

Agenda
Advisory Committee on Aging
Friday, June 27, 2025
11:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Virtual Meeting

If you have difficulty using this document's content, please email mmpatton@drcog.org or call 303-480-6723. Please expect a response within 72 hours (three business days).

Times listed with each agenda item are approximate. It is requested that all cell phones be silenced during the Advisory Committee on Aging meeting. Persons in need of auxiliary aids or services, such as interpretation services or assisted listening devices, are asked to contact the Denver Regional Council of Governments at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting.

- 1 11:00 a.m. Call to Order and Introductions
- 2 11:05 a.m. Public comment
Up to 45 minutes is allocated now for public comment and each speaker will be limited to 3 minutes. If there are additional requests from the public to address the Committee, time will be allocated at the end of the meeting to complete public comment.
- 3 11:10 a.m. Report of the Chair – Bob Brocker
- 4 11:20 a.m. Report of the AAA Director – Jayla Sanchez-Warren

Consent agenda

- 5 11:40 a.m. Move to Approve Consent Agenda
Minutes from May 23, 2025, meeting.
(Attachment A)

Action item

- 6 11:45 a.m. Discussion on canceling the July ACA meeting
(Attachment B)

Informational briefings

- 7 12:50 p.m. 2050 Metro Vision Regional Transportation Plan Update – Alvan-Bidal Sanchez
(Attachment C)
- 8 1:10 p.m. DRCOG Board Report
- 9 1:15 p.m. County Reports

Administrative items

- 10 **Next meeting to be determined.**
- 11 1:25 p.m. Other Matters by Members
- 12 1:30 p.m. Adjourn

Calander of future meetings

July 25, 2025 – Virtual

August 22, 2025 – **In person**

September 26, 2025 – Virtual

October 24, 2025 – **In person**

November 28, 2025 – Virtual

December 26, 2025 – Virtual

January 23, 2026 – Virtual

February 27, 2026 – Virtual

March 27, 2026 – Virtual

April 24, 2026 – **In person**

May 22, 2026 – Virtual

June 26, 2026 – **In person**



ATTACH A

Advisory Committee on Aging (ACA)
Meeting Summary
Friday, May 23, 2025

If you have difficulty using this document's content, please email mmpatton@drcog.org or call 303-480-6723. Please expect a response within 72 hours (three business days).

Members Present

Ada Anderson	Douglas County
Andrea Suhaka	Arapahoe County
Barbara Boyer	Arapahoe County
Bob Brocker	Denver
Connie Ward	Jefferson County
Dawn Perez	Adams County
Donna Mullins	Jefferson County
Edward Moss	Broomfield County
Greg Kahler	Adams County
Gretchen Lopez	Douglas County
Judi Kern	DRCOG Board Louisville
Paul Haseman	DRCOG Board Golden
Shari Haidvogel	Clear Creek County
Steve Conklin	DRCOG Board Edgewater
Wynne Shaw	DRCOG Board-Lone Tree

Guests Present

Ed Bowditch, Bowditch & Cassell Public Affairs.

DRCOG Staff Present

AJ Diamontopoulos, Senior Management Analyst, Doug Rex, DRCOG Executive Director, Esra Sonmez, Program Manager Quality and Operations Specialist, Fonda Buckles, Manager Older Americans Act Services, Jayla Sanchez- Warren, AAA Division Director, Jennifer Reeves, Veterans & Community Options Manager, Kelly Roberts, Community Resource Specialist, Mindy Patton, Division Assistant, Shannon Gimbel, Ombudsman Manager, Taylor Honeysette, Program Manager Transportation

Call to Order

Bob Brocker Committee Chair called the meeting to order at 11:03 a.m.

Public Comment Period (Non-ACA Members)

There was no public comment.

Report of the Chair – Bob Brocker

Chair Brocker referenced the book by author Sanjay Gupta, *Keep Sharp: Build a Better Brain at Any Age*. The book highlights how to keep your brain busy, active and healthy.

Report of the DRCOG Executive Director – Doug Rex

Executive Director Doug Rex confirmed a \$2 million reduction in state funding, along with a \$600,000 cut from the state emergency fund, bringing AAA funding back to 2019 levels. Despite these financial challenges, Rex commended the AAA staff for their adaptability and commitment to program improvements, emphasizing how cross-training has strengthened resilience within the organization.

Rex also acknowledged DRCOG's federal lobbyists, who play a key role in monitoring national policy developments. Their advocacy has been instrumental, including a recent letter submitted on behalf of DRCOG and its aging-related associations to the committee shaping the 2026 budget, which was shared during the meeting.

Financially, DRCOG's FY2025/2026 budget exceeds \$101 million, almost double the previous year, largely due to a \$200 million EPA grant secured for the next five years. This funding may support retrofitting homes for older adults, improving energy efficiency through credits or free services for qualifying incomes.

DRCOG is also updating its Regional Transportation Plan, as required every four years, to address increasing traffic congestion in the Denver region. Strategies to reduce vehicle miles traveled include promoting mixed-use developments that integrate housing, commercial spaces, and retail areas, enhancing walkability for older adults.

Housing infrastructure remains a priority. Last fall, DRCOG's housing needs assessment revealed a demand for 500,000 new housing units by 2050, with 130,000 designated for residents earning between 30% and 60% of the area median income. Funding challenges persist, but DRCOG is working to shift legislative discussions toward proactive solutions, prioritizing affordable housing for older adults while addressing generational accessibility concerns.

Regarding Senate Bill 160, the RTD accountability bill, DRCOG previously led an RTD accountability committee in 2020, focusing on operational efficiencies but lacking time for governance assessments. As DRCOG prepares to lead this effort again, the focus will shift toward elected board governance and leadership improvements.

Lastly, Executive Director Rex encouraged everyone to attend DRCOG's annual awards celebration on August 27th. More information about the event is available on the [DRCOG website](#).

Report of the AAA Director – Jayla Sanchez-Warren

Jayla informed the group that on March 27th, the Administration on Community Living (ACL) was unexpectedly dissolved, leaving uncertainty about oversight of Area Agencies on Aging (AAA). A leaked Health and Human Services budget on April 10th revealed proposed cuts to Older Americans Act programs, raising concerns across the aging network.

To respond, Jayla attended emergency meetings and consulted Washington, D.C. policy experts. Key organizations, including US Aging and AARP's National Council on Aging, urged legislative advocacy. DRCOG's Executive Director, Doug Rex, proposed

using federal lobbyists, including an aging policy expert with Senate experience, to equip lawmakers with essential information. DRCOG also developed a white paper outlining AAA services.

The President's budget introduced major shifts, transferring the nutrition program to the Administration for Children and Families and other aging services to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). Several AAA-managed programs, including the Long-Term Care Ombudsman and SHIP, faced elimination, alongside health promotion, elder abuse prevention, and other critical initiatives.

Two budget processes are underway: FY2026 appropriations, which includes \$13 billion in discretionary funding cuts impacting AAA resources, and budget reconciliation. The House's "Big, Beautiful Bill," passed on May 22nd, now moves to the Senate for a simple majority vote.

Proposed Medicaid cuts totaling \$6.25 billion would impact 8.6 million people, affecting transportation, prescriptions, and food assistance. DRCOG staff are helping residents reinstate lost benefits, while hospitals with high Medicaid patient rates brace for financial consequences.

DRCOG faces further local changes, including a funding reduction for its refugee program, leading to its closure in September. Despite challenges, several organizations expressed interest in collaborating with DRCOG, including MedNOW and Strider. Meanwhile, AAA reorganization efforts placed Fonda Buckles in charge of transportation and assistance programs, with AJ Diamontopoulos over the case management.

Regulatory changes to the Older Americans Act, effective October 2025, impose additional burdens. With ACL's dissolution ending formal training sessions, the State launched its own compliance education, though financial strain threatens implementation. DRCOG leaders are advocating for practical solutions, negotiating policy adjustments to maintain essential services.

The State now requires repayment for undocumented services, prompting DRCOG to enforce stricter quality assurance and compliance measures. Contractors must meet documentation standards or risk losing funding. Advocacy efforts continue, with Jayla meeting DRCOG lobbyists to prepare legislative discussions and policy adjustments in response to evolving challenges.

Move to approve consent agenda

Items on the consent agenda included: March 28, 2025, meeting summary.

Wynne Shaw motioned for approval. Judi Kern seconded the motion; the consent agenda was unanimously approved.

Agendas and summaries are posted on the [DRCOG website](#) from the link choose the month and date of the meeting, click on the event. Once clicked, you will find the link to the meeting for that month.

Informational Briefings

Legislative update. – Ed Bowditch

ED Bowditch, DRCOG's lobbyist, announced the conclusion of the legislative session, during which 700 bills were introduced and 500 passed, addressing key state issues. He highlighted the influence of the Taxpayer Bill of Rights (TABOR) on Colorado's financial policies, which restrict tax increases and cap state revenue. While proponents view TABOR as a taxpayer victory, critics argue that budget cuts to essential programs undermine the state's ability to provide vital services.

Entering the fiscal year, the legislature faced a \$1.1 billion shortfall due to rising Medicaid usage and voter-approved law enforcement funding mandates. Among the budget reductions was a \$2 million cut in state funding for senior services, lowering the appropriation from \$16 million in FY 2024-25 to \$14 million for FY 2025-26. This reduction is concerning given that the state's population of residents aged 72 and older is expected to reach one million by 2050.

A request has been made to restore senior services funding in FY 2026-27. However, initial budget cuts focused on easier targets, including diaper distribution programs, food bank assistance, and tutoring services. While these reductions helped bridge the gap this year, lawmakers will face tougher decisions in 2026 when simple cuts are no longer available, forcing more difficult fiscal adjustments.

HB 25-1111 Expand Homestead Exemptions

One year ago, a bill was passed that made the Senior Homestead exemption portable. Under this legislation, eligible recipients, those who had lived in their homes for at least 10 years and met the necessary qualifications, could continue receiving the exemption even after moving to a new residence.

The bill also sought to increase the value of the homestead property tax exemption for qualifying seniors, veterans with disabilities, and Gold Star surviving spouses, beginning with the 2025 property tax year. Originally enacted for a two-year period, this measure aimed to make the exemption more permanent. However, due to budget shortfalls and the associated costs, the bill was ultimately rejected by the House Finance Committee.

HB 25-1156 Make Senior Home Tax Valuation Reduction Permanent

The bill aimed to reduce property taxes starting in the 2027 tax year by permanently maintaining the qualified-senior primary residence property classification and its associated assessed value reductions. However, it was ultimately defeated in the House Appropriations Committee.

HB 25-1291 Transportation Network Company Consumer Protection

This bill establishes new safety requirements for transportation network companies like Uber and Lyft, including criminal background checks, restrictions on certain individuals from driving, and the option for audio/video recording during rides.

The bill was introduced by a legislator who had been sexually assaulted by a Lyft driver, prompting stronger safety regulations for all transportation network drivers. While DRCOG did not take a formal position on the bill, it has significant implications for community safety, warranting its inclusion here.

The bill passed the House by a vote of 58-6 and the Senate by 22-13. It has been sent to the Governor for consideration, though Uber has been advocating for a veto, its final outcome remains to be seen.

SB 25-079 Colorado Vending of Digital Assets Act

This bill introduces new regulations for cryptocurrency ATMs, requiring risk disclosures, limiting daily transactions to \$2,000 for new customers and \$10,500 for existing users, providing digital receipts, and mandating full refunds for first-time transactions deemed fraudulent.

Law enforcement proposed the bill in response to a surge in scam-related reports. Crypto ATMs have become more common in convenience stores and grocery chains across the state, but scammers have taken advantage of them—especially preying on seniors. A typical scheme involves fraudsters falsely claiming that a victim has missed jury duty and now faces a bench warrant. The scammer then instructs the individual to withdraw a large sum of cash, deposit it into a nearby crypto ATM, and take a receipt to a courthouse, misleading them into believing the issue will be resolved.

Although the bill includes additional provisions, it has already passed the House (48-14) and the Senate (33-0) and now awaits the Governor's decision.

Choice Services Transportation voucher program update. – Esra Sonmez and Fonda Buckles

DRCOG has relied on the On the Go call center for ride scheduling, but with its closure, DRCOG staff will take over scheduling duties starting June 1st to ensure continued transportation access. The program serves 769 clients enrolled in the transportation voucher system, handling thousands of ride requests and inquiries. While the call center's after-hours scheduling has been helpful, demand during those times has been relatively low.

To manage the transition, ongoing travel training is helping clients adapt to new scheduling processes. AAA staff mailed letters to inform clients of changes and temporarily closed the waitlist to prioritize scheduling needs. DRCOG's smaller team will focus on maintaining service quality, with designated staff managing live calls and voicemails.

A major shift for clients will be reduced scheduling flexibility, as on-demand trips will require at least three days' notice. Uber rides lack after-hours support, unlike HopSkipDrive and MedRide. Efforts are underway to establish a new call center by July, despite short planning time. AAA will still accommodate one-time trip requests and offer alternative transportation resources. While challenges exist, careful planning and support will help ensure service continuity.

DRCOG Board Report – Judi Kern

Judi Kern reminded the committee that DRCOG's Bike to Work Day is set for June 25th. The event promotes inclusivity for individuals of all abilities, encouraging E-bike use, walking to local destinations, or opting for public transit instead of driving. The goal is to reduce car usage for a day, enjoy fresh air, and connect with others participating in the initiative.

County Reports

Adams County – Greg Kahler

Adams County had a highly successful resource fair, with 60 vendors participating.

Arapahoe County – Andrea Suhaka

Following the county's de-Brucing of TABOR, in November, a 10-member citizen committee was established to advise on the allocation of additional funds. The committee will hold its first meeting in June and will convene monthly, with the possibility of more frequent meetings as they gain clarity on the total available funding.

Clear Creek County – Shari Haidvogel

Last Tuesday, Jayla traveled to Georgetown to speak before the Board of County Commissioners. Of the three commissioners, two are newly appointed and were unfamiliar with DRCOG and the current issues affecting older adults in the county. Her presentation aimed to provide clarity on DRCOG's role, and the challenges faced by the senior community.

Douglas County – Gretchen Lopez

The Castle Rock Senior Activity Center is promoting its Senior Life Expo on June 4th, a long-standing event for thousands of seniors. Meanwhile, the Seniors Council is addressing a projected physician shortage over the next 10 to 15 years. A recent survey revealed that older adults struggle with timely physician access, often seeing physician assistants instead. Despite Douglas County's 65,000 residents aged 60 and older, no gerontologists or geriatricians serve the area. Most surveyed seniors indicated they would switch to a gerontologist if available. Once results are finalized, the council aims to engage key stakeholders, advocate for expanded services, and improve access to aging specialists.

Jefferson County – Donna Mullins

Jefferson County had their Senior Heroes Awards, hosted by the Seniors Resource Center and Jefferson County Council on Aging. This year's honorees: Stan Jacobson, Joan Brown, Jon Chandler, and Marcia Nichols.

Other Matters by Members

- There were no other matters discussed.

Next meeting – June 27, 2025.**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:19 p.m.

ATTACH B

Advisory Committee on Aging Meeting

Name of Committee: Advisory Committee on Aging

Meeting date: June 27, 2025

Agenda Item #: 6

If you have difficulty using this document's content, please email mpatton@drcog.org or call 303-480-6723. Please expect a response within 72 hours (three business days).

Discussion on canceling the July ACA meeting

Agenda item type: Action item

Summary

Vote to cancel the July 25th meeting.

Background

Historically the ACA has voted to cancel this meeting due to many vacationing members. This agenda item will be seeking member approval to cancel the July 25th meeting.

Action by others

None

Previous discussions/actions

None

Recommendation

Move to cancel the July 25, 2025, meeting.

Attachment

None

For more information

If you need additional information, please contact Mindy Patton, Division Assistant, (303) 480-6723 or mpatton@drcog.org.

ATTACH C

Advisory Committee on Aging Meeting

Name of Committee: Advisory Committee on Aging

Meeting date: June 27, 2025

Agenda Item #: 7

If you have difficulty using this document's content, please email mmpatton@drcog.org or call 303-480-6723. Please expect a response within 72 hours (three business days).

2050 Metro Vision Regional Transportation Plan Update

Agenda item type: Informational briefing

Summary

Overview of the ongoing update to the 2050 Metro Vision Regional Transportation Plan.

Background

As the federally designated metropolitan planning organization for the Denver region, the Denver Regional Council of Governments develops the [Metro Vision Regional Transportation Plan](#) to guide the region's investments in the multimodal transportation system. The plan helps DRCOG's member governments and partners implement the shared aspirational vision of [Metro Vision](#). The plan is updated every four years and amended as needed to ensure that its content remains relevant and reflects current trends, needs and priorities.

The 2050 RTP was originally adopted in April 2021 and updated in 2022 to achieve compliance with the state's [Greenhouse Gas Planning Standard](#). DRCOG staff initiated a cycle amendments process in September 2023 that concluded in May 2024. DRCOG staff have initiated the next major update to the RTP, which must be adopted by fall 2026 to meet federal requirements.

Since the original adoption in 2021, numerous plans and programs have been initiated or completed that will be reflected in the updated 2050 RTP. Select efforts include the Regional Bus Rapid Transit Partnership, Transportation Demand Management Strategic Plan, Regional Transportation Operations and Technology Strategic Plan, and Regional Housing Needs Assessment, as well as ongoing updates to the Active Transportation Plan and Regional Multimodal Freight Plan and Coordinated Transit Plan.

Staff have identified the following major activities and tentative milestones for the upcoming effort that are subject to change:

Scenario planning: Winter 2024 – Summer 2025.

Financial planning: Winter 2024 – Summer 2025.



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Candidate projects: Summer – Fall 2025.

Modeling and coordination: Winter 2025 – Spring 2026.

Document development: Summer 2025 – Spring 2026.

Public and stakeholder review: Ongoing, and Summer 2026.

- Committee and board approval: Fall 2026.

Additional activities DRCOG staff have completed or are ongoing include Greenhouse Gas Mitigation Action Plan annual reporting, the development of a Public Engagement Plan specific to the 2050 RTP Update effort, definition of the Regional Roadway System, and an enhanced equity analysis.

DRCOG staff are coordinating with internal partners through deliverable-specific kick-offs and external partners and project sponsors through the County Subregional Forums. On adoption, the 2050 RTP must meet federal fiscal constraint requirements, meaning there must be reasonably expected funding to implement the proposed project. The 2050 RTP must also meet federal air quality conformity requirements and state transportation greenhouse gas emission reduction requirements, among other state and federal requirements.

Action by others

None.

Previous discussions/actions

None.

Recommendation

None.

Attachment

Staff presentation.

For more information

If you need additional information, please contact Alvan-Bidal Sanchez, Program Manager, Transportation Planning and Operations, at 720-278-2341 or asanchez@drcog.org



Photo Credit: Regional Transportation District

2050 Regional Transportation Plan update

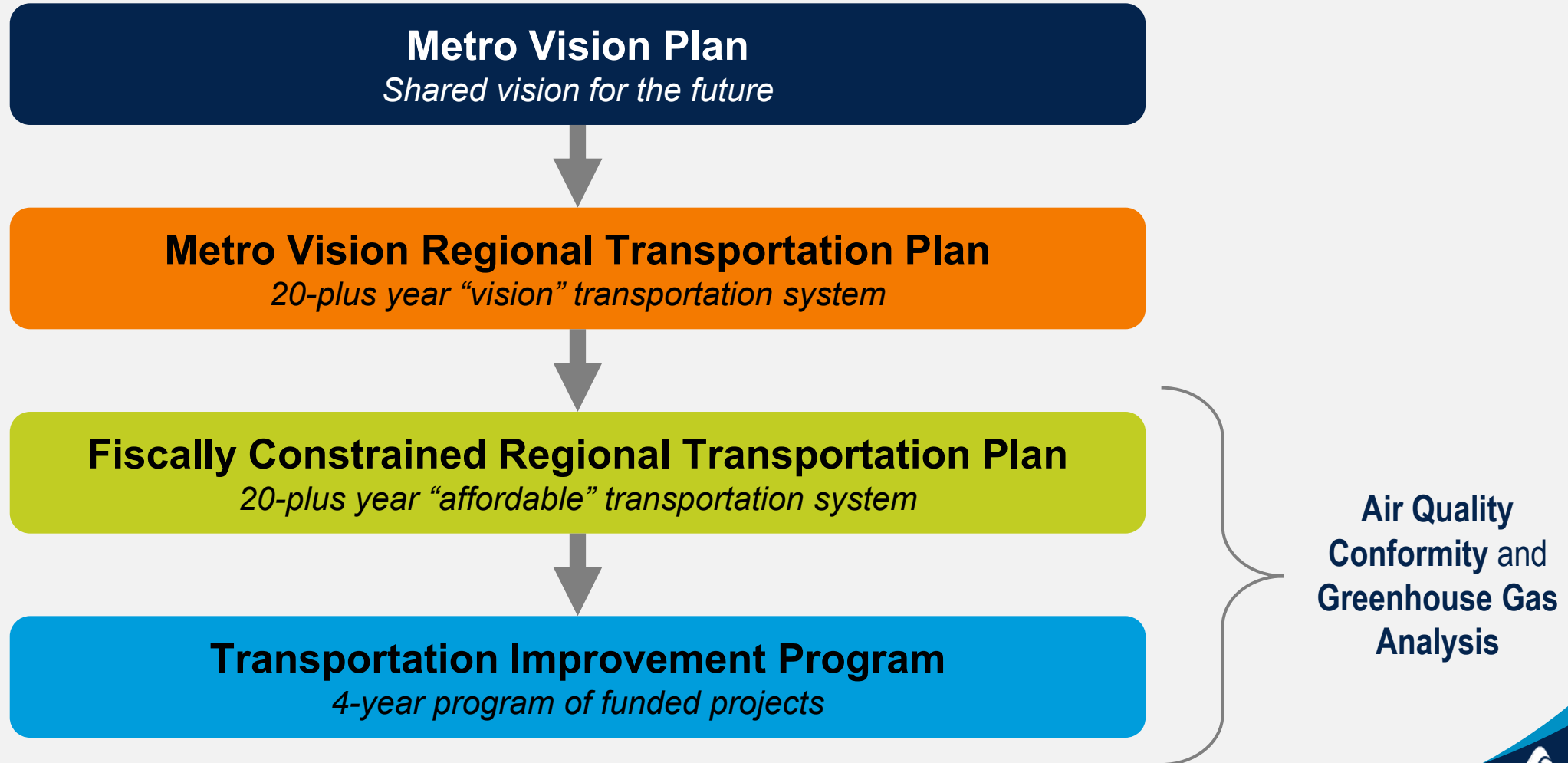
Advisory Committee on Aging: June 27, 2025

Metro Vision Regional Transportation Plan

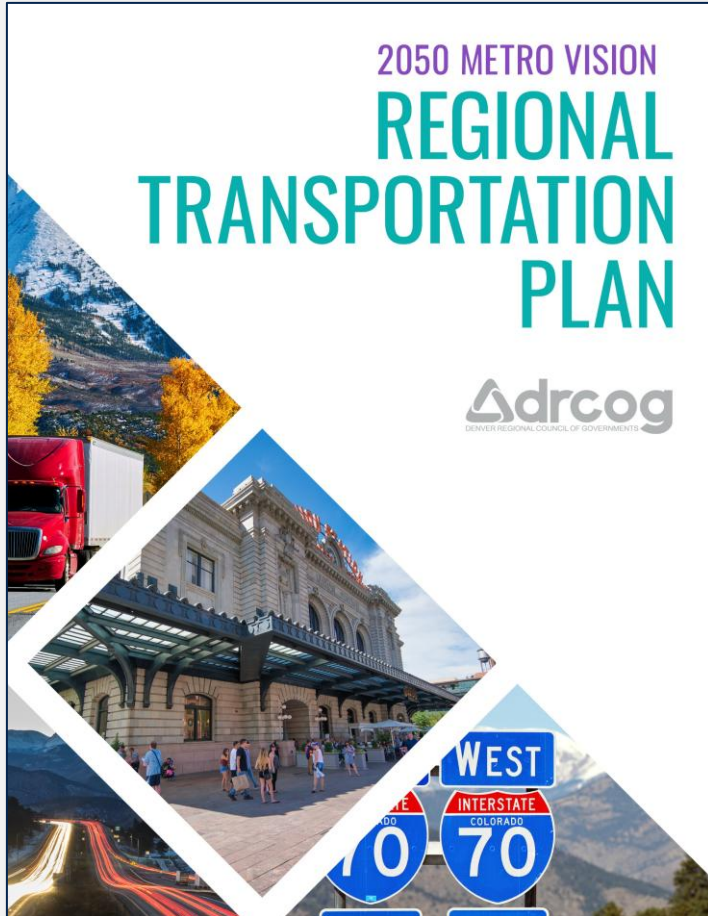


<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r802cmpCvig>

Planning process structure



What is the 2050 RTP?



**Implements
Metro Vision**



**Region's
multimodal
vision**



**Fiscally-
constrained
(what's feasible)**



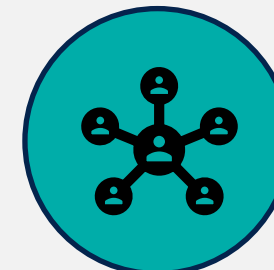
**TIP funding for
road & transit
projects**



**Updated
frequently (every
4 years)**



**Developed with
partners**

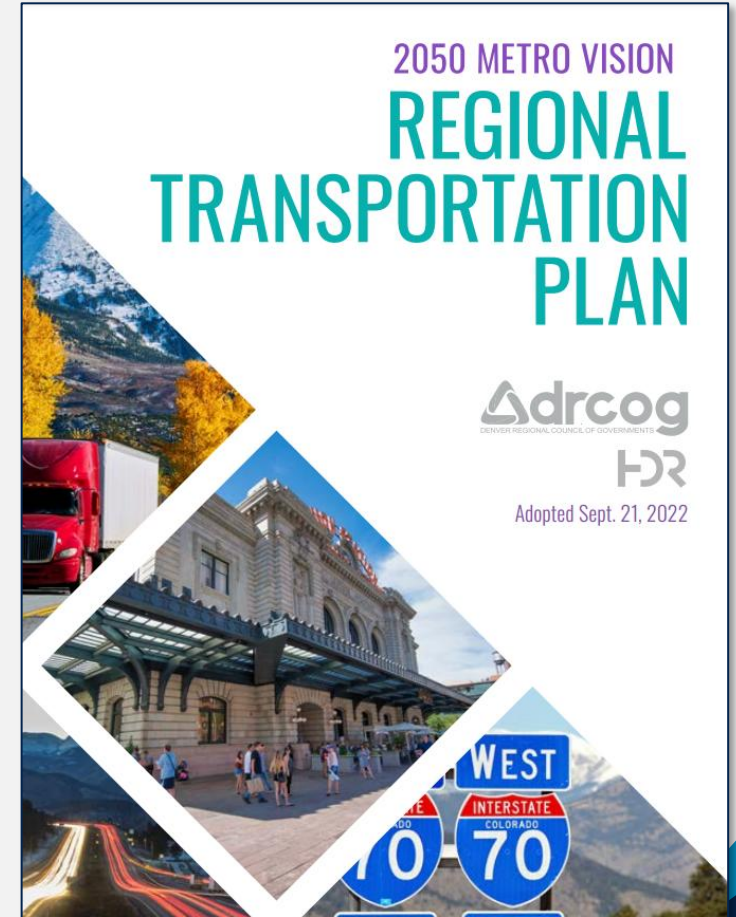


**Federally
required (MPO
function)**



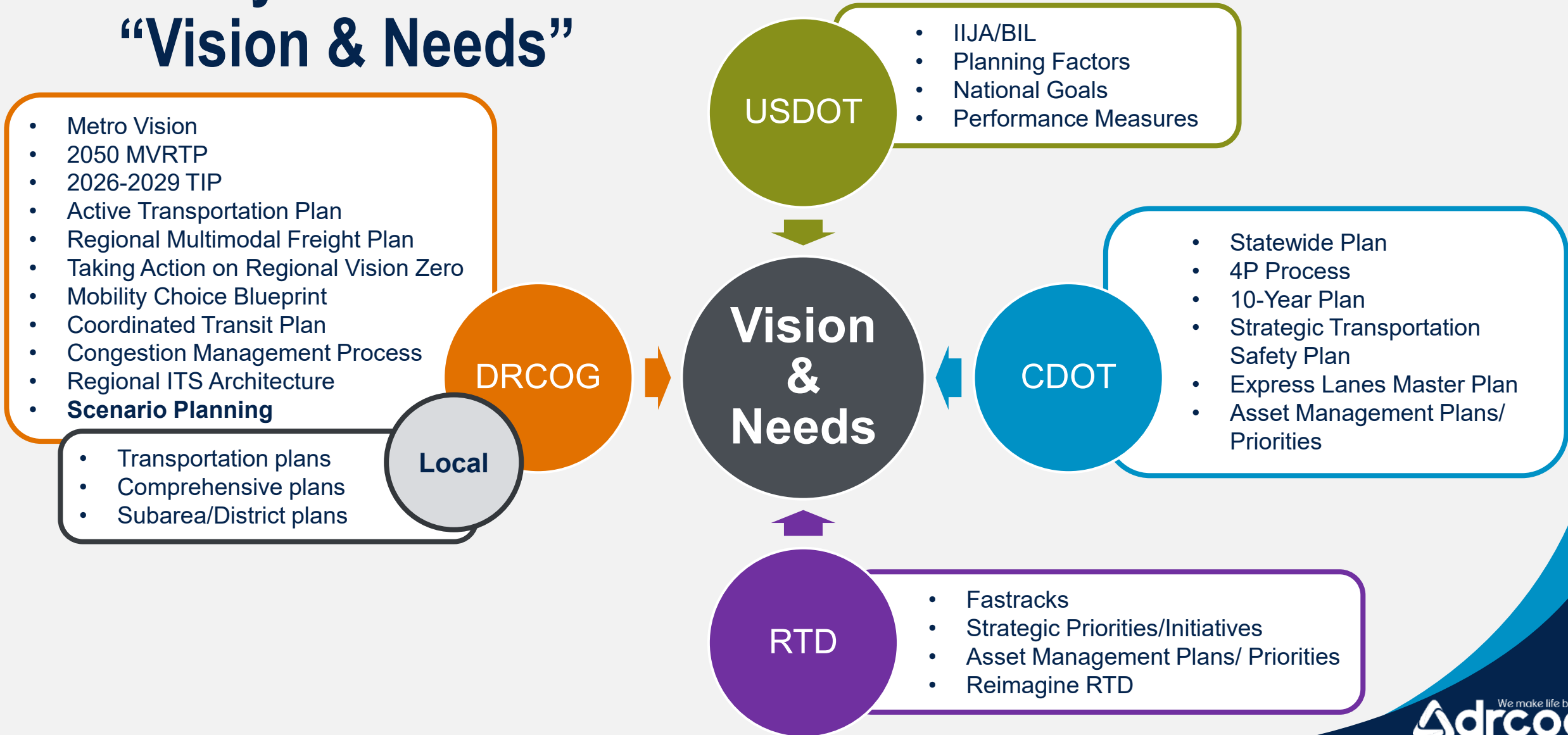
Background

- The RTP is required to be **updated every four-years** based on the region's air quality designation.
 - In-between, staff provide an opportunity for **project-based amendments** called 'cycle amendments.'
- The 2050 Metro Vision Regional Transportation was **adopted in September 2022, amended in May 2024.**



Policy Framework & Desired Outcomes

“Vision & Needs”



Project types in the MVRTP



Air quality regionally significant **roadway capacity** projects



Air quality regionally significant **rapid transit capacity** projects



Arterial safety, Complete Streets retrofits, and **regional Vision Zero** improvements



Active transportation improvements (bicycle facilities, pedestrian facilities, trails)



Freight improvements (bridge reconstructions, overpasses/underpasses, new bridges)



Corridor planning – roadway and transit (generalized corridors/concepts)

Project and program investment priorities

Multimodal mobility

Provide more ways to travel by car, bus, bicycle, and foot.

Safety

Increase the safety for all users of the transportation system.

Freight

Maintain efficient movement of goods within & beyond the region.

Air quality

Improve air quality and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Active transportation

Expand travel options for vulnerable and underserved transportation users.

Regional transit

Expand the region's rapid transit network.



Projects and programs



Multimodal mobility

Multimodal capital projects

\$6.9 billion



Air quality

Transportation Improvement Program set-asides

\$375 million



Regional transit

Regional bus rapid transit projects
Corridor transit planning projects and program

\$1.2 billion
\$940 million



Safety

Arterial safety and Regional Vision Zero projects and program

\$548 million



Active transportation

Active transportation program

\$970 million



Freight

Freight program

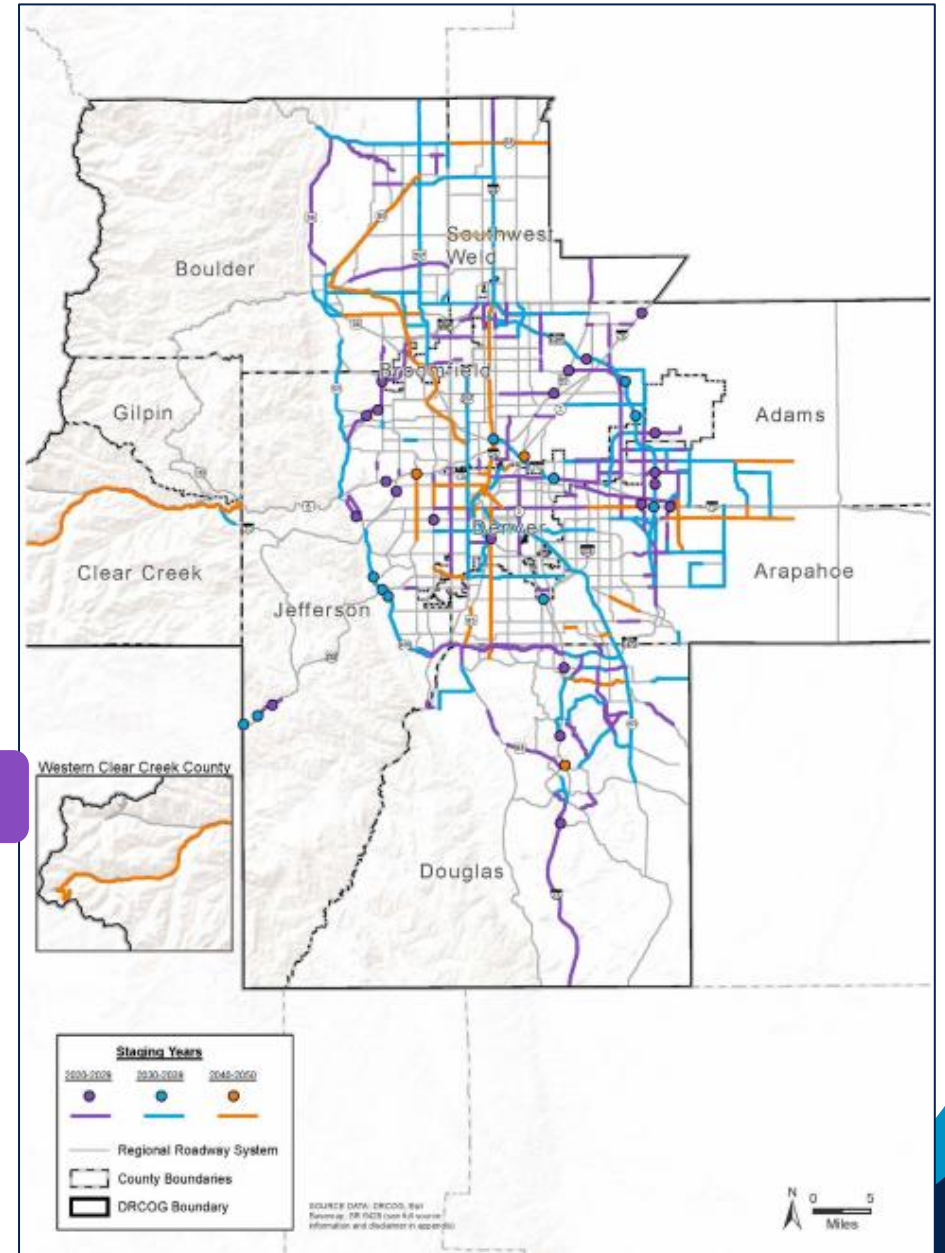
\$220 million



Local projects

Locally funded projects

\$4.0 billion



Major activities

	2024				2025				2026			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Scenario planning				Occurring	Occurring	Occurring						
Financial planning					Occurring	Occurring						
Candidate projects												
AQ and GHG modeling												
Document development												
Public and stakeholder												
Adoption /finalization												

Additional activities

- Greenhouse gas tasks:
 - Annual Mitigation Action Plan reporting.
- ‘Definitions’ tasks:
 - Public Engagement Plan.
 - Regional Roadway System.
 - Equity analysis.
 - Confirm ‘Existing + Committed’ and ‘Vision’ projects.
- Financial planning tasks:
 - Regional, local, discretionary, toll funding.
 - Project versus program allocations.

Changes since 2020 (select list)

- Population and employment forecasts.
- New federal and state financial resources.
- Progress on the Regional Bus Rapid Transit Partnership.
- New TDM Strategic Plan, RTO&T Strategic Plan, and Regional Housing Needs Assessment.
- Ongoing and upcoming updates to the Active Transportation Plan, Regional Multimodal Freight Plan, and Coordinated Transit Plan.

Advisory groups



CIVIC ADVISORY GROUP

“...convened to develop the plan with guidance from **interested residents** who represent the **diversity of communities** and **experiences** in the Denver region and who **may not have participated** in transportation planning previously.”



YOUTH ADVISORY PANEL

“...convened to ensure that **younger voices** were heard during the plan process. The panel brought together **high school age representatives** from DRCOG’s member government **youth boards and commissions** throughout the region.”

Contact information

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Program Manager
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