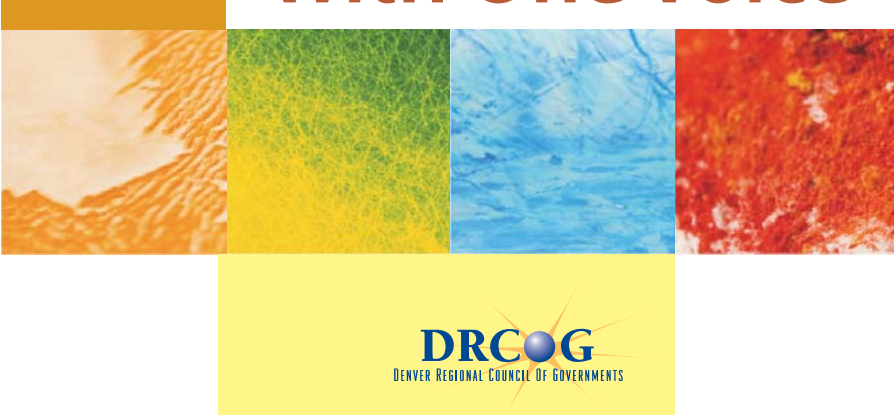


# With One Voice



Enhancing and protecting the quality of life in our region

## Denver Regional Council of Governments

The Denver region's climate, scenic setting and economic vitality have long attracted residents. That allure continues today for the 2.7 million people who call the region home and the 1.5 million who are expected by 2035. The associated growth impacts on air and water quality, transportation and traffic congestion affect every city and county in the region, and they require cooperative solutions.

The Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG) was founded in 1955 as a nonprofit, public agency dedicated to serving local governments. Created in the midst of the 1950s post-war growth boom, DRCOG continues its founding philosophy today by bringing city and county governments together to work on common issues that affect the region's future.

Local governments resolve areawide problems in a way that protects the unique nature of each local government. At the same time, each community has a voice in regional decision-making. Each member city and county is entitled to have one of its elected officials serve as a representative to the DRCOG Board of Directors. As DRCOG, the region's local governments speak with one voice.



### What is the Denver region?

DRCOG's planning area consists of Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Clear Creek, Douglas, Gilpin and Jefferson counties, the City and County of Broomfield and the City and County of Denver, and southwest Weld County.

## Is DRCOG federal, state or local?

DRCOG isn't a unit of government. Its success comes from the voluntary and cooperative efforts of local governments to create a better future for the region.

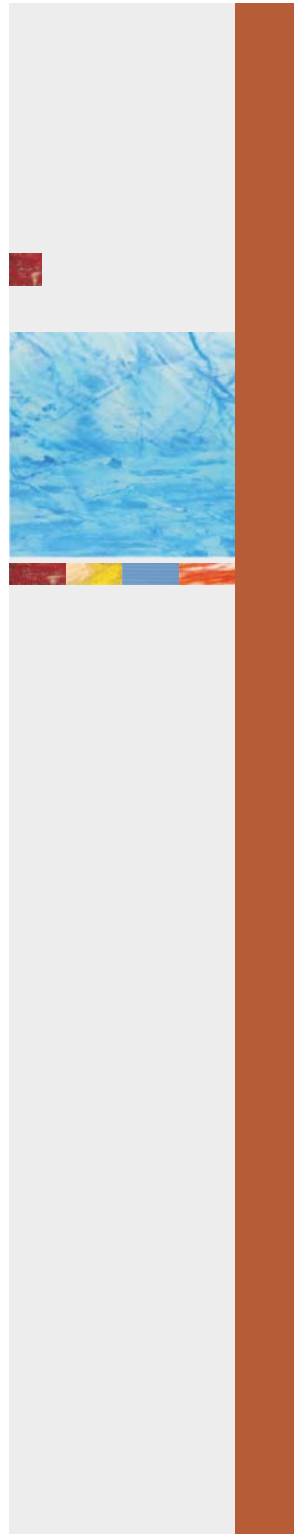
## DRCOG: SMART

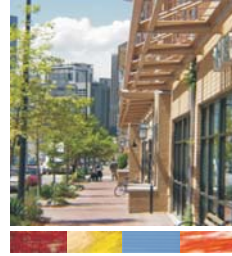
DRCOG has more than 50 years of experience in thinking SMART by:

- S** emphasizing **Sustainability** in the region's vision for growth and development,
- M** acting as a **Model** for regional cooperation,
- A** **Advocating** for the needs of seniors,
- R** establishing **Regionalism** as the best approach to problem-solving, and
- T** partnering with business and industry to meet **Transportation** needs.

## What does DRCOG do?

DRCOG's activities and programs respond to metro area needs, tackling issues best resolved through cooperative intergovernmental efforts. Current activities are described on the following pages.





## Regional growth and development

As a regional planning agency, DRCOG has the statutory responsibility to prepare and adopt a regional plan. This plan provides policies designed to guide where, how much and when growth and development occur in the region, addressing development, transportation needs and environmental quality. Since its creation, DRCOG has developed and maintained such a plan -- today's version is known as Metro Vision. The first Metro Vision plan, adopted in 1997, looked out to the year 2020. Since that time, DRCOG's 50-plus member governments have worked together to update the plan twice, pushing the horizon year out to 2030 and then 2035. Metro Vision includes, among other things, a voluntary urban growth boundary/area of about 921 square miles. Metro Vision is the foundation for all of the regional council's long-range planning activities, establishing the need and demand for regional facilities and services.

DRCOG is known for its accurate and relevant information and analysis about regional trends in growth and development, transportation, water quality, open space and aging services. These data provide the basis for DRCOG's growth and development planning, and are used extensively by local governments, state and federal agencies, policy makers, private businesses and the public.

## Transportation

DRCOG is the federally designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for transportation in the region. The Board of Directors works with the Colorado Department of Transportation, the Regional Transportation District, the Regional Air Quality Council and others to prepare transportation plans and programs. These plans are developed to give the region a balanced transportation system with many travel options. Responsible for both long- and short-range roadway and public transit plans, DRCOG selects and approves projects for federal funding based on regional priorities, although needs far outweigh funds. With that in mind, the regional council also explores strategies to get the most out of our existing transportation system and facilities, including addressing traffic congestion.

## Traffic operations

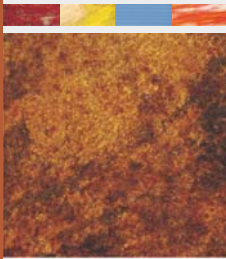
DRCOG's traffic operations program focuses on reducing congestion by improving signal timing and coordination. By working with various jurisdictions and the Colorado Department of Transportation, DRCOG can improve traffic flow on the region's major thoroughfares, saving travel time, reducing fuel use and improving air quality.



## Transit-Oriented Development

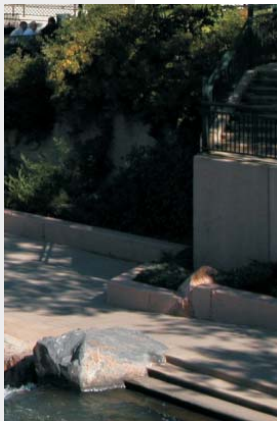
The region's local governments are working cooperatively in the area of transit-oriented development (TOD). Representing a key goal of Metro Vision, TODs are pedestrian-friendly, mixed-use communities that encourage residents and workers to drive their cars less and ride transit more.

Development of TODs will go hand-in-hand with FasTracks' implementation throughout the region. DRCOG is serving as a resource and information clearinghouse for local governments on TODs.



## Environmental issues

DRCOG's Clean Water Plan is the areawide water quality management plan. The plan's goal is to establish a cost-efficient wastewater treatment plant system to ensure the region's growing population has clean water.



The agency's role in air quality issues is linked to its role as the MPO. Through cooperative work with the Regional Air Quality Council, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment and others, DRCOG monitors, analyzes and develops transportation and development plans to improve regional air quality.





## Shared services

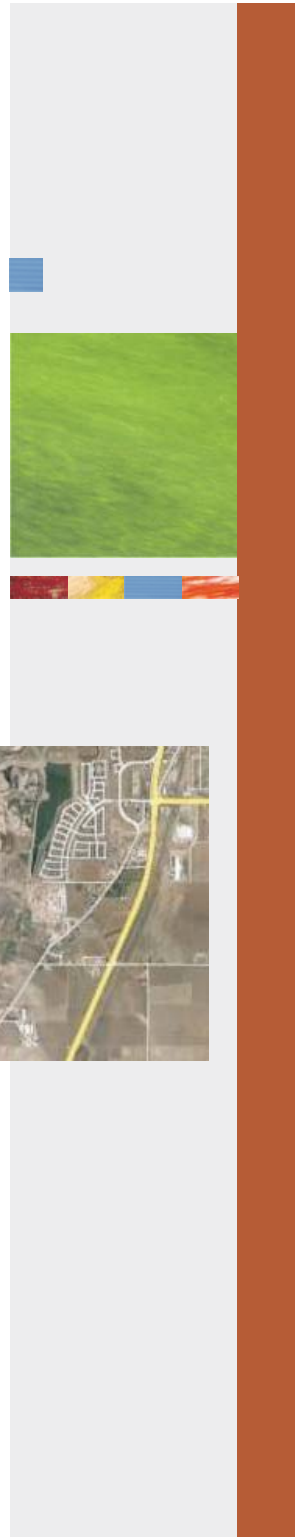
DRCOG offers a number of services designed to help member governments serve their citizens more efficiently and cost-effectively.

### Small communities technical assistance

DRCOG is a valuable resource for smaller local governments with limited staff or technical expertise. DRCOG can help provide funds and staffing for planning projects ranging from conducting research on economic or demographic issues to reviewing zoning codes to providing mapping assistance.

### Denver Regional Aerial Photography Project

In collaboration with member governments and other public- and private-sector organizations, DRCOG routinely produces high-quality digital aerial photography for the Denver metro area. Local communities use the imagery as a base to their mapping and planning activities. Having neighboring communities use the same base photography ensures that maps and plans are consistent across jurisdictional boundaries. Through the project, each jurisdiction pays for and receives its square miles of imagery, and gains access to nearly 6,000 square miles of regional coverage for broader planning purposes as a bonus of the shared project.





### **Training**

DRCOG provides reasonably priced seminars and Webinars on a variety of topics of interest to local governments. Many classes respond to requests from member governments for specific topics. Conferences and forums are held on key regional issues as well.

### **Firefighter testing**

Through the Firefighter Intraregional Recruitment and Employment program, DRCOG offers recruiting and testing of applicants to fill fire district and department vacancies. This centralized effort saves local governments time, work and money.

### **Elevator/escalator safety inspection**

Through an unusual personnel-sharing arrangement, DRCOG coordinates and provides elevator and escalator safety inspection services for participating jurisdictions. The program has resulted in improved and regular inspections at an efficient cost. Local governments are continually asked to do more with less, and DRCOG responds by delivering cost-effective shared services for its member governments.



## Aging services

As the state-designated Area Agency on Aging, DRCOG is responsible for developing a four-year plan to provide services to metro area older adults. DRCOG coordinates the work of organizations that serve older adults in Adams, Arapahoe, Clear Creek, Douglas, Gilpin and Jefferson counties, the City and County of Broomfield and the City and County of Denver. Each year, the council of governments allocates federal Older Americans Act funds to agencies and local governments that provide home-delivered meals, legal assistance, transportation, home health care, recreation, nutrition and other services.

### Ombudsman

DRCOG also advocates for the rights of residents living in special care facilities through the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program. This program, operating with the assistance of dedicated volunteers, helps residents of nursing homes or personal care boarding homes by mediating and resolving concerns and complaints, and ensuring that residents and facilities alike are aware of residents' rights. Education plays a major role in the Ombudsman program as staff and volunteers inform the public and businesses about older adult issues.



## Advocacy

Because the Denver region has unique needs and interests, the council of governments raises public awareness and advocates positions on key regional issues. The Board of Directors sets positions on federal and state legislative issues.

## RideArrangers

As DRCOG's alternative transportation program, RideArrangers informs commuters and businesses about convenient, cost-effective transportation options and employee benefits. The program also provides information about innovative work arrangements such as telework and variable work hours. All rideshare matching services and telework information can be accessed online at [www.drcog.org](http://www.drcog.org) or by calling 303-458-POOL.



**303-458-POOL**

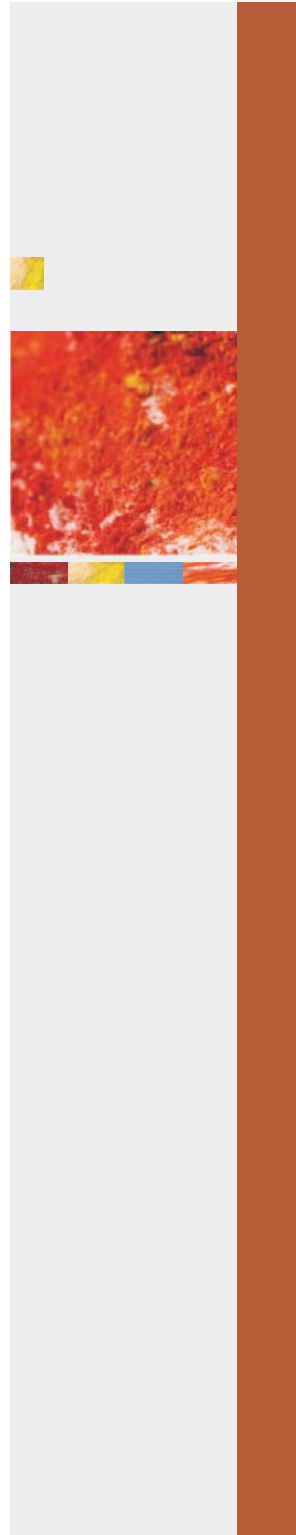


## **Vision Statement**

Enhancing and protecting the quality of life in our region.

## **Mission Statement**

DRCOG is a place where local officials can work together to solve the region's problems.





1290 Broadway, Suite 700, Denver Colorado 80203-5606  
P: 303-455-1000 – F: 303-480-6790  
drcog@drcog.org – www.drcog.org

