

## Regional Transportation Committee

Meeting date: July 16, 2024

Agenda Item #: 5 (Attachment E)

### Edgewater Community-Based Transportation Plan Update

Agenda item type: Discussion

#### Summary

Overview of takeaways and lessons learned from the recently completed Edgewater School Transportation Plan, the first of the Denver Regional Council of Governments' pilot community-based transportation planning projects.

#### Background

In 2022, DRCOG selected the Edgewater School Transportation Plan as one of two pilot projects for the new community-based transportation planning program. Through this program, DRCOG leads studies or planning efforts to support the region in addressing mobility challenges for historically marginalized communities.

The Edgewater School Transportation Plan was nominated by the City of Edgewater, which worked closely with DRCOG throughout the plan development process. The goal of this plan was to address safety and traffic concerns around Lumberg and Edgewater Elementary schools, which were exacerbated by the recent closure of Molholm Elementary due to school consolidation by Jefferson County Public Schools. Through this planning effort, DRCOG sought to identify infrastructure and programmatic solutions to make it easier for families to safely get their students to and from school, and to reduce impacts of the school pick-up and drop-off activities to the surrounding communities.

DRCOG staff developed the Edgewater School Transportation Plan over the last 18 months, with contracted support from Y2K Engineering for the technical work and the community-based organization Edgewater Collective to support engagement. The final plan includes an overview of existing transportation operations and infrastructure at and around the two schools; an extensive community engagement process to learn from families, students and the community about the challenges; and proposed projects, programs, and improvements to the operations at each school. The final plan can be found on [the project website](#).

The City of Edgewater and Jefferson County Public Schools were both closely involved in the plan creation and will largely be responsible for implementing the proposed recommendations. Many of the recommendations at Lumberg Elementary were also piloted this spring, including a one-way conversion on W 22<sup>nd</sup> Avenue and a new school drop-off and pick-up process.

Through this pilot study, DRCOG staff learned many lessons which will be applied to future community-based planning efforts, including those that are part of the 2024-2027 community-based transportation planning Transportation Improvement Program set-aside. These lessons include:



- The value of having a community-based organization to support engagement and connect the team to the community.
- The importance of clarifying roles early on for community-based planning projects, particularly between the local government partners, DRCOG, and any consultants.
- The need for creative engagement strategies and flexibility in project timelines, particularly when working with harder to reach communities.
- The effectiveness of using pop-up projects to try out changes before they are made permanent in order to see what works and what could be improved.

**Action by others**

None

**Previous discussion/action**

[May 16, 2023](#)

**Recommendation**

None

**Attachment**

Staff presentation

**For more information**

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