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civic academy

Welcome fall 2025
participants!

Civic Academy: week one
September 30, 2025

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DENVER REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

We make life better!



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Welcome to Civic Academy!

- Civic Academy is a nationally recognized leadership development program with nearly 20 years of developing community advocates for a strong Denver region.
- Network – you will be a part of a network of 1,000-plus graduates.
- The curriculum closely reflects the themes in Denver's regional plan, Metro Vision. Seven weeks of content, discussions and skill building ahead. We will go over this in more detail at the end of the evening.



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Housekeeping

- Wi-Fi
- Restrooms
- Food and beverages
- Photos

DRCOG Points of Contact

- Angie Shelbourn, Public Engagement Planner
- Sheila Lynch, Director of Regional Planning and Development
- Steve Erickson, Director of Communications and Marketing



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Course Overview

- **September 30:** Welcome and introductions | The power of regionalism
- **October 7:** A vibrant regional economy: Understanding growth in our region
- **October 14:** A safe and resilient natural environment: Water in the west
- **October 21:** An efficient predictable development pattern: Field trip – The art of creating safe community spaces
- **October 28:** Healthy, inclusive and livable communities: Inclusive community engagement models
- **November 4:** A connected multimodal region: How can transportation work for all?
- **November 11:** Individual action plan presentations and celebration



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Agenda

6:00 p.m.	Greetings, directory photos and dinner served
6:15 p.m.	Let's kick off the fall 2025 Civic Academy!
6:25 p.m.	Shake your assets bingo
6:55 p.m.	Break
7:00 p.m.	Introducing Metro Vision
7:10 p.m.	The power of regionalism: panel discussion
8:00 p.m.	Click, post, connect! Guide to web portal and social media
8:25 p.m.	Moving forward and next steps
8:30 p.m.	Adjourn



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Icebreaker

Shake Your Assets

A black and white photograph of four people in a professional setting, likely a workshop or meeting. Three women are visible in the foreground, looking towards the right. One woman in the center has a name tag that reads "Emily Jane Zahradnik". They are holding papers and looking at something off-camera. The background is slightly blurred, showing other people and what appears to be a display board.

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5 minutes

Break

A black and white photograph of a group of people sitting at a table in a meeting. A woman with glasses and a textured sweater is in the foreground, looking towards the right. Behind her, a man is also looking in the same direction. To the left, another woman is partially visible. On the table, there is a laptop and a can of water.

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Sheila Lynch, DRCOG

Metro Vision Overview

Mission and Vision

- **Mission:** The Denver Regional Council of Governments is a planning organization where local governments collaborate to establish guidelines, set policy, and allocate funding in the areas of:
 - Growth and development
 - Aging and disability resources
 - Transportation and personal mobility
- **Vision:** Our region is a diverse network of vibrant, connected, lifelong communities with a broad spectrum of housing, transportation and employment, complemented by world-class natural and built environments.



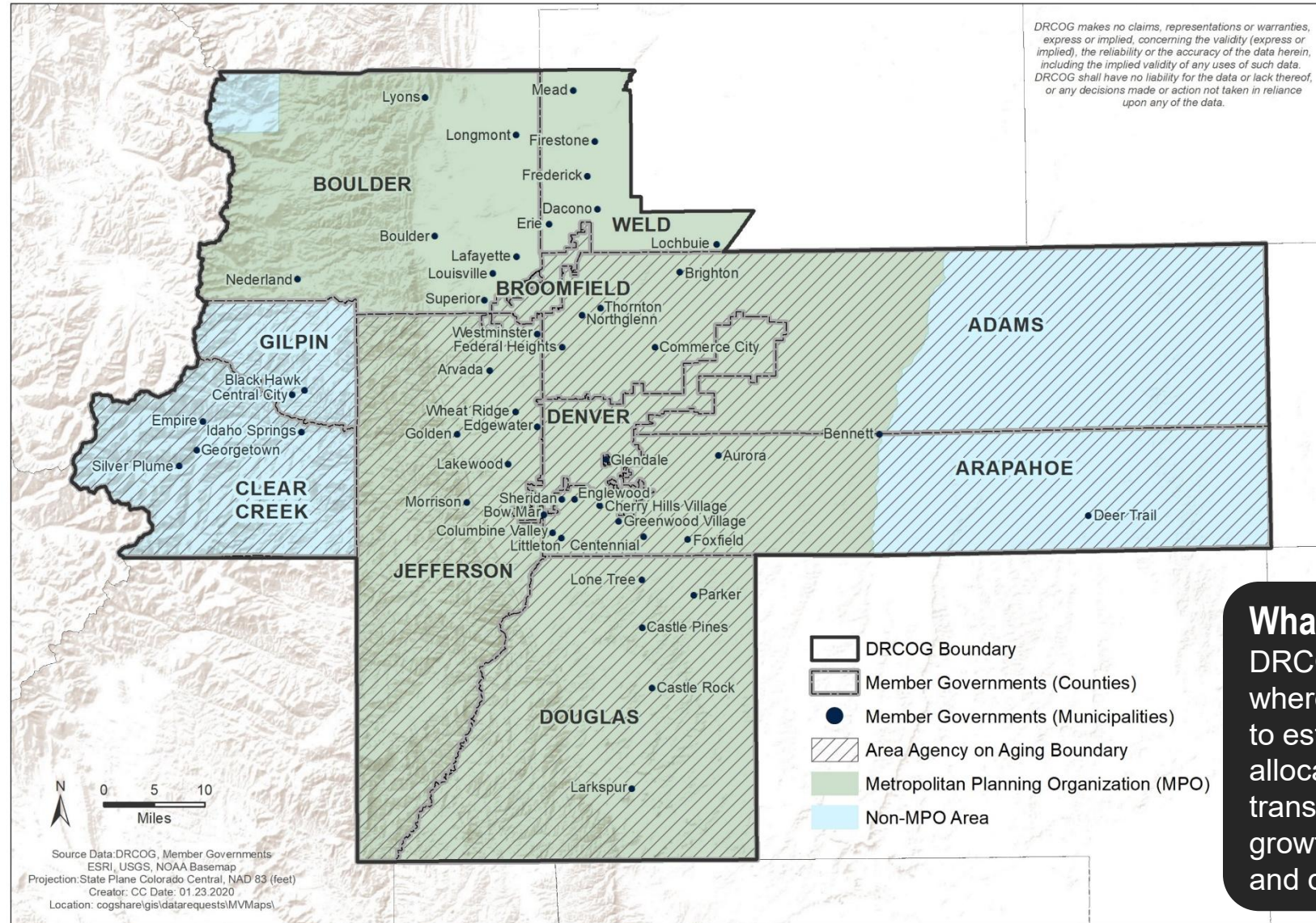
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Regional Representation



- **58 member governments** spanning the region, plus **four non-voting representatives**.
- Culture is **collaborative** – the Board cooperatively solves regional problems.
- The Board works toward regional goals while **respecting the visions** of each community.

DRCOG's Planning Area



What is DRCOG?

DRCOG is a planning organization where local governments collaborate to establish guidelines, set policy and allocate funding in the areas of transportation and personal mobility, growth and development, and aging and disability resources.

Regional Planning and Development

- Metro Vision furthers a **shared vision** of the future of the metro area, covering:
 - Growth and development
 - Transportation
 - Environment
- Updated regularly to account for a **20-year** planning horizon, the **current update** toward 2040.

Civic Academy and Metro Vision



“to make and adopt a **regional plan** for the physical development of the territory within the boundaries of the region”

Colorado Revised Statutes 30-28-106

Metro Vision – Our Place, Our Plan



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Metro Vision themes – A Connected Multimodal Region



**A connected
multimodal
region**

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Metro Vision – Healthy, Inclusive, Livable Communities



**Healthy,
inclusive
and livable
communities**

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Metro Vision – A Vibrant Regional Economy



A vibrant
regional
economy

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Metro Vision – An Efficient Predictable Development Pattern



An efficient and
predictable
development
pattern

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Metro Vision – A Safe and Resilient Natural & Built Environment



A safe and
resilient natural
and built
environment

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A black and white photograph of three men in the foreground, engaged in a conversation. The man on the left has a beard and is wearing a dark shirt. The man in the middle is wearing a patterned shirt and a tie. The man on the right is wearing a light-colored striped shirt. In the background, other people are visible, including a woman with long dark hair. A large yellow banner with a black border is overlaid on the bottom half of the image, containing the text 'Regionalism small group discussion'.

Regionalism small group discussion

The power of regionalism: Panelists

- Jeff Baker, County Commissioner - Arapahoe
- Colleen Whitlow, Mayor - Town of Mead
- Jeslin Shahrezaei, Council Member - Lakewood



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Click, post and connect: social media and website

DRCOG social media

- DRCOG social media accounts
 - Facebook: @Denver.Regional.Council.Of.Governments
 - X: @DRCOGorg
 - Instagram: @DRCOGorg
 - LinkedIn: Denver-Regional-Council-Of-Governments
- Hashtags to use with your social posts
 - #CivicAcademy
 - #DRCOG
 - #CivicChat



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DRCOG social media inspiration

Ideas for weekly content

1. When you hear an interesting quote by a speaker or get an “aha!” moment during class, feel free to share about that on your personal social media account, tag us and use the hashtag **#CivicChat**
2. Take photos during interactive class exercises or during off-site field trips and tag us so we can reshare on DRCOG’s social media channels!
3. Has a session opened your eyes to something about your community? Post about it, tag us and use the hashtag **#CivicChat**



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A black and white photograph of a group of people in a meeting. In the foreground, a woman with long blonde hair and glasses is looking to her right with a slight smile. Behind her, another woman is visible, and to the right, a man is partially visible. They appear to be in a collaborative setting, possibly a workshop or a meeting.

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Wrap Up