

Board of Directors

Meeting date: May 21, 2025

Agenda Item #: 11

Transportation Improvement Program: Potential programming year adjustments

Agenda item type: Informational briefing

Summary

DRCOG staff is considering adjusting the future Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) schedule to ensure alignment with the 2050 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) major update schedule, including adjusting the years of the next TIP document and programming Fiscal Year 2028 TIP DRCOG-allocated funds.

Background

The TIP, through its policies, calls for projects, and selection process, implements the 2050 RTP. In recent TIP cycles, the DRCOG Board has progressively strengthened the application process and criteria to further implement the RTP's project and program investment priorities. In the last application, these priorities were weighed at 50% of the overall possible score.

As a result of several factors, the regular schedule for developing the next TIP for FY 2028-2031 would include TIP policy development in 2025 and calls for projects in 2026, during the 2050 RTP Update. This misalignment not give the region the opportunity to align TIP investment priorities with the priorities of the updated RTP as well as creating an undue burden on project sponsors and DRCOG staff.

To remedy this situation, DRCOG staff are suggesting two one-time adjustments to the TIP process.

1. Offset the "normal" every-two-year TIP schedule to account for the current 2050 RTP major update schedule.
 - Adjust the next full four-year TIP from Fiscal Year 2028-2031 to Fiscal Year 2029-2032. Delaying the next TIP by one year allows the updated 2050 RTP to be adopted before the calls for projects for the next TIP take place.
 - After this one-time adjustment, future TIP documents would continue to be adopted every two years, with calls for projects every four years.
2. Program Fiscal Year 2028 funding.
 - The last call for projects programmed funds through Fiscal Year 2027, with the next calls anticipated to program Fiscal Years 2028-2031. To ensure an appropriate pipeline of projects in the TIP, staff proposes to allocate FY 2028 funds and amend projects into the recently adopted FY 2026-2029 TIP.



Fiscal Year 2028 Programming

DRCOG staff recommends the following steps to program Fiscal Year 2028 funding. The recommendation will require DRCOG committee and Board approval to modify the existing process outlined in the adopted policy and is expected to begin in the second half of this year.

1. **Wait List Programming:** Use the existing wait lists and the established wait list process as outlined in the adopted Fiscal Years 2026-2029 TIP to program available Fiscal Year 2028 funding. Discussions and decisions will take place between the project sponsor and DRCOG staff. No forum actions are necessary for this step, but forums will be kept informed as the process proceeds.
 - a. If a sponsor wishes to fund a wait list project using Fiscal Year 2028 funding, an updated cost estimate will be required (different from adopted policy). If costs have increased, the sponsor still must commit to delivering the project as outlined in the original application if they accept funding.
 - b. At the end of this process, DRCOG staff will amend the projects into the adopted Fiscal Year 2026-2029 TIP.
 - c. If any Regional or Subregional share FY 2028 funds remain unprogrammed at the end of this step, they will proceed to step 2.
2. **New Call for Projects:** If the first step has been exhausted, a subregional forum may hold a new call for projects (different from adopted policy).
 - a. Forums will hold a call for projects for the remaining Fiscal Year 2028 funding available to their forum. The call will use the previous TIP applications and criteria, and eligibility may be narrowed to match the type of funds available.
 - b. Additional details will be provided to forums before they go through this modified call for projects process.

Projected Funding Availability for Fiscal Year 2028

Projected funding in Fiscal Year 2028 is somewhat uncertain because current transportation legislation only extends through Fiscal Year 2026. Given that, two possibilities exist; either the current legislation will be extended via Continuing Resolution, or new legislation will be adopted. With that knowledge and while subject to future revisions, DRCOG staff estimates approximately \$90 million will be available in Fiscal Year 2028, which breaks down as follows:

- \$11.5 million for off the top set-asides (each set-aside will be one year of funding at current funding levels)
- \$15.7 million for the Regional Share (20% of the remaining total)
- \$62.8 million for the Subregional Share (80% of the remaining total) allocation targets, which breaks down as follows:

○ Adams Subregion:	\$9.7 million	○ Denver Subregion:	\$15.2 million
○ Arapahoe Subregion:	\$11.7 million	○ Douglas Subregion:	\$6.5 million
○ Boulder Subregion:	\$6.2 million	○ Jefferson Subregion:	\$10.4 million
○ Broomfield Subregion:	\$1.5 million	○ SW Weld Subregion:	\$1.6 million



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Action by others

None.

Previous discussion/action

None.

Recommendation

None.

Attachments

1. Staff presentation
2. Current wait list projects and protocol

For more information

If you need additional information, please contact Douglas W. Rex, Executive Director, at 303-480-6701; or Todd Cottrell, Project and Program Delivery Manager, Transportation Planning and Operations, at 303-480-6737 or tcottrell@drcog.org.

