

Regional Transportation Committee

Meeting date: June 17, 2025

Agenda item #: 7 (Attachment E)

Regional Multimodal Freight Plan Update

Agenda item type: Discussion

Summary

An update of the DRCOG Regional Multimodal Freight Plan is underway for the Denver metropolitan region. DRCOG staff will provide an overview of past freight planning efforts, an introduction to the project, and anticipated next steps.

Background

DRCOG's Regional Multimodal Freight Plan is a shared vision and strategic guide to help the Denver region identify opportunities to move freight and goods more efficiently. The plan update will expand on this work by focusing on two components:

- 1) Updating the data and analysis components of the existing plan, meeting the requirements articulated in federal surface transportation legislation.
- 2) Expanding the plan to focus on additional activities revolving around performance measurement, gap identification, land use analysis, and creating processes around project prioritization and implementation.

The result will be an enhanced freight plan that provides more explicit, data-driven recommendations for regional system-wide improvements. This updated plan- with the input of key stakeholders in the private and public sectors- will effectively provide the following elements:

- 1) Data on how goods movement supports local economies.
- 2) The state of freight needs in the region and forecasts future priorities.
- 3) Freight planning successes and best practices.
- 4) Potential investment areas for freight planning and infrastructure.
- 5) New performance measurement metrics.
- 6) Guidance on a new freight-related project prioritization process.
- 7) Accessible data-driven information visualized on a freight data dashboard.

Action by others

None

Previous discussion/action

None

Recommendation

None



Attachment

Staff presentation

For more information

If you need additional information, please contact Cole Neder, Senior Transit Planner, Transportation Planning and Operations, at (309) 373-4940 or cneder@drcog.org.





Regional Multimodal Freight Plan Update

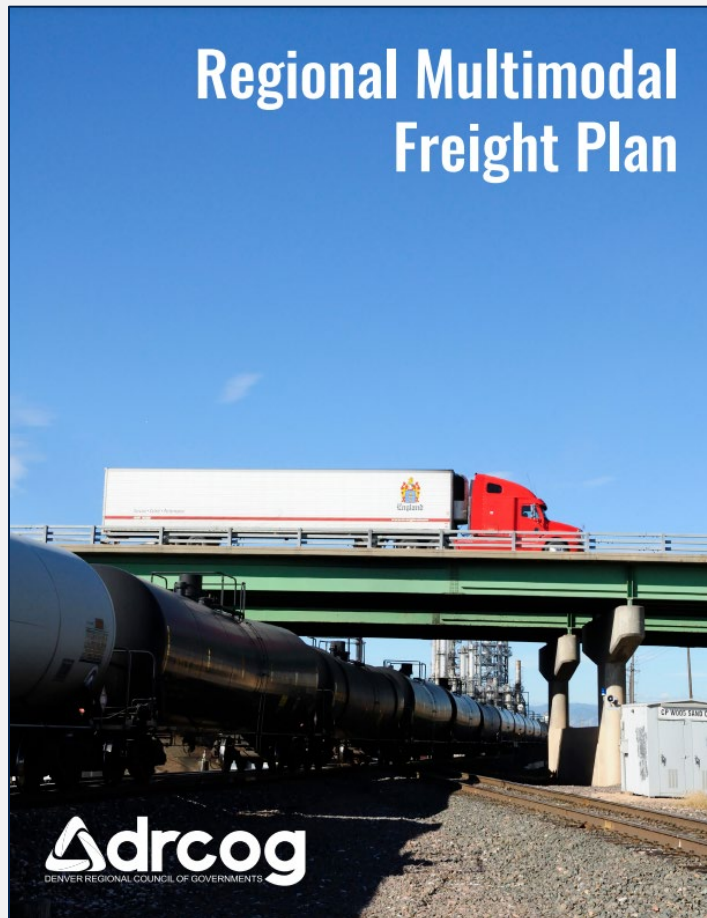
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Agenda

- Plan background and context
- Project and plan goals
- Plan components
- 2025 plan update



DRCOG Regional Multimodal Freight Plan



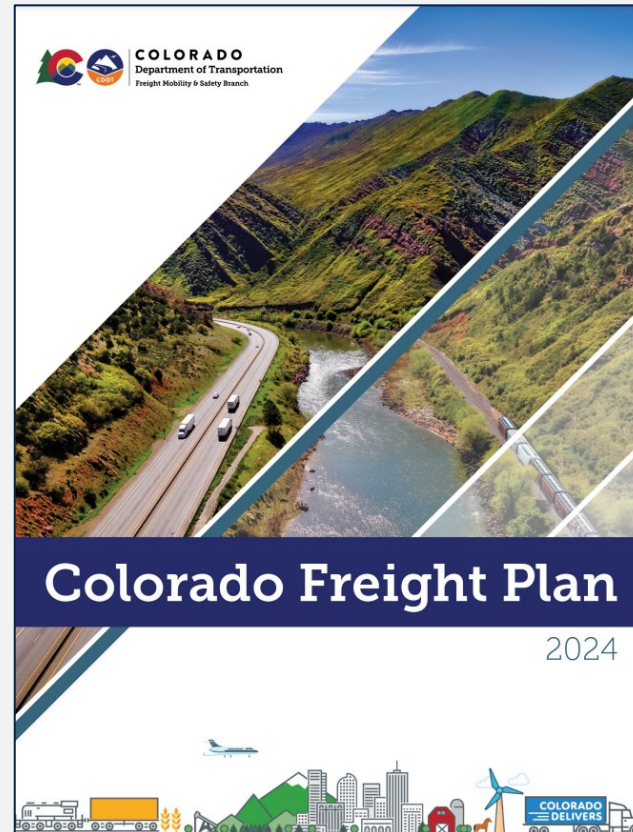
- Guides the region's **freight planning and infrastructure investments**.
- The first regional freight plan was completed by DRCOG in 2020.
- Includes analysis on highway, rail, air and pipeline movements.
- Aligns with DRCOG's **Metro Vision Regional Transportation Plan**.

Planning for freight movement

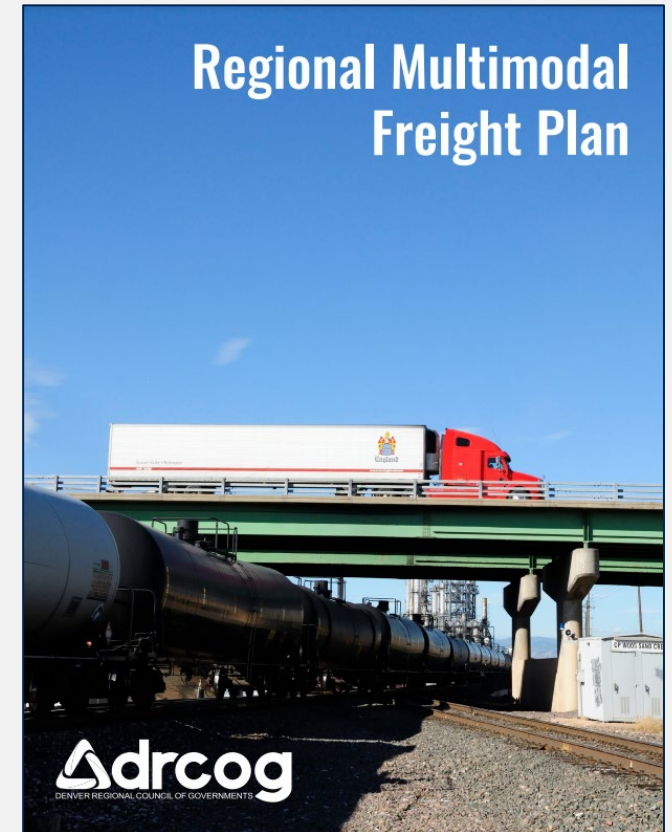
Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)



Colorado Statewide Freight Plan (CDOT)



Regional Multimodal Freight Plan (DRCOG)



Current planning goals

- **Engage** regional stakeholders and businesses.
- **Educate** stakeholders about freight and provide input into local planning efforts.
- **Position** DRCOG and member governments for funding opportunities.
- **Align** with Federal freight planning guidance.



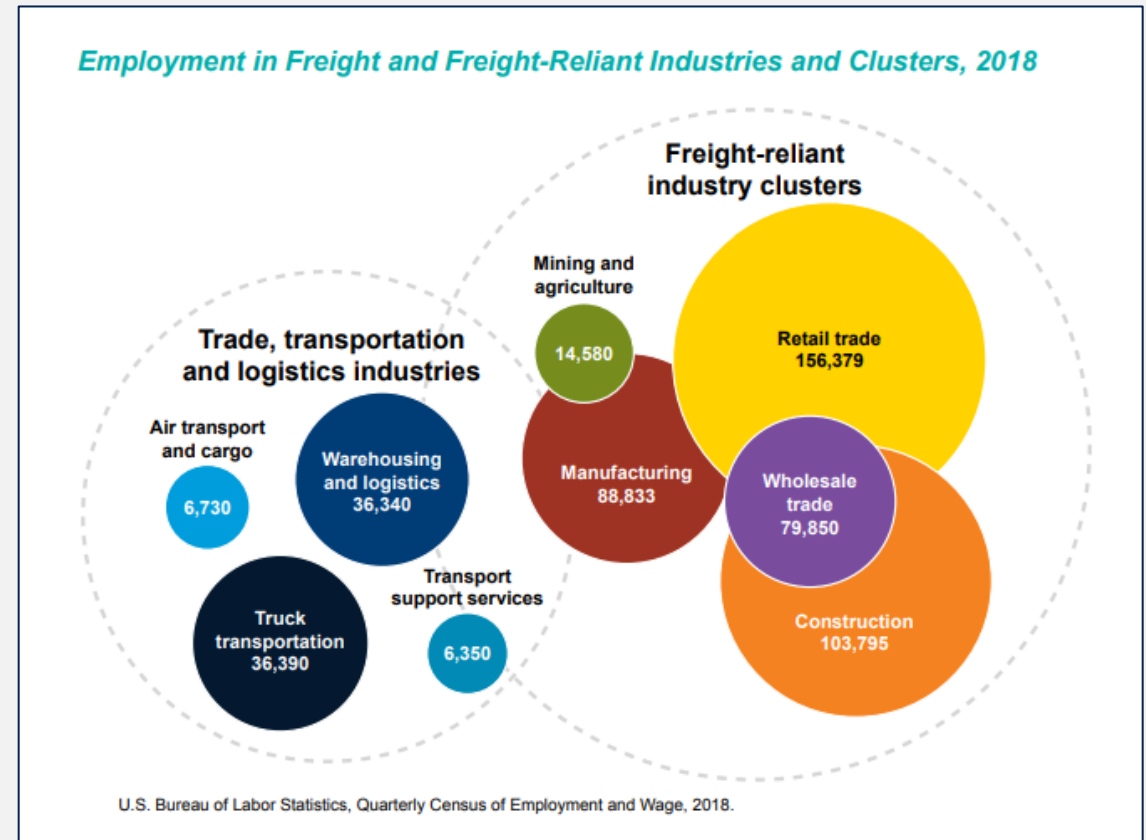
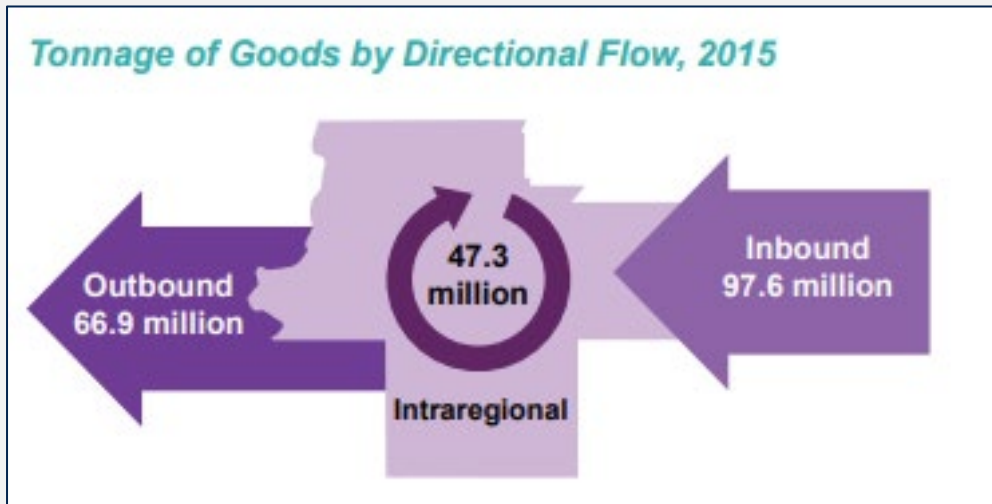


Freight planning activities

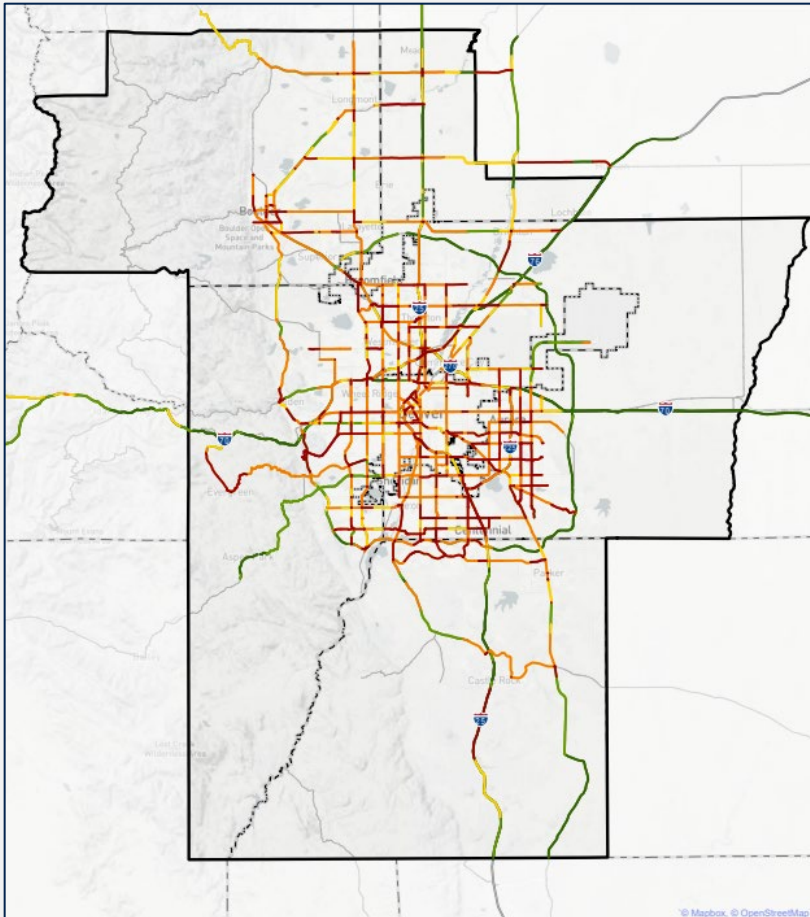
- 1) Collect **baseline information and data** for local plans.
- 2) Stakeholder engagement and coordination.
- 3) Inventory of **current needs and challenges**.
- 4) Documenting regional freight trends and conditions.
- 5) Identify a **regional freight priority network**.

Data collection

- Freight reliant **clusters and business generators**.
- **Value and tonnage** of goods moved throughout the region.



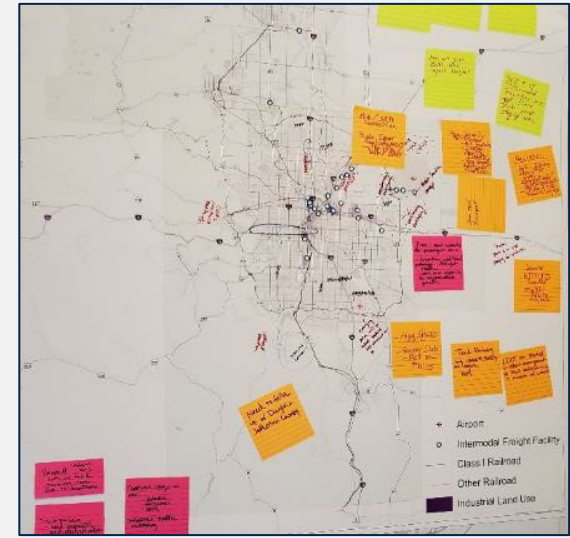
Assessing network needs and challenges



- Track vehicle **crashes** and identify truck-specific **safety hot spots**.
- **Truck parking** inventory and needs assessment.
- Identifying **at-grade crossing** locations.

Assessing network needs and challenges

- 1) Stakeholder engagement activities.
- 2) Public/private advisory committee.
- 3) Industry freight forums.
- 4) Survey research.
- 5) Coordination and outreach with other planning efforts.





Freight plan update

Updating the plan

Deliverable	Description	Action
Regional freight profile	Overview of the regional freight transportation system, description of major facilities by mode.	Existing plan update
Freight cluster analysis	Analysis to identify current and future locations of freight clusters.	Existing plan update
Freight policy analysis	Assessment of municipal policies on freight and goods movement.	New plan addition
Study of best practices	Report on other regional models that identify modal trends and strategies, planning practices.	Existing plan update
Performance measures	A targeted, quantitative set of regional freight performance measures and metrics.	New plan addition
Project identification framework	Established criteria and/or matrix for evaluating projects and regional priorities.	New plan addition

New plan components

- Ensuring **CDOT Statewide Freight Plan** alignment
- Approaches to **final mile freight movement** and delivery
- Identifying **emerging trends** and technology
- Detailed **local land use analysis** to assess freight movement effects



Identifying regional freight improvements

Develop freight focus areas	Identify needs and issues	Prioritize freight improvements
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1) Establish broad areas or corridors.2) Create freight-related performance measures.3) Integrate into other regional or local planning efforts.	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1) Identify key needs and issues within each focus area.2) Provide a framework for issue and project identification.	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1) Develop an initial list of planned and potential improvements.2) Develop a prioritized regional freight improvement list.

Project timeline

	2025				2026			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Stakeholder engagement	Active	Active			Active	Active		
Existing conditions analysis	Active	Active	Active					
Land use, policy, and market analysis		Active	Active	Active				
Emerging trends and technology			Active	Active				
Prioritization framework			Active	Active	Active			
Implementation recommendations					Active	Active		
Plan adoption						Active	Active	

Questions & Discussion

Cole Neder
Senior Transit Planner
cneder@drcog.org

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