

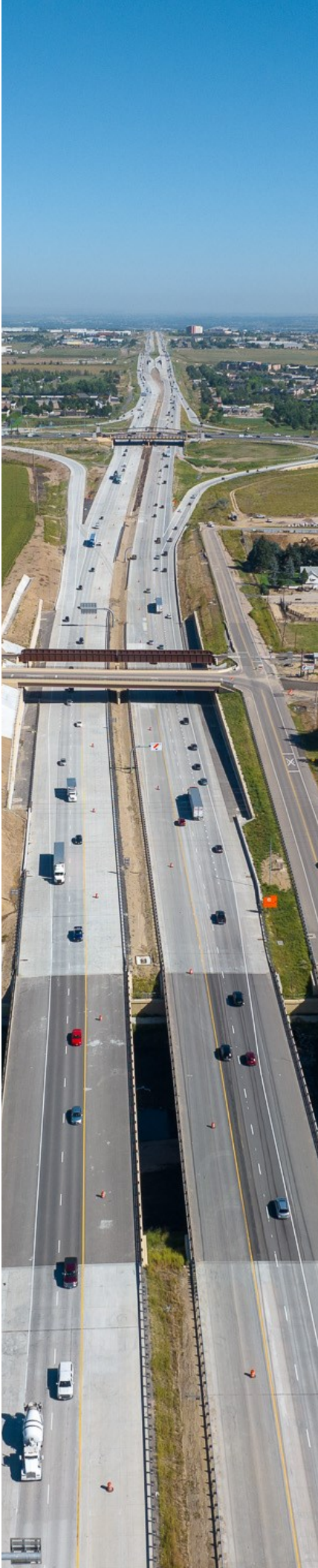


North Front Range  
Metropolitan  
Planning  
Organization

# 2023 Annual Report







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# LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

To the North Front Range Metropolitan Planning Organization communities and residents:



**Scott James**  
**2023 Planning Council 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. With assistance from the TAC, input from the public and stakeholders, and guidance and approval of the Planning Council during 2023, the NFRMPO completed:

- An annual audit with an unqualified opinion;
- Approved the FY2024-2025 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) and FY2024 Budget;
- Approved the 2023 Congestion Management Process (CMP);
- Adopted new four-year Federal Performance Measures for PM2: Pavement and Bridge Performance and PM3: System Performance;
- Continued and expanded the NFRMPO's annual summer outreach in-person;
- Approved the [2050 Regional Transportation Plan \(RTP\)](#);
- Approved the [FY2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program \(TIP\)](#);
- Approved the positive conformity determination for both the [2050 RTP](#) and the [FY2024-2027 TIP](#);
- Approved the NFRMPO's Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Transportation Report for the [2050 RTP](#) and [FY2024-2027 TIP](#) to comply with the Colorado Transportation Commission's GHG Planning Standard;
- Continued progress on the roll out of RideNoCo, a central resource and information hub to discover transportation options in the region as well as developing cross platform communication to ride providers;
- Selected a consultant to lead the creation of the region's first Transportation Management Organization (TMO on US 34); and
- Continued to work cooperatively to ensure the funding for North I-25 Segments 7 & 8 (SH14 to SH402), Segment 6 (SH402 to SH56) and Segment 5 (SH 56 to SH 66) was in place and the projects could remain on schedule, with the ribbon cutting held on December 7, 2023.

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](https://nfrmpo.org).

The VanGo™ Vanpool Program continued providing safe, reliable, and economical transportation for commuters along the North Front Range and at the close of 2023, operated 20 vehicles, 14 of which were hybrid. An additional nine vehicles were available for use as back-ups or for new route start-ups.

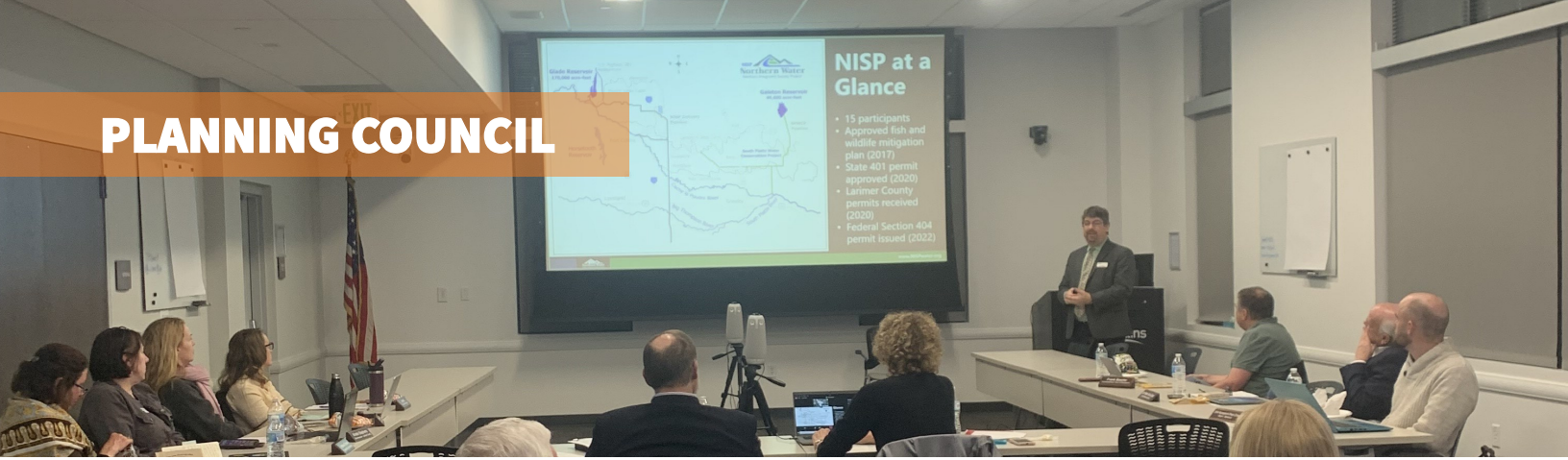
To support and foster regional cooperation, the local communities rotate hosting the Planning Council meetings and dinners, with a virtual option being offered as well. The NFRMPO has also continued to support the I-25, US34, and US85 Coalitions; which has led to increased and continued cooperation and regionalism.

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

*Scott K. James*  
Scott K. James (Dec 22, 2023 05:56 MST)

**Commissioner Scott James**  
**2023 Planning Council Chair**

# PLANNING COUNCIL

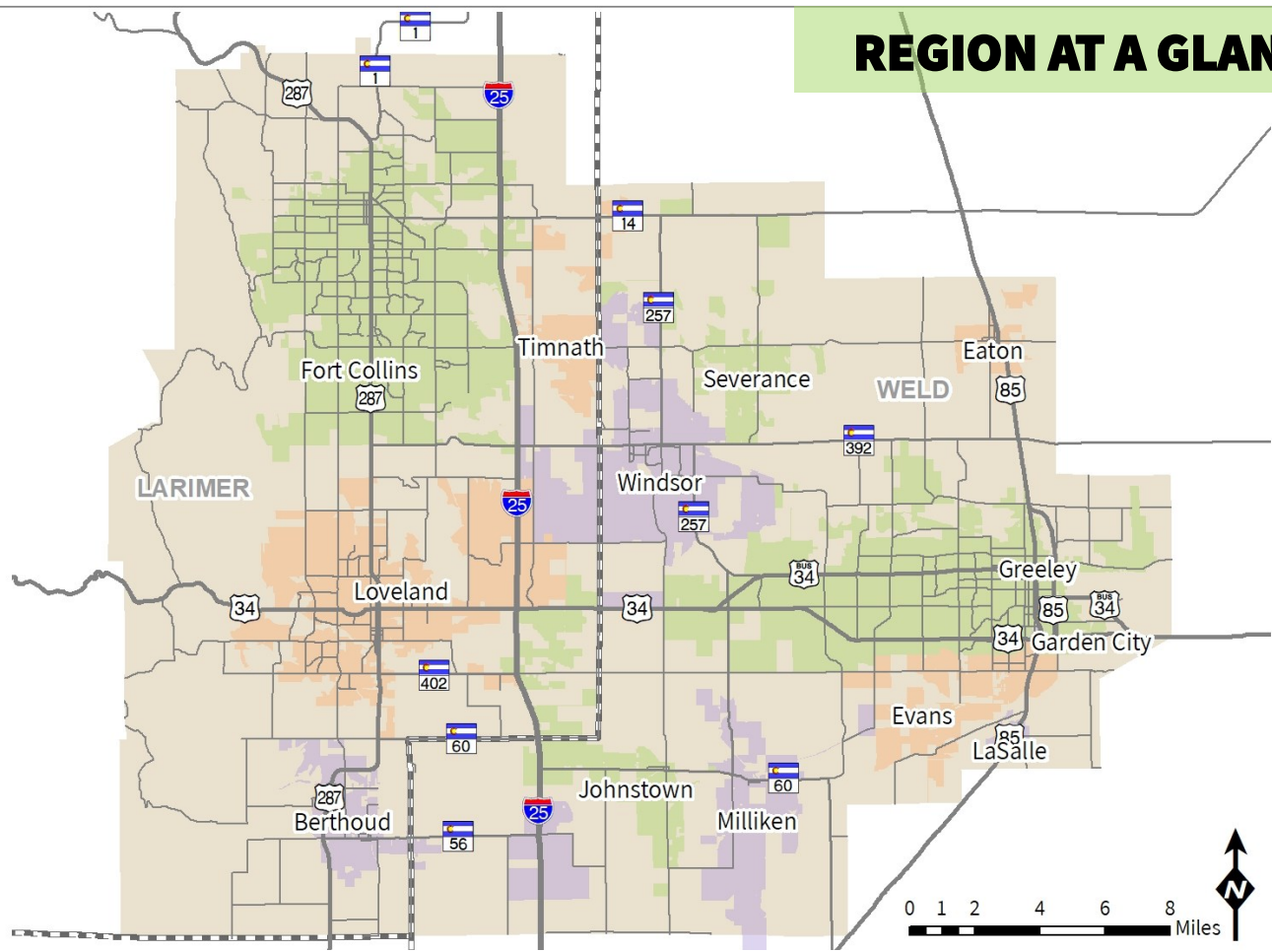


The North Front Range Transportation & Air Quality Planning Council (NFRT & AQPC) meets the first Thursday evening of each month. The Planning Council is made up of elected officials and representatives from local communities and state agencies. Several NFRMPO Planning Council members also represent the NFRMPO on other state and regional committees, coalitions, and commissions, including the Colorado Transportation Commission (TC), Statewide Transportation Advisory Committee (STAC), Front Range Rail District Board (FRPR), and the Non-Attainment Area Pollution Mitigation Enterprise (NAAPME).

<b>Chair</b>	Commissioner Scott James	Weld County
<b>Vice Chair</b>	Councilmember Jon Mallo	Loveland
<b>Past Chair</b>	Mayor Will Karspeck	Berthoud
	Mayor Pro Tem Liz Heid	Eaton
	Mayor Mark Clark	Evans
	Councilmember Tricia Canonico	Fort Collins
	Mayor Fil Archuleta	Garden City
	Councilmember Johnny Olson	Greeley
	Mayor Troy Mellon	Johnstown
	Commissioner Kristin Stephens	Larimer County
	Trustee Paula Cochran	LaSalle
	Trustee Dan Dean	Milliken
	Councilmember Frank Baszler	Severance
	Councilmember Lisa Laake	Timnath
	Mayor Paul Rennemeyer	Windsor
	Commissioner Kathleen Bracke	Transportation Commission
	Jessica Ferko	CDPHE-Air Pollution Control Division



## REGION AT A GLANCE



### POPULATION



549,237  
Residents



+ 1.8% + 9,679  
Population change (2021-2022)

### FASTEST GROWING COMMUNITIES

+ 10.3%  
Windsor

+ 9.0%  
Severance

+ 8.6%  
Timnath

### COMMUTING



73.3%

Drive Alone



11.8%

Work from Home



8.5%

Carpool



5.4%

Bike & Ped



1.0%

Transit

### LARGEST EMPLOYERS



UCHealth  
Banner Health



JBS Swift

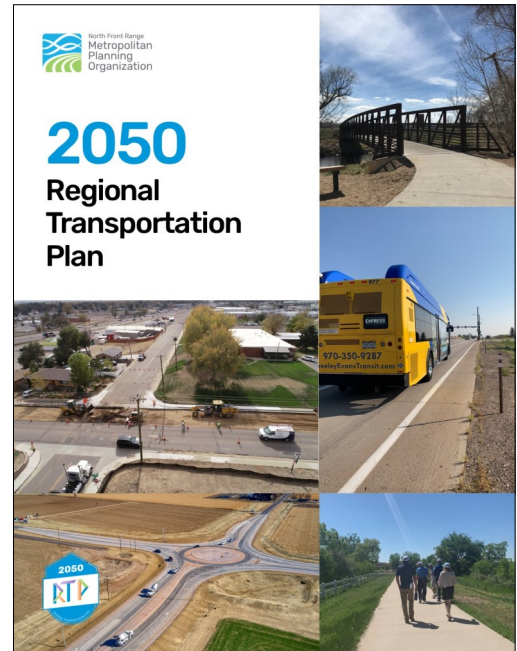


Vestas

# REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN

The NFRMPO adopted the 2050 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) in September. The culmination of two years of hard work by staff, community members, and stakeholders, the 2050 RTP sets the goals, objectives, and priorities to improve mobility in Northern Colorado over the next two-and-a-half decades. Some highlights from the 2050 RTP include:

- \$6.5B toward roadway operations and maintenance
- \$787.9M toward intersection improvements
- \$435.4M to Regional Active Transportation Corridors (RATCs)
- \$3.4B to transit operations, maintenance, and expansion
- \$4.3B to capacity projects, including multimodal improvements
- \$91M to greenhouse gas reducing strategies



## Land Use and Travel Demand Models Updates

The NFRMPO worked with local communities and stakeholders to improve the Regional Travel Demand Model (RTDM) and the Land Use Allocation Model (LUAM) to analyze scenarios used in the 2050 RTP. These scenarios include:

- No Build
- High Density
- Fiscally Unconstrained
- Fiscally Constrained

Communities and consultants can use these updated model data in their studies and reports.

## Congestion Management Process (CMP)

The NFRMPO addresses congestion through a systematic and strategic process documented in the Congestion Management Process (CMP). The CMP includes congestion reduction goals, objectives, performance measures, targets, and strategies.

Overall, the strategies are organized based on their impact to transportation demand or supply. Higher level recommendations include a Single Occupancy Vehicle (SOV) Analysis Worksheet in the NFRMPO Call for Projects to ensure more multimodal investments in the region.

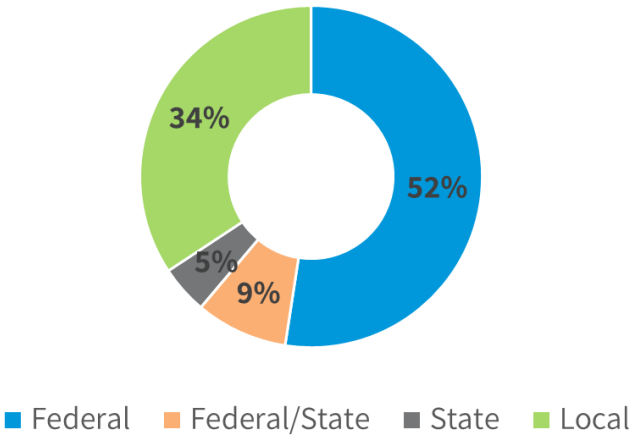
## Story Maps and Interactive Maps

Throughout the 2050 RTP development process, NFRMPO staff kept in mind the question “so what?” Transportation can be jargony, complex, and intimidating. To make it easier, the NFRMPO created interactive maps and Story Maps using ArcGIS Online. These maps will be repurposed to an interactive Executive Summary, providing high level overviews of each part of the 2050 RTP.



# TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Percentage of FY2024-2027 TIP Funding by Funding Type



## NFRMPO FY2024-2027 TIP Approved by State and FHWA

On September 7, 2023 the NFRMPO Planning Council approved the Fiscal Years (FY) 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and related conformity determination. The TIP became effective upon approval by Governor Polis and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and was incorporated into the Statewide TIP.

The TIP identifies the surface transportation projects and activities to be funded in the NFRMPO area over a four-year time period. The TIP includes roadway, transit, bicycle, and pedestrian improvements that are federally funded or regionally significant. The FY2024-2027 TIP includes approximately \$620.5M in federal, state, and local funds. The chart (to the left, below) shows the percentage of funding programmed in the FY2024-2027 TIP by funding type.

To learn more about the TIP and to see details about the projects programmed in the TIP, view the [TIP Story Map](#) and the [TIP webpage](#).

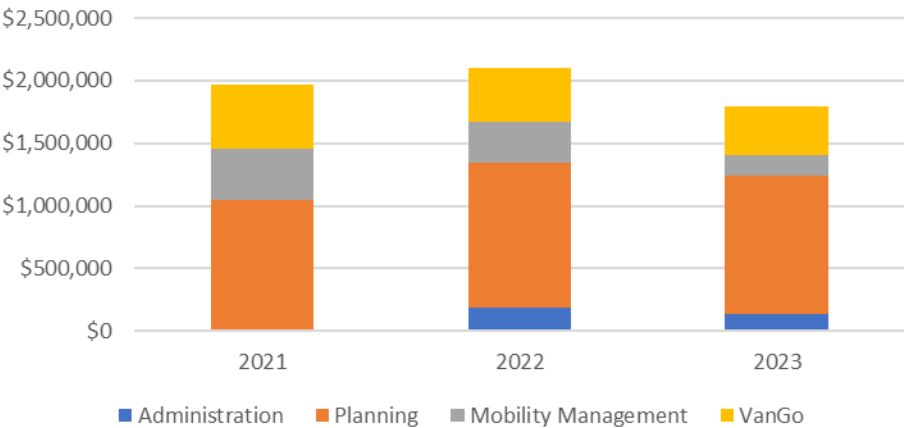
## NFRMPO FINANCES

The NFRMPO is predominantly grant funded with local funds used as match, through federal and state programs like:

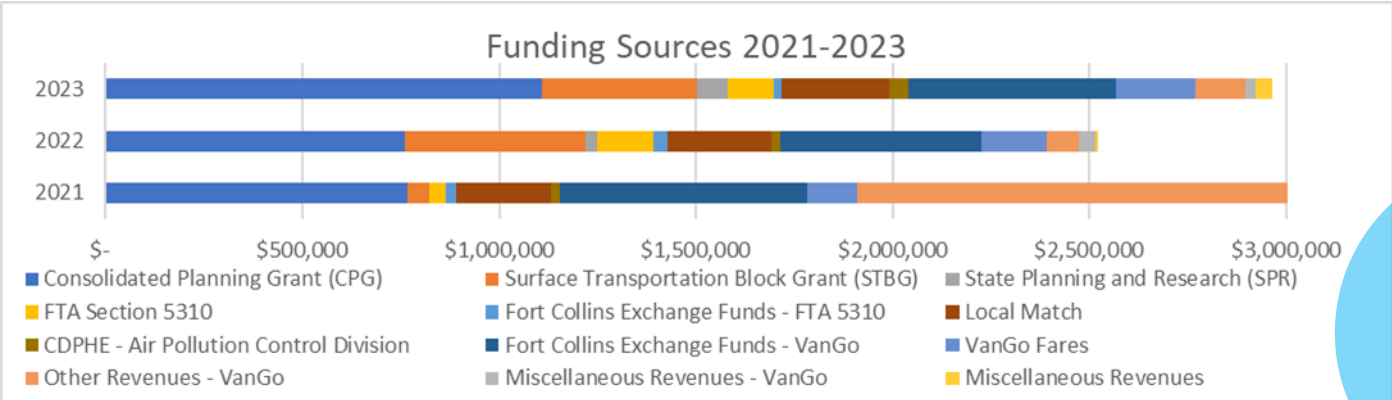
- [Consolidated Planning Grant](#)
- [Surface Transportation Block Grant](#)
- [FTA Section 5310](#)
- [State Planning and Research](#)

The VanGo™ program is funded through fares, vehicle sales, and funding agreements with local communities.

Expenditures by Program 2021-2023



Funding Sources 2021-2023



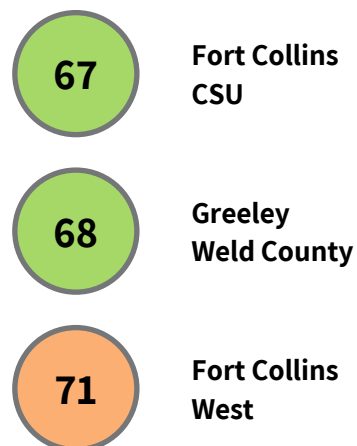
# AIR QUALITY

## 2023 Ozone Season

Ozone levels exceeded health-based federal standards on 27 days in 2023 in the nine-county Denver Metro/North Front Range (DM/NFR) ozone nonattainment area, an improvement over 2022 when 33 days exceeded the standards. There were 38 [Ozone Action Alert Days](#). The NFRMPO continues to partner with the RAQC and APCD on outreach and strategy development to control ozone.

The fourth highest value at the three State monitors in the NFRMPO region are shown to the right. Fort Collins—CSU and Greeley—Weld County remained under both the 70 and 75 ppb federal standards, while Fort Collins West was slightly above the 70 ppb standard.

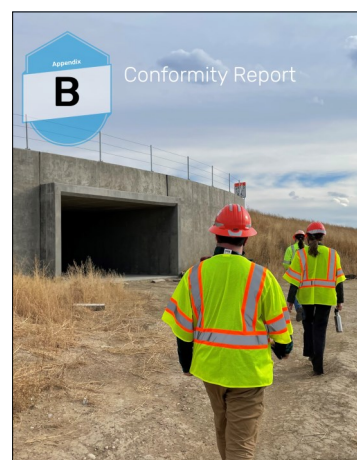
### 4th Max Value (2023)



## Conformity Determination for the FY2024-2027 TIP and 2050 RTP

Regional air quality significant projects must be analyzed for their impacts on the region's air quality. Using the NFRMPO's Regional Travel Demand Model (RTDM), outputs like vehicle speeds and vehicle miles traveled (VMT) are submitted to the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) for analysis using the EPA's Motor Vehicle Emissions Simulator (MOVES) model. The NFRMPO must ensure emissions remain below the Motor Vehicle Emissions Budgets (MVEBs).

For both the 2024-2027 TIP and the 2050 RTP, the NFRMPO achieved conformity. Planning Council approved the Conformity Determination at their September 2023 meeting, which was submitted to federal partners.



## GHG Transportation Report

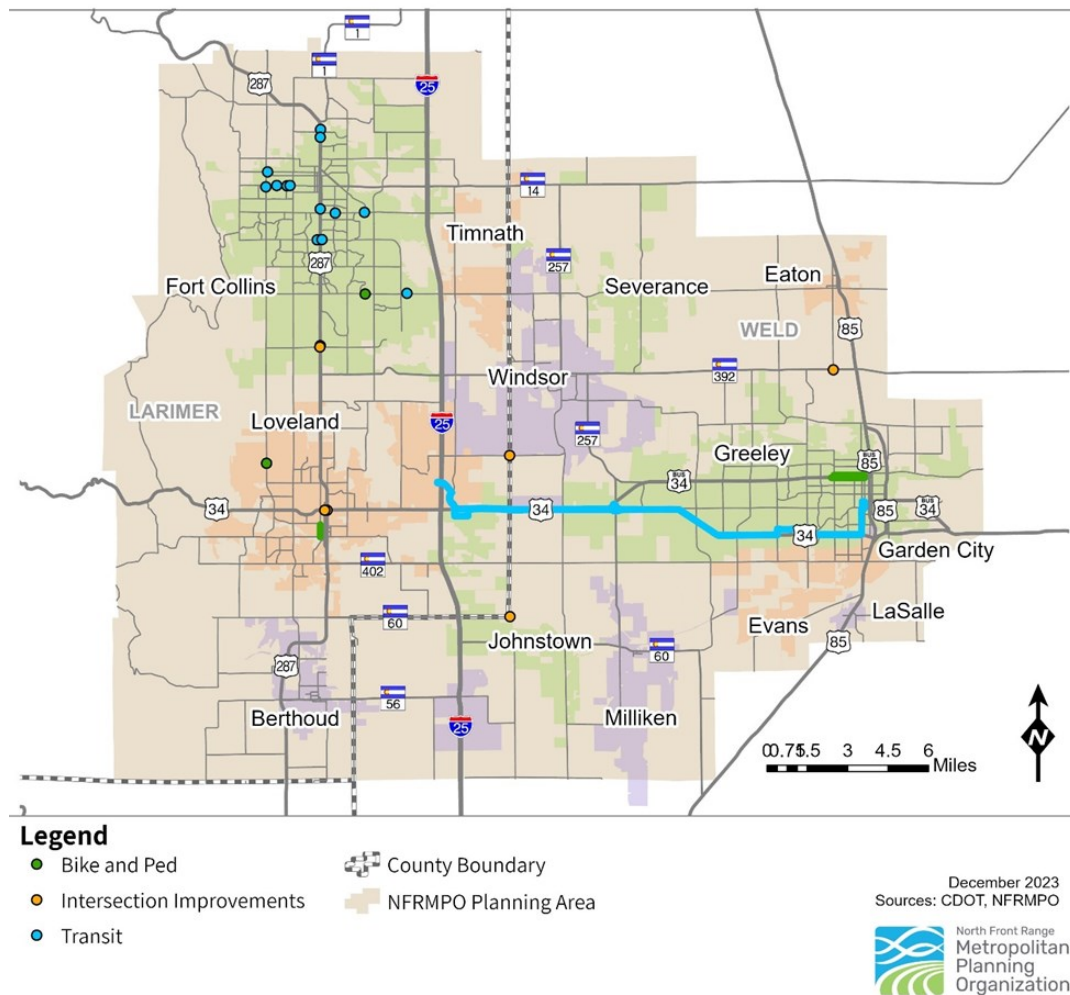
As part of the 2050 RTP, the NFRMPO completed a Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Transportation Report in compliance with the GHG Planning Standard. Using the four strategies initially developed for the 2045 RTP 2022 Update, the NFRMPO can achieve GHG emissions reductions at levels meeting or exceeding those required in the future compliance years as compared with the 2045 RTP adopted in 2019. The 2045 RTP 2022 Update includes additional investments in transit, transportation demand management (TDM), operations, and active (i.e. bicycle and pedestrian) transportation to achieve the required GHG reductions. The strategies were better integrated into the overall planning process as compared to the 2022 Update.



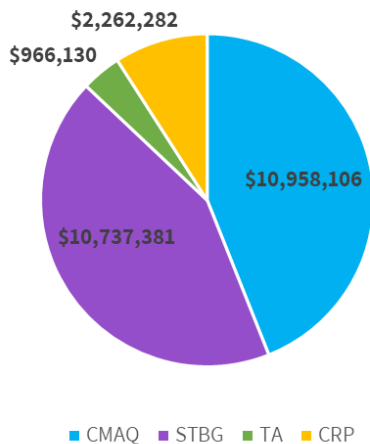
# CALL FOR PROJECTS

The NFRMPO 2023 Call for Projects was open between August 4 and October 6, 2023. The 2023 Call for Projects was held to award approximately \$22.4M in federal funding for fiscal years 2026 and 2027. The NFRMPO Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) recommended fully funding 11 requests, partially funding one request, and waitlisting 12 requests. The map shows the locations and types of projects recommended for funding.

The NFRMPO Planning Council is scheduled to approve the funding recommendation for the 2023 Call for Projects at their meeting on January 11, 2024. More information about the 2023 Call for Projects process and the funding projects can be found at [nfrmpo.org/call-for-projects](https://nfrmpo.org/call-for-projects).



2023 Call for Projects Funding by Source



## FUNDING SOURCE GUIDE:

### Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG)

Highway/roadway, bridge, transit, and bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure

### Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ)

Projects demonstrating an emissions reduction benefit

### Carbon Reduction Program (CRP)

Projects that reduce [greenhouse gas emissions](#) from transportation sources

### Transportation Alternatives (TA)

On- and off-road pedestrian and bicycle facilities

## I-25 RIBBON CUTTING

On December 7, 2023, a ribbon cutting ceremony was held at the new Centerra Mobility Hub in Loveland. Speakers at the ceremony included Governor Jared Polis, CDOT Executive Director Shoshana Lew, Larimer County Commissioner and NFRMPO Councilmember Kristin Stephens, and Weld County Commissioner and NFRMPO Planning Council Chair Scott James. Speakers highlighted the partnerships and collaboration which made the project possible, and the benefits of the project to those who live, work, and travel through the region. The express lanes between Berthoud and Fort Collins opened for testing on December 15. The mobility hubs are anticipated to be open to service for Bustang in Spring 2024.



40 miles  
New Express Lanes



5  
Interchange  
Rebuilds



35  
Reconstructed  
Bridges



2  
New Mobility  
Hubs



2019—2024  
Length of Time



**Top left:** Governor Jared Polis offers remarks about the impact of I-25 on Northern Colorado



**Top right:** new signage at the Centerra Mobility Hub, including COLT and Bustang



**Bottom right:** Members of the NFRMPO Planning Council posing with Executive Director Mallette



# MOBILITY

## RideNoCo Website & Trip Scheduling

In 2023, progress was made on the third phase of the rollout of RideNoCo: a trip scheduling coordination project in partnership with regional volunteer transportation providers and their scheduling systems utilizing the Transactional Data Specification (TDS). The TDS technology will allow seamless communication between RideNoCo and volunteer providers such as SAINT, Rural Alternative for Transportation (RAFT), and 60+ Ride of Weld County when the project launches in the second quarter of 2024. When complete, RideNoCo will be able to assist with the intake process for potential clients of volunteer transportation providers, and providers will be able to share clients and trips amongst each other, enhancing coordination and improving service in the region.



## Technical Assistance

The NFRMPO's Mobility Program continues to provide FTA \$5310 Mobility Management funds to support the transportation services Envision and 60+ Ride, provide for older adults and people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.



6

Travel Trainings

46

Community  
Presentations

215

2023 Mobility  
Committee  
Attendance



## Mobility Committees

2023 was officially the first year the Weld County Mobility Committee and Larimer County Mobility Committee met quarterly as the Northern Colorado Mobility Committee. The new format will move into 2024 to coordinate outreach, share updates in services, brainstorm solutions to challenges, and enhance coordination of the transportation system across the region.



## Outreach

The Mobility Program has also facilitated six Travel Trainings with Health and Human Service providers in Larimer and Weld Counties and 46 presentations about RideNoCo. In 2024, an Outreach Plan will be created to combine the efforts of the 2021 Coordinated Public Transit/Human Services Transportation Plan, Mobility Action Plan, Transportation Demand Management Action Plan, and other local initiatives to build relationships with the community, reduce community engagement fatigue, and enhance education and service coordination in the region.

# TRANSPORTATION DEMAND MANAGEMENT

The Planning Council adopted the [TDM Action Plan](#) in December 2022, which recommended taking certain actions to implement Transportation Demand Management in the region. Throughout 2023, NFRMPO staff have worked on various strategies to develop more regional support for TDM efforts.



The **US34 Transportation Management Organization (TMO)** will be the first TMO in Northern Colorado. In partnership with the US34 Coalition, which is made up of elected officials interested in implemented the US34 Planning and Environmental Linkage Study, the US34 TMO will work with stakeholders between Estes Park and Kersey to increase multimodal transportation options, develop and improve capacity for stakeholder outreach and engagement, and work to improve the efficiency of the regional transportation system.



NFRMPO staff applied for and received a **TMO Seed Grant** from CDOT's Office of Innovative Mobility to support the US34 TMO. Local communities will provide local match for this grant, which will be administered by the NFRMPO. These funds will support the administrative functions of the US34 TMO.



The NFRMPO Planning Council committed to setting aside \$100,000 per year in **Carbon Reduction Program (CRP)** funds to support new and existing TMOs in Northern Colorado between 2024 and 2027. The Planning Council has recommended supporting the US34 TMO in its infancy, but the NFRMPO will create criteria and frameworks for new TMOs in the future.



Between June and August 2023, 138 people participated in the **Shift Your Ride Summer Challenge**, logging nearly 11,000 vehicle miles reduced, 1,000 fewer trips, and 4.5 tons of pollution reduced.

## TRANSIT



Using Multimodal Transportation and Mitigation Options Funds (MMOF) set aside by the Planning Council, the NFRMPO kicked off Phase II of LinkNoCo in December. Phase II will evaluate operating scenarios and capital improvements to help create an efficient, useful, and beneficial transit corridor on US34. HDR has been hired as the consultant, continuing the work they did as part of Phase I. The work is expected to be completed in late 2024.

More information about the project is available at [nfrmpo.org/transit/linknoco](https://nfrmpo.org/transit/linknoco).



# RIDENOCO

## RideNoCo Calls

The RideNoCo Call Center has seen significant increases in 2023 for calls taken, presentations, website clicks, and materials distributed. Calls are taken in English and Spanish, with over-the-phone interpretation available in over 120 languages.



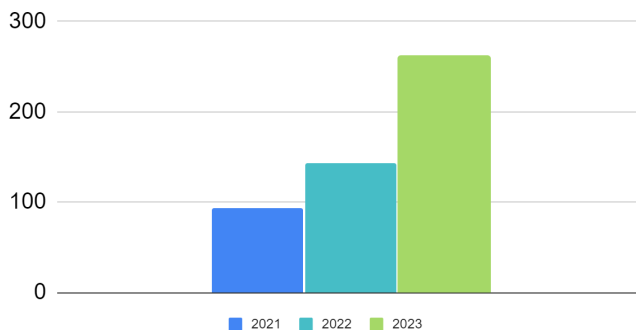
Some of the gaps we heard about this year include:

- Transportation between Larimer and Weld County, and Fort Collins and Loveland
- Transportation from Larimer and Weld counties to the Denver Metro Area for specialty appointments
- Inability to schedule a ride in time given long intake periods to sign up for services
- Needing rides outside of providers' hours (after 4pm)
- Inability to get a ride due to lack of Transportation Provider availability caused by scheduling issues, lack of drivers, and lack of vehicles

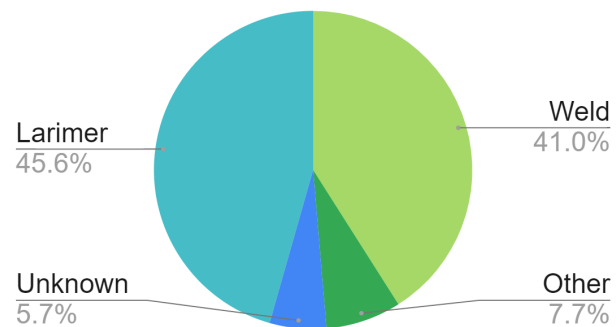
**261**  
Calls & Emails

**3,835**  
Website  
Visits

Calls Per Year



Calls By County



# VANGO™

The VanGo™ program, surviving the pandemic that took many smaller vanpool programs from the roads, remained stable in 2023, adding riders and a new route. The stability, considering increased work-from-home opportunities and many vanpoolers retiring, exemplifies the dedication of the VanGo™ staff, the strong family that makes up our participants and aids in referring new riders, and the continued support of the NFRMPO, in ensuring the long-term viability of the program.

Shane Armstrong, Operations and Fleet Manager, completed training and received certification (NAFA CAFM-- Certified Automotive Fleet Manager--the gold standard certification for people working with any fleet) further strengthening the backbone of the program and ensuring all capital investments are being managed to their maximum potential.

The program continued its resolve to decrease SOV and reduce greenhouse gasses along the Colorado Front Range. And, while supply chain issues have slowed our ability to procure vehicles, we were able to add three more hybrid vans to our fleet. These additions bring our active, on the road fleet, to 70 percent hybrid, with a hope the supply chain issues will ease some in 2024 allowing us to move that percentage to 100.

# ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION AND WALK AUDITS

## NoCo Bike & Ped Collaborative

The NoCo Bike & Ped Collaborative met monthly throughout the year to discuss ways to improve the regional bicycle and pedestrian network. The group discussed a variety of topics including the Regional Travel Demand Model and Active Transportation, the City of Fort Collins' E-Bike and E-Scooter program, the [2050 RTP](#), the 2023 Call for Projects, the Colorado Energy Office's E-Bike Rebate Program, Regional Active Transportation Corridor (RATC) Visioning, the 2025 Active Transportation Plan (ATP), and scoring the Transportation Alternatives (TA) program funds. The group continued to track the progress of the construction of the RATCs in 2024.

## Safe Routes to School Subcommittee

The Safe Routes to School Subcommittee is a subcommittee of NoCo Bike & Ped Collaborative whose main goal is to develop a regional Safe Routes to School program. The Safe Routes to School Subcommittee met periodically to develop a survey that went out to key stakeholders, including school administrators, teachers, city/town planners and engineers, and city/town managers. This survey concluded that a lack of resources, staff capacity, and funding are the biggest barriers to implementing Safe Routes to School programs, and there needs to be more education surrounding the program. The Safe Routes to School subcommittee will continue to develop a regional Safe Routes to School program in 2024 and will begin to meet monthly beginning in January 2024.

## Walk Audits

In 2023, NFRMPO staff participated in two audit along with various community members and partner agencies. Participants used the NFRMPO's [Bike & Ped Safety Report Tool](#) to gather data and report out on recommendations from the audit.

## Poudre River Trail Walk Audit

On August 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023, NoCo Bike & Ped Collaborative conducted a walk audit along sections of the Poudre River Trail in the Town of Timnath. Participants split into two groups to assess walkability and wayfinding along the Poudre River Trail in Timnath. Each group walked the entirety of the route. One group started the audit on the southside of Harmony Road while the other group started on the northside of Harmony Road. To view a summary and recommendations from the audit, view the [Poudre River Trail Walk Audit Story Map](#).

## Eaton Walk Audit

NoCo Bike & Ped Collaborative led a Walk Audit through the Town of Eaton on September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Participants walked the one-mile loop, discussing sidewalk improvements, wayfinding opportunities, pedestrian amenities, and safe crossings of Collins Street. For more information on the audit, including photos and recommendations, view the [Eaton Walk Audit Story Map](#).



# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Throughout 2023, NFRMPO staff attended events at various locations across the region as outreach for the 2050 RTP, RideNoCo, air quality, and general agency outreach. In addition to in-person outreach, and as an implementation of the 2022 Public Involvement Plan, the NFRMPO increased the agency's online outreach through social media, newsletters, and the NFRMPO website. The most discussed topics during community engagement efforts in 2023 were the 2050 RTP, regional transit and trails, safety, and the RideNoCo program.



12

RTP Specific  
Events



20

General Outreach  
Events



15

RideNoCo Events



>3,970

Community  
Member  
Interactions



30

Outside Partner  
Presentation



2,092

*On the Move*  
Newsletters



407

Mobility  
Newsletter Sends



1,947

Special  
Newsletter Sends



50%

Newsletter  
Average Open



100

New Social Media  
Followers





## Contact Us



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[rideno.co](http://rideno.co)

⚡ CAUTION! ⚡

STEPS MAY BE SLIPPERY  
USE HANDRAILS

WATCH YOUR STEP

⚡ CAUTION! ⚡

STEPS MAY BE SLIPPERY  
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