

Transportation Advisory Committee

Meeting date: December 16, 2024

Agenda Item #: 5 (Attachment C)

Small Area Forecast Review and Feedback Process

Agenda item type: Informational briefing

Summary

Overview of the process for jurisdictions to review and provide feedback on the DRCOG Small-Area Forecast.

Background

DRCOG's Small Area Forecast (the forecast) is a small geography forecast of households and employment out to 2050. The forecast is built at the census block level and aggregated to the census block group and transportation analysis zone (TAZ) for public distribution. The predictive forecasting model uses updated housing, employment, and zoning data and is designed to ensure adherence to the Colorado State Demography Office (SDO) forecasts of households, employment, and population.

The forecast was last updated in 2020 for the 2050 Regional Transportation Plan. Since 2020, major improvements have been incorporated to better account for demographic shifts, household creation, and SDO forecasts.

The forecast is a critical input to both DRCOG's travel demand model (Focus) and the Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA). The feedback process will allow jurisdictions to provide guidance on the forecast, which will then be updated and incorporated into these two projects.

The feedback process will allow for comments from local government staff on the size and location of forecasted households and employment through a web-based comment map. Jurisdiction staff will be asked to provide guidance on the census block group level estimates for 2023 and 2050 and will be given the opportunity to provide supporting documentation to aid DRCOG staff in updating the forecast.

DRCOG staff plan to begin the feedback process for the forecast in January 2025. This will allow staff to complete the final forecasts on schedule for the regional transportation plan update and submit the RHNA to the Colorado Department of Local Affairs for review and approval by the end of 2025.

The comment period is anticipated to run from January 20, 2024, through February 17, 2024, and will be preceded by email announcements and an informational Zoom meeting.

Action by others

None

Previous discussion/action

None



Recommendation

None

Attachment

Staff presentation

For more information

If you need additional information, please contact Zachary Feldman, Manager Data and Analytics, Regional Planning and Development at 303-480-5637 or zfeldman@drcog.org.





Small-Area Forecast: review and comment process

Transportation Advisory Committee, December 16, 2024

What is DRCOG's small-area forecast

- Census block level forecast of households, population, and employment from 2020 to 2050.
- We start with current location of housing units, households, and employment.
- The forecast aligns with Colorado State Demography Office forecasts for households, population, and employment.

History of the small-area forecast

- The transportation model at DRCOG requires Transportation Analysis Zone (TAZ) level household, person, and employment forecasts out to 2050.
- The Regional Planning Division at DRCOG produces these forecasts using census, State Demography Office, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, assessor, planimetrics, local zoning, and multiple subscription housing datasets.
- Urbansim is an open-source predictive modeling platform based on development and choice models.

Forecasting for regional planning

Like different legs in a relay race



Small-area forecast incorporates

- County and regional forecasts (DOLA).
- Current housing, household, population, and employment estimates.
- Census data and local zoning.



Small-area forecast

- Distribute to 51,000 census blocks from 2020 to 2050 using constraints and choice models.



Small-area forecast informs

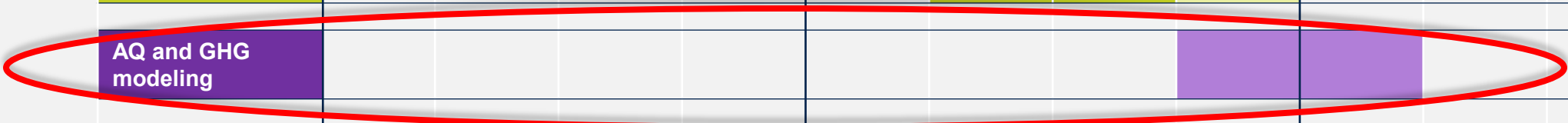
- Travel demand model.
- Regional Housing Needs Assessment.
- Local geography demographic forecasts.

Small-area forecast as data input

- DRCOG's travel model [**Focus**] uses household and employment data aggregated to the transportation analysis zone (TAZ) level in model staging years between 2023 and 2050.
 - Updated forecasts for the 2050 RTP are needed by Q3 2025.
- DRCOG's **Regional Housing Needs Assessment** uses household and employment forecasts at the census block level for 2020 and 2050.
 - Updated forecasts for the needs assessment are needed by Q1 2025 to allow for submission and review by DOLA before end of 2025.

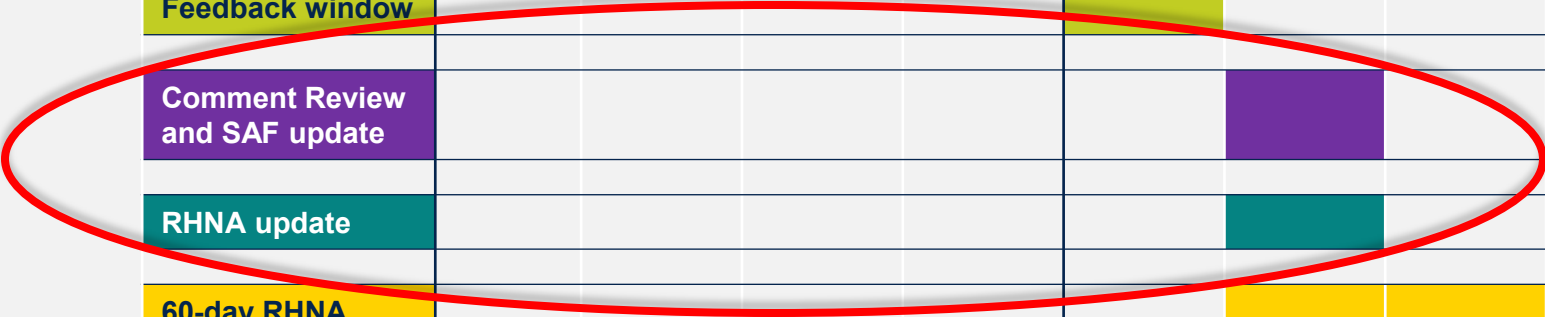
2050 RTP schedule

	2024				2025				2026			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Scenario planning												
Financial planning												
Candidate projects												
AQ and GHG modeling												
Document development												
Public and stakeholder												
Adoption and finalization												



Proposed review and comment schedule

	2024				2025				2026			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Develop feedback map												
Feedback outreach												
Feedback window												
Comment Review and SAF update												
RHNA update												
60-day RHNA review window												
DOLA submission and review												
AQ and GHG modeling												



Changes since the last forecast released

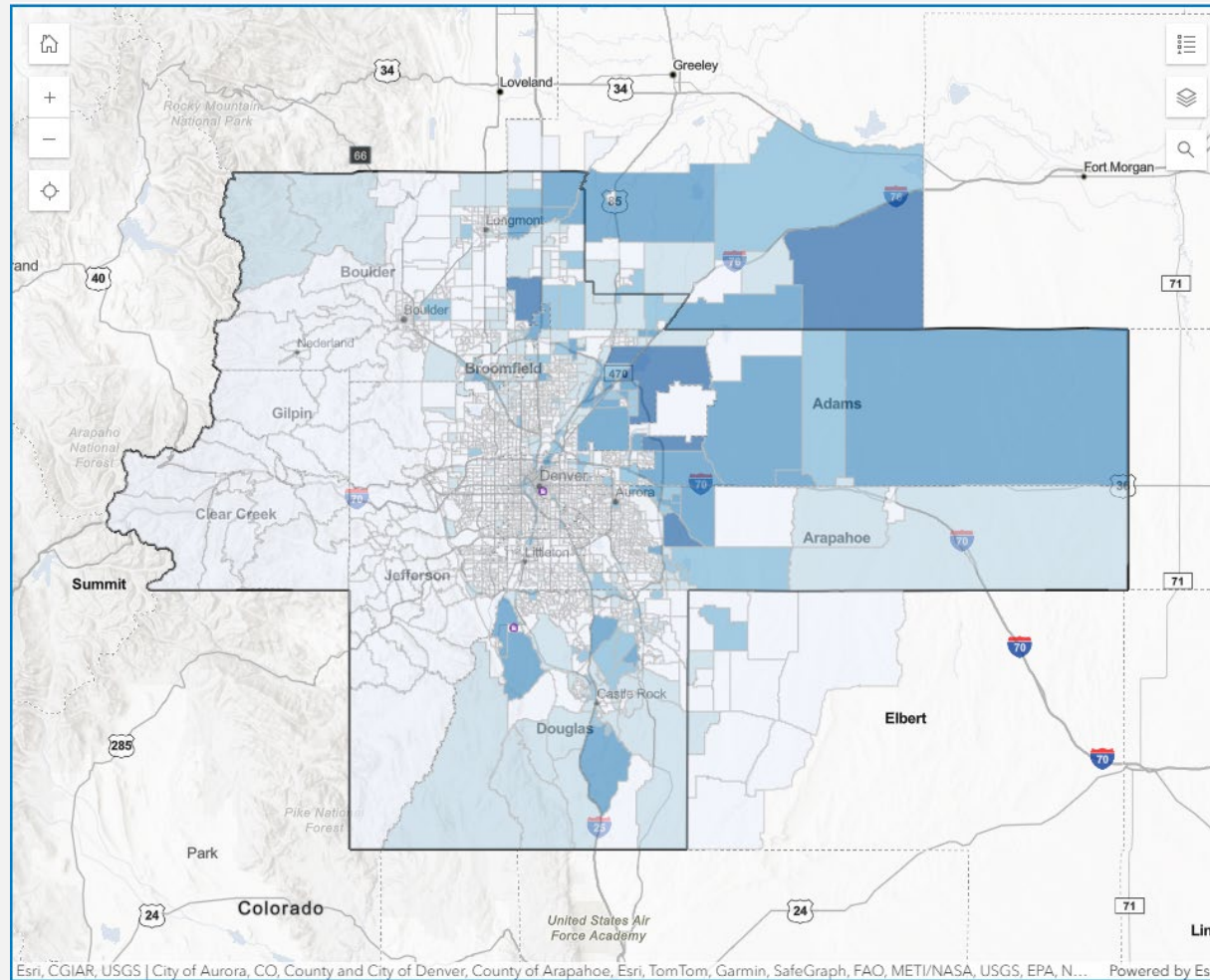
- Current control totals from the state demographer's office **reduce the region's 2050 population forecast by about 230,000 people** compared to previous estimates.
- Updates were made to the land use portion of the model to **better represent the region's population**, including how it ages and makes choices.
- As a result of these modifications, key changes were observed in **age, household income and number of workers per household**.

What to expect

- Eblasts to make staff aware of the comment process.
- Zoom meetings to walk through the comment map and answer questions.
- Office hours with DRCOG staff for 1:1 questions.
- 30-day window to provide comments.



Comment map





What will we do with the comments?

- Incorporated into the production small-area forecast.
 - Added as existing or near-term development.
 - Adjust housing or employment capacity.
 - Adjust assumptions of zoning types.

Thank you

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