

# Executive Summary

## What is the Denver Regional Council of Governments?

Founded in 1955, the Denver Regional Council of Governments 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, the Denver Regional Council of Governments 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 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 Transportation Improvement Program includes all projects anticipated to be implemented during federal fiscal years 2024 through 2027. The Denver Regional Council of Governments develops the Transportation Improvement Program for the Denver region through a cooperative process involving the Colorado Department of Transportation, Regional Transportation District, and local governments throughout the region. See Section C for more information on how projects are selected for inclusion in the Transportation Improvement Program. Consultation with the Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration, as well as regional, state, and federal air quality agencies, ensures that the Transportation Improvement Program complies with all regulatory requirements and does not negatively impact air quality within the region. See Section B for details on the federal requirements for transportation improvement programs.

## How is the Transportation Improvement Program developed?

Projects in the Transportation Improvement Program 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 the Denver Regional Council of Governments to incorporate these projects into the Transportation Improvement Program.

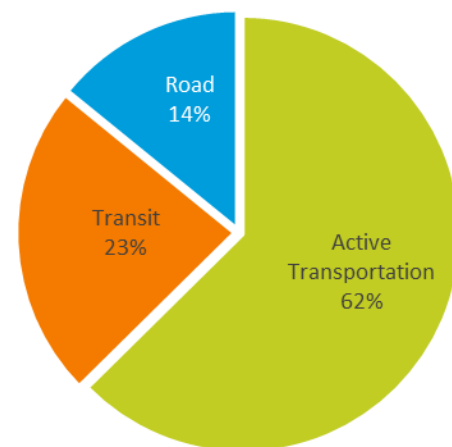
For projects funded through the Denver Regional Council of Governments, projects are selected through a process consisting of a Regional Share and Subregional Share. In the Regional Share, funding is awarded to projects having a regional benefit and compete against project applications from across the 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.

A unique element in the development of the FY 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program was the inclusion of four separate calls for projects (a Regional Share and Subregional Share call for both the existing FY 2022-2025 Transportation Improvement Program and the new FY 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program). Projects selected for the prior Transportation Improvement Program can roll over to the new document. This process was utilized to ensure that new funds authorized under the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act as well as some COVID relief funds were able to be allocated to projects in a timely manner.

### What projects are funded in this document?

Part II provides detailed descriptions of all the projects included in this Transportation Improvement Program. A total of 271 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 transportation improvement programs. 98 of these projects were selected for funding by the Denver Regional Council of Governments for funding within federal fiscal years 2024 through 2027.



These projects represent a range of project types and are located throughout the region. The figure to the right represents the funding breakdown by primary project type of the projects funded by the Denver Regional Council of Governments.

### What will these projects accomplish?

Based on the information provided in project applications, the projects selected by the Denver Regional Council of Governments are anticipated to provide a number of benefits for the Denver region. 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.