



## Weld County Mobility Committee (WCMC)—AGENDA

June 22, 2021

1:30 – 3:00 p.m.

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1. Call Meeting to Order, Welcome and Introductions
  2. Review of Agenda
  3. Public Comment (*2 minutes each*)
  4. Approval of April 27, 2021 Meeting Minutes
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### ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 1) **Local and Regional Transportation Surveys**  
Announcement of upcoming transportation surveys

Ewert

### PRESENTATIONS

- 1) **Bustang Outrider**  
Presentation on the upcoming Sterling-Greeley-Denver service

Prillwitz

### DISCUSSION ITEMS

- 1) **NFRMPO & RideNoCo Updates**  
Updates from the MPO and One Call/One Click Center project
- 2) **Expansion of Via Mobility Services**  
Pilot moving forward, discussion around awareness, surveying destinations, outreach
- 3) **Post-Pandemic Ridership Outlook**  
Updates on operations and ridership outlook as pandemic eases

Schmitt/Gordon

Bitzer

All

### GREELEY-EVANS TRANSIT NEWS AND UPDATES

### WCMC MEMBER REPORTS

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4. Final Public Comment (*2 minutes each*)
5. Next Month's Agenda Topic Suggestions
6. Next WCMC Meeting: August 24, 2021 1-4 PM (Joint Regional Mobility Meeting at the Windsor-Severance Library)



**Weld County Mobility Committee (WCMC)—MINUTES**  
**April 27, 2021**  
**1:34 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.**

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**1. Call Meeting to Order, Welcome and Introductions**

- Abdul Barzak, Town of Severance
- Janet Bedingfield, 60+ Ride
- Andrew Jones, Arc of Weld County
- Lisa Bitzer, Via Mobility Services
- Leiton Powell, GET
- Steve Teets, WAND
- Brad Taylor, Connections for Ind. Living
- Celeste Ewert, Envision
- Julie Glover, Adeo
- Moira Moon, CDOT
- Rachel Bolin, CDOT

NFRMPO staff: Alex Gordon, Cory Schmitt

**2. Review of Agenda**

**3. Public Comment (2 minutes each)**

**4. Approval of February 23, 2021 Meeting Minutes**

Ewert motioned to approve the February 23, 2021 minutes. Powell seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Schmitt announced that the August WCMC meeting will be a joint meeting with the LCMC to discuss the update to the Coordinated Public Transit/Human Services Transportation Plan.

**PRESENTATIONS**

No items this month.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**NFRMPO & One Call/One Click Center Update** – Gordon shared an update on the Coordinated Plan, including presentations and conversations with various commissions and stakeholder groups in the region. Gordon summarized a conversation with Barzak about better incorporating transportation availability and needs into land-use planning before residential, commercial, medical, and other developments get underway. Barzak said he would like to see more people involved in the process and get them involved earlier, if possible. Ewert mentioned the strength in the Evans Multimodal Transportation Plan process to engage with residents around transportation and mobility needs. Ewert also suggested meeting with general contractors and developers to ask about transportation access before ground is broken on projects. Bedingfield agreed and added educating people to think about the long term when it comes to transportation access, not just asking older adults to consider it. Powell mentioned GET often receives paratransit applications from people who moved outside of the Greeley Evans Transit service area and can no longer access services.

Schmitt shared the finalized RideNoCo logo and thanked the WCMC for providing input to decide a final design. The website project is kicking off soon with expected completion by the end of July 2021. Schmitt



also shared that the MPO has hired a Mobility Coordinator to support the mobility program and RideNoCo. This individual is a Greeley native and will start near the end of May.

**Expansion of Via Mobility Services** – Bitzer shared that Via Mobility Services is interested in doing a six-month pilot (6/1-12/31/21) utilizing available FTA \$5311 funds for rural transportation in non-urban portions of Larimer and Weld counties, with a pilot service area south of US34. Bedingfield asked if this would be wheelchair accessible or not to which Bitzer said it would be an accessible vehicle. Riders could travel to urban or rural destinations within or outside Weld County but trips would have to originate in rural areas. Members agreed that there is a huge need for wheelchair accessible transportation in Weld County, especially rural areas. WCMC members unanimously motioned to proceed with planning for the pilot. A subsequent meeting between Via, CDOT, NFRMPO, 60+ Ride, and potentially others will follow to iron out details.

**Vaccine Transportation** – Schmitt shared that RideNoCo has received 25 vaccine related calls, 17 requests for transportation and 13 fulfilled rides; only 3 of those requests have originated in Weld County. Ewert shared that efforts to reach homebound individuals may be mitigating some of the demand for transportation. Bedingfield said that so far 60+ has been able to meet demand and that it seems neighbors and family are really stepping up to help people get vaccinated, thus making demand not as high as originally expected. Taylor mentioned vaccine events organized by Connections for Independent Living. Schmitt mentioned the AAA voucher program for people over the age of 60 and over the age of 18 with a disability and suggested reaching out to Holly Darby to see if already completed rides can be reimbursed. Powell mentioned that GET has partnered with Sunrise Community Health on an as-needed basis to provide transportation to vaccines for individuals within the GET service area.

**Executive Committee Elections** – Schmitt shared the vision and responsibilities of the Regional Mobility Executive Committee to enhance communication and collaboration between the Larimer County and Weld County Mobility Committees. Schmitt then asked for volunteers to be co-chairs of the WCMC. Bedingfield and Ewert will act as co-chairs for the WCMC. The positions were unanimously affirmed by WCMC members.

## **GREELEY EVANS TRANSIT NEWS AND UPDATES**

Powell stated that GET is hiring a new Transit Manager as Darren Davis is stepping down, effective May 4<sup>th</sup>. GET is also working on some initiatives related to driver morale and other topics and will have more to share in the coming months.

## **WCMC MEMBER REPORTS**

- Gordon provided a link to the Bustang Outrider survey for the upcoming Sterling-Greeley-Denver Route. Powell shared that the Greeley Transit Center will be the last stop in the morning and first stop in the afternoon, allowing the driver to comfortably hang out between morning and afternoon service. Taylor asked about wheelchair securement spots on the bus and Powell said he believed there would be two. Moon shared the list of stops, including flag stops where people can request drop off.
- Ewert thanked the NFRMPO and CDOT for both the new ADA-van and financial assistance through the Transportation for Vulnerable Populations funds.



- Gordon shared that the pilot Community Advisory Committee received 23 applicants representing a diverse variety of communities and identities. The goal of the CAC is to better incorporate a broader array of voices into the transportation planning process.

**5. Final Public Comment (*2 minutes each*)**

**6. Next Month's Agenda Topic Suggestions**

- a) Topics for next meeting include inviting Jeff Prillwitz with Bustang Outrider to present about the upcoming Sterling-Greeley-Denver route.

**7. Adjourn**

- a) Teets motioned to adjourn the meeting at 2:45 pm. Bedingfield seconded and the next WCMC meeting will be June 22, 2021.



# LINKNoCo

UNITING THE NORTH FRONT RANGE

## Stakeholder Interviews and Feedback

June 2021



## Agenda and Introductions



1. Opening and introductions
2. What is LINKNoCo?
3. Public engagement process
4. Group exercise and feedback



## 2

## What is LINKNoCo?



- 2045 Regional Transit Element (RTE) adopted (2018)
- NFRMPO Planning Council request to study regional transit to complement Front Range Passenger Rail (2019)
- Premium transit is anything above local bus (bus rapid transit, express bus, rail, etc.)
- Focus on community connections

### Project Background

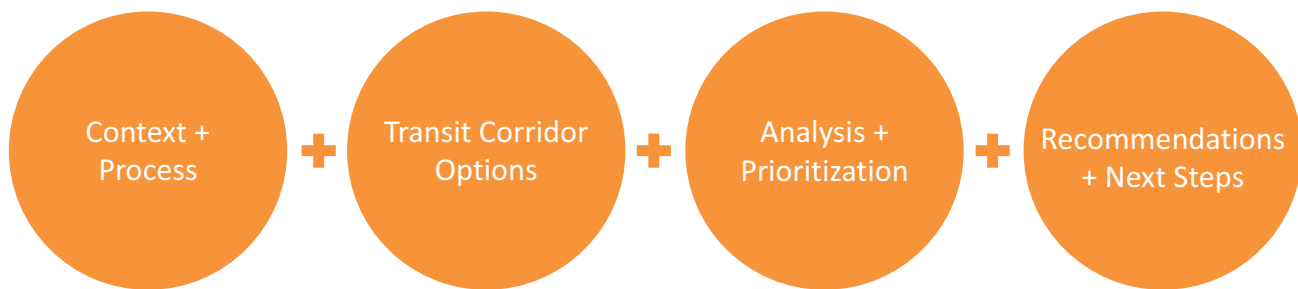


## Project Vision and Expectations



- Define a North Front Range premium transit network and advance to most promising corridors
- Link regional (North Front Range) communities
- Promote ease of use and safety, focusing on all users equitably
- Offer a competitive alternative to driving to help reduce regional traffic congestion and greenhouse gas emissions
- Provide inclusive and accessible stakeholder engagement

## Project Process and Schedule



Level 1

Level 2

Funding and Governance Analysis

Ongoing Engagement, Information Distribution, and Communications

Jun 2021

Oct 2021

Apr 2022

Jun 2022

Sep 2022

Engagement  
Milestone 1

Engagement  
Milestone 2

Engagement  
Milestone 3



## What is Premium Transit?

- Rapid Boarding  
Curb or Near Level
- Transit Exclusivity
- Real Time  
Information
- Pedestrian Focused  
Access
- Connects Regional  
Destinations
- Unique Branding  
and Identity



- Rail, Bus, + Other  
Technologies
- Off-Board Ticketing
- Lighting, Seating,  
Stop Amenities
- Priority Operations  
+ Signaling
- Frequent service  
throughout the day
- Integration with  
Bike Network

## Baseline Corridors





# 3

## Stakeholder Engagement



### Public Engagement

Our approach will be multicultural and inclusive to all communities within NoCo. We will use a variety of tools to provide input opportunities that are easy and accessible.

#### Notification Outlets:

- Website
- Email and hotline
- Social and traditional media

#### Communication Materials:

- English and Spanish
- Direct mailers
- Fact sheet
- Presentations

#### Input Tools:

- Digital survey
- Self-guided online meeting
- In-person events



## Stakeholder Coordination

1. Technical Advisory Committee
2. Policy Advisory Group
3. Guidance Committee
4. Project Ambassadors



LINKNoCo

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# 2021

## JANUARY

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## AUGUST

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## OCTOBER

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## NOVEMBER

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## DECEMBER

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LCMC Meetings



WCMC Meetings



Joint Mobility Meeting



Mobility and Access Priority Group



# Sterling-Greeley-Denver Route

Bustang Outrider

June 22, 2021



**COLORADO**  
Department of Transportation

# Background

- Bustang, CDOT's branded bus service, began in 2015 with routes from Denver to Glenwood Springs, Fort Collins and Colorado Springs
- In 2018, Bustang expanded to include Outrider – a regional bus network designed to connect rural Colorado with a single, easy-to-navigate service.
  - Before Outrider, rural areas relied on a fragmented bus service – individual routes, each with different schedules, vehicles and fare structures





# Benefits

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## **The purpose of Outrider is to offer the following benefits:**

- Gives riders reliable service, new buses, consistent schedules, reduced fare costs, convenient connections and reliable, on-time service
- Offers travel for seniors, students, disabled citizens, and others without personal transportation means
- Provides options for travel between rural communities for medical appointments, shopping, or connecting to the broader transportation system for longer trips to Denver, Denver International Airport, etc.
- Drives traffic to smaller, rural communities
- Provides jobs for residents in rural communities
- Affordable and convenient travel for tourists

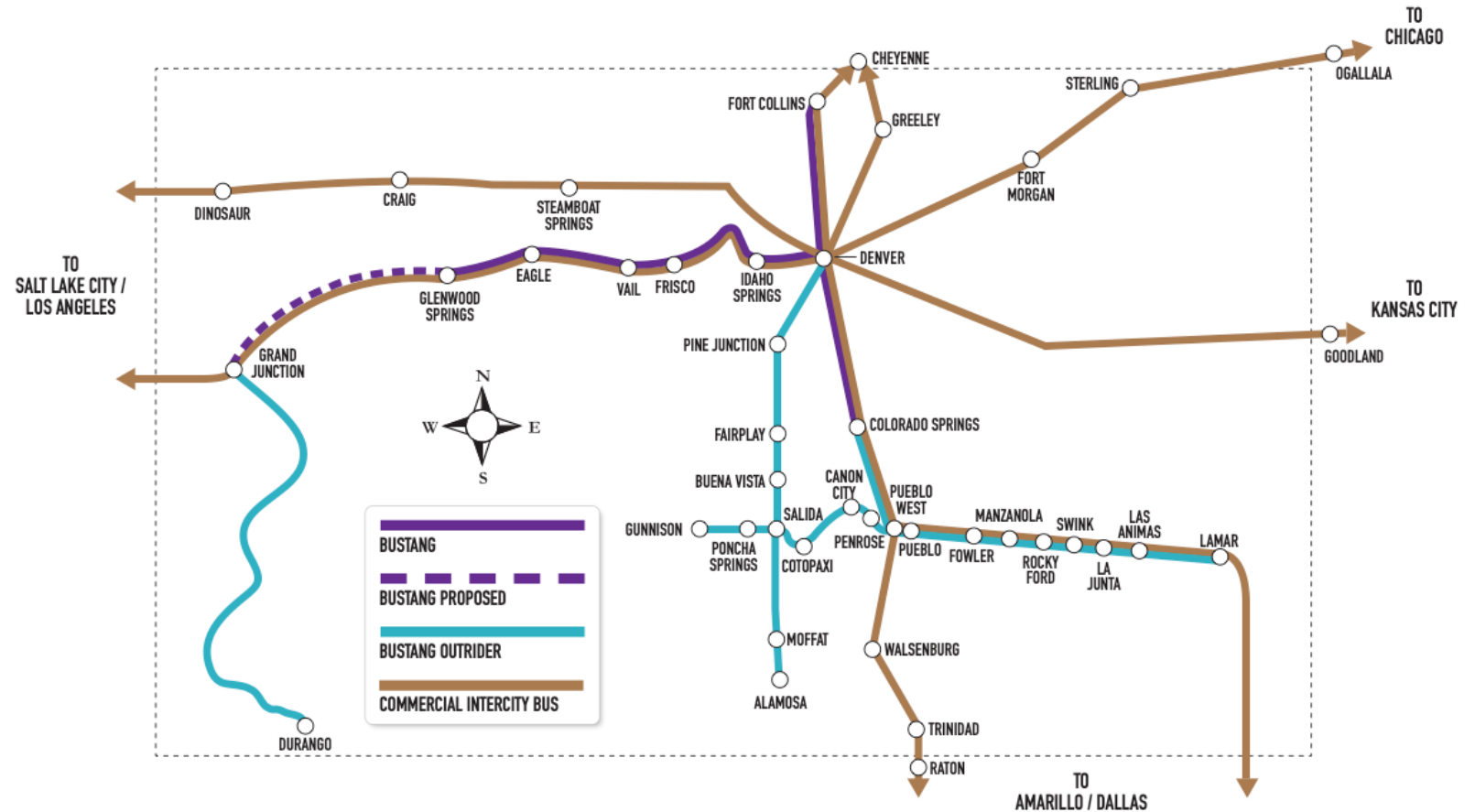




# Existing Routes

Outrider currently services four routes:

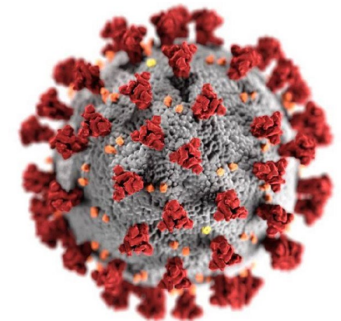
1. Gunnison-Denver (daily)
2. Alamosa-Pueblo (daily)
3. Lamar-Colorado Springs (five days per week)
4. Durango-Grand Junction (daily)
5. Craig-Denver (daily)



# COVID-19 Precautions

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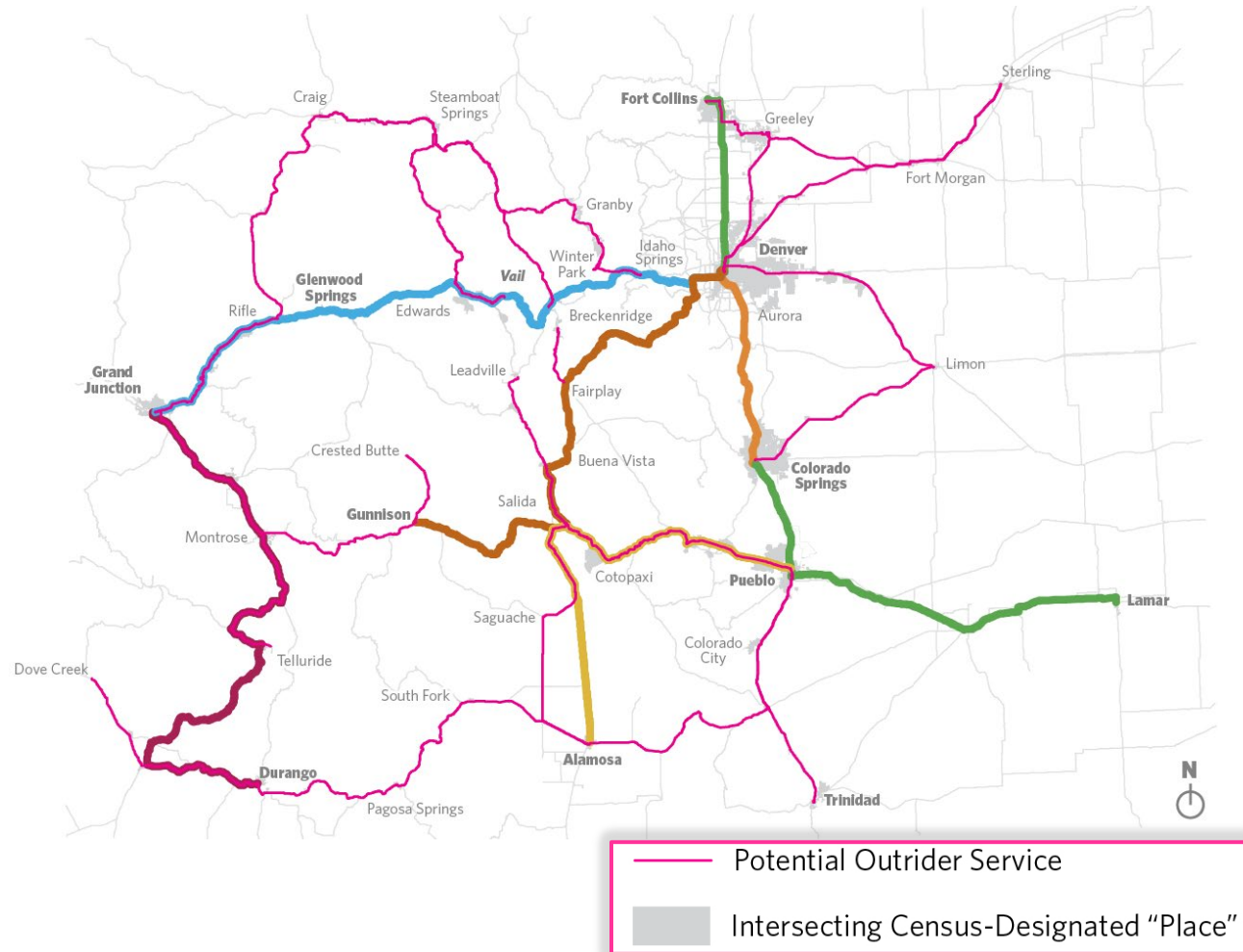
- **In response to the COVID-19 pandemic and in accordance with Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) regulations, Outrider operators will take the following precautions to keep drivers and passengers safe:**
  - All buses will undergo daily enhanced cleaning and sanitizing
  - Selected seats onboard will be physically blocked to ensure proper social distancing
  - Drivers will be issued proper PPE (Personal Protective Equipment)
  - Each bus will be supplied with face masks (for personal use), latex gloves and personal hand sanitizers
  - Each bus will have a “security driver door” when available
  - Riders will be offered free hand sanitizer wipes while boarding the bus
  - Face masks are required for drivers and passengers



# Proposed New Routes

Outrider is expanding service to four new routes starting in 2021:

1. **Sterling-Greeley-Denver**
2. Telluride-Grand Junction
3. Trinidad-Pueblo
4. Craig-Denver (currently operating)



# Funding (Federal)

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- Federal Transit Administration (FTA) – Intercity Bus Program 5311(f)
  - Outrider is the re-branding of the current 5311(f) program administered by CDOT for several years
  - 5311(f) seeks to support the connection between nonurbanized areas and the larger regional or national intercity bus service systems
  - Outrider is funded from the 5311(f) requirement to expend 15% of its apportionment for an intercity bus program
  - CDOT currently receives approximately \$1.8M/year in FTA Section 5311(f) funds



**Federal Transit  
Administration**



# Funding (State)

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- **FASTER Statewide Program**

- Signed in 2009, the FASTER Act generates about \$200 million every year for state transportation projects through vehicle registration fees
- Allows the state of Colorado to improve roadway safety, repair or replace deteriorating bridges, and support and expand transit
- Allocates \$2.5M/year to operating funds for rural regional service run by local agencies



# Transit Agency Partners

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- Partnerships with local operators allow for agencies to take ownership of their regional bus system and manage them according to what makes the most sense for their communities
- CDOT is excited to partner with Northeastern Colorado Association of Local Governments (NECALG) to operate the new Sterling-Greeley-Denver route





# Proposed Sterling-Greeley Route

- **Regularly Scheduled Stops:**

- Sterling
- Brush
- Fort Morgan
- Log Lane Village
- Wiggins

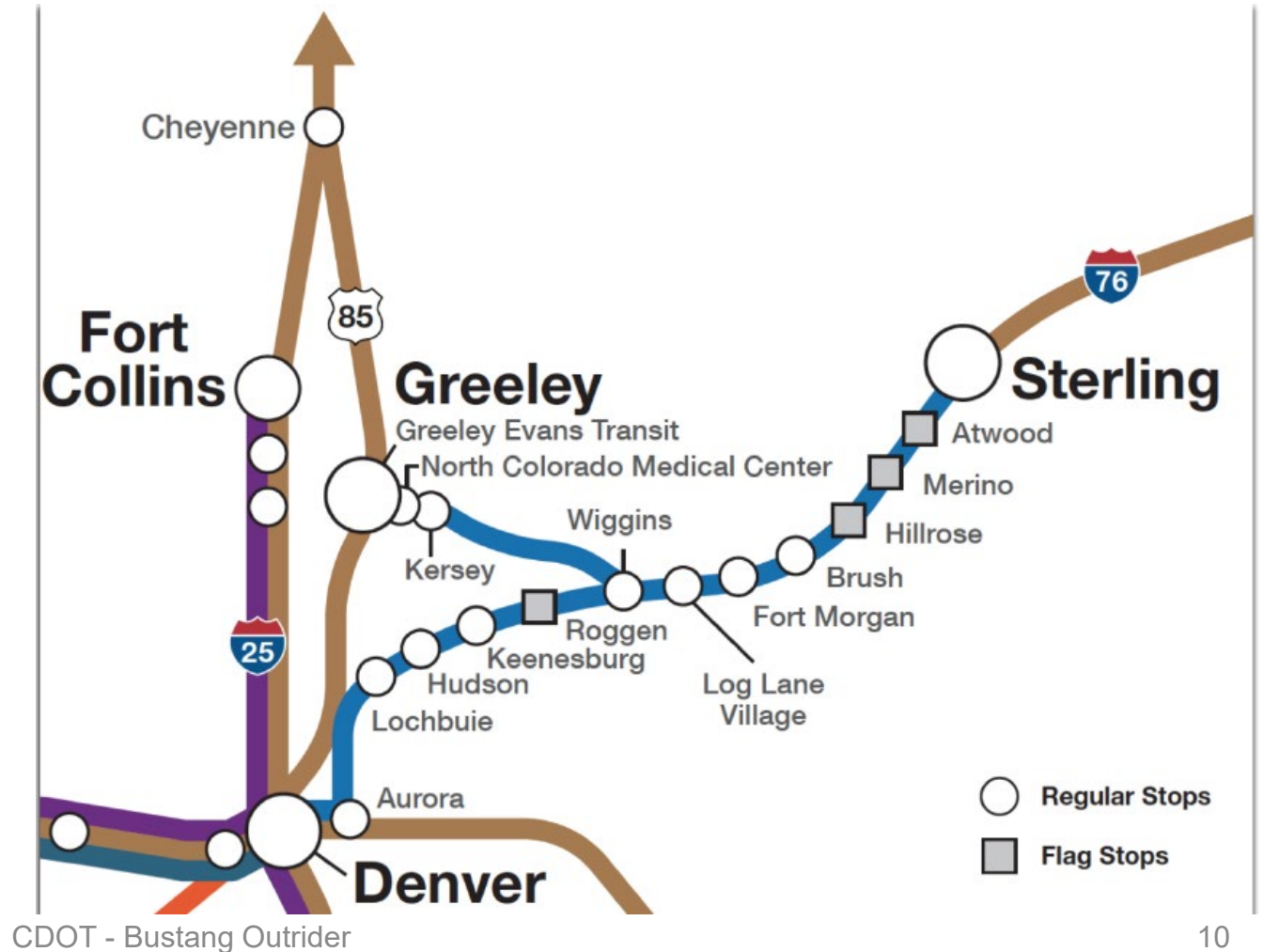
The route splits from Wiggins and alternates travel to Greeley (Monday, Wednesday, Friday) and Denver (Tuesday and Thursday).

**Greeley:**

- Kersey
- North Colorado Medical Center
- Greeley Evans Transit

**Denver:**

- Keenesburg
- Hudson
- Lochbuie
- Aurora (Peoria Station PnR)
- Denver Union Station



# Proposed Sterling-Greeley-Denver Route

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- **Opening:** Outrider is proposing to expand service in mid-2021, including the Sterling – Greeley-Denver route
  - Timing could be delayed if COVID-19 or other unforeseen issues impact ridership
- **Schedule:** The route would start by running five days per week, pending demand for weekend service
- **Cost:** This route will follow the same payment model as existing Outrider routes
  - Seniors ride the bus at half price
  - Prices vary based on distance:
    - Sterling-Atwood (\$2)
    - Sterling-Fort Morgan (\$8)
    - Sterling-Greeley (\$17)

# Proposed Sterling-Greeley-Denver Route

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- **Payment:** CDOT recently launched a digital sales platform that will allow riders to purchase tickets through the Bustang Outrider mobile app.
  - The app is available to download from [Google Play](#) and the [App Store](#)
  - Riders can also purchase single ride tickets when paying with cash onboard
- **ADA Compliant:** All bus stops will be ADA compliant and accessible for individuals with disabilities
- **Flag Stops:**
  - Outrider will implement flag stops, where buses will only stop if requested by passengers

# Proposed Sterling-Greeley Route (Bus Amenities)

- **Bus Amenities:**
  - WiFi
  - Power outlets
  - USB ports
  - Bike racks
  - Luggage bays
  - Smaller bus (less air pollution)
- **COVID-19 Related:**
  - HVAC internal sanitation system
  - HVAC air filtration
  - Security driver door



# Outreach

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- CDOT is contacting key stakeholder groups to promote the Outrider service and its benefits
  - Highlighting the value of establishing a statewide, connected network
  - Marketing the new routes once the lines are open
- CDOT will solicit feedback and inputs on:
  - Potential bus stop locations
  - Schedules

# Next Steps

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- **Post-Meeting:** CDOT will send a survey to collect additional feedback
- **2020/2021:** First round of individual meetings with key stakeholder groups:
  - Answer questions and obtaining feedback on bus stop locations and schedules
  - Solicit input on additional stakeholders to meet with
- **2021:** Second round of individual meetings with key stakeholder groups:
  - Present final bus stop locations, schedules and answer any outstanding questions



# Group Discussion

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- We would love your input!
  - Questions or suggestions?

# Contact Information

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If you'd like to be added to our email list, please type your name and email in the chat.

- **Staff:**
  - **Jeffrey Prillwitz:** [jeffrey.prillwitz@state.co.us](mailto:jeffrey.prillwitz@state.co.us), (720) 467-6075
  - **Kyle French:** [kyle.french@state.co.us](mailto:kyle.french@state.co.us), (303) 319-9197
- **Email:** [BustangOutrider@codot.us](mailto:BustangOutrider@codot.us)
- **Twitter:** @BustangOutrider
- **Facebook:** @BustangOutrider



# Questions?

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## Thank You!