresslanes.

About CDOT: www.coloradodot.info

About the High Performance Transportation Enterprise (HPTE): HPTE operates as a government-owned, independent business within CDOT. It searches out innovative ways to finance projects to help Colorado fulfill its commitment to increase travel choices through options that include Express Lanes, transit, biking, walking, and carpooling. For more information, visit www.coloradohpte.com.
**NFRMPO 2016 Non-Motorized Plan Released**

The 2016 Non-Motorized Plan (NMP) updates the 2013 Regional Bicycle Plan, introduces a pedestrian component, and consists of six chapters and Appendices. The NMP documents the benefits of investing in non-motorized transportation and provides local communities a plan for reference when applying for funding. As required by the 2040 Regional Transportation Plan, the Non-Motorized Facilities Per Capita performance measurement is also analyzed.

NFRMPO staff gave NMP presentations to transportation boards in Fort Collins, Greeley, and Loveland. Additionally, presentations were given to the Larimer and Weld County Mobility Committees. A NMP survey was created to solicit public feedback on non-motorized transportation in the region. In addition to the online access, the NFRMPO staff distributed the survey at the transportation boards, mobility committees, and 14 public events. In total, 265 responses were collected by the November 1, 2016 deadline.

NFRMPO staff mapped sidewalks, trails, and on-road bicycle facilities within the region; the regional bicycle and pedestrian counting efforts are also mapped; and cataloged non-motorized planning efforts across the region. State, Federal, local, and other funding sources for non-motorized transportation were collected for the NMP. Emerging trends and technologies in the NFRMPO region are discussed. The NMP concludes with a series of next steps for future non-motorized planning efforts.

In the Appendices, staff included the non-motorized survey responses, more detailed funding source information, sidewalk audit materials, bicycle parking resources, non-motorized count guidance, bicycle share information, and a wayfinding template.

The NFRMPO Technical Advisory Committee reviewed the NMP at their November and December meetings. Planning Council is scheduled to adopt the 2016 Non-Motorized Plan at their February 2, 2017 meeting. To view a full copy of the plan please visit: [http://nfrmpo.org/bike-ped/](http://nfrmpo.org/bike-ped/)

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**NFRMPO Donates Computer Equipment to the Fort Collins Bicycle Co-op**

The NFRT&AQPC donated three desktop computers to the Fort Collins Bicycle Co-op to support their efforts to provide bicycle education, keep serviceable bikes out of the landfill, recycle poorly built or unsafe bikes, and refurbish and donate bicycles for those in need.

Each year, the NFRMPO donates refurbished computer equipment to a recipient of the NFRT&AQPC Chair’s choice. 2016 Chair Gerry Horak, Mayor Pro-Tem of the City of Fort Collins, chose to donate the equipment to the Fort Collins Bicycle Co-op to support their efforts. Horak met with volunteers and employees of the Co-Op to transfer the computers and learn more about the non-profit. The computers will be used to replace obsolete equipment and support the management of the Co-Op.
Winter Driving Tips

Winter driving can be hazardous and scary, especially with Colorado’s sudden weather changes and significant amounts of snow and ice. The following tips provide safety information when it comes to winter driving:

**Maintain Your Car:** Check battery, tire tread, and windshield wipers, keep your windows clear, put no-freeze fluid in the washer reservoir, and check your antifreeze.

**Have On Hand:** cell phone and charger, flashlight, jumper cables, tow strap, first-aid kit, abrasive material (sand, kitty litter, even floor mats), shovel, snow brush and ice scraper, warning devices (flares and emergency triangles), water, and blankets.

**Stopped or Stalled?** Stay in your car, do not overexert yourself, put bright markers on antenna or windows and illuminate dome light, and, if you run your car, clear the exhaust pipe and run it just enough to stay warm.

**Plan Your Route:** Allow plenty of time (check the weather and leave early, if necessary), be familiar with the maps/directions, and let others know your route and anticipated arrival time.

**Practice Cold Weather Driving!**

- During daylight, rehearse maneuvers slowly on ice or snow in an empty parking lot.
- Steer into a skid.
- Know how your brakes operate: apply continuous pressure to antilock brakes and pump non-antilock brakes.
- Use low-beam headlights in bad weather.
- Slow down and increase distance between cars.
- Stopping distances are longer on water-covered roads and ice.
- The heavier the vehicle, the longer it takes to stop. Four-wheel drive (4WD) vehicles do not stop faster on ice than two-wheel drive (2WD) vehicles.
- Do not idle for long periods of time with the windows up or in an enclosed space.
- Keep your eyes open for pedestrians and cyclists in the road.

I-25 Construction Updates and Schedules

The Southbound climbing lane on North I-25 at Berthoud Hill is open to traffic, but will require final paving in the spring. The North I-25 Crossroads Interchange project is progressing on schedule. During construction, the I-25 ramps to Crossroads will remain open and two lanes in each direction also will remain open. The interchange projects will be completed by the end of 2017.

The design/build consultant selection for the widening of I-25 between SH14 and SH402 is proceeding. CDOT received 14 letters of interest from design and construction firms. The firms’ Statement of Quality was due December 19, 2016 and CDOT will select three firms by January 27, 2017 to prepare a full proposal. Selected teams will have until June 30, 2017 to prepare the final bid proposal.

Local communities are allowed to propose additional work for the project with local funding. The City of Fort Collins is committed to Prospect interchange improvements, the Town of Windsor is considering improvements at SH392, and the Town of Johnstown and the City of Loveland are considering improvements to US 34 interchange.
Air Quality Improved in 2016 Ozone Season

The Denver Metropolitan Area and the North Front Range region comprise the Denver Metro-North Front Range 8-Hour Ozone Nonattainment Area. As a Nonattainment Area, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) must monitor air quality throughout the ozone season. In the North Front Range, the peak of the ozone season is June through August. There are four monitors in the region: Fort Collins – West; Fort Collins – CSU; Greeley – Weld Tower; and Rocky Mountain National Park. The Denver Metropolitan Region has nine monitors.

Based on information from the 13 monitors, a three-year average of the fourth-highest daily monitored value, called the design value, is calculated and compared to National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Currently, there are 2008 NAAQS and 2015 NAAQS for ozone: 75 parts per billion (ppb) and 70 ppb, respectively. During the 2016 ozone season, there were 18 days where one or more monitors exceeded the 2008 NAAQS.

Three monitoring sites in the Nonattainment Area exceeded the 2008 NAAQS, based on the 2014-2016 three-year average of the fourth-highest concentration, though none were in the North Front Range region. The Fort Collins – West monitor exceeded the 2015 NAAQS but attained the 2008 standard. According to the Regional Air Quality Council (RAQC), there has been considerable improvement in the number of monitors below 70 ppb compared to 2014. Currently, there are eight monitors in the region reading at or below 70 ppb, while in 2014, there was only one.

AQCC Approves Ozone SIP for 2008 NAAQS

Beginning in 2015, the Regional Air Quality Commission (RAQC) worked on the Moderate Area State Implementation Plan (SIP) for the Denver Metro-North Front Range 8-Hour Ozone Nonattainment Area. On November 17, 2016, the Air Quality Control Commission (AQCC) held a Public Hearing to review and approve the SIP for the 2008 National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). Though originally scheduled to last two days, the hearing concluded in one. The SIP was approved as written, with the exception of the provisions dealing with Reasonably Available Control Technologies (RACT). Most of the comments received at the Public Hearing were regarding this chapter of the SIP and associated Regulation revisions. The issues associated with RACT were resolved to the general satisfaction of all the parties involved and the consensus RACT provisions were adopted by AQCC.

The next step for the SIP is to go to the Colorado General Assembly during the 2017 Legislative Session for review. Once it is approved by the General Assembly, the SIP will be submitted to EPA for approval.
2040 RTP Amendment and Air Quality Conformity Documents Scheduled for Approval

The NFRMPO updates the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) every four years, as required by federal law for all air quality nonattainment and maintenance areas. However, between RTP updates, amendments to the RTP may be necessary. Amendments can be triggered by new regionally significant projects, changes in available funding, or by substantially modified project descriptions. NFRMPO staff held a call for 2040 RTP Amendments in September 2016. Two Amendment requests were received:

- CDOT’s North I-25 widening: SH56 to SH14 (while the portion from SH392 to SH14 is already in the 2040 RTP, this Amendment allows the entire corridor to be included in the 2040 RTP) and
- The construction of a new Greeley–Evans Transit (GET) Transportation Center.

The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) recommended Planning Council approval of the Amendment and a 45-day public comment period was open from November 4, 2016 to December 18, 2016. No comments were received. The Amendment is scheduled for adoption at the February 2, 2017 Planning Council meeting in Evans.

Air quality conformity documents for the Denver-North Front Range (Northern Subarea) 8-Hour Ozone Nonattainment Area and the Fort Collins and Greeley Carbon Monoxide (CO) Maintenance Areas were also released for 30-day public comment from November 11, 2016 to December 10, 2016. These reports demonstrate the Northern Subarea and the CO Maintenance Areas meet the federally prescribed air pollution emissions tests using the emissions budgets established under the 2008 8-Hour Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS). This demonstration is based on new travel demand projections and network assignments that include the RTP Amendment, new projects selected for the FY2018-2021 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), and projects rolled forward from the current FY2016-2019 TIP. The comment period was open from November 11, 2016 to December 10, 2016. No comments were received during the comment period or at the formal Public Meeting at the December 15, 2016 Air Quality Commission (AQCC) meeting. The air quality conformity documents are scheduled for approval at the February 2, 2017 Planning Council meeting in Evans.
Regional Issues Summit Held December 6, 2016
Panel Discusses Fix North I-25

The Regional Issues Summit was held at the Embassy Suites in Loveland on December 6, 2016 to discuss the important issues facing Northern Colorado. The Northern Colorado Legislative Alliance (NCLA) and Leadership Northern Colorado (LNC) hosted the half-day summit, which featured presentations, panel discussions, and participant feedback on major issues facing the region, including transportation, employment, and water resource management.

The transportation panel was moderated by David May, CEO of the Fort Collins Area Chamber of Commerce and Convener of the Fix North I-25 Alliance, and featured presentations from City of Fort Collins Mayor Pro-Tem and NFRMPO’s 2016 Planning Council Chair Gerry Horak; Weld County Commissioner and North I-25 Coalition Chair Barbara Kirkmeyer; CDOT Region 4 Transportation Director Johnny Olson; and Capitol Solutions President-CEO Sandra Solin.

The panelists discussed the successful regional collaboration that enabled the North I-25 expansion project to receive $15M in federal TIGER funds, the importance of Express Lanes for ensuring travel time reliability, and the need for continued conversations and additional funding to address the region’s transportation needs.

FY2020-2021 Call for Projects

In summer 2016, the NFRMPO held a Call for Projects for FY2020 and FY2021. The Call opened in July and closed in September. A total of 17 project applications were received during this Call: 10 Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ), six Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG), and one Transportation Alternatives (TA). The Call for Projects Scoring Committee recommended full or partial funding for 15 out of the 17 projects. Planning Council approved the recommended projects at their November 3, 2016 meeting. The funding program requirements and other informational items from the Call are available at nfrmpo.org/tip/call-for-projects/.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Funding Pool</th>
<th>Total Funding Available</th>
<th>Applications Received</th>
<th>Total Funding Requested</th>
<th>Projects Recommended for Funding</th>
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<td>CMAQ</td>
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<td>STBG</td>
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<td>TA</td>
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<td>Total</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td>$22,439,172</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
NFRMPO and VanGo™ Launch New Websites

Upgraded websites were launched for the NFRMPO and VanGo™ in September, 2016. The websites improve user experience by making information easier to find and offer mobile-friendly design.

The new VanGo™ website provides a major upgrade for VanGo™ participants and for people new to the program. With the RideFinder feature, users can search for vanpools, carpools, and transit options without registering an account. After registering for a free account, users can request addition to a vanpool route online, which automatically notifies the VanGo™ Coordinator and the route's coordinator, streamlining the process. The Guaranteed Ride Home program is also easier to use. Participants can now access this benefit online and see how many uses remain on their account. Visit the new VanGo™ website at www.vangovanpools.org.

The NFRMPO website was updated to improve the user experience and the site's maintainability. Website content was revised and organized into a more intuitive layout. To aid web users unfamiliar with the NFRMPO, the main menu no longer uses acronyms for navigation. Instead, most menu items are spelled out, and on desktops acronyms can be hovered over to view the acronym’s meaning.

The new NFRMPO home page features plans, programs, and resources, as well as upcoming events, recent blog posts, and public notices. Contact information for all staff members is provided at nfrmpo.org/staff/, and includes the primary responsibilities for each staff person. Meeting materials for the Planning Council, Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), and all other NFRMPO-staffed committees and coalitions are available on the Meeting Materials page at nfrmpo.org/meeting-materials/.

The Calendar, available at nfrmpo.org/calendar/, includes a variety of upcoming events, including meetings of Planning Council, TAC, Mobility Committees, Northern Colorado Bike & Ped Collaborative, and transportation coalitions such as the North I-25 Coalition and I-25 Funding Subcommittee. NFRMPO publications are provided throughout the site and are also available in the Document Library at nfrmpo.org/library/. Visit the updated website at nfrmpo.org.
Department Spotlight: Transportation Planning Team

The Transportation Planning Team at the NFRMPO provides support to local governments and transit agencies through the planning process, allowing them to receive federal funding for transportation projects and programs. The Transportation Planning Team includes five full-time transportation planners and one part-time intern.

The team develops the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), which provides a fiscally-constrained long-term plan for transportation infrastructure; programs funds for short-term projects in the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP); and completes air quality conformity as well as other federally required documents and plans. The Transportation Planning Team also staffs the Mobility Coordination Program, which works with human service agencies and transit agencies to coordinate transportation services for residents of the region.

For more information on the Transportation Planning Team of the NFRMPO, visit our website at nfrmpo.org or contact one of the team members below:

Becky Karasko, AICP
Regional Transportation Planning Director
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Transportation Planner II / Mobility Coordinator
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Aaron Buckley
Transportation Planner
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Medora Kealy
Transportation Planner
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Ryan Dusil
Transportation Planner
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rdusil@nfrmpo.org

Chase Fagus
Intern
intern@nfrmpo.org
Fiscal Year 2018 to 2021 Transportation Improvement Program Released

The Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) presents a set of transportation-related projects and activities to be funded in the NFRMPO area over a four year time period. The TIP includes highway, transit, bicycle, and pedestrian infrastructure and improvement projects.

The current version of the TIP, addressing Federal fiscal years (FY) 2016 through 2019, was approved by the NFRMPO Planning Council on March 5, 2015 and updated on September 3, 2015. The new version of the TIP will address FY2018 through FY2021 and will take effect October 1, 2017. Approval of the FY2018-2021 TIP is expected at the March 2, 2016 meeting of the NFRMPO Planning Council.

During the FY2018-2021 TIP development process, changes were made to reflect the current surface transportation funding bill, add projects from the 2016 Call for Projects process, clarify language, and ensure the description portion of the TIP reflects the desires of the NFRMPO members. The approval process for the FY2018-2021 TIP was accelerated to assist with air quality conformity timing.

As part of the TIP reporting process, the NFRMPO is required to list all transportation projects in Colorado’s North Front Range metropolitan region for which federal transportation funds were obligated during the federal fiscal year. The FY2016 Annual Listing of Federally Obligated Projects report lists all transportation funds obligated between October 1, 2015 and September 30, 2016. For a complete copy of the NFRMPO TIP or the FY2016 Annual Listing of Federally Obligated Projects please visit: [http://nfrmpo.org/tip/](http://nfrmpo.org/tip/)

US 34 Planning and Environmental Linkages Study Kicks Off

A study is kicking off to analyze the US 34 corridor and prioritize future projects. The Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) study will identify transportation issues and environmental concerns, and will determine how to maximize resources to improve the corridor. PELs are used to identify specific problems and solutions, and are useful for corridors that cross multiple jurisdictions.

The US 34 PEL begins in January and will take 18 to 24 months to complete. The PEL will study US 34 from Glade Road west of Loveland to CR 47.5 east of Greeley. The PEL will update and consolidate previous studies on the corridor including an Access Control Plan and an Environmental Assessment, among others. The study costs $2.1 M and is funded through CDOT’s Regional Priority Projects funds.

The study will be conducted by CH2M and overseen by CDOT, with input from the US 34 Coalition. The US 34 Coalition, which formed in July 2015, includes members from Larimer County, Weld County, Evans, Greeley, Johnstown, Kersey, Loveland, and Windsor. Representatives from CDOT and the NFRMPO are nonvoting members of the Coalition.
Quarterly Member Profile

LaSalle

The town of LaSalle, Colorado is located in Weld County along US 85. Incorporated in 1910, the town is now home to over 2,000 residents (Census Bureau Population Estimates for July 2015), sits at an elevation of 4,678 feet, and occupies a land area of 0.96 square miles. Visit the Town of LaSalle’s website at http://www.lasalletown.com for more information. The charts below contain a snapshot of information about LaSalle.

Sources: Population—Decennial Censuses; Demographics—2010 Census; Commute Time in Minutes and Means of Transportation to Work—2015 5-year American Community Survey; and Employers—Various
Upcoming Events

January

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>4th 6:30 pm</td>
<td>I-25 Coalition CANCELED</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5th 4:00 pm</td>
<td>US 34 Coalition CANCELED</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>5th 6:00 pm</td>
<td>NFRMPO Council Meeting CANCELED</td>
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<tr>
<td>6th 11:30 am</td>
<td>I-25 Funding Subcommittee</td>
<td>Perkins Crossroads, 6020 Stallion Drive, Loveland, CO 80538</td>
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<tr>
<td>11th 10:00 am</td>
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<tr>
<td>18th 1:00 pm</td>
<td>Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)</td>
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February

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<tr>
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<td>I-25 Coalition</td>
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<td>Senior Transportation Coalition</td>
<td>Pathways Hospice, Aspen Room, 305 Carpenter Road, Fort Collins, CO 80525</td>
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<tr>
<td>2nd 4:00 pm</td>
<td>US 34 Coalition</td>
<td>Evans Community Complex, Cottonwood Room, 1100 37th Street, Evans, CO 80620</td>
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<tr>
<td>2nd 6:00 pm</td>
<td>NFRMPO Council Meeting</td>
<td>Evans Community Complex, Cottonwood Room, 1100 37th Street, Evans, CO 80620</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8th 10:00 am</td>
<td>NoCo Bike &amp; Ped Collaborative</td>
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<td>Northern Colorado Highway 287 Corridor Coalition</td>
<td>Public Works Administration Building, 2525 West 1st Street, Loveland, CO 80537</td>
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<td>16th 1:30 pm</td>
<td>Larimer County Mobility Committee</td>
<td>NFRMPO Office, 419 Canyon Avenue, Fort Collins, CO 80521</td>
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<td>20th</td>
<td>President’s Day</td>
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March

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<th>Location</th>
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<tr>
<td>1st 6:30 pm</td>
<td>I-25 Coalition</td>
<td>Southwest Weld County Services Center, 4209 Weld CR 24 1/2, Longmont 80504</td>
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<td>NFRMPO Council Meeting</td>
<td>Larimer County Courthouse, 200 W. Oak Street, Fort Collins, CO 80521</td>
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<td>7th 1:30 pm</td>
<td>Weld County Mobility Committee</td>
<td>Greeley Chamber of Commerce, 902 7th Ave Greeley, CO 80631</td>
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<td>15th 1:00 pm</td>
<td>Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)</td>
<td>Windsor Recreation Center, Pine Room, 250 N. 11th Street, Windsor, CO 80550</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.