



Community Based Transportation Plans

Call for Nominations

Program Overview

The Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG) is developing a community-based transportation planning program to proactively identify and address mobility challenges for historically marginalized communities in the [DRCOG region](#). The goal of this program is to work to improve mobility options by developing Community Based Transportation Plans with communities that face transportation inequities, barriers, and challenges.

These plans will identify the specific transportation needs of historically marginalized communities, develop community-informed solutions, and map out a path to fund and implement recommendations. Community and collaboration will be central in this planning effort, and DRCOG seeks to work with community-based organizations, local and county governments, and community members throughout the development of the community-based plans.

Community Based Organizations Involvement

This Community Based Transportation Planning program will work to center the voices of community members at the start and throughout the development of the plan. As such we hope to partner and/or contract with Community Based Organizations (CBOs) to help inform the plan, set goals, support engagement, and review recommendations. CBOs involved do not need to work exclusively on transportation issues but could be a wide variety of organizations that serve or represent the target community. Possible examples include direct service organizations, faith-based organizations, health organizations, local schools or school districts, community groups, and more.

Selecting Focus Community

To select a focus community for the Community Based Planning Program, DRCOG is seeking community nominations from local and county governments.

Eligible communities will be defined by the nominating government and should include areas with a high number of low-income people, people of color, people without access to a vehicle, people with limited English proficiency, or people with disabilities, or some mixture of the above criteria. Communities could be defined as neighborhoods, corridors, school zones, or a specific population within a larger geographic area.

Program Goals

- Improve mobility options for low-income and historically disadvantaged communities.
- Support diverse, livable communities.
- Support a transportation system that is well-connected and serves all modes of travel.
- Support healthy and active choices.

- Expand access to opportunity for residents of all ages, incomes and abilities.
- Support a transportation system that is safe, reliable, and well maintained.
- Develop strategies to incorporate recommendations from CBTP into local and regional projects
- Develop relationships with low-income and marginalized communities and community-based organizations so that they can be centered in future regional planning efforts.

Considerations for Community Selection:

- **Geographic Location:** DRCOG will select a geographically defined community in the DRCOG MPO region.
- **Historically marginalized groups:** This program will focus on supporting low-income households, people of color, people with disabilities, people without vehicles, and people with low English proficiency. In particular this program hopes to improve transportation for [Disproportionately Impacted Community](#), defined by the state as:
 - Any census block group where the proportion of households that are low income is greater than 40%, the proportion of households that identify as minority is greater than 40%, or the proportion of households that are housing cost-burdened is greater than 40%
 - Communities with a history of environmental racism perpetuated through exclusionary laws, including redlining, anti-Hispanic, anti-Black, anti-indigenous, and anti-immigrant laws; and
 - Communities where multiple factors (socioeconomic stressors, disproportionate environmental burdens, lack of public participation) cumulatively contribute to persistent public health and environmental disparities.
- **Jurisdiction buy-in:** Local government or county support will be critical in the success of the community-based planning effort.
- **Community based organization buy-in:** Support from various community-based organizations, including those that have not traditionally focused on transportation, will be central to the community-based planning process.
- **Planning need:** Many great planning efforts have already taken place in communities across the region. DRCOG hopes to focus on communities that have historically received less planning attention.
- **Potential for Regional Collaboration:** DRCOG hopes to find a community where it can lend additional regional coordination support for communities that straddle various local jurisdictions.

Expectations for Local or County Governments

DRCOG is seeking nominations of communities from local or county governments. DRCOG hopes to work with local governments that are interested in pursuing implementation of projects and strategies identified in the planning process. DRCOG will fund and manage the project, manage CBO and contractor procurement, and lead community engagement efforts. DRCOG anticipates that the nominating government will at minimum serve on a steering committee, provide background on existing conditions and past planning efforts, and support community engagement.

Resources Provided by DRCOG

- Funding (roughly \$100,000) to support CBO involvement and consultant procurement, if needed
- Staff time to manage project
- Technical support to help implement projects identified in plan

Nomination Process

To identify the first focus community for the community-based planning effort DRCOG is accepting nominations from member jurisdictions. If you have a community in mind that you would like to nominate for this planning program, please fill out [this short online form](#) or return the pdf version of the form to DRCOG. DRCOG anticipates selecting two communities to work with over the next year and a half.

We encourage interested jurisdictions to contact DRCOG to discuss their proposed communities and ask questions.

Nomination Forms, as well as questions, can be submitted to:

Nora Kern
Senior Mobility Planner
Denver Regional Council of Governments
nkern@drcog.org
303-480-5622

Timeline

November 1, 2022 – Call for Letters of Nominations Released

December 16, 2022 – Community Nominations Due

January 15, 2022 – Selection of first Community

January, 2023 – Formation of Steering Committee and Planning Kickoff

1. Can community-based organizations or nonprofits submit community nominations?

- a. No, nomination forms must be submitted a local or county government. However, we strongly encourage interested CBOs reach out to their local government to encourage them to apply. If you are not sure who your local government contact is or how to reach out to them, contact [Nora Kern](#) at DRCOG to discuss the best approach.

2. Why do local governments need to submit community nominations?

- a. DRCOG wants local or county governments to be involved throughout the community-based plan creation because creating implementable plans is a key goal of this program. Involving jurisdictions that would apply for funding or execute recommendations is key to building support, designing achievable recommendations, and developing a plan with buy-in from the local jurisdiction.

3. How will community organizations be involved?

- a. The exact involvement of community organizations will depend on which community is selected, what the needs of the community are, the focus of the planning effort, and what community organizations are interested. Possible involvement could include partnering with DRCOG to:
 - i. Support entire planning process
 - ii. Support engagement efforts, host engagement events, or help spread word
 - iii. Complete a specific part of the planning process, research, or analysis
 - iv. Support translation or interpretation

4. Will community-based organizations be paid for their time?

- a. Yes, DRCOG is interested in pursuing a range of partnership options including contracting with organizations, depending on the skills and services provided by the nonprofit organizations.

5. What community based organizations will be a part of this process?

- a. Selection of community based organizations will depend on the location of the focus community and the target population. We hope to work with community-based organizations that represent or serve underserved populations within the focus community. We will prioritize organizations that are led by individuals from the community, based within the community, and/or have broad knowledge of the community.

6. What will the community-based plans look like?

- a. The goals of each community-based plan will depend on the needs of the target community. However, the plans could include:
 - i. Assessment of transportation needs and challenges

- ii. Assessment of land use, affordability, and gentrification
- iii. Assessment of existing plans or projects in an area
- iv. Community engagement to identify transportation needs or challenges
- v. Community engagement to identify local businesses, community assets and culturally significant locations
- vi. Recommendations for specific transportation projects or programs
- vii. Recommendations for land use or policy changes
- viii. Other – depending on needs and interests of community

7. How many communities will be selected?

- a. DRCOG anticipates starting to work with two communities in 2023. We would like to start one plan in early 2023, and a second in mid-2023

8. What do you mean by “focus community”?

- a. The focus communities can be defined several different ways by the nominating jurisdiction. It could be a neighborhood, a corridor, or a small town/city. Or it could be a specific population within a larger geographic area. Examples could include: students in a certain school zone; transit riders along a specific corridor; or new Americans within a specific neighborhood.

9. How do I submit a nomination?

- a. You can submit a nomination either by filling out [this online form](#) or by returning the Nomination form (below) as a pdf to Nora Kern (nkern@drcog.org)

Community Nomination Form

1. Jurisdiction & Department submitting	
2. Contact Person	
Name	Title &
Phone	Email
3. Community you are nominating	
4. Please describe where the community is located and the populations that would be targeted.	
5. Why do you think this community would be a good candidate for a community-based transportation plan? What are the demographics of the target community? In what way has this community been historically marginalized?	
6. What community transportation challenges or opportunities do you think a community-based transportation plan could address?	
7. What community-based organizations serve this area and may be interested in participating in the planning process? Has your government spoken with any of these organizations about participating in this planning process?	
<p>Note we encourage participation of organizations or entities that have</p>	

<p>not traditionally focused on transportation, for example: faith-based organizations, health organizations, direct service organizations, small businesses, neighborhood groups, schools, etc. However, nomination jurisdictions do not need to have partnerships formalized at this point.</p>	
<p>8. Have any community or transportation plans been done in this community? If so, when and by whom?</p> <p>Beyond plans, has your council or board of commissioners demonstrated interest or commitment to addressing the concerns of this community?</p>	
<p>9. What other jurisdictions or agencies would likely be involved in this planning process for this corridor?</p>	

Contact for Questions

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