

## **Community Forum Recap**

**Loveland, April 11, 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**

- Rapid Transit/Light rail is needed
- Less emphasis on existing highway improvements
- Hwy 392 interchange improved
- Improve interchange at Hwy 34 and I-25

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

- Hwy 287 – elevated roadway
- Synchronize lights and traffic flow
- Hwy 392
- Crossroads bypass into Greeley

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

- Wilson Ave from Hwy 402 to Prospect Road
- Hwy 7 (or 1 – unable to read writing) from crossroads up to Weld County Rd 74
- Hwy 402 from Wilson Ave to Weld Co Road 17

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

- Affordable and fast way to travel to Denver on regular schedules
- Affordable means to DIA
- The RTA would help with congestion
- Emphasize the cost/expense to drive a vehicle
- If nothing gets done it will only get worse and be more expensive to repair

##### **Other Comments**

- Restrict signage along I-25
- 1 mile set back from I-25 for businesses
- Digital sign message boards on I-25
- Increase State gas tax

#### **1B**

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

- An effective way to deal w/I-25
- Light rail along US 287
- BRT along rail line
- Must have certain level of service for transit
- Expand bus service in Loveland

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

- Affordable, fast and efficient bus to DIA
- Interconnectivity between FTC, Loveland, Greeley and Berthoud
- More transit centers – park and get on the bus

### **Future transit vision**

- Light rail from Fort Collins to Longmont
- Anything that will move people affordably, efficiently to and from Denver
- MonoRail

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

- If you build it, they will use it
- Secure rail right-of-way for light rail
- Expand bus system in Loveland
- Sidewalks along Hwy 34 between I-25 and Boise Ave

### **Ideas for local connections**

- Sidewalks and bike paths
- More bus connectivity
- Shuttles in major shopping areas and between shopping centers
- Safety overpass over I-25 and Hwy 34
- Pedestrian walkways along I-25 and Hwy 34

## **3A**

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

- More congestion
- Funds are not available
- Too many priorities
- Some priorities don't address regionalism
- I-25 is a mess and Hwy 34, too.
- No choice to from here to there on I-25 – need alternate regional routes

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

- Need North/South and East/West alternative routes
- 3 lanes both north and south on I-25 w/HOV lane and BRT
- Not focus RTA on local/minor improvements
- Truck traffic needs to be on State highways not local roads

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

- Denver/DIA/Cheyenne
- Downtown Wilson to US 287 at Berthoud
- I-25 to Hwy 85

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

- CDOT's not going to be able to solve the problems
- Personal interviews with the people that need assistance
- Use all media outlets and service groups to spread the word
- The longer we wait the worse the problem will be

### **Other Comments**

Towns/Cities should be responsible for their own maintenance  
Must focus on regional solutions  
Circular bypass

## **3B**

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

Growth is inevitable and resources are scarce  
Aging population – mobility problems  
Transit not the answer to everything, but there's a need for it  
Transit is primarily a personable mobility  
Cost for transit should on parity with usage/type  
Not everyone is in love with trains  
Long term rail solution, not short term  
We need to think regionally

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

Bus – more accessible (physically hard to get on the bus)  
Train drivers to deal with aged and disabled population  
Regional connections  
Better use of resources – communities and agencies

### **Future transit vision**

Transit system on I-25, Hwy 287 (Cheyenne to Colo Springs)  
Transit system on Hwy 34 and Hwy 85  
Rail Transit system

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

Coordinate all other transportation efforts  
True feasibility studies on cost  
Fast bus on I-25 (FTC to Loveland to Greeley) w/interchanges  
Minimum – get started on routes between the three major communities (FTC, Loveland, Greeley)

### **Ideas for local connections**

Have Loveland connect its bus system to the south to Longmont to the RTD. It will be easier for FTC to connect.

## **4A**

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

Growth in population and traffic  
Aging population has limited mobility and ability to travel to Denver  
No State and Fed funding yet – we have maintenance issues now and a lot of growth planned  
Concern about gaps in planning if more than one RTA

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

I-25 and Interchanges  
Hwy 34 – Loveland  
Regional maintenance and safety

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

Crossroads at O Street  
Hwy 402 to Evans  
WCR 13

**What voters need to know?**

Be detailed about specifics and priorities of projects  
Consequences if we do or do not vote for sales tax dollars  
Historical knowledge and analysis of future projections and present facts

**Other Comments**

Regional approach is necessary

**4B**

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

Significant cost difference between BRT and rail transit  
Aging population and those with disabilities will need greater mobility  
Need effective connections between regional and local transit  
Would like to see as much money and effort put toward transit as highways

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

Regional and local connectivity  
Service to Denver – I-25 route

**Future transit vision**

Local and express service along I-25 & also on US 287  
Fort Collins, Loveland, Greeley, Berthoud express connectivity – BRT or Rail

**Affordable first steps to move toward vision**

**Ideas for local connections**

**5A**

**Key Messages about regional roadways**

Accessibility to roadways  
Easy access to major highways/expressways  
Need parallel roads to Hwy I-25

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

Reduce number of crossings on interstates/major roadways  
Widening of major regional highways  
Interchange improvements

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

Hwy 287, 34 and 402  
Taft and Wilson

**What voters need to know?**

What roads are most congested now and in the future  
Funding sources – sales tax/fuel tax  
Address these needs on a regional basis – show value in how to save money and time

## **Other Comments**

Save time with the least cost  
Huge deficits on roads – fix roads before alternatives brought in  
Many Larimer county road issues are not in the MPO boundary  
Shareback based on sales tax revenue is unfair to county needs  
That focus is on regional projects, not local

## **5B**

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

Transit service level has to be high enough (frequency/stops) to be used  
Break the addiction to SOVs, heavily subsidize transit  
Potential conflict – independence on transit but then we lose funding  
Existing local transit (Fort Collins) is insufficient

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

Local connectivity at destination cities / convenient access  
Inter-city connections  
Airport and major travel mode connections

### **Future transit vision**

Rail connections  
Connections to Airports  
Anything that can reduce congestion by 5% or more  
Off-road bike paths

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

Preservation of Rail right-of-way  
Connectivity between major communities

### **Ideas for local connections**

Local shuttle with access to local transit system

**Northern Front Range Transportation Authority**  
**Comment Form - Loveland, April 11, 2007**

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

- Safety concerns on I-25
- Congestion on 34 and 402
- No turn lanes on many highways
- Slower arrival times
- Localized congestion (Loveland, Fort Collins, Greeley, and Berthoud)
- "I would travel by bus/rail to everywhere if possible."
- Quality of infrastructure and time
- Having to get into a car in order to get to Longmont, Greeley, etc.
- Timing of lights

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

- Peoples addictions to their cars
- Widening/interchanges on I-25
- Focus on both north/south as well as east/west connections
- Having rapid transit between cities including Denver
- Upgrades needed
- Coordination between cities in area and to Denver.
- Mass transportation needed for pollution reduction and vehicle gridlock, accidents, etc.
- Increasing funding
- Efficiency of transit in our cities (some trips can take up to 2 hours one way)
- Transit system closes too early and starts up too late.
- Regional connectivity

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

- Beltway around region most importantly bike transportation between cities of the region
- Bikeways
- A vision for which major roadways are planned as expressways.
- 287 is an example of no planning
- Road improvements
- Sidewalks along 34 and I-25 and wherever development takes place
- Rapid transit
- Alternative north/south routes and east/west of I-25
- Rail or BRT options need to be explored as major priority
- Require all developers to include sidewalks in developments and linkages
- 34 in Greeley to 287
- Connecting 392 to Wilson
- East/west corridors (34, 392, hwy 14)
- Light rail

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

- Boy scouts
- Longspeak Council
- Thompson/Poudre School District
- Colorado Motor Carriers Association (Greg Fultor)

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

- The process needs to show that it is not being driven just to promote development.
- People are afraid of bicycling around cars so there needs to be more bikeways separate from roads.
- Mobility is critical to the economic vitality of the region. Business trips comprise a certain percentage of travel trips.
- Poor planning for the future and lack of revenues are what has created our current problems, in addition to efficient spending of what revenue is received. 287 is an example of no planning
- Transit projects must demonstrate they will reduce congestion (increase mobility) by substantial percentages to be cost effective.
- This is a regional problem and needs to have a regional solution. We should look at transit from the entire state perspective. It would make more sense to join the Briggs effort.