

# Larimer County sets up I-25 expansion fund



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(Photo: Coloradoan library)

Larimer County is putting its money where its mouth is when it comes to Interstate 25 expansion.

County commissioners approved a resolution Tuesday that would use the extra tax revenues gained from higher property valuations to build an almost \$5 million fund the county hopes will entice the federal government and Colorado Department of Transportation to act.

“One of the problems we’ve faced with I-25 is that the solutions are so heavily reliant on either what comes out of Washington, D.C., or Denver,” Commissioner Tom Donnelly said.

Putting the money in such a fund meant getting the incorporated municipalities in Larimer County on board.

Dedicating property tax money to road and bridge work in the county usually means creating an automatic cash-sharing arrangement.

**LARIMER COUNTY:** [Larimer seeks input on transportation plan \(/story/news/2015/11/10/larimer-seeks-input-transportation-plan/75108930/\)](http://www.coloradoan.com/story/news/2015/11/10/larimer-seeks-input-transportation-plan/75108930/)

The eight cities and towns in Larimer County all verbally agreed in an October meeting to send their portions of the funding back to the county for I-25 work. Loveland and Fort Collins city councils are expected to vote on formally entering the agreement next week.

Commissioner Steve Johnson said called the agreement “probably the most significant event for I-25 in the past decade.”

Specifically, the money would go toward replacing I-25 bridges over the Poudre, Big Thompson and Little Thompson rivers and repairing the bridge over the Saint Vrain Creek. The bridges have been described as “pinch points” that hurt I-25 expansion chances due to the cost of replacing them.

**FORT COLLINS:** [Making cycling safer in Fort Collins \(/story/life/2015/11/09/police-fc-bikes-team-make-cycling-safer/75471458/\)](http://www.coloradoan.com/story/life/2015/11/09/police-fc-bikes-team-make-cycling-safer/75471458/)

The fund will collect about \$2 million per year for five years. Most of the money, about \$5.3 million, will go into the I-25 fund. Officials hope that pot of money will help secure matching grants from the state and federal governments. The remaining \$4.7 million would go to “regional project(s) that will benefit residents” of the county and the cities and towns.

CDOT is currently applying for a federal grant to help pay for replacing the bridges. A total local match of \$15 million to \$18 million is expected.

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