



## OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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## NEWS RELEASE

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### **COMMISSIONER CONWAY ELECTED AS CHAIR OF THE HIGHWAY 34 COALITION**

WELD COUNTY, CO – Last week during their regular meetings, Commissioner Sean Conway was elected as chair of the Highway 34 Coalition and Mayor Tom Norton of Greeley was elected as vice-chair. The Highway 34 Coalition was formed in July 2015, with multiple municipalities joining the coalition in the following months.

As the area along the east-west roadway continues to grow and traffic becomes more congested, the surrounding municipalities recognized a need to form a coalition to collaborate and advocate for future improvement projects. The coalition is now made up of voting members from Evans, Greeley, Johnstown, Kersey, Loveland and Windsor as well as representatives from Larimer County and Weld County. The Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) and North Front Range Metropolitan Planning Organization (NFRMPO) are nonvoting members. Members of the coalition work together to exchange information and ideas, address safety concerns and transportation needs, and plan for future growth and maintenance of Highway 34.

"Highway 34 is a significant corridor that is important to the long-term economic development of Weld County," said Commissioner Conway. "Like the I-25 Coalition or Highway 84 Coalition, forming a Highway 34 Coalition became essential when considering future growth and funding for projects."

The coalition will meet again on January 7, 2016, in Greeley to consider a proposal by CDOT for a Planning and Linkage (PEL) Study. A PEL Study examines the environmental, social and economic impacts of the highway while taking into account the surrounding communities' growth, which is important for future funding. The study can take up 18 months to complete, and CDOT will cover all the costs of the study. Also during their meeting, the coalition will review the 2003 Access Plan and make revisions as necessary.

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