

Regional Transportation Committee

Meeting date: June 17, 2025

Agenda Item #: 5 (Attachment C)

Transportation Improvement Program: Potential programming year adjustments

Agenda item type: Discussion

Summary

DRCOG staff is considering adjusting the future Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) schedule to ensure alignment with the 2050 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) major update schedule, including adjusting the years of the next TIP document and programming Fiscal Year 2028 TIP DRCOG-allocated funds.

Background

The TIP, through its policies, calls for projects, and selection process, implements the 2050 RTP. In recent TIP cycles, the DRCOG Board has progressively strengthened the application process and criteria to further implement the RTP's project and program investment priorities. In the last application, these priorities were weighed at 50% of the overall possible score.

As a result of several factors, the regular schedule for developing the next TIP for FY 2028-2031 would include TIP policy development in 2025 and calls for projects in 2026, during the 2050 RTP Update process. That misalignment creates an undue burden on DRCOG staff and project sponsors and does not give the region the opportunity to align TIP investment priorities with the priorities of the updated RTP.

To remedy this situation, DRCOG staff are suggesting two one-time adjustments to the TIP process.

1. Offset the "normal" every-two-year TIP schedule to account for the current 2050 RTP major update schedule.
 - Adjust the next full four-year TIP from Fiscal Year 2028-2031 to Fiscal Year 2029-2032. Delaying the next TIP by one year allows the updated 2050 RTP to be adopted before the calls for projects for the next TIP take place.
 - After this one-time adjustment, future TIP documents would continue to be adopted every two years, with calls for projects every four years.
2. Program Fiscal Year 2028 funding.
 - The last call for projects programmed funds through Fiscal Year 2027, with the next calls anticipated to program Fiscal Years 2028-2031. To ensure an appropriate pipeline of projects in the TIP, staff proposes to allocate FY 2028 funds and amend projects into the recently adopted FY 2026-2029 TIP.



Fiscal Year 2028 Programming

DRCOG staff recommends the following steps to program Fiscal Year 2028 funding. The recommendation will require DRCOG committee and Board approval to modify the existing process outlined in the adopted policy and is expected to begin in the second half of this year.

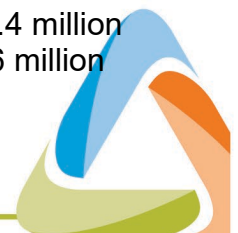
1. **Wait List Programming:** Use the existing wait lists and the established wait list process as outlined in the adopted Fiscal Years 2026-2029 TIP to program available Fiscal Year 2028 funding. Discussions and decisions will take place between the project sponsor and DRCOG staff. No forum actions are necessary for this step, but forums will be kept informed as the process proceeds.
 - a. If a sponsor wishes to fund a wait list project using Fiscal Year 2028 funding, an updated cost estimate will be required (different from adopted policy). If costs have increased, the sponsor still must commit to delivering the project as outlined in the original application if they accept funding.
 - b. At the end of this process, DRCOG staff will amend the projects into the adopted Fiscal Year 2026-2029 TIP.
 - c. If any Regional or Subregional share FY 2028 funds remain unprogrammed at the end of this step, they will proceed to step 2.
2. **New Call for Projects:** If the first step has been exhausted, a subregional forum may hold a new call for projects (different from adopted policy).
 - a. Forums will hold a call for projects for the remaining Fiscal Year 2028 funding available to their forum. The call will use the previous TIP applications and criteria, and eligibility may be narrowed to match the type of funds available.
 - b. Additional details will be provided to forums before they go through this modified call for projects process.

Projected Funding Availability for Fiscal Year 2028

Projected funding in Fiscal Year 2028 is somewhat uncertain because current transportation legislation only extends through Fiscal Year 2026. Given that, two possibilities exist; either the current legislation will be extended via Continuing Resolution, or new legislation will be adopted. With that knowledge and while subject to future revisions, DRCOG staff estimates approximately \$90 million will be available in Fiscal Year 2028, which breaks down as follows:

- \$11.5 million for off the top set-asides (each set-aside will be one year of funding at current funding levels)
- \$15.7 million for the Regional Share (20% of the remaining total)
- \$62.8 million for the Subregional Share (80% of the remaining total) allocation targets, which breaks down as follows:

○ Adams Subregion: \$9.7 million	○ Denver Subregion: \$15.2 million
○ Arapahoe Subregion: \$11.7 million	○ Douglas Subregion: \$6.5 million
○ Boulder Subregion: \$6.2 million	○ Jefferson Subregion: \$10.4 million
○ Broomfield Subregion: \$1.5 million	○ SW Weld Subregion: \$1.6 million



Action by others

None.

Previous discussion/action

None.

Recommendation

None.

Attachments

1. Staff presentation
2. Current wait list procedures and wait lists

For more information

If you need additional information, please contact Todd Cottrell, Project and Program Delivery Manager, Transportation Planning and Operations, at 303-480-6737 or tcottrell@drcog.org.





Future Transportation Improvement Program Adjustments

Regional Transportation Committee June 17, 2025





Discussion Topics

- Adjusting the years of the next TIP.
- Programming Fiscal Year 2028 funding.
- Next steps.

Why adjust the next TIP years?

- TIP implements the 2050 RTP.
 - Strengthen via application; investment priorities; weighted at 50%.
- Historically, both have similar adoption timelines.
 - Calls at the same time; TIP funding contingent on 2050 RTP adoption.
- Misalignment creates an undue burden on staff and sponsors and doesn't allow the opportunity to align TIP investment priorities with the updated RTP priorities.
- Adjusts future TIP timelines so RTP projects are at a minimum set before future TIP calls.

Proposal

1. Adjust the next full four- year TIP from Fiscal Year 2028-2031 to Fiscal Year 2029-2032.
 - Allows current 2050 RTP process to be completed before the next TIP calls begin.
 - New timeline:
 - 2026: TIP policy discussions and amendment to document.
 - 2027: regional share and subregional calls for projects.
 - 2028: FY 2029-2032 TIP document creation, public review, and adoption.
2. Program Fiscal Year 2028 funding using a modified wait list process.

Programming Fiscal Year 2028 Funding Overview

- Begin during second half of 2025.
- Two steps:
 1. Wait list programming.
 2. New call for projects.
- Estimated \$90 Million funding available.
- Will require committee and Board action to modify approved process.

Step 1 – Wait List Programming

- Use existing adopted policy process and wait lists in the Fiscal Year 2026-2029 TIP.
 - Reminders: Must deliver scope as submitted; no additional DRCOG funds beyond what's listed on wait list. New: Cost estimate required.
- Acceptance or not of Fiscal Year 2028 funding is project sponsor decision; no forum action is necessary.
- Will begin and complete Regional Share wait list first. Then, each subregional forum process proceeds concurrently.
- If unprogrammed funding remains in a forum, move to Step 2.

Step 2 – New Call for Projects

- Entire step is different from adopted policy.
- Call for projects for Fiscal Year 2028 funding for individual forums that still have funding remaining after step 1.
 - Calls will be shortened (~2 weeks).
 - Will use previous applications and criteria.
 - Examples: scope for totally new project or the next logical phase of an existing/previous project.
 - Potential for eligibility to be narrowed based on the types of funds.
- Forum recommendation required.
- Additional details to be provided.

Fiscal Year 2028 Projected Funding

- Current legislation only extends through Fiscal Year 2026.
- Continuing Resolution or new bill?
- \$90 million estimated.
 - \$11.5 million for set-asides, one year at current funding levels.
 - \$15.7 million for the Regional Share (20% of remaining total).
 - \$62.8 million for the Subregional Share (80% of the remaining total).

Fiscal Year 2028 Projected Funding - Continued

- Subregional Share target breakdown:
 - Adams Subregion: \$9.7 million.
 - Arapahoe Subregion: \$11.7 million.
 - Boulder Subregion: \$6.2 million.
 - Broomfield Subregion: \$1.5 million.
 - Denver Subregion: \$15.2 million.
 - Douglas Subregion: \$6.5 million.
 - Jefferson Subregion: \$10.4 million.
 - SW Weld Subregion: \$1.6 million.

What's Next?

- Spring 2025: refine proposal based on feedback.
- Summer 2025: consider proposal for adoption through TAC, RTC, and Board of Directors.
- Summer/fall 2025: kick off modified wait list process.

Thank you! Questions?

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Appendix G – Wait list projects and protocol

Table 13. Regional Share wait list

Forum	Project sponsor	Project name	Funding request	Score (1-5)	Project activity	Order
N/A	CDOT	Federal BRT: Englewood Station to Wagon Park-n-Ride – Precon (Remaining)	\$3,349,000	4.3	Transit	1
Boulder	Boulder County	CO119/Niwot BRT and Bikeway Improvements (Remaining)	\$10,100,000	3.9	Construction	2
Jefferson County	Jefferson County	Peaks to Plains Trail: Central Clear Creek Canyon Segment (Remaining)	\$1,000,000	3.7	Construction	3
Boulder	Boulder	CO119 BAT Lanes: Boulder and Longmont	\$6,560,000	3.5	Construction	4
Broomfield	Broomfield	CO7 Corridor Multimodal Improvements: Precon (Remaining)	\$8,340,000	3.3	Pre-construction	5
N/A	RTD	New Bus Maintenance Facility Planning Study	\$2,397,000	3.3	Study	6
Arapahoe County	Arapahoe County	High Line Canal Trail Underpass at Quebec	\$11,200,000	3.2	Construction	7
Denver	Denver	South Platte River Trail Improvements: Bayaud to Phil Milstein Park (Remaining)	\$500,000	3.1	Construction	8
Arapahoe County	Arapahoe County	High Line Canal Trail Underpass at Broadway (Remaining)	\$10,437,000	3.0	Construction	9
Jefferson	Wheat Ridge	Ward /BNSF Grade Separation: Precon	\$1,996,000	2.9	Pre-construction	10
Adams	Thornton	104th Capacity Improvements: Colorado to South Platte River (Remaining)	\$14,625,000	2.7	Construction	11

Table 14. Adams County Forum Subregional Share wait list

Forum	Project sponsor	Project name	Funding request	Score (1-5)	Project activity	Order
No projects are on the Adams County Forum wait list.						

Table 15. Arapahoe County Forum Subregional Share wait list

Forum	Project sponsor	Project name	Funding request	Score (1-5)	Project activity	Order
Arapahoe	Arapahoe County	High Line Canal Trail Underpass at Broadway (Remaining)	\$10,261,000	3.4	Construction	1
Arapahoe	Arapahoe County	High Line Canal Trail Underpass at Quebec St. – Precon	\$1,720,000	3.5	Pre-construction	2

Table 16. Boulder County Forum Subregional Share wait list

Forum	Project sponsor	Project name	Funding request	Score (1-5)	Project activity	Order
Boulder	Boulder	30th St. Multimodal Improvements - Colorado to Baseline (Remaining)	\$2,840,000	3.7	Construction	1
Boulder	Longmont	CO119 BAT Lanes: Nelson to Pratt - Precon	\$3,113,000	3.6	Pre-construction	2
Boulder	Boulder	Folsom Multimodal Study: Pine to Colorado (Remaining)	\$200,000	3.5	Study	3
Boulder	Boulder	Colorado Complete Streets Improvements: Folsom to Regent	\$2,160,000	3.4	Construction	4
Boulder	Boulder County	CO119 Bikeway: Foothills to Jay	\$5,992,000	3.4	Construction	5
Boulder	Boulder County	CO119 Bikeway: Airport to Hover	\$7,191,000	3.3	Construction	6
Boulder	Boulder County	Longmont to Boulder (LOBO) Trail - Jay Road Connection Multimodal Improvements	\$1,353,000	3.3	Construction	7



Forum	Project sponsor	Project name	Funding request	Score (1-5)	Project activity	Order
Boulder	Longmont	US287/21st Bike/Ped Underpass	\$9,558,000	2.9	Construction	8
Boulder	Louisville	CO42/South St. Bike/Ped Underpass (Remaining)	\$4,190,000	2.9	Construction	9
Boulder	Louisville	Via Appia Way Multimodal Improvements: South Boulder Rd. to McCaslin	\$2,480,000	2.8	Construction	10
Boulder	Boulder County	Southeast Boulder County Superflex Demand Response Transit Service (Remaining)	\$109,000	2.8	Transit	11
Boulder	Boulder County	CO93 Bikeway Feasibility Study: CO170 to Jefferson County Line	\$314,000	2.7	Study	12
Boulder	Superior	McCaslin Multi-Use Underpass north of Rock Creek Pkwy (Remaining)	\$4,294,000	2.6	Construction	13

Table 17. City and County of Broomfield Forum Subregional Share wait list

Forum	Project sponsor	Project name	Funding request	Score (1-5)	Project activity	Order
Broomfield	Broomfield	CO7 Roadway Improvements: County Line to Sheridan – Precon (Remaining)	\$1,103,000	3.9	Pre-construction	1

Table 18. City and County of Denver Forum Subregional Share wait list

Forum	Project sponsor	Project name	Funding request	Score (1-5)	Project activity	Order
Denver	Denver	South Platte River Trail Improvements: Mississippi to Florida (Remaining)	\$3,200,000	3.2	Construction	1



Forum	Project sponsor	Project name	Funding request	Score (1-5)	Project activity	Order
Denver	Denver	North Central Community Transportation Network Multimodal Improvements (Remaining)	\$5,463,000	3.1	Construction	2
Denver	Denver	E. Colfax BRT (Remaining)	\$6,553,000	3.3	Construction	3
Denver	CDOT	Federal BRT-Precon	\$1,600,000	4.1	Pre-construction	4
Denver	Denver	Northeast Denver Trails	\$3,840,000	3.3	Construction	5
Denver	Denver	Sheridan Sidewalk: 48th to 52nd	\$5,600,000	3.1	Construction	6
Denver	Denver	15th Multimodal Improvements: Larimer to Central	\$1,040,000	3.1	Construction	7
Denver	Denver	High Line Canal Trail Underpass at Quebec - Precon	\$1,720,000	3.1	Pre-construction	8
Denver	Denver	Broadway Multimodal Improvements: 7th to 16th - Precon	\$2,430,000	2.7	Construction	9

Table 19. Douglas County Forum Subregional Share wait list

Forum	Project sponsor	Project name	Funding request	Score (1-5)	Project activity	Order
Douglas	Castle Pines	I25/Happy Canyon Interchange – Precon (Remaining)	\$762,000	2.9	Pre-construction	1
Douglas	Lone Tree	I25/Lincoln Bike/Ped Infrastructure Connections (Remaining)	\$93,000	3.3	Construction	2
Douglas	Castle Pines	Monarch Bike Lanes: Winter Berry to City Limits	\$2,100,000	2.8	Construction	3
Douglas	Parker	CO83/Hilltop Operational Improvements	\$1,500,000	2.2	Construction	4
Douglas	Parker	Lincoln/Pine Operational Improvements	\$2,000,000	2.2	Construction	5



Table 20. Jefferson County Forum Subregional Share wait list

Forum	Project sponsor	Project name	Funding request	Score (1-5)	Project activity	Order
Jefferson	Jefferson County	Peaks to Plains Trail - Central Canyon Segment: Big Easy Recreation Area to Rigor Mortis Rapids (Remaining)	\$1,000,000	2.8	Construction	1
Jefferson	Lakewood	West Colfax Safety Improvements: Teller to Sheridan (Remaining)	\$337,000	2.2	Construction	2
Jefferson	Arvada	64th Multimodal Improvements - East of CO93 to Virgil (Remaining)	\$424,000	1.9	Construction	3
Jefferson	Wheat Ridge	Youngfield Multimodal Improvements: 38th to 44th	\$7,190,000	2.0	Construction	4
Jefferson	Lakewood	Morrison Rd. Path	\$2,872,000	1.9	Construction	5
Jefferson	Golden	44th Reconstruction: BNSF/RTD Rail Crossing to Salvia – Precon	\$1,200,000	1.4	Pre-construction	6

Table 21. Southwest Weld County Forum Subregional Share wait list

Forum	Project sponsor	Project name	Funding request	Score (1-5)	Project activity	Order
Southwest Weld	Erie	I25 Interchange Study: CO52 to Erie Pkwy. (Remaining)	\$30,000	2.6	Study	1
Southwest Weld	Broomfield	CO7 Roadway Improvements: County Line to Sheridan - Precon	\$647,000	3.2	Pre-con	2
Southwest Weld	Longmont	WCR26 Multiuse Trail (Remaining)	\$4,516,000	2.5	Construction	3
Southwest Weld	Thornton	168th/Colorado Roundabout – Precon	\$1,360,000	1.9	Pre-con	4



Wait lists protocol

If additional funds become available in fiscal years 2026-2028 beyond what is already programmed, DRCOG staff will initiate a process to allocate the additional unprogrammed funds to wait list projects as described below. Additional funding that becomes available in fiscal year 2029 (beginning on October 1, 2028) will be rolled over and included with the calls for projects in the 2029-2032 TIP. This protocol does not apply to any TIP set-asides, pool programs, or projects not on the waiting list.

Additional funding can come from two sources:

- **Project cancellations by project sponsors or project savings.** Funding from these methods will be returned to where it was originally programmed (Regional Share or each individual Subregional Share forum) if it was programmed from fiscal year 2020 and beyond. Project cancellations or project savings from any project programmed before fiscal year 2020 will be programmed similar to new revenues, as the dual model method did not begin until fiscal year 2020. TIP set-aside project cancellations or savings will be returned to their respective set-aside and are not listed in this appendix.
- **New revenues.** Funding from this method will be divided according to the established funding split: 20% to the Regional Share and 80% to the Subregional Share processes. Subregional funds will be further broken down and targeted according to the established breakdown:
 - Adams County: 15.44%.
 - Arapahoe County: 18.61%.
 - Boulder County: 9.92%.
 - City and County of Broomfield: 2.44%.
 - City and County of Denver: 24.22%.
 - Douglas County: 10.37%.
 - Jefferson County: 16.50%.
 - Southwest Weld County: 2.50%.

When DRCOG staff are notified of additional funds, the following steps will be taken:

1. Obtain official verification from CDOT of availability of funds.
2. When either a) \$2 million is accrued, or b) an amount equal to 100% of the next-in-line (top-ranked) project funding request is accrued for any one of the individual waiting lists (Regional Share or any of the Subregional Share forums), staff will first contact sponsors of projects to try to advance project phases and/or adjust funding types already identified in the TIP. Staff will then select projects in order from the appropriate waiting lists included in Appendix G of the TIP to the limit of applicable funds available.
 - a. Contact the sponsor of the top-ranked project on the specific waiting list to determine the sponsor's interest in being selected. If the amount of funds available is less than the requested cost of that project, DRCOG staff will



ask the sponsor if it would be willing to complete the entire project as submitted for the amount of funds available. Projects that accept partial funding will be removed from the wait list.

- If the response is no, or if all the available funds have not been fully allocated, DRCOG staff will proceed to the next project on the wait list. Sponsors that request to be passed over on the funding opportunity will remain on the waiting list. DRCOG staff will make every attempt to adjust and swap funding types between projects in order to fund the top ranked project with the appropriate available funding.
 - b. At the end of fiscal year 2028 (September 30, 2028), even if less than \$2 million has accrued within a funding category, staff will go down each specific waiting list in accordance with section 2.a. to allocate available funds.
3. If all sponsors of projects on a particular wait list have stated they would not be willing to accept the funding for their project as outlined in the process above at that time, or if excess unprogrammed funding still remains, the forum or regional panel has two choices:
- a. Return the available funding to DRCOG to be distributed to the Regional Share waitlist and other subregional waitlists using the formula in this section.
 - b. Make a forum or regional panel funding recommendation to DRCOG staff recommending how the available funding will be allocated to existing DRCOG-funded projects. Any forum or regional panel recommendation will automatically be processed as a TIP amendment.
4. Recommended projects to be programmed will be taken through the appropriate amendments process, except as noted above, according to the adopted policy.

