



Regional Transportation Committee Orientation

Regional Transportation Committee

July 7, 2026

What is DRCOG?

The Denver Regional Council of Governments is a planning organization where local governments collaborate to establish guidelines, set policy and allocate funding in the areas of **transportation** and **personal mobility, growth and development**, and **aging and disability resources**.



DRCOG's area

- **Nine counties plus southwest Weld** (59 member governments).
- **5,288 square miles** (comparable to Connecticut).
- **3.4 million people** (comparable to Utah).
- **Ute, Cheyenne and Arapaho** (traditional territory).





DRCOG's roles

- **Metropolitan planning organization** (federal designation).
- **Regional planning commission** (by state statute).
- **Area Agency on Aging** (federal designation).

Regional success depends on partnerships



DRCOG **is not** a
regulator.



We are a
convener.



We provide **policy**
guidance.



We are a **bridge** between
partner jurisdictions and
agencies.



We identify
best practices.

DRCOG planning area

(excluding planned Metropolitan Planning Organization expansion)

 **3.4** million people

 **Nine-plus** counties

 **2.4** million jobs

 **60%** of Colorado's population



 **59** member governments

 **5,288** square miles

-  Metropolitan Planning Organization boundary
-  Area Agency on Aging boundary
-  Council of Governments boundary

From a regional vision to an achievable reality



Federally directed responsibilities

- Federal funding **and planning requirements** specified in surface transportation authorization legislation (currently Bipartisan Infrastructure Law).
- The Metropolitan Planning Organization **leads the regional transportation planning process** in urbanized areas...
- ...In **cooperation** with Colorado Department of Transportation and Regional Transportation District.
- The planning process requires specific **products, activities, and processes**.
- Other federal requirements (such as Title VI).

State directed responsibilities

- Serves as the **regional planning commission**.
- Empowered to **make and adopt regional plans**.
- Required to develop a **twenty-year transportation plan**.
- Comply with **greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction rule**.
- Must **approve any fixed guideway transit system** proposed by RTD before construction can proceed.
- **Recommends candidates** for Governor appointment (one seat) to RTD Board.
- Reviews **roadway tolling proposals** for inclusion in fiscally constrained Regional Transportation Plan.
- Part of **Statewide Transportation Advisory Committee** (Greater Denver Transportation Planning Region).

Primary transportation functions

- Operation and maintenance of the **continuing transportation planning process** within the Metropolitan Planning Area.
- Federal law/regulatory compliance – **maintain eligibility for federal funding**.
- Unified Planning Work Program (**UPWP**).
- Regional Transportation Plan (**RTP**).
- Transportation Improvement Program (**TIP**).
- Transportation Operations Program: **operations, signals, technology**.
- **Modal** plans and technical activities.
- Safety, innovative mobility, livable centers, corridor and community planning.

Other services

- Technical assistance.
- Transportation modeling/local area planning/project support.
- Scenario planning.
- Local transportation plan, corridor study, project development support.
- Regional data catalog, data dashboards, and story maps.

Transportation planning partnerships



COLORADO
Department of
Transportation



Downtown
Denver
Partnership



2050 METRO VISION REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN



Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)

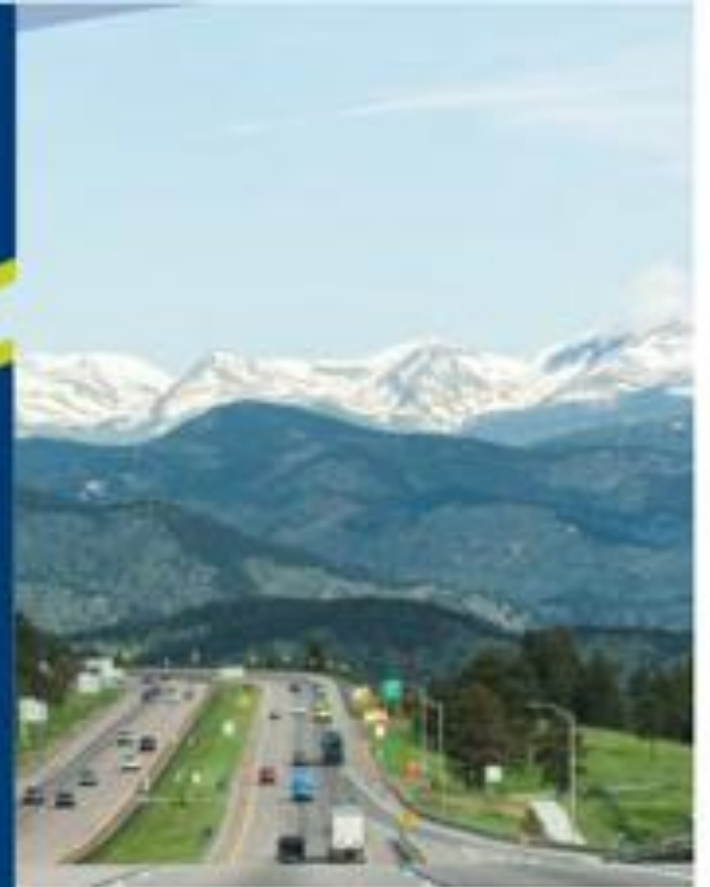
- Integrates with Metro Vision.
- Metro Vision framework (themes, outcomes and objectives).
- Forecast population, employment, travel demand and other planning assumptions.
- Multimodal transportation system component profiles and strategies.
- Financial plan (costs and revenues).
- Community engagement, environment and other topics.

Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

- Short-term planning program with specific and dedicated funding.
- Contains all projects with federal and state transportation funding.
- Region-directed competitive funding every 4 years:
 - Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG).
 - Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ).
 - Multimodal & Mitigation Options Fund (MMOF).
 - Carbon Reduction Program (CRP).
 - Transportation Alternatives (TA).
- “Set-aside” programs for dedicated projects/themes.
- Adjusted often through administrative modifications and policy amendments.

2022-2025 TRANSPORTATION
IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Adopted - April 21, 2021



Regional Transportation Committee

- Embodies metropolitan transportation planning process.
- Reviews transportation planning processes & products.
- Reviews DRCOG Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) recommendations and makes recommendations to DRCOG Board.
- Facilitates annual TAC review and approves TAC special interest seats.
- Provides guidance, support and “champions” (e.g. safety).

Regional Transportation Committee

- DRCOG (5): Board Chair, Vice Chair, 2 Board designees, Executive Director.
- CDOT (4): Three metro area Transportation Commissioners, Executive Director.
- RTD (4): Three Board members, General Manager/CEO.
- RAQC (1): Executive Director.
- Other Members (3): Subject matter experts.
- Chair/Vice Chair: DRCOG Board Chair/Vice Chair.
- Members: 17 total.
- Quorum: 12 members, including at least two from DRCOG, CDOT, RTD.

Continuing and upcoming efforts

- 2050 Regional Transportation Plan update.
- Active Transportation Plan update – just adopted!
- TIP set-aside calls.
- 2029-2032 Transportation Improvement Program policy update and calls for projects.
- Vision Zero/Safety initiatives.
- Federal surface transportation reauthorization.
- Regional Housing Strategy; land use-transportation coordination.
- MPO expansion.
- Transit/transportation-efficient design standards.
- Regional Bus Rapid Transit implementation.

Thank you!

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