

Regional Transportation Committee

Meeting date: September 1, 2026

Agenda Item #: 6 (Attachment D)

Innovative Mobility Set-Aside: Thornton Near Miss Analytics

Agenda item type: Informational Briefing

Summary

Findings from a study funded by the Innovative Mobility Set-Aside to analyze near miss data at ten major intersections in the City of Thornton to improve local and regional traffic safety.

Background

Safety analysis traditionally relies on historical crash data which results in reactive safety interventions only after multiple people have been injured or killed in traffic crashes. Near miss analysis is emerging as a potential new technology that can identify safety issues over a matter of days, as opposed to waiting years for enough crashes to form a trend, allowing for more proactive interventions to prevent crashes. Near miss analysis relies on continuous video data collection and has been enabled by advances in artificial intelligence that allow rapid analysis of many hours of video content. This project provided an opportunity to explore using near miss data in the City of Thornton to test its feasibility in facilitating a proactive approach to improve traffic safety.

This project combined near miss data collected in October 2025 and historic crash data from 2020-2024 to analyze safety issues. The project team, comprised of DRCOG staff, City of Thornton staff and a consultant team, proposed countermeasures for safety issues identified at each intersection and vetted each during an in-field visit to all ten sites. The team developed benefit-cost analysis for the City of Thornton for all proposed countermeasures. Lessons learned from the study include best practices for using near miss, limitations and considerations, and the potential application of safety countermeasures to other locations in the Denver region.

Action by others

None.

Previous discussion/action

None.

Recommendation

None.

Attachment(s)

Staff Presentation.



For more information

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