

Region VIII Women's Bureau Office Spotlights Planning Tool That Helps Forecast Workplace/Transportation Needs

In December 2009, The Denver Regional Council of Government (DRCOG), the Flex-Options Women's Bureau contractor for Region VIII, sponsored a presentation for transportation and green communities. Jill Locanture, Planning Communications Specialist for DRCOG, was the featured speaker on the agenda. At the beginning of her presentation, she posed three questions to help facilitate discussion:

- What will the Denver region look like in the year 2040?
- How can the metro area accommodate millions of new people and jobs?
- How might different development patterns and infrastructure investments influence quality of people and jobs?

In response to the three questions, DRCOG discussed a tool they developed called Metro Quest. The tool allows policy makers, business leaders and the general public to explore these questions by visualizing alternative future scenarios for the region. The value of this tool in part demonstrates that as the population increases and living areas become denser, there will be an increased need for flexible work policies like telecommuting and flexible schedules to reduce transportation and our carbon footprint.

The online version of Metro Quest allows users to select different policy options for the region such as rail line expansion or highway widening and then explore the future they have created. It can be accessed at <http://denverregion.metroquest.com>. The workshop version has many more maps and graphs to view as well as the benefit of a live facilitator to answer questions. The live workshops use handheld keypads so that groups can create impromptu scenarios together and then discuss different issues. For more information, including presentations, polling results and future scenarios from previous workshops, visit www.drcog.org/index.cfm?page=MetroQuest.



Workplace Flexibility in the News

TOP 10 WORK-LIFE CULTURE STORIES OF 2009

Emmy award-winning broadcast journalist Judy Martin, has emerged as a reporter and public speaker who gives an objective voice to social concerns, business news and the delicate balance of living and working with purpose, in an era of great uncertainty and chaos. She recently compiled a list of Top Work Life Culture Stories, including workplace flexibility. Recession, record high unemployment, women comprising half of the workforce and healthcare reform thrust work-life effectiveness into the headlines. Emmy award-winning broadcast journalist Judy Martin, compiled her list of influential work life stories of 2009 on her [WorkLife Nation](http://www.worklifemagazine.com) site including:

- The Obama Administration takes on Work and Families
 - [White House Task Force on Middle Class Working Families](#)
 - [First Lady Speaks](#) at Corporate Voices for Working Families' Annual Meeting
- The Work Life Gender Gap Narrows
 - Data from [Families and Work Institute](#) found that men's work-life conflict increased significantly from 34% in 1997 to 45% in 2008
 - Adecco Group North America's American Workplace Insights Survey released in September 2009 found that one in four working Dads were working longer hours/took a second job to keep up with economic pressure
- [Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act of 2009](#)
- [The Shriver Report: A Women's Nation Changes Everything](#)
- Edward M. Kennedy [Serve America Act](#)