



OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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NEWS RELEASE

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WELD COMMISSIONER TO PROPOSE FUNDING PLAN FOR I-25 IMPROVEMENTS

WELD COUNTY, CO – During tonight's North Front Range Metropolitan Planning Organization (NFRMPO) meeting, Weld County Commissioner and NFRMPO Vice-Chair Sean Conway will propose an amendment that, if approved, will bring dramatic improvements to northern I-25 in a matter of just a few years.

"Years ago, Weld County and the communities along the portion of I-25 between Thornton and Longmont made a conscious decision to dedicate funding to the building of a third lane on 25," said Commissioner Conway. "Today, motorists, residents and businesses are reaping the benefits of that decision. Tonight, I will propose the communities in the North Front Range MPO do the same."

Currently, the third lane on north-bound I-25 ends at the Mead exit causing congestion and delays for motorists trying to make their way north of Denver.

The amendment Conway will propose to the 15 members of the organization will pool all funding for projects from the STP Metro Fund for 2016 through 2019 rather than divide the organization's funding among multiple smaller projects in the member communities.

"Every community in the group will benefit from this decision to commit ourselves to creating a third lane on I-25," said Conway. "When improvements were made to the interstate years ago, those communities put local projects on hold for the greater good. Tonight, I will ask NFRMPO members to do the same."

The northern stretch of I-25 has been the focus of much attention this past year as state improvements to the Interstate are not scheduled to be completed until approximately 2075. "We can't wait 60-plus years for the state to address this failing road," said Conway. "We owe it to the businesses and residents who depend on I-25 to get these improvements completed faster."

If members approve the amendment, approximately \$13 million will be put toward building a third lane on I-25 from south of Highway 34 (Highway 402 / Johnson's Corner) to Harmony Road and adding a truck pull-over lane on the Berthoud Hill. That funding, along with Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) funding, would allow improvements to be completed in four years – not 60 years as it stands now. Without funding assistance from local entities as well as the Federal Government, CDOT on its own would not be able to complete improvements to the Interstate until 2075.

Last fall, Weld County initiated and led the formation of the North I-25 Coalition by partnering with numerous communities along the northern I-25 corridor. The Coalition's goal is to find solutions to the much needed improvements on this vital stretch of interstate. To learn more about the North I-25 Coalition, please visit www.co.weld.co.us/Departments/Commissioners/TopicsofInterest/index.html

"This is a chance for the NFRMPO and supporters of the North I-25 Coalition to walk the walk," said Conway. "It is an opportunity for us to put a real solution together toward solving this problem."

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