

## Regional Transportation Committee

Meeting date: December 17, 2024

Agenda Item #: 7 (Attachment E)

### Livable Centers Small-Area Planning: FY 2025 Set-Aside Project Recommendations

Agenda item type: Action

#### Summary

Project selection recommendation for the first cycle of fiscal year 2024-2027 funding through the Livable Centers Small-Area Planning Transportation Improvement Program Set-Aside.

#### Background

The Livable Centers Small-Area Planning program is a Denver Regional Council of Governments-led technical assistance funded through the fiscal years 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program. Small-area planning projects will identify ways to enhance livability in connected multimodal centers. This program can fund small-area plans that address land use, housing and transportation in a center or node on the region’s multimodal transportation system. The goals of this program are derived from Metro Vision and emphasize the coordination of land use strategies with multimodal transportation strategies. \$2.5 million total is identified as a set-aside in the 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program. Half of the set-aside (\$1.25 million) is available for this first cycle of projects using fiscal year 2025 funding.

The Denver Regional Council of Governments conducted a call for letters of interest from August 14 to October 16, 2024, to identify Livable Centers Small-Area Planning projects for the first cycle of the FY 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program set-aside funding. Twelve letters of interest were submitted. A summary of the letters received is below:

Project sponsor	Project name
Adams County	Multimodal Harmony at Clear Creek Station
Arapahoe County	Florida Corridor Multimodal Improvements
Arvada	Livable Centers in Transit Oriented Communities
Aurora	Fitzsimons Innovative Transportation Solutions Study
Bennett	Development Connectivity Feasibility Analysis
Boulder County	Mobility Needs Assessment Framework for the Boulder County Housing Authority
Centennial	East Midtown Small Area Plan
Denver South TMA	South I-25 Bicycle Infrastructure Implementation Planning and Design Study
Edgewater	Sheridan Corridor Livable Center
Parker	Parker and Pine Lane Crossroads Micromobility Study
Sheridan	Housing & Transportation Strategies Study
Thornton	Urban Center Area

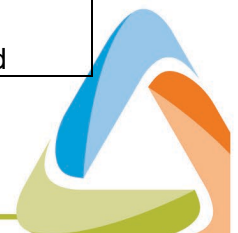


Staff reviewed and scored all twelve letters of interest based on the evaluation criteria approved by the DRCOG Transportation Advisory Committee in February 2023 and adopted by the DRCOG Board of Directors in March 2023. The evaluation criteria included: alignment with program goals and Metro Vision, benefits to marginalized communities, connection to Regional Transportation Plan priorities, project readiness and local support, and innovation and transferability. Based on the approved evaluation criteria and alignment with program goals, the scoring committee is recommending seven of the twelve projects for the first cycle of the Livable Centers program.

The seven recommended projects align closely with the program’s goals and demonstrate a clear connection to the criteria outlined for selection. The remaining five projects were not recommended because they either did not meet key alignment criteria, proposed ineligible expenses, or were determined to be a better fit for other set-aside programs.

Each project nomination provided an estimated budget in their letter of interest. Staff are proposing a few budget adjustments to align with DRCOG’s recent experience on similar types of projects. The potential budgets listed below are estimates. Final budgets will be set during the procurement phase after staff work with stakeholders for each selected project to develop specific scopes of work and outline the expertise needed.

Rank	Project sponsor	Project name	Recommended budget	Recommendation
1	Aurora	Fitzsimons Innovative Transportation Solutions Study	\$300,000	Fund
2	Boulder County	Mobility Needs Assessment Framework for the Boulder County Housing	\$150,000	Fund
3	Arvada	Livable Centers in Transit Oriented Communities	\$140,000	Fund
4	Arapahoe County	Florida Corridor Multimodal Improvements	\$125,000	Fund
5	Centennial	East Midtown Small Area Plan	\$125,000	Fund
6	Sheridan	Housing & Transportation Strategies Study	\$100,000	Fund
7	Edgewater	Sheridan Corridor Livable Center	\$100,000	Fund
8	Adams County	Multimodal Harmony at Clear Creek Station	\$100,000	Not Selected
9	Thornton	Urban Center Area	\$350,000	Not Selected
10	Bennett	Development Connectivity Feasibility Analysis	\$85,000	Not Selected
11	Parker	Parker and Pine Lane Crossroads Micromobility Study	\$100,000	Not Selected
12	Denver South TMA	South I-25 Bicycle Infrastructure Implementation Planning and Design Study	\$950,000	Not Selected



**Action by others**

[November 18, 2024](#) – Transportation Advisory Committee recommended approval.

**Previous discussion/action**

[March 14, 2023](#) – Policies for Fiscal Year 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program Set-Aside Programs

**Recommendation**

Move to recommend to the Board of Directors funding seven Livable Centers Small-Area Planning projects, as recommended by the selection committee.

**Attachment**

Staff presentation

**For more information**

For additional information, please contact Kaitlyn Service, Program Manager, Regional Planning, at 303-480-6836 or [kservice@drcog.org](mailto:kservice@drcog.org).





# Livable Centers Small-Area Planning Set-Aside

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# Livable Centers Overview

- \$2.5 Million total identified as a set-aside in the 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program.
- \$1.25 Million available for the 2024-2025 application cycle.
- Funding for consultant services for planning and analysis.
- Small-area planning that enhances and increases livability in connected multimodal centers.
- Policies for this set-aside were adopted by the Board in March 2023.



# Program goals

- Support **centers and nodes** and their connections to the **region's multimodal transportation system**
  - Increase diverse housing and employment in connected urban centers
  - Support multimodal and transit access along corridors connecting centers
  - Promote investment/ reinvestment in existing communities.
  - Improve multimodal access to housing, employment, commerce, educational, cultural, and recreational opportunities for residents of all ages, incomes, and abilities

# Selection Process

- **Letters of interest accepted:** August – October 2024
- **Evaluated:** based on the criteria approved by the Transportation Advisory Committee in February 2023 and adopted by the Board of Directors in March 2023.
- **Evaluation factors:**
  - Alignment with program goals and Metro Vision.
  - Benefits to marginalized communities.
  - Connection to DRCOG Regional Transportation Plan priorities.
  - Project readiness and local support.
  - Innovation and transferability.

# Letters of Interest Received, \$2.6 million

Project sponsor	Project name
Adams County	Multimodal Harmony at Clear Creek Station
Arapahoe County	Florida Corridor Multimodal Improvements
Arvada	Livable Centers in Transit Oriented Communities
Aurora	Fitzsimons Innovative Transportation Solutions Study
Bennett	Development Connectivity Feasibility Analysis
Boulder County	Mobility Needs Assessment Framework for the Boulder County Housing Authority
Centennial	East Midtown Small Area Plan
Denver South TMA	South I-25 Bicycle Infrastructure Implementation Planning and Design Study
Edgewater	Sheridan Corridor Livable Center
Parker	Parker and Pine Lane Crossroads Micromobility Study
Sheridan	Housing & Transportation Strategies Study
Thornton	Urban Center Area



# Selection Committee Scoring & Recommendation

Rank	Project sponsor	Project name	Recommended budget	Recommendation
1	Aurora	Fitzsimons Innovative Transportation Solutions Study	\$ 300,000	Fund
2	Boulder County	Mobility Needs Assessment Framework for the Boulder County Housing	\$ 150,000	Fund
3	Arvada	Livable Centers in Transit Oriented Communities	\$ 140,000	Fund
4	Arapahoe County	Florida Corridor Multimodal Improvements	\$ 125,000	Fund
5	Centennial	East Midtown Small Area Plan	\$ 125,000	Fund
6	Sheridan	Housing & Transportation Strategies Study	\$ 100,000	Fund
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8	Adams County	Multimodal Harmony at Clear Creek Station	\$ 100,000	Not Selected
9	Thornton	Urban Center Area	\$ 350,000	Not Selected
10	Bennett	Development Connectivity Feasibility Analysis	\$ 85,000	Not Selected
11	Parker	Parker and Pine Lane Crossroads Micromobility Study	\$ 100,000	Not Selected
12	Denver South TMA	South I-25 Bicycle Infrastructure Implementation Planning and Design Study	\$ 950,000	Not Selected

# Recommended Motion

Move to recommend to the Board of Directors funding seven Livable Centers Small-Area Planning projects, as recommended by the selection committee.