



# 2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program

## Executive Summary

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## **What is the Denver Regional Council of Governments?**

Founded in 1955, the Denver Regional Council of Governments, known as DRCOG, is an association of local governments with regional partners committed to protecting and enhancing the quality of life in the Denver, Colorado metropolitan area. It serves several functions for the region, including as a federally designated metropolitan planning organization. In this role, DRCOG coordinates regional transportation planning to address important regional needs in all or part of Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Broomfield, Denver, Douglas, Jefferson and Weld Counties.

## **What is the Transportation Improvement Program?**

The Transportation Improvement Program, known as the TIP, is a document that identifies all transportation projects funded through federal and state funds in the Denver region over a four-year period. The current TIP includes all projects anticipated to be implemented during federal fiscal years 2026 through 2029. DRCOG develops the TIP for the Denver region through a cooperative process involving the Colorado Department of Transportation, Regional Transportation District and local governments throughout the region. Consultation with the Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration, as well as regional, state, and federal air quality agencies, ensures that the TIP complies with all regulatory requirements and does not negatively impact air quality within the region.

## **How is the TIP developed?**

Projects in the TIP are identified by multiple agencies depending on the source of their funding. For projects funded solely through the Colorado Department of Transportation, Regional Transportation District, or local agencies, those agencies identify projects through their own internal processes, and coordinate with DRCOG to incorporate these projects into the TIP.

For projects funded through DRCOG, projects are selected through a process consisting of a Regional Share and Subregional Share. In the Regional Share, funding is awarded to projects having a regional benefit and compete against project applications from across the entire region. Projects are evaluated by staff and recommended for funding by a Project Review Panel made up of representatives from throughout the region. The Board of Directors makes the final project selection decision. In the Subregional Share, funds are targeted to each of the eight county-level subregions based on each subregion's proportion of the total region's population, employment and vehicle miles traveled. Forums of representatives within each subregion evaluate the projects proposed in their subregions with an emphasis on local values and priorities and develop a recommended project list for consideration by the Board of Directors, which again makes the final project selection decision.



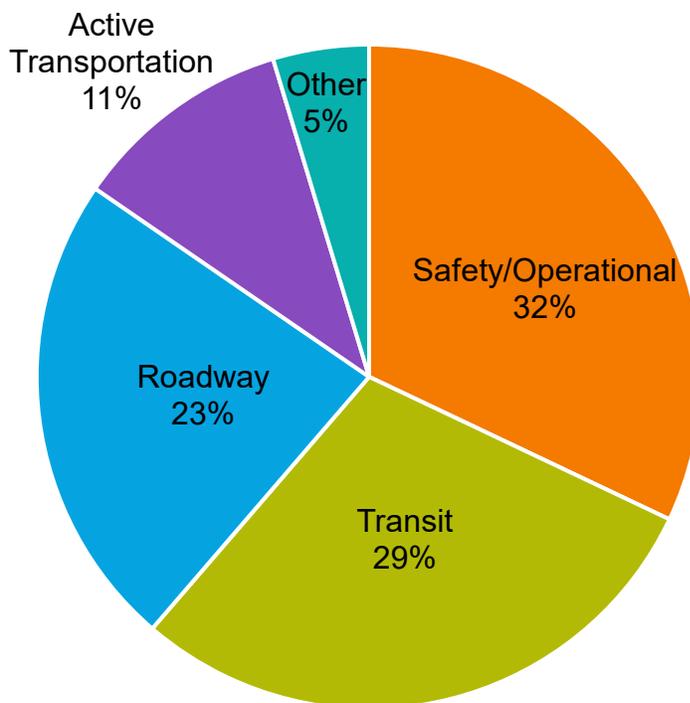
The last calls for projects occurred as part of the development of the previous 2024-2027 TIP. DRCOG holds calls for projects every four years but develops a new TIP every two years. Therefore, no calls for projects were specifically held during the development of this document. Projects selected for inclusion of the prior TIP typically were roll over to the new document based on the years in which they have funding and the status of the contract with the lead regional agency. Most projects included in the 2024-2027 TIP did roll over to the current 2026-2029 TIP.

### What projects are funded in this document?

A total of 276 individual projects are included within this document, including those selected by the Colorado Department of Transportation and the Regional Transportation District, as well as projects carried over from prior TIPs. In all, these represent approximately \$2.5 billion in investments into the region’s transportation system. 182 of these projects were selected for funding by DRCOG, representing approximately \$617.9 million in transportation investments.

These projects represent a range of project types and are located throughout the region. Figure 1 displays the primary project type for all projects included in the TIP, including those funded by DRCOG and other agencies.

**Figure 1. TIP project type breakdown**



## **What will these projects accomplish?**

Based on the information provided in project applications, the projects selected by DRCOG in the most recent calls for projects are anticipated to provide a number of benefits for the Denver region, most of which are included in this document. For example, 73% of projects are on the region's High-Injury Network, helping to reduce crashes in the areas that need it the most. Applicants estimate a combined reduction of over 50 fatalities and over 300 serious injuries based on the safety countermeasures included in their projects. 34 studies set up projects for future implementation funding opportunities. 26 projects improve freight operations, improving the reliability of goods movement. 64% of projects impact an urban center, improving transportation within and between areas planned for growth. Together, these projects will improve the safety, accessibility, and quality of life for residents and visitors throughout the Denver region.

