

# Community Forum Recap

Fort Collins, April 9, 2007

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## Agenda:

- 5:00 – 5:30 Open/Boards
- 5:30 – 5:40 Welcome/Agenda
- 5:40 – 6:00 Presentation
- 6:10 – 6:40 Road/Transit table discussion
- 6:40 – 7:10 Road/Transit table discussion
- 7:15 – Table Reports
- 7:30 – 8:00 Questions/look at table maps

## Map Summaries (A – Roadways, B – Transit/Multi-Modal):

### 1A

Key Messages about regional roadways –

- Poor road conditions
- Concerns for environment and air quality
- Concern about higher congestion

Top 3 regional roadway priorities to be addressed by RTA –

- US 34 Loveland to Greeley
- 392 Interchange
- Harmony to I-25

What other connections are also important to you?

- Bike lanes between cities and within cities
- Add more over/underpasses for busy streets
- Windsor as focal point between Greeley and Fort Collins

What voters need to know?

- Traffic projections in short and long term
- Transit needs to fit with regional roadways
- How bad will condition of existing and future roads become without maintenance
- What it will take for all that is wanted compared to money collected.
- Educate more people on why they should use transit.

Other Comments –

- Concerned with cut-backs with Dial-A-Ride service.
- Need to provide for regional freight and passenger rail
- Look at interactions of all financial legislation (state level)
- Do education to encourage carpool, vanpool, walking, biking, transit, etc.

### 1B

**Key Messages about regional transit/multimodal planning**

- Poor road conditions
- Concerns for environment and air quality
- Concern about higher congestion

**Short term priorities – What transit/multimodal connections do we need to provide first?**

- Fort Collins to Greeley to Loveland Triangle, including Windsor etc.
- Expand the Fort Collins Transfort to a full grid system
- Extend connection from Fort Collins to Longmont (RTD)

### **Future transit vision**

Expand regional bike trail connections

### **Affordable first steps to move toward vision**

¼ cent sales tax for local transit service in Fort Collins

Dedicated tax for regional transit (like RTD), more than ¼ cent likely needed.

### **Ideas for local connections**

Harmony bus to I-25 transit center

Shields and Taft

Full grid for Transfort

South of Harmony to serve southeast Fort Collins

Run buses 7 days a week, longer and earlier, and more frequently

## **2A**

### **Key Messages about regional roadways**

If RTA does not have at least 50% transit, will oppose

Fixing roads only delays real progress on transit

Communities such as Loveland and Windsor should pay for transportation impacts

Can't build your way out of congestion, auto not paying its own way

All regional impact fees should be uniform and fair for all NFR cities/towns

Encourage retail growth within each community to lesson need/desire for regional shopping trips

### **Top 3 regional roadway priorities to be addressed by RTA**

Prioritize maintenance of existing roads rather than expansion

Improve safety on highways to reduce accident closures

### **What other connections are also important to you?**

Plan for Auto/transit connections

If can't build or own transit, subsidize other providers such as Shamrock (Airport Shuttle)

### **What voters need to know?**

Be more honest about true cost of driving a car

Deaths per mile traveled on transit vs. autos

Relative cost of interchange improvements and who is responsible (cost, development)

### **Other Comments**

Why do we even need a NFRRTA when we could join Denver's RTD to form a statewide system?

Elected officials should be required to spend time in S. California to see the results of sprawl.

## **2B**

### **Key Messages about regional transit/multimodal planning**

Lacking transit between NFR cities

No regional transit to Denver

Little attention to rail options

No elected official's priorities to transit in presentation

Are trolleys feasible?

Possibilities of using existing rail corridors  
No Front Range rail corridor push by state  
Things are going to hell: fixing roads will continue to delay transit solution

**Short term priorities – What transit/multimodal connections do we need to provide first?**

Short term transit must tie into long term statewide rail transit  
Find ways to reduce auto dependency  
Change gas tax. Tie to cost of gasoline  
Replace buses with rail  
Increase inter-city connections to core of Fort Collins/Loveland/Greeley  
Offer incentives for developers to develop along potential rail corridors

**Future transit vision**

Build out a Front Range, then statewide rail transit system  
Join RTD or connect to it, vs. regional bus transit

**Affordable first steps to move toward vision**

Planning for ultimate vision

**Ideas for local connections**

### **3A**

**Key Messages about regional roadways**

Pave owl canyon  
Truck traffic  
Put the money towards transit

**Top 3 regional roadway priorities to be addressed by RTA**

Taft and Wilson improvements  
Better north/south connections east of I-25  
I-25 interchanges

**What other connections are also important to you?**

**What voters need to know?**

**Other Comments**

### **3B**

**Key Messages about regional transit/multimodal planning**

Higher frequencies  
25% - 50% split for transit  
Must have affordable housing in TOD's

**Short term priorities – What transit/multimodal connections do we need to provide first**

Laporte connection to Fort Collins  
Fort Collins to Denver (I-25)  
North College to Loveland (20 min.)  
Wellington to Longmont connection, must connect to Fasttracks

**Future transit vision**

Fast and separate from auto traffic  
Rapid Transit  
North/South connection from Fort Collins to Denver Metro (DIA)

### **Affordable first steps to move toward vision**

- Raise gas tax
- Carbon tax

### **Ideas for local connections**

- Mason corridor
- N.W. Laporte connection to Central Business District
- North College transit improvements
- Mountain Vista to DTC
- Grid system

## **4A**

### **Key Messages about regional roadways**

- Bike lanes on roads when feasible
- Bus lanes on roads and H.O.V. lanes
- East-west connections to get to north/south
- 392 a decade too late
- Trucks designated lane at 65mph, vehicles at 75mph
- Road improvements aren't evil but part of the solution

### **Top 3 regional roadway priorities to be addressed by RTA**

- Harmony
- Carpenter
- Taft/Shields

### **What other connections are also important to you?**

- CO Rd. 5 parallel
- Connect transit to Denver via Longmont and/or US hwy 85

### **What voters need to know?**

- Can't wait for the state/federal government
- Safety

### **Other Comments**

## **4B**

### **Key Messages about regional transit/multimodal planning –**

- Rail is clean, fast, and safe – preserve corridors now!
- Eliminate school buses – use money to feed transit
- Grade separation somewhere in Fort Collins – underground?
- Improved paratransit service between cities

### **Short term priorities – What transit/multimodal connections do we need to provide first?**

- 287 needs to be connected to Longmont/Denver

### **Future transit vision**

- High speed connection to Denver through the cities
- Regional Transit Authority
- Statewide auto sales tax

**Affordable first steps to move toward vision -**

- Preserve rail corridors
- Power planning
- Connect commerce of the city

**Ideas for local connections**

**5A**

**Key Messages about regional roadways**

- Develop a balanced system (alternative modes/roadway)
- Need strong vision for region
- Address roadways first then more transit
- Growth has not paid its way, add impact fee for RTA
- Do we have true buy in from all jurisdictions, i.e. Weld County?

**Top 3 regional roadway priorities to be addressed by RTA**

- I-25 and 392 interchange
- Internal Fort Collins – Mulberry/College/Harmony/ Mason
- 34 connections (Loveland/Greeley) and 287 connections (Fort Collins/Loveland)

**What other connections are also important to you?**

**What voters need to know?**

- Growth in population and employers between Northern Colorado
- \$ Alternative – regional impact fees
- Maintenance of existing roadways

**Other Comments**

**5B**

**Key Messages about regional transit/multimodal planning**

- Alternative mode, multiple passenger carriers
- Use existing railways
- Cities develop inner-city connections to get people to connecting rail
- H.O.V. lanes used with BRT
- Equal funding between roads and mass transit
- All facilities should include opportunities for all modes
- Increase taxes for gas
- Funding requirements of RTA
- Pot accessed by equal \$ from locals
- Growth paying its way to RTA

**Short term priorities – What transit/multimodal connections do we need to provide first?**

- Rail from Fort Collins to Longmont
- H.O.V./transit connections
- Windsor/Timnath/Greeley rail transit
- I-25 corridor transit including BRT, rail, and H.O.V.

## **Future transit vision**

### **Affordable first steps to move toward vision**

### **Ideas for local connections**

## **6A**

### **Key Messages about regional roadways**

- Consider an adjusting gas tax
- Development fees – assess traffic contribution – regional impact
- Who pays for development along I-25 especially Centerra
- Funding for road maintenance absent
- Age distribution – percent over 65 who cannot drive
- Need for increased inter-city coverage and frequency
- Inclusion of service to Wellington
- Spend more on multimodal over roadway expansion
- Move railway out of town (Fort Collins)
- Don't lose bike access
- Collect truck weigh station taxes

### **Top 3 regional roadway priorities to be addressed by RTA**

- H.O.V. lanes – US 34, Harmony, and Mason Street
- 287 Fort Collins to Loveland
- Don't put regional \$ to I-25 unless mass transit

### **What other connections are also important to you?**

### **What voters need to know?**

- Effects of growth
- Gas tax – declining
- Loss/lack of revenue
- Local vs. regional benefits – What they get?
- Developers pay their way

### **Other Comments**

- Shareback for demand-response and paratransit

## **6B**

### **Key Messages about regional transit/multimodal planning**

- Must include inter-city improvements with regional ones
- Separate RTA from RTD so that it focuses on transit only
- Emphasize Transit Oriented Development (TOD)
- Affordable housing with access to transit

### **Short term priorities – What transit/multimodal connections do we need to provide first?**

- Mason Street – commuter rail to Longmont
- Mass transit down I-25 to Denver (not H.O.V.)

### **Future transit vision**

- Reduce/eliminate bus fares - \$5.00 a month
- Connections from Cheyenne to Denver

**Affordable first steps to move toward vision**

Reduce/eliminate fares for bus  
Carpooling

**Ideas for local connections**

Fort Collins to Wellington  
Grid coverage  
Downtown to I-25/ access on Mulberry  
Connect to RTD  
Improve North College for bikes and pedestrians

**Northern Front Range Transportation Authority**  
**Comment Form - Fort Collins, April 9, 2007**

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**How do our region's transportation problems affect you on a daily basis?**

- Area is becoming more congested so I feel less safe on my bike on the roads.
- Major streets need to support traffic throughout
- RR grade separators in Fort Collins
- Getting out to I-25 from downtown Fort Collins to travel into Cheyenne
- Lack of public transportation
- Traffic flow requires additional time to reach destinations
- Congested roads in Fort Collins (Harmony, College, Prospect, Horsetooth, Mulberry, Riverside, Shields...)
- Avoid going on I-25 anywhere unless very special need
- Local shopping is a priority
- Potholes

**What do you see as the top transportation issue in the region?**

- Having to pay other taxes (gas, state, vehicle, license, etc.)
- We need to improve public transportation to get people out of cars due to increased miles/trips people are making. We can't build ourselves out of our problem.
- Emphasize short term projects to increase ridership.
- Annual passes for paratransit or fixed route service
- Cost efficient transportation plus major street and highway needs
- Better mass transit with higher frequency
- Need for a Transit District
- Lack of adequate transit facilities
- Service needs to be more frequent
- *Intra*-city public transportation promotion to help people find alternative to automobile
- *Inter*-city public transportation, push money to passenger rail development
- Overpopulation/under funding/over use

**What additional transportation projects would you like to see addressed?**

- Need to be concerned with transportation for elderly/disabled.
- Commuting to Denver without getting in our cars
- A move to higher capacity more modern forms of transit
- A cost effective balance of multi-modal transportation
- Road maintenance
- rail and street crossing conflicts on Riverside, Lemay, and Mulberry (why not a time limit on how long a street can be blocked)
- Require new development to pay impact fee
- Regional train (connecting Cheyenne to Denver)
- Bus Rapid Transit (BRT)
- Paratransit
- Widening I-25 for mass transit purposes
- Connecting to Fasttracks

**Help us identify organizations interested in our transportation future:**

- PTAG ([fctransit@yahoo.com](mailto:fctransit@yahoo.com))
- Northern Colorado Social Legislation Network (Garth McCann)
- Affordable Housing Groups (Chadrick Martinez)

**Additional Feedback regarding the transportation future of Northern Colorado:**

- 50% transit development
- 50% road maintenance
- Both applied to regional and local shareback
- Consider other funding mechanisms (fuel tax increase, impact fee, sales tax, driver licenses fee, tax incremental finance)
- This region needs to give a higher priority to railroads.
- Transit should become a large part of moving our population.
- Inter-city connections is a priority
- We cannot meet our needs by paying the state of Colorado
- Regional rail over bus (infrastructure already in place)
- Link core cities
- Require new development to pay impact fee
- A need to educate the public on pros and cons of mass transit, pollution problems, and congestion.