

Regional Transportation Committee

Meeting date: August 19, 2025

Agenda Item #: 7 (Attachment E)

2050 Regional Transportation Plan Update

Agenda item type: Discussion

Summary

Discussion on the solicitation process for the 2050 Metro Vision Regional Transportation Plan major update process.

Background

At the August RTC meeting, DRCOG staff will present the proposed 'solicitation' framework for the update to the 2050 RTP.

Expressing and identifying investments

One of the most important foundations in expressing investments in the RTP is the "Policy Framework and Desired Outcomes." This 'Vision and Needs' framework is comprised of the various major plans, priorities and studies identified by DRCOG, CDOT, RTD, and local governments. Together, this framework represents the region's major multimodal transportation vision, needs, and priorities.

Regional investment priorities are expressed in the RTP in several ways: as specific projects, programs (categories, allocations), or narrative content. The specific projects/project types in question include:

- The air quality regionally significant roadway capacity, interchange, and fixed guideway transit projects that are federally required to be identified in the RTP.
- Other major multimodal investment priority projects consistent with local, regional, and state plans and studies (safety, active transportation, freight, corridor planning) that contribute to achieving desired regional outcomes.

As noted, there are many important priorities, such as maintenance, traffic operations, local bus service, smaller-scale priorities, and others that do not lend themselves to identification as specific "projects," but will be included in the 2050 RTP in another way.

DRCOG staff have been reviewing current projects in the 2050 RTP and have identified the following actions:

- Projects that have been completed or will be completed by the end of 2025 are no longer by definition part of the RTP.
- Projects under construction for completion beyond 2025 will be included in the 2050 RTP automatically, without pulling from available fiscal constraint.
- Projects that have completed or are in the federal project development (NEPA) process will be included in the 2050 RTP automatically.



- Projects funded for preconstruction (30% design, right-of-way acquisition) and/or construction in the TIP will automatically be included in the 2050 RTP.
- Projects that have or are planning to conduct Planning and Environmental Linkage (PEL), corridor planning, visioning studies, or other pre-NEPA activities are eligible to compete through a solicitation for regional funding in the 2050 RTP.
- Projects for which no activities have yet occurred are also eligible to compete for regional funding in the 2050 RTP.
- Locally funded projects within the 2050 RTP meeting the above guidelines are also eligible to compete for regional funding in the 2050 RTP.

DRCOG staff are interested in continuing the two-track framework used to develop the original 2050 RTP, which includes two parallel tracks:

- County transportation forums: DRCOG would solicit investment priority projects through each forum.
- Interagency coordination process: DRCOG, CDOT and RTD would similarly submit projects for evaluation for regional priorities. Additionally, they would develop draft regional investment priorities through a series of workshops based on the Policy Framework and Desired Outcomes foundation.

Candidate projects would be evaluated using criteria encompassing the existing six RTP priorities, Metro Vision objectives and federal performance measures. The evaluation would be conducted via a committee comprised of staff from DRCOG, CDOT, RTD, and a staff representative from each county transportation forum. CDOT, RTD, and DRCOG staff, as the federally designated metropolitan planning organization planning partners, would review those outcomes, along with the draft financial plan and the broader Vision and Needs framework, to develop draft program and project investment priorities. That draft would be reviewed through DRCOG's committees and Board to develop final draft investment priorities for the 2050 RTP.

Action by others

None.

Previous discussion/action

None.

Recommendation

None.

Attachments

1. DRCOG Staff Presentation.
2. List of Current RTP Projects and Status.

For more information

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