



DRCOG Multimodal Transportation Corridor Planning Pilot Program

Call for Letters of Interest

Program Overview

The Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG) is committed to helping the region achieve its transportation and mobility goals through the implementation of the project and program investment priorities identified in the 2050 Metro Vision Regional Transportation Plan (2050 RTP), adopted September 21, 2022.

To help the region advance the project and program investment priorities outlined in the 2050 RTP, DRCOG is piloting a multimodal transportation corridor planning program through which it will lead initial planning efforts for regional corridors identified in the 2050 RTP. This program will focus on corridors that touch multiple jurisdictions, or for which regional coordination is needed. The purpose of this program is to help identify multimodal investments that can be advanced towards implementation and support regional coordination to achieve a shared vision for the corridor.

DRCOG intends for this planning effort to be in partnership with local and county partners and is conducting a call for letters from jurisdictions who are interested in participating in the corridor planning program. DRCOG anticipates selecting one corridor to study initially in 2023 and developing a list of additional corridors to study over the course of the program.

DRCOG will provide funding for consultant procurement (\$250,000 per corridor) and manage the planning process. Jurisdictions submitting letters of interest will be expected to provide in-kind staff time and support during the planning process.

Corridor Planning Program Goals:

The overarching goal of this program is to help advance the goals and priorities laid out in the 2050 Metro Vision Regional Transportation Plan. In particular, DRCOG intends to improve transportation equity, increase multimodal transportation choices, reduce fatal and serious traffic crashes, and reduce the greenhouse gas impact of our transportation system.

In order to achieve these goals this program seeks to:

- Develop a tracking system for all corridors in the 2050 RTP so that agency staff and the public can better understand regional progress towards achieving goals related to expanding access, improving safety, and limiting greenhouse gases.
- Develop the corridor planning program so that it can be expanded as a set aside program in the 2024-2027 TIP.
- Develop one or two Regional Corridor Plans by September 2023. These plans will likely include:
 - Assessment of past planning efforts
 - Analysis of existing conditions and needs
 - Community engagement to understand goals and needs of residents and businesses
 - A vision for a corridor of how to improve access, safety, transit, and multimodal options.
 - A list of possible investments along each corridor that could be implemented. These investments could be projects, programs, services or other types of investments.
 - Possible recommendations for future land use priorities and/or zoning changes.
 - Recommendations related to implementation and possible funding sources

Priorities for Corridor Selection:

Overarching priorities:

Regional Impact: DRCOG will focus on corridors that impact multiple cities and or counties and/or where regional coordination is especially helpful.

Local Jurisdiction Buy-in and Support: Collaboration is essential to DRCOG’s work. We will prioritize corridors that are recommended by the local jurisdiction and for which we have a Letter of Interest.

Inclusion in 2050 RTP: This program will prioritize regionally funded projects that are already included in the 2050 RTP as:

1. Denver Regional Council of Governments administered funds for multimodal capital projects, programs, and corridors
2. Regional bus rapid transit projects
3. Corridor transit planning projects and program
4. Arterial safety/Regional Vision Zero projects and program

Eligible projects can be found in the [2050 RTP in table 3.1](#).

Readiness / RTP Staging Period: Corridors that are in earlier staging periods within RTP, as well as those that are more ready for major improvements will be prioritized.

Considerations for Selection

DRCOG will use the following considerations to select initial corridors to address through this program. The following criteria are roughly in order of priority, but DRCOG hopes to select a corridor that addresses multiple of these priorities.

Equity: Corridors that serve the disproportionately impacted communities within the DRCOG region. Whether or not the corridor is itself located near an Environmental Justice community, one focus of the study should be to increase community access to opportunity for all road users and address historic environmental and transportation inequities.

Regional Transit: Corridors that will expand the region's high-capacity transit network detailed in the [2050 Metro Vision Regional Coordinated Transit Plan](#).

Safety/ Vision Zero: Corridors that are included on the [Regional Vision Zero Plan Critical Corridor or High Injury Network](#) or have other documented safety concerns, particularly for vulnerable road users.

Multimodal: Corridors that have the potential to improve options for those on foot, bicycle, and transit. This could include corridors that include pedestrian focus areas or short trip opportunity zones, or corridors that have the potential to expand the regional active transportation networks. Details can be found in [DRCOG Regional Active Transportation Plan](#).

Additional Limitations on Eligible Corridors

- Corridors must be within the [DRCOG MPO boundary](#)
- Preference will be given to corridors that impact multiple jurisdictions
- Corridor will be on the Regional Roadway System (Principal Arterial or Major Regional Arterial), and will not include limited access freeways/interstates, or local roads

Evaluation Criteria	
Equity	Does this corridor go through an Environmental Justice Zone as defined in the 2050 RTP (see Chapter 4 and Map 4.1 on page 182) , OR do the challenges identified in the Letter of Interest directly address the needs of low-income people, people of color, or housing cost-burdened people along the corridor?
Regional Transit	Will a planning project on this corridor contribute to advancing the transit network outlined in the 2050 Metro Vision Regional Coordinated Transit Plan ?

	Will investments in this corridor improve access to, frequency, or quality of an existing transit line?
Safety & Vision Zero	Is this corridor included on the Regional Vision Zero Plan Critical Corridor or High Injury Network or does it have other documented safety concerns, particularly for vulnerable road users who are disproportionately impacted by traffic crashes across the region?
Multimodal Choices	Will a study of this corridor help expand transportation choices for those walking, biking, and taking transit? Does this corridor build upon, improve or expand an existing bicycle or pedestrian network? Is this corridor within a pedestrian focus areas or short trip opportunity zones , or otherwise included in the DRCOG Regional Active Transportation Plan ?
Local Jurisdiction Buy-in and Support	Is there commitment of support from both staff and elected officials for pursuing this corridor study and working towards implementation of recommendations?
Inclusion in RTP	Is this project included in the 2050 RTP? If so, how is it categorized within the plan? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Denver Regional Council of Governments administered funds for multimodal capital projects and programs ○ Regional bus rapid transit projects ○ Corridor transit planning projects and program ○ Arterial safety/Regional Vision Zero projects and program
Readiness / RTP Staging Period	Is this project in the 2020-2029 or 2030-2039 staging period? Are the land-uses, politics, funding options, and transportation needs conducive to moving forward on improvements to this corridor within the next ten years?
Regional Impact	Does this corridor impact multiple jurisdictions? Is there a need for regional coordination in creating a transportation plan for this corridor?

Timeline

October 1, 2022 – Call for Letters of Interest Released

October 31, 2022 – Letters of Interest Due

November 1 – 15, 2022 Formation of Advisory Committee to select corridors

November 31, 2022 – Selection of first corridor and notification

January, 2023 – Formation of Steering Committee and Planning Kickoff

Process to Express Interest

DRCOG is interested in corridor project ideas from our local and county member jurisdictions. If you would like to suggest a regional corridor for the DRCOG Corridor Planning program, please submit the following form and a short cover letter explaining why the specific corridor should be considered for the program.

We also strongly encourage interested jurisdictions to contact DRCOG to discuss their proposed corridor and ask questions prior to submitting a formal letter of interest.

Letters of interest, as well as questions, can be submitted to:

Nora Kern

Senior Mobility Planner

Denver Regional Council of Governments

nkern@drcog.org

303-480-5622

Letter of Interest Form: Corridor Planning

1. Corridor Name									
2. Corridor start and end point (provide map as needed)									
3. Is this corridor within the DRCOG MPO Boundary ?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Partially								
4. Jurisdiction submitting									
5. What other jurisdictions or agencies would likely participate in this study?									
6. Contact Person									
<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%; padding: 5px;">Name</td> <td style="width: 25%;"></td> <td style="width: 25%; padding: 5px;">Title & Dept.</td> <td style="width: 25%;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">Phone</td> <td></td> <td style="padding: 5px;">Email</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Name		Title & Dept.		Phone		Email		
Name		Title & Dept.							
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7. How are corridor investments reflected in the 2050 RTP? Is it included in any specific staging period?									
8. Referring to considerations for selection, why do you think this									

<p>corridor is a good candidate for further study?</p>	
<p>9. What challenges are faced along this corridor that could be addressed through a corridor study?</p>	
<p>10. What other studies or plans have been conducted that include this corridor?</p>	
<p>11. Why is this corridor a priority for your jurisdiction? Has your council or board of commissioners expressed interest in this corridor?</p>	