



NFRMPO

2021

Annual Report

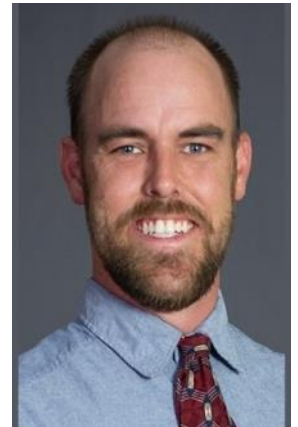


North Front Range
Metropolitan
Planning
Organization

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

The [North Front Range Metropolitan Planning Organization \(NFRMPO\) staff](#); the [Technical Advisory Committee \(TAC\)](#), consisting primarily of engineers and planning staff from local member agencies; and the [Planning Council](#), which is comprised of elected officials from each of the NFRMPO members, had another very productive year. During 2021, the NFRMPO completed, with assistance from the TAC, input from the public and stakeholders, and guidance and approval of the Planning Council, the following:

- An annual audit with a clean opinion;
- Approved the *FY2022-2025 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)*;
- Approved the *FY2022-2023 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)*;
- Approved the *2021 Coordinated Public Transit/Human Services Transportation Plan*;
- Updated the Guidelines and Scoring Criteria for the *2021 Call for Projects*, which was open from November 8 through December 10, 2021;
- Kicked off the *Premium Transit Analysis*, now LinkNoCo, with the selection of a project consultant team;
- Hired a Mobility Coordinator to assist the Mobility Manager in implementing the region's One Call/One Click Center;
- Launched the RideNoCo website (rideno.co), a first step in implementing the One Call/One Click Center;
- Continued to adapt the NFRMPO's annual summer outreach conducted online with the creation of a variety of interactive activities and posts across the NFRMPO's various social media platforms due to COVID-19; and
- Continued to work cooperatively to ensure the funding for North I-25 Segments 7 & 8 (SH14 to SH402) and Segment 6 (SH402 to SH56) was in place and the projects could remain on schedule.



Will Karspeck
2021 Planning Council Chair

These accomplishments continue to keep the NFRMPO eligible to spend federal funding. These documents are explained more fully in this Annual Report and are available on the NFRMPO website at nfrmpo.org.

Even with the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the VanGo™ Vanpool Program continued providing safe, reliable, and economical transportation for commuters along the North Front Range with 37 active vans.

To support and foster regional cooperation, the local communities rotate hosting the Planning Council meetings and dinners; however, with the on-going COVID-19 pandemic, meetings from January through June and in September were held virtually. The remaining 2021 Planning Council meetings were Hybrid, with Planning Council members attending in person and all others attending virtually. The NFRMPO has also continued to support the I-25, US34, and US85 Coalitions; which has led to increased and continued cooperation and regionalism.

It has been my honor and pleasure to serve as the NFRMPO Planning Council Chair during this especially challenging yet productive year, and I sincerely thank you for the opportunity.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Will Karspeck".

Will Karspeck (Nov 15, 2021 17:08 MST)

Mayor Will Karspeck
2021 Planning Council Chair

PLANNING COUNCIL

The North Front Range Transportation & Air Quality Planning Council (NFRT & AQPC) meets the first Thursday evening of each month. The Planning Council is made up of elected officials and representatives from local communities and state agencies.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

CHAIR: Mayor Will Karspeck, Berthoud

VICE-CHAIR: Commissioner Scott James, Weld County

PAST-CHAIR: Councilmember Dave Clark, Loveland

Mayor Lanie Isbell, Eaton

Mayor Pro Tem Mark Clark, Evans

Mayor Jeni Arndt, Fort Collins

Mayor Fil Archuleta, Garden City

Councilmember Brett Payton, Greeley

Councilmember Troy Mellon, Johnstown

Trustee Paula Cochran, LaSalle

Commissioner Kristin Stephens, Larimer County

Mayor Elizabeth Austin, Milliken

Trustee Frank Baszler, Severance

Trustee Lisa Laake, Timnath

Mayor Paul Rennemeyer, Windsor

Dena Wojtach, CDPHE-APCD

Commissioner Kathleen Bracke, Transportation Commission



AT A GLANCE—2021

HOUSING & DEMOGRAPHICS

533,367 Residents
50.0% Male
50.0% Female

36.4 Median Age
\$33,008 Average Income per Capita

\$1,272 Median Rent
\$454,546 Median Home Value

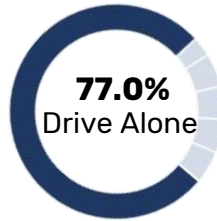


90.5% White
9.5% Other



19.6% Hispanic
80.4% Non-Hispanic

COMMUTING



8.6% Carpool

4.8% Walk & Bike

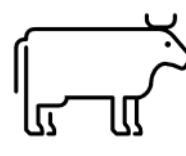
7.2% Work from Home

1.1% Transit

LARGEST EMPLOYERS



UC Health
7,700 employees



JBS Swift
4,600 employees



Banner Health
3,600 employees

REGIONAL TRANSPORT



162 freight rail track miles



415 fixed-route transit service miles



555 multi-use path miles



690 highway lane miles



809 bike lane miles



3,160 sidewalk miles

INDUSTRY



637,000
Cows and Calves



98
Breweries



10,085,000
Bushels of Corn



45,000+
Students



103 Million
Barrels of Oil Produced

INTERNATIONAL EXPORTS



\$529M
Computer & Electronics

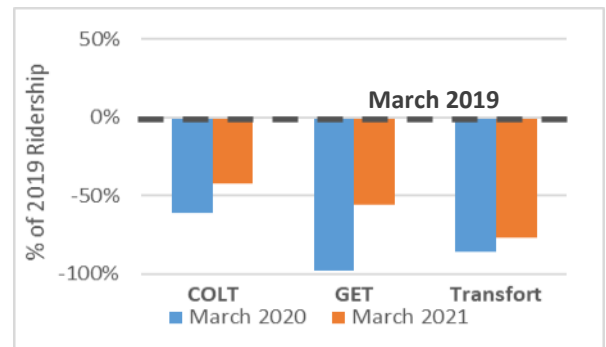


\$1.27B
Processed Foods

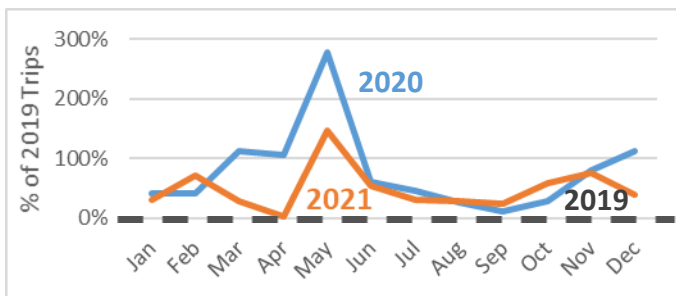
AT A GLANCE—COVID

TRANSIT

Using March 2019 as a comparison, the three transit agencies saw large drops in ridership in 2020. The ridership decreases were related to service reductions and shutdowns. By March 2021, GET and COLT recovered to about 50 percent of March 2019 ridership while Transfort remained about 75 percent below March 2019 ridership.



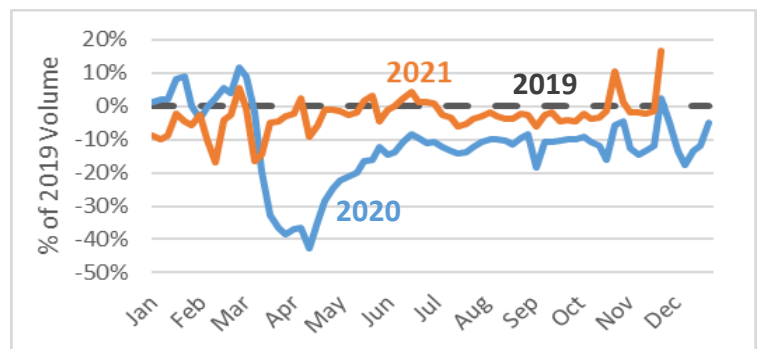
BIKE / PED COUNTERS



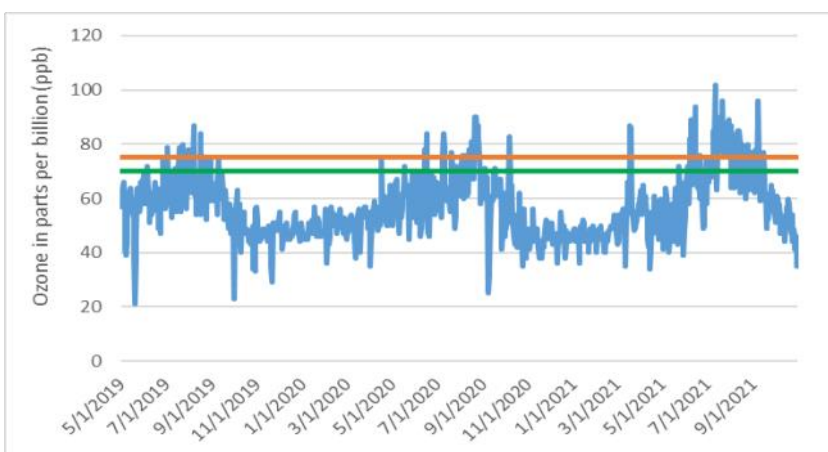
Based on analysis of seven permanent bike/ped counters located throughout the region, non-motorized trips increased dramatically in the first few months of the COVID shutdown and have remained elevated above 2019 levels ever since.

TRAFFIC COUNTERS

Traffic volumes fell sharply in March 2020, with volumes about 40 percent lower by April 2020 as compared with April 2019 per analysis of five representative traffic counters in the region. Volumes remained about 10 percent lower than 2019 levels from July 2020 through January 2021. Since May 2021, volumes have rebounded close to 2019 levels.



MAX OZONE VALUE



The Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment (CDPHE) maintains an air quality monitoring program throughout the Denver Metro-North Front Range nonattainment area. Ozone values in 2020 and 2021 fluctuated quite a bit, exceeding both the 2008 ozone standard, shown with the orange line, and the 2015 standard, shown with the green line. Ozone values were impacted by wildfires, meteorology, and anthropogenic emissions.

ADOPTED PLANS



ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE (EJ) PLAN

ADOPTED APRIL 1, 2021

Focus on improving the NFRMPO and partner agencies' practices to better include environmental justice analysis in plans and processes.

FY2022-2025 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP)

ADOPTED MAY 6, 2021

Programmed regionally significant projects funded with state and federal funds.



ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION PLAN

ADOPTED JULY 1, 2021

Focus on improving policies and expanding infrastructure related to walking, riding a bike, and micromobility in the region.



FY2022-2023 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM (UPWP)

APPROVED SEPTEMBER 29, 2021

NFRMPO, state, and transit planning projects funded in
FY2022 and FY2023.



COORDINATED PUBLIC TRANSIT/HUMAN SERVICES TRANSPORTATION PLAN

ADOPTED DECEMBER 2, 2021

Strategies to address mobility needs of older adults and
individuals with disabilities.



UPCOMING INITIATIVES

- **FY2024-2025 CALL FOR PROJECTS** —
ANTICIPATED MARCH 2022
- **FY2023-2026 TRANSPORTATION
IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP)** - ANTICIPATED
MAY 2022
- **2045 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN (2045
RTP) UPDATE**—ANTICIPATED SEPTEMBER 2022
- **2050 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN (2050
RTP)** - ANTICIPATED SEPTEMBER 2023
- **2022 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PLAN (PIP),
CONGESTION MITIGATION PROCESS**

FEDERAL AND STATE FUNDING

In 2021, both the Colorado Legislature and the US Congress passed additional funding for transportation. This new funding supports roadway expansion and maintenance, transit operating and capital expenses, expanded bike and pedestrian opportunities, and emerging technologies. The NFRMPO will work with community, state, and federal partners to fund regionally significant projects that will improve air quality, increase transportation options, and realize the goals and objectives set out in the regional plans.

MOBILITY

VISIT [RIDENO.CO](https://rideno.co) OR CALL (970) 514-3636

RIDENOCO HELPS WITH VACCINE TRANSPORTATION

>> RideNoCo soft-launched in February 2021 to support access to COVID vaccines in partnership with the Larimer County Office on Aging (LCOA), Weld County Area Agency on Aging (AAA), Larimer County Office of Emergency Management (OEM), and transportation providers. At least 38 rides were coordinated during this project.

RIDENO.CO LAUNCHES

>> The first phase of RideNoCo, rideno.co, launched in September 2021. The website provides information about existing transportation providers and allows users to filter providers by geography, accessibility, and service type.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

>> The NFRMPO Mobility staff successfully received grant funding to purchase vehicles on behalf of one Weld County human service agency and one Municipality. Envision received their new van to transport individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, while the Town of Milliken Senior Center will receive their new bus in early 2022.

VIA MOBILITY PILOT

>> A partnership between the NFRMPO and Via Mobility Services opened up a new transportation option in southern Larimer and Weld counties. The service is free to riders and is supported by \$5311 funds. Due to the success of the service, the pilot is being extended through February 2022 while partners work to identify local funding to sustain the service on a permanent basis.

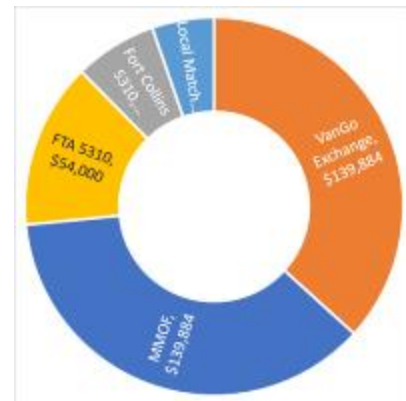
AWARD-WINNING PROGRAM

>> RideNoCo and Via Mobility Services won the Outstanding Coordination Initiative award during the fall 2021 Colorado Association of Transit Agencies (CASTA) Conference for the pilot project in southern Larimer and Weld counties.

COORDINATED PLAN ADOPTED

>> In December, the Planning Council adopted the update to the Coordinated Public Transit/Human Services Transportation Plan, also known as the Coordinated Plan. The Coordinated Plan analyzes current conditions and data, identifies gaps in mobility, and strategizes improvements that can be made to benefit older adults and individuals with disabilities.

Themes: Collaboration, Coordination, Infrastructure and Funding, Education and Communication, Non-Mobility Improvements



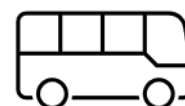
\$380,894 in
Grant Funds



94
Calls Received



772
Website Visitors

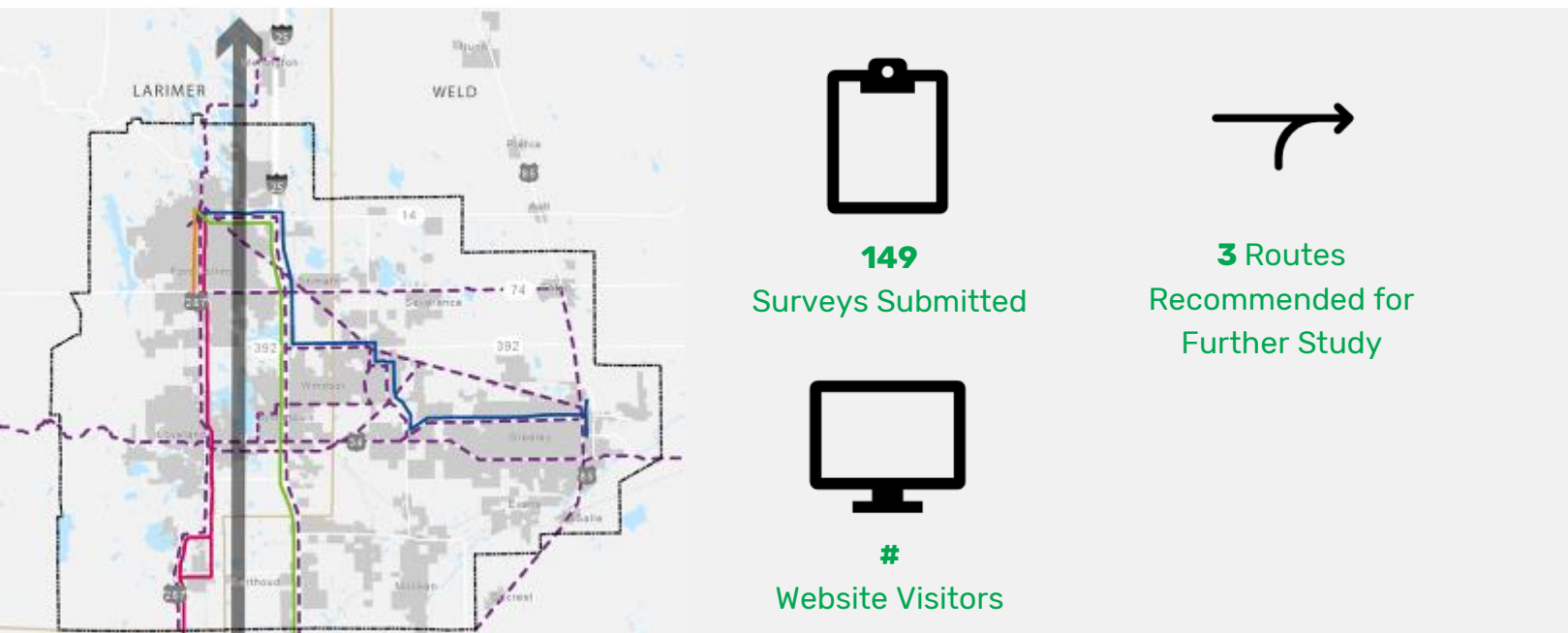


333
Southern Weld
Via Mobility Pilot

IN 2020, the Planning Council set aside \$250,000 in Multimodal Options Funds (MMOF) and VanGo™ sales tax exchange funds for the Premium Transit Analysis.

IN 2021...

- >> The NFRMPO hired HDR to lead the project, with support from WSP, Quandel, Project Vision 21, and Connetics .
- >> The project was branded “LinkNoCo”, a nod to the desire to link communities across Larimer and Weld counties via transit.
- >> HDR and the NFRMPO convened a Guidance Committee made up of transit staff, planners, engineers, and other stakeholders from around the region to guide the planning process.
- >> LinkNoCo set a vision and needs statement, building on the work done in the 2045 Regional Transit Element (RTE), local plans, and feedback from stakeholders.
- >> The first phase of outreach included a website available at nfrmpo.org/linknoco/ and a digital survey that was released in October.



PARTNER AGENCIES

Partner agencies in the region have also invested in the future of transit throughout 2021 through studies and plans using funds awarded by the NFRMPO, FTA, and local governments.

[North College MAX BRT Study](#) [West Elizabeth BRT Study](#)

[Greeley on the Go](#) [Connect Loveland](#) [Evans Master Plan](#)

AIR QUALITY

In late 2020, the NFRMPO's Air Quality Program was launched to provide a proactive and comprehensive approach to transportation-related air quality issues, especially around ozone and greenhouse gas emissions.

In 2021...

>> NFRMPO staff participated in a work group convened by the Regional Air Quality Council (RAQC) to develop an employee trip reduction program (ETRP) for consideration by the Air Quality Control Commission (AQCC). As a party in the AQCC's rulemaking, the NFRMPO advocated for improvements to address the needs of Northern Colorado. In August, the AQCC dismissed the ETRP proposal and the NFRMPO has been working with other stakeholders to develop a voluntary trip reduction program.

>> During the stakeholder process for the Transportation Commission's (TC's) greenhouse gas (GHG) rule for transportation plans, NFRMPO staff participated in the Transportation GHG Advisory Group. The NFRMPO submitted several rounds of comments to the TC in support of a data-driven, feasible, and effective rule. On December 16, 2021, the TC voted to approve the GHG rule which had been revised to include several of the high priority comments submitted by the NFRMPO.

>> After EPA announced its intention to modify the boundary of the Denver Metro/North Front Range (DM/NFR) Nonattainment Area (NAA) for the 2015 8-hour ozone standard to include all of Weld County, the NFRMPO submitted comments to EPA requesting the decision be based on more recently collected air quality data. In November, EPA issued a final rule to expand the NAA boundary without accounting for the newer data. The NFRMPO submitted a declaration in December in support of a judicial stay on the effectiveness of the final rule.

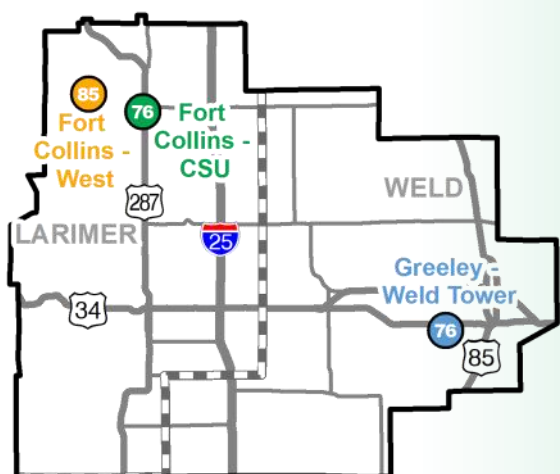
>> NFRMPO staff participated in the RAQC's Control Strategy Committee to identify strategies for incorporation into the next State Implementation Plan (SIP) for ozone. The SIP identifies the State's plan for attaining the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) and the next SIP will be submitted to EPA in early 2023.



**9 Presentations to
Partner Agencies**



**3 Air Quality
Trainings**



2021 Ozone Season

Ozone levels exceeded health-based federal standards on 66 days in 2021 in the nine-county DM/NFR region, which is the highest number of exceedances since 2012 and the second highest since at least 1995.* The map shows the fourth highest 8-hour ozone value at the three monitors in the NFRMPO region in 2021. Each monitor's fourth highest value was 76 parts per billion (ppb) or higher. The NAAQS for ozone is based on the three-year average of each year's fourth highest value. The 2019-2021 three-year average for Fort Collins-West is 77 ppb, which is over the NAAQS. At 71 ppb, the Greeley-Weld Tower site is also above the NAAQS, while the Fort Collins-CSU site is just below at 69 ppb. The NFRMPO continues to partner with the RAQC and APCD on outreach and strategy development to control ozone.

*Analysis was completed using the 2015 ozone standard of 70 ppb for all years.

ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION

WAYFINDING

>> In June, NoCo Bike & Ped Collaborative members rode and walked sections of the Poudre River Trail through Windsor, discussing wayfinding needs and solutions. Participants discussed how to balance consistent regional messaging with individual community identity, communicate closures and provide safe detours, work with adjacent landowners, combine pavement markings with vertical signage, and encourage exploration of nearby destinations.

NOCO BIKE & PED COLLABORATIVE

>> The NoCo Bike & Ped Collaborative met monthly throughout the year to further development of the regional bicycle and pedestrian network. Actions included providing comments on the federal Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) rulemaking, steering the [Regional Active Transportation Plan](#), and providing comments on the NFRMPO's Call for Projects and Transportation Alternatives program. The group also provided feedback for local plans and initiatives, including RideNoCo, the Fort Collins Active Transportation Plan, and the Front Range Trail.



Photo from the NoCo Bike & Ped Wayfinding event in June 2021.

Photo courtesy of NFRMPO staff.



REGIONAL ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION PLAN

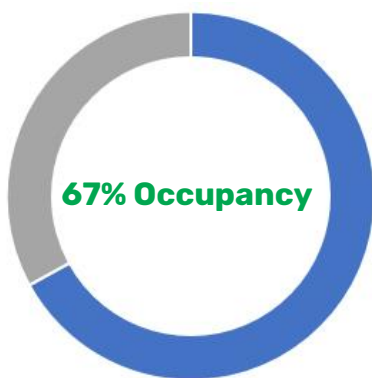
>> Planning Council adopted the *Regional Active Transportation Plan* (ATP) in July. The [2021 ATP](#) provides extensive guidance and serves as a toolkit for consistent active transportation planning across Northern Colorado communities. The [ATP](#) identifies various strategies and actions steps to improve active transportation across the region and position NFRMPO communities to better pursue other funding opportunities.

Themes: Safety, Monitoring, Land Use and Urban Form, Equity, Local Assistance, Micromobility, Funding, Wayfinding

VANGO™ VANPOOLS

VISIT VANGOVANPOOLS.ORG OR CALL (800) 332-0950

As of December 1, 2021:



32 Active Vanpools

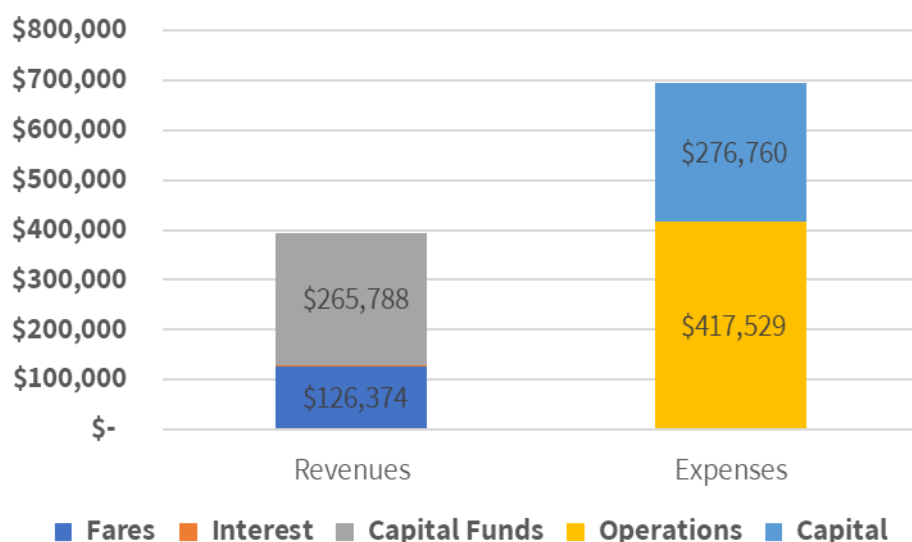


131 Active Vanpoolers

VANGO™ UPDATE

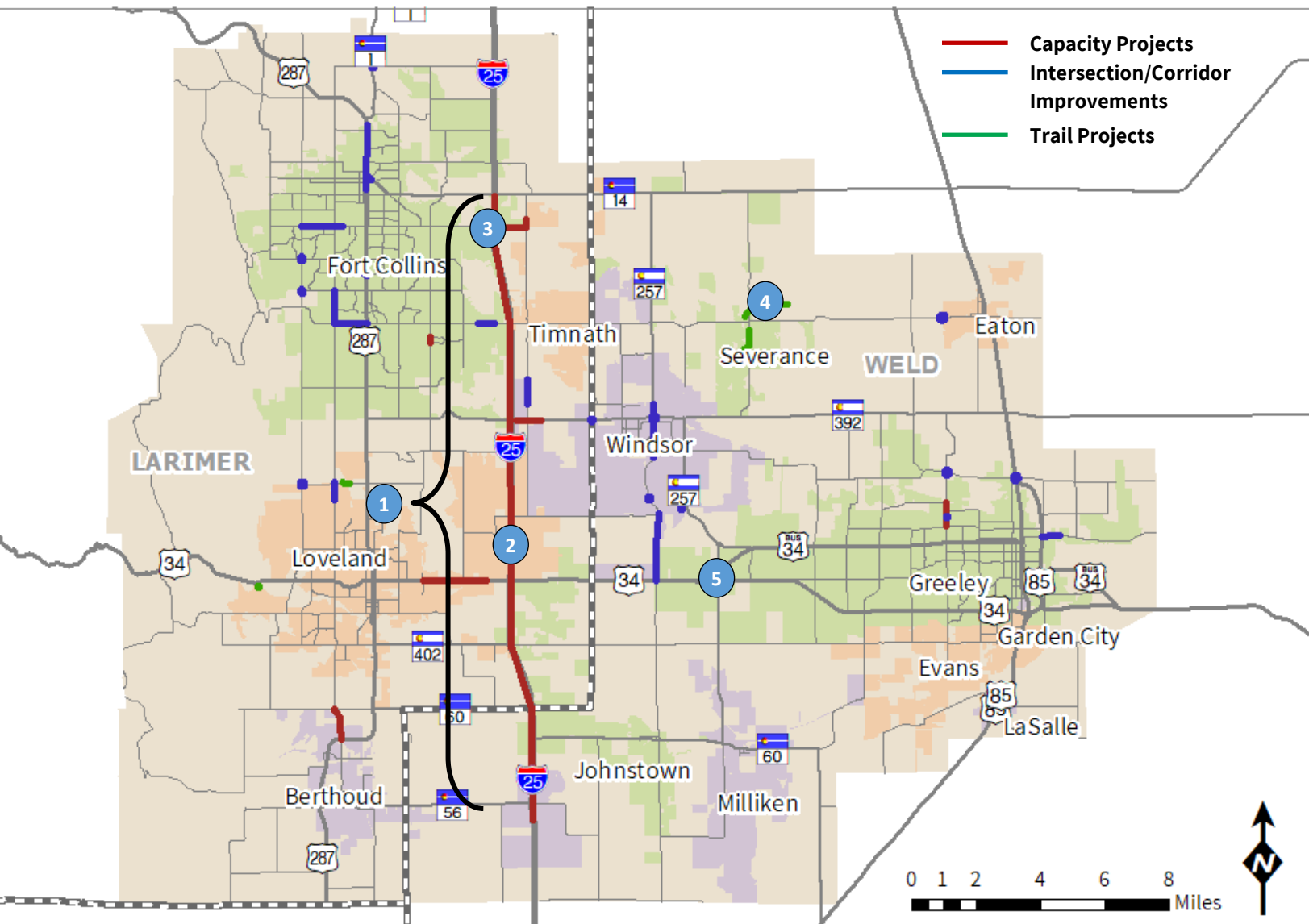
The VanGo™ program continued operation through the COVID-19 pandemic by instituting policies that offered more flexibility to its participants. The VanGo™ program, in addition to having sound financial standing to manage a sustained decrease in ridership and utilization, also received capital revenue from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. In addition, due to COVID-19 related issues and a decrease in vehicle usage, VanGo™ maximized its fleet by sending some vans to auction and purchasing new hybrid vans to modernize their fleet-- furthering one of the program's goals of reducing greenhouse gases.

All of these actions/funding in combination with a stable and superior level of customer service ensures VanGo™ is well positioned for the coming year 2022.



CONSTRUCTION

UPDATES ABOUT NFRMPO-FUNDED AND PARTNER PROJECTS



- 1** CDOT made major progress on the *i-25 North Express Lanes: Mead to Fort Collins* project in 2021. Throughout the year, CDOT and its contractors have installed the new Great Western Railroad bridge over I-25, and shifted traffic onto new bridges at SH60, US34, and Prospect Road; paved new concrete between SH392 to Harmony Road; and constructed the new Ports of Entry. New bridges are currently under construction at Kechter Road, SH56, and US34. These will improve safety and allow for realignment of US34.
- 2** The first phase of the mobility hub was completed at Kendall Parkway in Loveland. This includes bus slip ramps, a pedestrian underpass of I-25, and an expanded park-n-ride.
- 3** I-25 and Prospect Road Interchange work included flipping the interchange, a multi-use path over the bridge for pedestrians and cyclists, and adding safety features.
- 4** Great Western Trail Authority graded and built part of the soft-surface trail between Eaton and Severance. Other parts of the trail were paved. Completion is expected in 2022.
- 5** CDOT added traffic signals to the on/off ramps at the US34/SH257 interchange. These traffic signals will improve safety and traffic flow.

OUTREACH

Public Outreach

>> The NFRMPO conducts outreach to educate and inform the residents of the region on the transportation planning program. In addition to outreach about planning activities, the Mobility team began outreach on the RideNoCo program in 2021.

Planning



283 Followers
32,220 Total Reach
1,335 Engaged Users



9 Video Uploads
210 Views



557 Followers
30,658 Impressions
43 Mentions/Replies



2,288 *On The Move* Newsletter Deliveries
32% Average Open Rate
12% Click Rate



166 Followers
154 Engagements



2 Bike to Work Day Stations



36 Posts
1,383 Views



31 Presentations

Mobility



764 Website Visits



16 Community Presentations



1,219 Rider's Guides Distributed



174 Mobility Newsletter Deliveries



260 Contacts at Community Events

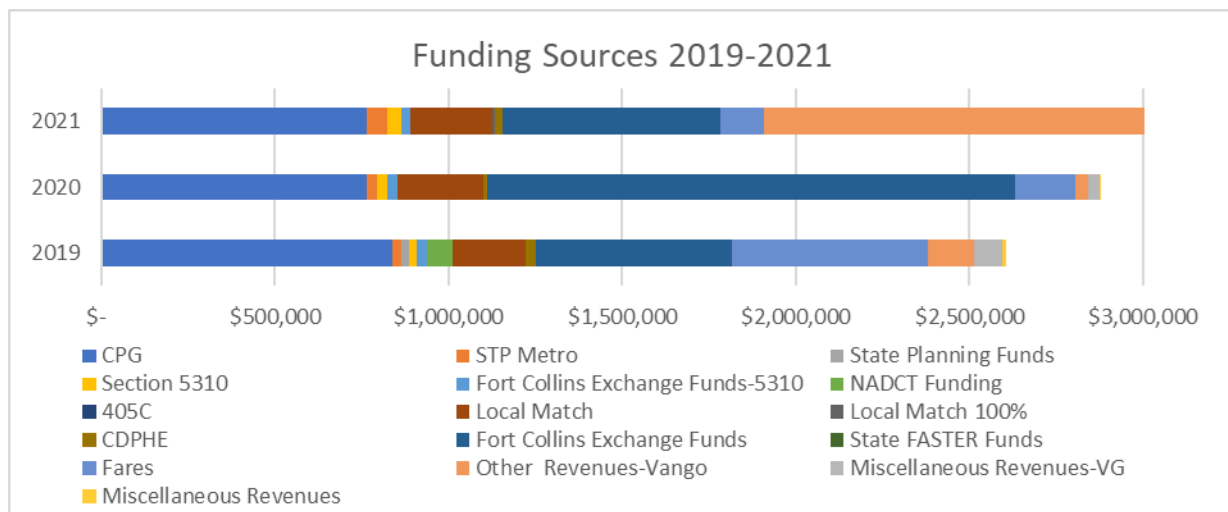
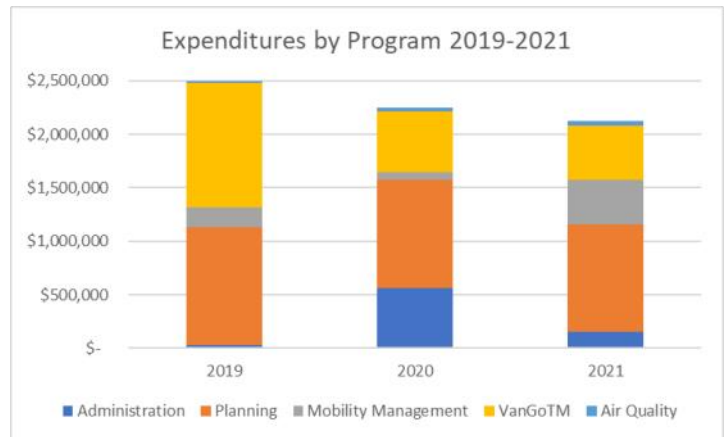


Presentations to ~125 older adults at senior centers

Community Advisory Committee (CAC)

>> The NFRMPO adopted the [Environmental Justice \(EJ\) Plan](#) on April 1, 2021, which recommended the NFRMPO create an advisory committee to get feedback from residents of the region throughout the transportation planning process. In Spring 2021 the NFRMPO launched the Community Advisory Committee (CAC) and received 23 applications from residents from across the region who do not currently serve on other NFRMPO committees. The Committee met seven times over the course of the year, introducing the members to the work the NFRMPO does and covered a variety of topics including the upcoming 2050 Regional Transportation Plan, outreach activities, and the 2021 Call for Projects. The committee also had guest speakers including staff from partner organizations such as the Regional Air Quality Council (RAQC) to talk about air quality as it relates to transportation and Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) to speak about state funding for transportation. The CAC will continue to meet the second Thursday of each month in 2022.

2021 marked another unqualified opinion issued by the NFRMPO's auditors, MHP, LLC, on the organization's 2020 Audited Financial Statements. The 2020 Audited Financial Statements are available for download under the Administrative Documents dropdown menu on the NFRMPO Document Library page: <https://nfrmpo.org/library/>



SOME FUNDS AWARDED THROUGH THE NFRMPO WENT TOWARD:



Street maintenance in Evans



A new vehicle for Envision in Weld County

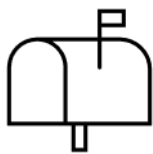


Progress on I-25



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 (FHWA), Federal Transit Administration (FTA), and other public agencies, as well as the private sector.

Image courtesy of City of Evans



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