

Board update

Board meeting: January 21, 2026



Action items



[Recommended investment priorities for the 2050 Metro Vision Regional Transportation Plan](#)

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

Background: In October, Denver Regional Council of Governments staff received 133 candidate project submissions for the 2026 update of the 2050 Metro Vision Regional Transportation Plan. Staff worked with a Regional Review Panel and planning staff from the Colorado Department of Transportation and Regional Transportation District to review the submissions, along with a draft financial plan, to create a [recommended list of project and program investment priorities](#).

To develop the list of recommendations, the team first included projects that met the criteria to be automatically carried over from the current Regional Transportation Plan. The team next prioritized current projects that were resubmitted for continued inclusion in the plan. When evaluating new projects to include, the team considered each project's qualitative scores,

as well as congestion mobility scores, Equity Index scores and geographic balance. Where appropriate, the team combined overlapping supportive projects.

The Transportation Advisory Committee approved the list of recommended investment priorities at its December 15 meeting, with minor revisions to the cost and staging periods of a handful of projects. The Regional Transportation Committee approved the list at its January 20 meeting.

Result: The Board approved the recommended investment priorities for the 2050 Metro Vision Regional Transportation Plan.



[Active Transportation Plan](#)

Presenter: Aaron Villere, senior planner, Transportation Planning and Operations

Background: In 2024, DRCOG staff and partners began a major update to the region's Active Transportation Plan, which was first adopted in 2019.

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The plan was updated in consultation with the Active Transportation Advisory Group, which includes community partners as well as staff from DRCOG's member governments, RTD and CDOT.

The Active Transportation Plan addresses the most salient issues and trends in bicycling, walking and rolling and lays out a vision for active transportation in the Denver region. The plan establishes a complete, connected and comprehensive Regional Active Transportation Network that includes Pedestrian Focus Areas (places where residents might want to walk but face barriers), Short Trip Opportunity Zones (places where drive-alone trips under two miles are most concentrated and could shift to active transportation) and Regional Active Transportation Corridors (regional streets and paths that form the backbone of the active transportation system). The plan also includes a list of 10 recommended actions for DRCOG staff to expand active transportation access, such as benchmarking current active transportation activity and analyzing gaps in the region's walking and bicycling network.

Two associated resource guides — the Sidewalk Delivery Guide and Bicycle+ Program Guide — outline steps member governments can take to build high-quality bike and pedestrian infrastructure. DRCOG staff will update both guides periodically in consultation with member governments and partners. Staff have also published [an interactive version of the Regional Active Transportation Network map](#).

Result: The Board adopted the updated Active Transportation Plan.



Discussion of state legislative issues

Presenters: Rich Mauro, director of legislative affairs; Jen Cassell, partner, Bowditch & Cassell Public Affairs

Background: The 2026 Colorado General Assembly convened on January 14. Throughout the legislative session, DRCOG staff and lobbyists will compile bills of interest with comments and recommended positions for Board consideration.

Mauro highlighted six bills that have been introduced so far that may be brought to the Board for consideration this session:

- [House Bill 26-1018](#): Long-Term Care Services for Nursing Home Residents.
- [House Bill 26-1001](#): Housing Developments on Qualifying Properties.
- [House Bill 26-1047](#): Protections for Residential Tenants.
- [House Bill 26-1065](#): Transit and Housing Investment Zones.
- [House Bill 26-1066](#): Tax Exemptions for Low-Income Rental Property Development.
- [Senate Bill 26-001](#): Workforce Housing and Housing Tax Credit.

Cassell gave an overview of some of the political forces likely to be in play during the legislative

session, most notably the November election, which will encompass the governor and every statewide legislative seat. She also noted that the state budget shortfall will likely be a big focus, as the deficit for the current fiscal year is around \$300 million, and the deficit for the next fiscal year is projected to be between \$800 million and \$1 billion.

Strategic informational briefing



[Regional Transportation District Accountability Committee update](#)

Presenters: Kelly Lynn, committee administrator, and Jaime Lewis, vice chair, RTD Accountability Committee

Background: Senate Bill 25-161 established the RTD Accountability Committee to provide recommendations to the governor and state legislature on RTD's board and executive leadership governance structure and compensation, paratransit services, workforce standards and retention, and inclusion of local governments and state agencies in RTD's work.

The committee began meeting in August and concluded its work on January 7, coming up with 31 recommendations. The bulk of the recommendations deal with governance reform, which committee members deemed the most urgent problem to be solved. The governance-related recommendations seek to diversify the expertise on the RTD board and expand the pool of potential board members,

as well as improve the board's ability to make decisions. Recommendations include reducing the size of the board (to nine seats, five elected and four governor-appointed) and improving compensation to attract more candidates.

The committee also made a recommendation to improve paratransit services by conducting a comprehensive planning process; four workforce-related recommendations to improve recruitment, retention, training and data collection; and seven local government-related recommendations that address how RTD can better involve local governments in its planning process.

The committee's final report will be published and submitted to the governor and legislature by January 30.

Informational briefings



[Colorado Department of Transportation 10-Year Plan update](#)

Presenters: Darius Pakbaz, transportation development director; Jessica Myklebust, Region 1 transportation director; and Heather Paddock, Region 4 transportation director, CDOT

Background: In coordination with DRCOG, local governments and other planning partners, CDOT staff are currently updating the agency's 10-Year Plan. Myklebust and Paddock highlighted some of the projects proposed for inclusion in the plan from CDOT's Region 1 (which includes

Adams, Arapahoe, Clear Creek, Douglas, Gilpin and Jefferson counties, as well as the City and County of Denver and parts of the City and County of Broomfield) and Region 4 (which includes Boulder and Weld counties, plus parts of the City and County of Broomfield).

The Interstate 25 corridor from downtown Denver to Wellington will continue to be a big focus of CDOT's work. Proposed I-25 projects in Region 1 include shoulder widening, bridge replacement, interchange upgrades and mobility hub construction in Adams County between U.S. Route 36 and State Highway 7, as well as the replacement of low-clearance bridges at Speer Boulevard and 23rd Avenue in downtown Denver. In Region 4, planned I-25 upgrades include the addition of express lanes between Highway 7 and State Highway 66 in Weld County. Other proposed projects for Region 1 include upgrades to Interstate 270, safety access improvements near the future Broncos stadium site at Burnham Yard, replacement of outdated ramp metering technology and the construction of bus rapid transit infrastructure along Federal and Colorado boulevards.

The draft 10-Year Plan will open for public comment in late January.

Potential metropolitan planning organization boundary expansion



Presenter: Jacob Riger,
Transportation Planning and
Operations director

Background: Federal law requires metropolitan planning organizations to review their planning boundary after each census to ensure any new or updated urbanized areas are included and that the boundary is comprehensive enough to facilitate effective planning.

DRCOG staff have met with staff and elected officials in Clear Creek and Gilpin counties to discuss the possibility of joining the MPO. Both counties are already located within DRCOG's Transportation Planning Region, and both are members of DRCOG and part of the Area Agency on Aging and Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy service areas. There is a component of Evergreen that extends into Clear Creek County, which the MPO boundary would have to be expanded to accommodate per federal law. Expanding the MPO boundary could also strengthen regional planning coordination and streamline transportation planning.

DRCOG staff will meet with CDOT and RTD staff to discuss the boundary change and will need to secure resolutions and letters of support. The change would then come before the Board for a vote.

