

Connecting You & Northern Colorado Q2 | July 1, 2022



Connecting You & Northern Colorado: Mobility Newsletter

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[Read on for the latest mobility updates in Northern Colorado.](#)

Welcome Sheereen Ibtesam!



Sheereen will be serving her second AmeriCorps VISTA term as the NFRMPO Outreach Specialist through a partnership with the United Way of Weld County. She has served previously as the Transportation Access Specialist AmeriCorps VISTA with the United Way of Tarrant County in Fort Worth, Texas. Her duties involved building public outreach and awareness of low-cost transportation options, identifying gaps in service, and recommending programmatic enhancements. Sheereen brings experience in multimodal transportation and community planning. Her interests are in intermodal mobility, transportation policy, new urbanism, and equitable transit-oriented development.

She holds a Master's in Urban and Regional Planning from the University of Texas at San Antonio with a specialization in Environment,

Transportation Planning and Infrastructure and served as Secretary of the UTSA Urban Planning Student Association (UPSA), which was awarded the 2020 American Planning Association the National Planning Student Association of the Year.

Sheereen will be developing and implementing community outreach plans to increase awareness of the NFRMPO's RideNoCo and transportation demand management (TDM) programs. She will also collaborate with stakeholders and businesses to increase awareness of available transportation options and resources through educational programming and outreach.

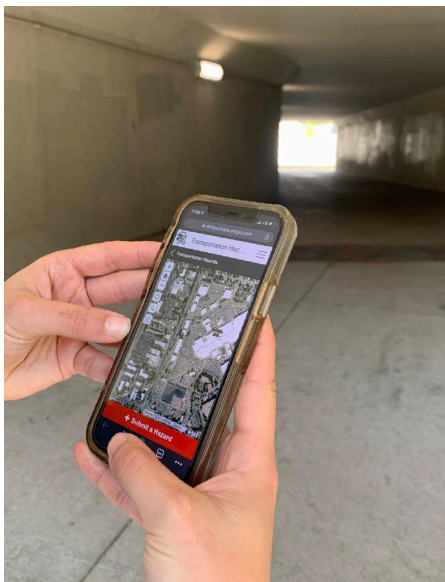
Sheereen can be reached at sibtesam@nfrmpo.org or 970-300-1076.

PAFC Midtown Fort Collins Walk Audit

On June 2nd, 2022, the Partnership for Age Friendly Communities (PAFC) Mobility and Access Priority Group (MAPG) conducted a walk audit of Midtown Fort Collins.

Over 20 members of the community representing agencies such as the NFRMO, the City of Fort Collins, Larimer County Department of Health & Environment, Larimer County Office on Aging, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE), the Colorado Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, SAINT Volunteer Transportation, and citizens participated in the 2 hour assessment.

Participants split into six groups to assess walkability and accessibility near the Foothills Mall property and along College Avenue (US287) corridor in Midtown Fort Collins, including access to and from the two Transfort MAX bus rapid transit (BRT) stations serving the district.



In addition to taking notes with pen and paper, each group documented the pedestrian experience utilizing the newly created [NFRMPO Bike & Pedestrian Safety Reporter Tool](#). In total, 95 unique reports were made using this tool during the audit.

The NFRMPO will publish an ArcGIS Online Story Map summarizing the feedback and photos provided through this walk audit. Data extracted from this event can be found at [ArcGIS Online](#).

The Mobility & Access Priority Group plans to make the toolkit from the Walk Audit available to the public if other organizations and communities are interested in conducting their own walk audits. If interested, please reach out to mobility@nfrmpo.org

Trip Scheduling Steering Committee Updates



With the purpose of guiding the implementation of the third phase of the roll out of RideNoCo, the NFRMPO has convened a Trip Scheduling Steering Committee comprised of transportation providers, funders, and human service agencies over

the past several months. This Steering Committee has been deciding the direction of RideNoCo, especially when it comes to procuring and implementing trip scheduling and other technology on behalf of providers in the region.

The NFRMPO is partnering with TransitPlus on the project, a Colorado-based transportation planning and consulting firm that completed the Larimer County Senior Transportation Implementation Plan in 2019 that laid the foundation for RideNoCo.

Agencies represented on the Steering Committee include:

- 60+ Ride of Weld County
- SAINT Volunteer Transportation
- Berthoud Rural Alternative for Transportation (RAFT)
- Berthoud Area Transportation System (BATS)
- Via Mobility Services
- Foothills Gateway
- North 40 Mountain Alliance
- Colorado Division of Vocational Rehabilitation
- Larimer County Office on Aging
- Weld County Area Agency on Aging

Since the completion of the Senior Transportation Implementation Plan in 2019, much has changed in the world, and that includes transportation providers in Northern Colorado. With a majority of smaller providers happy with their current scheduling and dispatch software, the Steering Committee has turned its attention to coordination technology to make it easier for providers to share trips and client information when the need arises; as well as finetuning the role of RideNoCo in supporting providers and riders in the region.

Stay tuned for more information in the coming months as the Steering Committee continues its work. Please reach out to Cory Schmitt at cschmitt@nfrmpo.org with any questions about the project.

Spring CASTA Conference Takeaways

NFRMPO staff attended [CASTA's](#) Spring Conference. Along with networking with other transportation professionals from across Colorado and hearing the latest updates about transit in Colorado, we attended several trainings that we want to share with you! If you have any questions regarding these topics, we are happy to provide technical assistance with our newly-expanded professional training.



[2-Factor Cost Allocation Tool](#)

Professionals from the Texas A&M Transportation Institute developed a Cost Allocation Calculator which they presented about at the Spring CASTA conference. This tool is available as an MS Excel or MS Access application. This powerful tool enables agencies to better manage their transportation program and understand true operating costs. NFRMPO staff witnessed first-hand how easy this tool is to operate and noted how beneficial it could be for transportation providers in Northern Colorado. Among other things, this tool:

- Helps accurately allocate costs for NTD reporting;
- Determines the fully allocated costs for providing service by individual route/service, mode, service area, type of service, sponsor type, primary funding source, and individual local sponsors (if applicable); and
- Generates performance measures for each route/service and groups of routes using full allocated costs and operational data.

This tool [can be downloaded through the National RTAP website](#) and a [full instruction manual](#) for this tool is available for reference.

Additional resources regarding this tool can be found on the National [RTAP Cost Allocation Calculator Support page](#).

Accessible Websites

Dana Barton with Meeting the Challenge and the Rocky Mountain ADA Center provided additional training and resources about accessible websites at this year's CASTA conference.

Not only is it important to make websites accessible to ensure people with disabilities do not experience additional barriers to receive services, [Colorado state law](#) now requires all local and state agencies to make their websites ADA compliant by July 1, 2024. According to Rocky Mountain ADA Center, this bill applies to all technology, hardware, and software that is public-facing and internal-facing for local and state agencies, including:

- Websites
- Kiosks
- Digital Signage
- Video

Website barriers can make it difficult or impossible for people with disabilities to access information. A few accessibility best practices recommended by this training include:

- Color contrast in text
- Text cues when using color in text (i.e. don't just use color as an indicator, use text as well)
- Text alternative (alt text) in images
- Video captions
- Online forms - labels, keyboard access, and clear instructions are important for forms to be accessible
- Headings
- Text size and zoom capability
- Keyboard and mouse navigation
- Check for accessibility with the tools outlined below

According to this training, the most common ADA website-related claims include:

- Missing alternative text
- Missing labels
- Empty links or missing navigation links
- Redundant links
- Missing page titles
- Applications not being compatible with screen reader technology

Use [WCAG - Website Content Accessibility Guidelines](#) and [site-wide WAVE tools](#) to assess how well your agency is adhering to ADA guidelines. If you have questions

regarding the accessibility of websites, please reach out to [Rocky Mountain ADA Center](#) directly for technical assistance.

DriveNoCo



Are you a driver looking for a new employment opportunity? Or maybe a community member eager to help a neighbor in need? DriveNoCo is your resource to find paid and volunteer driving opportunities in Northern Colorado. Serve your community by helping people get where they want and need to go!

Volunteer Driving Opportunities:

[60+Ride](#)

[RAFT](#)

[SAINT](#)

[Via Mobility Volunteers](#)

Paid Driving Opportunities:

GET: [Part Time](#) & [3/4 Time](#)

[Heart&Soul](#)

[Transfort](#)

[zTrip](#)

[Via Mobility Services](#)

Drivers of the Quarter: Lynn and Ernie Banks with 60+ Ride of Weld County!



Congratulations to Lynn and Ernie Banks who have been awarded RideNoCo's Driver(s) of the Quarter!

"Lynn and Ernie are amazing selfless people who are ready and willing to help whenever they see a need. Whether it be picking up a last minute ride for a client, helping out our staff at an event, or taking a special

request for a ride outside of Weld County, you can count on Lynn and Ernie to help out. When recently asked why they volunteer for 60+ Ride, they answered, "We do it because we can and we should." This reply completely embodies the attitude of these big-hearted volunteers. We are so grateful for all they do to improve the lives of older adults in Northern Colorado!" - Amy Threewitt, 60 Plus Ride Volunteer & Outreach Coordinator

Thank you both for helping keep older adults in Weld County mobile, healthy, and happy!

"We started with 60+ because I have a 92 year old Dad in Georgia which I'm not able to help so I decided I would help someone here and hope someone there would also do same for my Dad. I would like challenge anyone that has the means and time to volunteer as much as you can. It will make you feel good knowing are helping someone and they may "pay it forward"." - Ernie and Lynn Banks

Transportation Providers: DriveNoCo wants to recognize the hard work of your drivers! Please submit a nomination for the "Driver of the Quarter" to be featured in our next newsletter! Submit your nominations to mobility@nfrmpo.org by September 1, 2022.

Regional Transportation News & Engagement Opportunities

[The City of Loveland Plans New Bus Routes, Hosted Informational Open Houses in June](#)

[Transfort proposes service changes for August 2022 and January 2023](#); let Transfort know what you think about Transfort bus service and the proposed August 2022 service changes with [this survey through July 6th](#).

Please reach out to mobility@nfrmpo.org if your organization would like to include mobility engagement opportunities or information for next quarter's newsletter. This could include public outreach efforts, surveys, announcements, etc.

Bring RideNoCo to your Organization



With the RideNoCo website and call center launched, the NFRMPO Mobility Team would love to meet with your agency and clients to share how RideNoCo can be a resource and partner in helping people meet their mobility needs in the region.

Please reach out to RideNoCo at mobility@nfrmpo.org or (970) 514-3636 if you would like NFRMPO staff to meet with your organization or provide outreach materials.

Get Involved with NFRMPO



North Front Range
Metropolitan
Planning
Organization

See what's happening at the NFRMPO and join us at one of our upcoming events or meetings. For a comprehensive and up to date calendar of events, visit <https://nfrmpo.org/calendar>, and to download meeting materials, visit <https://nfrmpo.org/meeting-materials>.

Due to the current circumstances regarding COVID-19 many meetings are being conducted virtually or a hybrid of virtual and in-person. Please check our [Events Calendar](#) for the most up to date information.

Upcoming Mobility Meetings

July

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

Mobility and Access Priority Group

(MAPG) (formerly the Senior Transportation Coalition) meets the first Thursday every other month (August)) at 1:30 p.m. Meetings are currently being held virtually.

August

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Joint Mobility Committee (LCMC & WCMC)

does not meet in Quarter 3. The next Joint Mobility Meeting will be October 25th, 2022.

Larimer County Mobility Committee

(LCMC) meets the third Thursday every other month (June and September) at 1:30 p.m. Meetings are currently being held in a hybrid or virtual format.

September

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

Weld County Mobility Committee

(WCMC) meets the fourth Tuesday every other month (August) at 1:30 p.m. Meetings are currently being held in a hybrid or virtual format.

[All meeting materials can be accessed on the NFRMPO website.](#)



LCMC



WCMC



MAPG



Joint Mobility



North Front Range Metropolitan Planning Organization | 419 Canyon Avenue, Suite 300, Fort Collins, CO 80521

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