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# REGIONAL REPORT

*"Local governments united together to achieve a better future for our region"*  
DRCOG Vision Statement

## Local governments united on guiding growth

### Mile High Compact signed

**I**t's official — local elected officials, cities and counties, have a plan to guide growth. Working through the Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG) and the Metro Mayors Caucus, communities representing more than 75 percent of the region's population have adopted the Mile High Compact, the nation's first voluntary city and county-led effort to guide growth.

As of mid-August, 30 communities had signed on to the compact. Growth consistently ranks in citizen surveys as the region's top concern, and the compact shows local elected officials are responding to and managing growth. At a symbolic signing ceremony at the Denver Public Library Aug. 10, many mayors, city council members and county commissioners officially bound themselves and their communities to plan for growth. Considering the process of drafting the compact began only some four months ago, the compact has been flying through the region's communities, signifying unity on the growth issue.

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DRCOG city and county representatives pose for the media at the Aug. 10 celebratory signing of the Mile High Compact.

# Mile High Compact first of its kind

(continued from front)

The compact is an intergovernmental agreement. Through the compact, cities and counties agree to develop comprehensive plans or master plans that support *Metro Vision 2020*, the region's long-term plan for growth. Adopted by DRCOG in 1997, *Metro Vision* has six core elements, including urban growth boundaries/areas, a balanced, multimodal transportation system, preservation of open space, urban centers, free-standing communities, and keeping the region's air and water clean.

"The Mile High Compact takes *Metro Vision 2020* a step further, delving into other issues that impact all of us, including provision of services and community facilities, utilities, parks and recreation, housing, economic viability and among others, environmental resources and hazards," Jan Schenck, DRCOG chairman, said. "These are exactly the steps that will take *Metro Vision* from plan to reality."

Essentially, the compact commits signers to prepare good comprehensive plans, to link their plans to growth management tools such as zoning regulations, and explicitly relates those plans to *Metro Vision 2020*. Moreover, the compact commits cities and counties to work collaboratively to guide growth, ensuring planning consistency.

"Local governments decide where and when growth should take place," said Don Parsons, Metro Mayors Caucus chairman and DRCOG Board member. "As a binding document, the compact shows just how dedicated local governments are to guiding growth."

As the first agreement of its kind in the nation and a model for other regions, the compact is an inclusive effort. The compact will remain open for other communities to sign on to when they are ready.

For more information about the compact or a copy of the document, please call the DRCOG Public Information & Communications Office at 303-455-1000. v

