

Board update

Board meeting: August 20, 2025



Action items



[Discussion of the 2026-2027 Unified Planning Work Program](#)

Presenter: Josh Schwenk, senior planner, Transportation Planning and Operations

Background: The 2026-2027 Unified Planning Work Program outlines all transportation planning work to be carried out by the Denver Regional Council of Governments in its role as a metropolitan planning organization from October 1, 2026, to September 30, 2027. DRCOG staff prepared the document in conjunction with the Colorado Department of Transportation, Regional Transportation District and local governments. It includes anticipated funding of nearly \$20 million, which is slightly lower than for the 2024-2025 Unified Planning Work Program.

Feedback gathered from DRCOG's staff, planning partners and committees helped illuminate five key priorities for staff to address over the coming two years: air quality and resilience, housing and land use, safety, transit, and transportation funding. The 2026-2027 document includes several projects that address each priority, including finalizing the Comprehensive Climate Action Plan, updating Metro Vision and the 2050 Metro Vision Regional Transportation Plan, completing the Regional Housing Strategy, creating a Vision Zero Operational Toolkit, continuing planning for the regional bus rapid transit network and creating a trip exchange hub.

The draft 2026-2027 Unified Planning Work Program was open for public comment from June 20 through July 7 and was recommended for approval by the Transportation Advisory Committee on July 28.

Result: The Board approved the 2026-2027 Unified Planning Work Program.



[Corridor Planning Set-Aside project selection](#)

Presenter: Jacob Riger, Transportation Planning and Operations director

Background: DRCOG staff recently conducted a call for projects for 2026 and 2027 funding under the Corridor Planning Set-Aside program, a DRCOG-led planning initiative that helps advance projects included in the 2050 Metro Vision Regional Transportation Plan. The set-aside provides \$1.5 million in funding for projects in 2026 and 2027. Any local government or regional agency in the DRCOG metropolitan planning organization boundary could submit a project, but to be considered, proposals had to be focused on advancing a project identified in the Regional Transportation Plan.

A selection panel composed of DRCOG, CDOT and RTD staff reviewed five proposals, scoring each one against six criteria: alignment with Metro Vision and Regional Transportation Plan priorities, benefit to marginalized communities, regional impact, readiness and planning

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need. The Speer/Leetsdale/Parker Corridor Study, which will take the initial steps toward establishing a bus rapid transit corridor at an estimated cost of \$1.5 million, received the highest score and earned the selection panel's recommendation. The Transportation Advisory Committee and Regional Transportation Committee approved the project's selection at their July and August meetings.

Result: The Board approved the Speer/Leetsdale/Parker Corridor Study for funding under the 2026-2027 Corridor Planning Set-Aside.

Informational briefing



[Project solicitation process for the 2050 Metro Vision Regional Transportation Plan update](#)

Presenter: Alvan-Bidal Sanchez, program manager, Transportation Planning and Operations

Background: The 2050 Metro Vision Regional Transportation Plan expresses regional investment priorities in several ways, including specific projects, programs and narrative content. Specific projects and project types include the air quality regionally significant roadway capacity, interchange and fixed guideway transit projects that are federally required to be identified in the plan, along with major multimodal investment priority projects such as safety and Complete Streets improvements, active transportation upgrades, freight enhancements and corridor planning.

After a review of projects in the current plan, DRCOG staff identified projects that have been completed or will be completed by the end of 2025 that won't be included in the updated plan. Projects under construction that will be completed beyond 2025 will be included automatically, as will projects that are in or have

completed the National Environmental Policy Act, or NEPA, project development process. Projects funded for preconstruction or construction under the Transportation Improvement Program will also be automatically included.

Projects that are eligible to compete through a solicitation process for regional funding in the updated plan include those that have conducted or are planning to conduct pre-NEPA activities such as corridor planning and visioning studies, projects for which no activities have yet occurred, and locally funded projects in the current Regional Transportation Plan.

For the solicitation process, DRCOG staff plan to continue the two-track framework used to develop the original plan, which includes solicitation through both county transportation forums and an interagency coordination process among DRCOG, CDOT and RTD. A regional review panel made up of DRCOG, CDOT and RTD staff, as well as a representative from each county transportation forum, will evaluate the candidate projects using criteria based on the existing six Regional Transportation Plan priorities, Metro Vision objectives and federal performance measures.

CDOT, RTD and DRCOG staff will review the panel's recommendations, along with a draft financial plan and the region's major multimodal vision and needs, to develop draft program and project investment priorities. The draft will be reviewed by DRCOG's committees and Board to develop final investment priorities for the Regional Transportation Plan update.

