



Project Update *Regional Bicycle Plan*



The NFRMPO will be updating the Regional Bicycle Plan in 2012

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Regional Bicycle Plan

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The North Front Range Metropolitan Planning Organization (NFRMPO) will craft a Regional Bicycle Plan to begin in Fiscal Year 2012 (October 2011) as directed in the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). The final plan will be included in the 2040 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP).

Generally applying for grants to build infrastructure requires a comprehensive plan to be in place. This plan will provide the context for grant applications as they become available.

Scope of Work

In October, CDOT approved the scope of work for this project. The NFRMPO has issued a work order with their contractor, Felsburg Holt & Ullevig (FHU), to help develop the plan in 2012 and 2013.

Supporting Committees for Plan

The Regional Bicycle Plan will be guided by two advisory groups:

- Project Steering Committee (PSC) – staff from member governments and state agencies to advise goals for plan

- Citizen Advisory Group – collective of citizens from member communities to assist and guide public engagement efforts for the plan

The NFRMPO will be recruiting for these committees in December 2011 with the goal of convening each committee in late January or early February 2012.

Regional Inventory

The NFRMPO and FHU will contact each NFRMPO Member Community in December to capture an inventory of existing conditions. The inventory will be summarized in a matrix that lists member government across each bicycle-related variable collected. A written synopsis of each community inventory will be included in that chapter.

The inventory will result in a map of the existing bicycle facilities in the region by type of facility. This inventory will rely heavily on input from the member governments. The table below depicts the variables to be collected during this initial phase of the project.

Bicycle Design Standards	Existing and Planned or Committed Bicycle Infrastructure	Existing Bicycle Data
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Development • Comparison with National Association of City Transportation Officials (NACTO) • New Government Facility • Roadway Expansion/Improvement • Signage / Marking • Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bike Facility Lane Miles by Type (e.g., bike lanes, shared lanes, off-street trails, etc.) • Bike Lockers (Municipal) • Bus/Vanpools Equipped with Bike Carriers • Location of Wayfinding Signs • Showers at Municipal Facilities • Planned Improvements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safety / Traffic Incidents • Available Bicycle Counts / Participation in Programs • Seasonal Participation • Printed Bicycle Map • Bike Map Online • Safe Routes to School

Public Engagement

The planning effort will include a variety of public engagement strategies to encapsulate existing conditions for bicycle system users and desired improvements for commuting, recreation, and entertainment opportunities.

The strategies will include:

- **Phone survey** of the businesses over 100 employees in the NFRMPO region (over 200 businesses in database meeting this criterion). The survey will be conducted over the first quarter of 2012 to document how employers support bicycle commuters (employees) at their workplace.
- **Mailed survey** to residents in NFRMPO member communities outside of Greeley, Loveland, and Fort Collins - where bicycle infrastructure is more developed. A sample size of 200 is targeted with a proportional geographic split by population. The survey will include a map of the resident's home community and a regional map to record desired bicycle lanes and trails.
- **Work session** with each member government council/board to discuss existing bicycle infrastructure and desired improvements to the regional system.
- **Citizen meetings** (Charettes), like the Work Sessions, to capture desired system improvements. A possible "ride around" may occur to document desired routes (photo, video).
- **Transportation Boards** will be afforded the opportunity to evaluate the proposed recommendations to the plan. A written recommendation will be requested for transmittal to the NFRMPO Planning Council

Enhancements, Guidelines & Goals

The final plan will outline a set of future improvements, regional bicycle infrastructure design guidelines, and programmatic goals to assist our region in prioritizing future transportation system enhancements for bicyclists.

The enhancements will evaluate the following:

1. **Gap Assessment** – Identify the strategic on-system and off-system gaps in the regional bicycle system.
2. **Roadway Readiness for Bicycle Lanes** – Assess the region's major and minor roadways and arterials for bicycle lane readiness.
3. **Bicycle ITS** – Data Collection – Identify the optimal locations for permanent bicycle counter technology.
4. **Safety Enhancement Locations** – Identify locations where roadway safety enhancements could decrease bicycle/vehicular accidents.
5. **Secured Bike Facilities** – Identify locations on the regional bicycle system where bicycle lockers are available.
6. **Rails-to-Trails Assessment** – Assess the feasibility of each existing rail corridor as a regional bicycle system trail.
7. **Safe Routes to School** – Identify where future investment may be beneficial.
8. **Regional Bicycle System and Universities** – Assess the number of students with ¼ mile access to the existing bicycle network.
9. **Regional Bicycle Sharing Locations** – Identify a series of criteria to assess the likelihood of success for regional bicycle sharing.
10. **Census Comparison** – Assess the degree to which select populations have convenient access to bicycle facilities today and in the future.