



THE DENVER REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS  
**METRO VISION 2030 PLAN**



## INTRODUCTION

### What is Metro Vision...and why does it matter?

Ten years ago, a group of local elected officials and business, environmental and civic leaders worked together to help develop a long-range plan for the growth and development of the Denver metropolitan area, known as Metro Vision. The goal of Metro Vision is very simple and of extraordinary importance: to protect the quality of life that makes our region such an attractive place to live and work, and to raise a family. More than 2.5 million people currently live in the nine-county Denver region. By 2030, our population is expected to increase again by nearly 50 percent, to 3.8 million.

As one of the nation's most rapidly growing metropolitan areas, the residents of metro Denver face some basic challenges:

- Severe traffic congestion that can impede economic development and job creation,
- Concerns about air quality, and water supply and quality,
- The burden on taxpayers of paying for the new facilities and services (such as roads, water and sewer, drainage, schools, and police and fire protection) that must accompany new growth, and
- The preservation of adequate parks and open space for current and future generations.

The Board members of the Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG), representing 51 municipalities and counties, adopted the first Metro Vision Plan in 1997. In 2001, an effort began to update Metro Vision to extend the planning period from 2020 to 2030. This summary of the draft Metro Vision 2030 Plan outlines long-term goals for the region in three key areas: growth and development, transportation and the environment. The Metro Vision 2030 Plan provides needed detail for a complete understanding of the plan. It is available at the DRCOG Web site: [www.drcog.org](http://www.drcog.org) or by telephoning 303-455-1000.





## GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

Growth in the region is inevitable. Metro Vision's goals and policies are designed to influence the region's shape, size and other characteristics, but leave specific growth decisions up to local governments. Since how the region grows will be key to our quality of life, Metro Vision strategies ensure the region can support the economy and manage growth.

## TRANSPORTATION

How can almost four million people get around? That's a question Metro Vision addresses by planning for a balanced transportation system that offers many travel options. The system takes into account the need to move people and goods easily and efficiently - that's why the plan incorporates bus and rapid transit, highways, bicycle and pedestrian facilities, and local streets. To achieve Metro Vision's goals, the region's transportation partners (DRCOG, the Regional Transportation District, the Colorado Department of Transportation and local governments) must work cooperatively on strategies for obtaining funding.



## ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

The Denver region's greatest natural asset is its environment. Mountain views, large expanses of land and pleasant weather have drawn people to the area for centuries. As the area becomes more populated, greater care has to be taken to make sure these assets don't disappear. Open land is being developed, and the effects of more people and more vehicles threaten air and water quality.

TO REVIEW THE METRO VISION PLAN:

[WWW.DRCOG.ORG](http://WWW.DRCOG.ORG)

303-455-1000

WE WELCOME YOUR COMMENTS.

DENVER REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

# ABOUT METRO VISION

## **What is Metro Vision 2030?**

Metro Vision 2030 is a long-range plan to manage growth within the Denver area. It addresses development, transportation needs and environmental quality. Bringing communities together to enhance the region's quality of life is the plan's most important goal.

## **What is the vision for the Denver region?**

In 2030, the Denver region will be a dynamic mixture of distinct pedestrian-friendly urban and suburban communities developed within a defined area. It will be distinguished by a transportation system that includes roads, rail transit, bus service and bike paths; plentiful parks and open space; and clean air and water.

## **Metro Vision 2030 will improve our region's quality of life.**

Metro Vision 2030 will encourage economic growth and job creation by planning for a state-of-the-art transportation system while preserving and creating open space and protecting our air and water. These benefits make the region desirable to new or relocating businesses while encouraging local businesses to stay and reinvest in their communities.

## **Why do we need Metro Vision?**

By 2030, 1.3 million more people are expected to live in our region, enough people to make a new Denver, Aurora, Colorado Springs and Boulder combined. Cooperation between the area's cities and counties will prevent costly unplanned growth and environmental damage. Metro Vision will ensure that our region evolves in a way that supports economic development, manages growth, preserves open space and achieves high air and water quality standards.

## **Why is it unique?**

Metro Vision 2030 brings the cities and counties of the Denver metro area together to build a better community. Local governments from around the region have been involved in the development of Metro Vision 2030 to create an effective tool that is moderate, voluntary and flexible.

## **Why is regionalism important?**

Local elected officials have promoted the idea of regional cooperation because it makes economic sense. Supporters of Metro Vision 2030 understand that transportation, clean air and clean water issues don't stop at city and county lines. Metro Vision tackles these difficult issues by transcending jurisdictional boundaries while preserving control at the local level.

## **Metro Vision is voluntary and flexible.**

Unlike growth plans in other parts of the country that are top-down and mandatory, Metro Vision 2030 encourages communities to work together while preserving their independence, an important value to many Colorado communities.

## **Metro Vision 2030 is not new, just improved.**

Metro Vision 2030 is not simply another proposal to control growth. It builds on the already adopted Mile High Compact and Metro Vision 2020 plans, enhancing and updating them to address our region's anticipated population growth through 2030.

## **Metro Vision will be accountable.**

New performance measures are being developed to evaluate the success of Metro Vision. Citizens will be able to decide for themselves if the plan is valuable and effective for the region.

