

Regional Transportation Committee

Meeting date: November 19, 2024

Agenda Item #: 7 (Attachment E)

2050 Metro Vision Regional Transportation Plan Major Update Kickoff

Agenda item type: Discussion

Summary

Kick-off of the next major update to the 2050 Metro Vision Regional Transportation Plan.

Background

As the federally designated metropolitan planning organization for the Denver region, the Denver Regional Council of Governments develops the [Metro Vision Regional Transportation Plan](#) to guide the region's investments in the multimodal transportation system. The plan helps DRCOG's member governments and partners implement the shared aspirational vision of [Metro Vision](#). The plan is updated every four years and amended as needed to ensure that its content remains relevant and reflects current trends, needs and priorities.

The 2050 RTP was originally adopted in April 2021 and updated in 2022 to achieve compliance with the state's [Greenhouse Gas Planning Standard](#). DRCOG staff initiated a cycle amendments process in September 2023 that concluded in May 2024. DRCOG staff have initiated the next major update to the RTP, which must be adopted by fall 2026 to meet federal requirements.

Since the original adoption in 2021, numerous plans and programs have been initiated or completed that will be reflected in the updated 2050 RTP. Select efforts include the Regional Bus Rapid Transit Partnership, Transportation Demand Management Strategic Plan, Regional Transportation Operations and Technology Strategic Plan, and Regional Housing Needs Assessment, as well as ongoing or planned updates to the Active Transportation Plan and Regional Multimodal Freight Plan and Coordinated Transit Plan.

Staff have identified the following major activities and tentative milestones for the upcoming effort that are subject to change:

- Scenario planning: Winter 2024 – Spring 2025.
- Financial planning: Winter 2024 – Spring 2025.
- Candidate projects: Summer – Fall 2025.
- Modeling and coordination: Winter 2025 – Spring 2026.
- Document development: Summer 2025 – Spring 2026.
- Public and stakeholder review: Ongoing, and Summer 2026.
- Committee and board approval: Fall 2026.



Additional activities DRCOG staff have identified include Greenhouse Gas Mitigation Action Plan annual reporting, the development of a Public Engagement Plan specific to the 2050 RTP Update effort, definition of the Regional Roadway System, and an enhanced equity analysis.

DRCOG staff have begun coordination with internal partners through deliverable-specific kick-offs and external partners and project sponsors through the County Subregional Forums. On adoption, the 2050 RTP must meet federal fiscal constraint requirements, meaning there must be reasonably expected funding to implement the proposed project. The 2050 RTP must also meet federal air quality conformity requirements and state transportation greenhouse gas emission reduction requirements, among other state and federal requirements.

Action by others

None

Previous discussion/action

None

Recommendation

None

Attachment

Staff presentation

For more information

If you need additional information, please contact Alvan-Bidal Sanchez, Regional Transportation Planning Program Manager, at 720-278-2341 or asanchez@drcog.org.





Update to the 2050 Regional Transportation Plan

Regional Transportation Committee: November 19, 2024

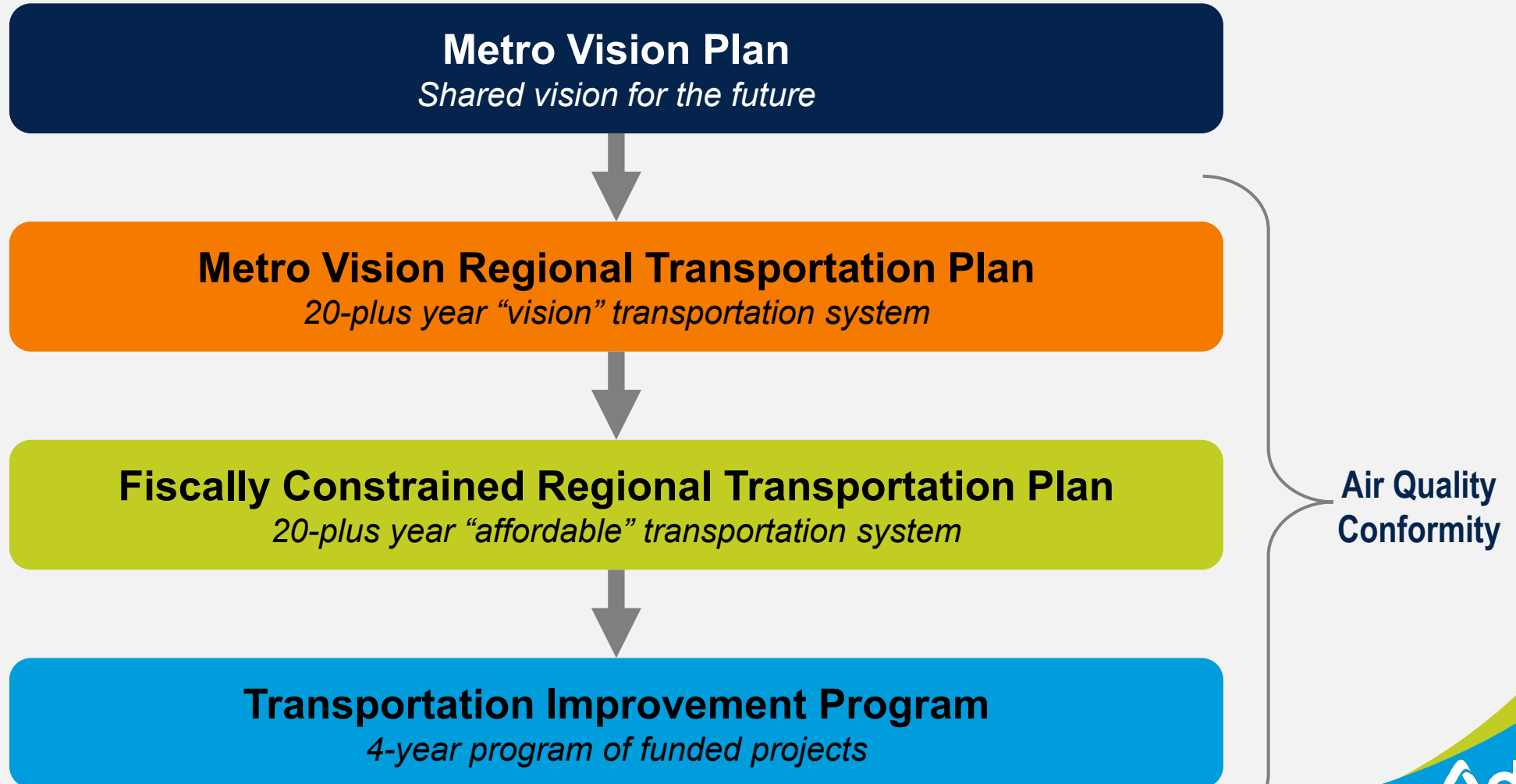


Metro Vision Regional Transportation Plan

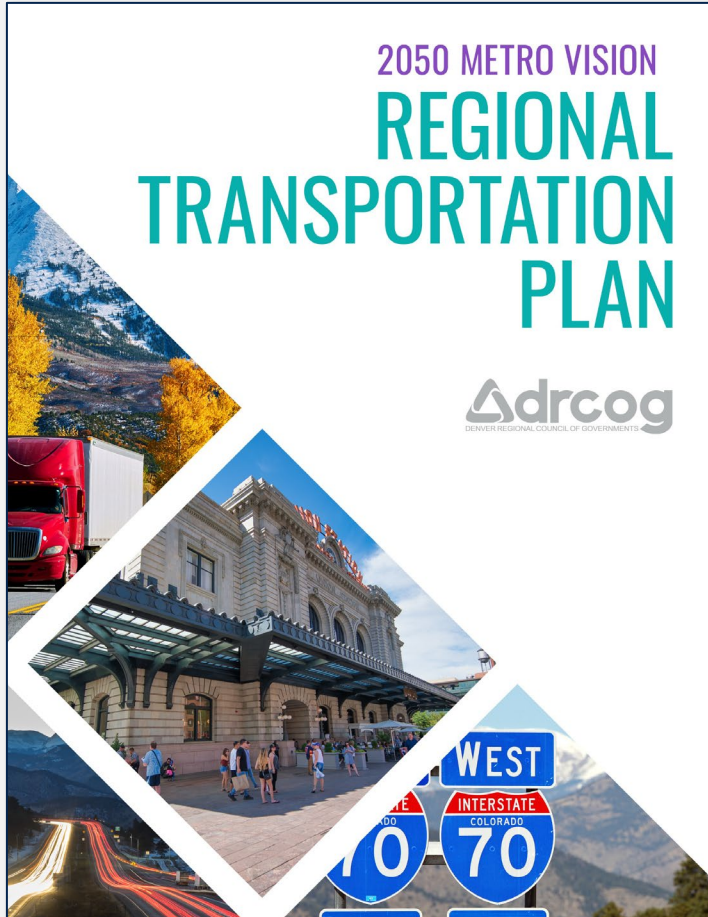


<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r802cmpCvig>

Planning process structure



What is the 2050 RTP?



Implements
Metro Vision



Region's
multimodal
vision



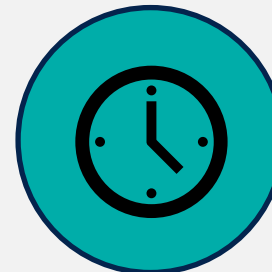
Fiscally-
constrained
(what's feasible)



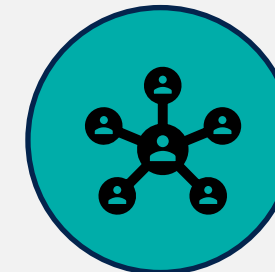
TIP funding for
road & transit
projects



Updated
frequently (every
4 years)



Developed with
partners

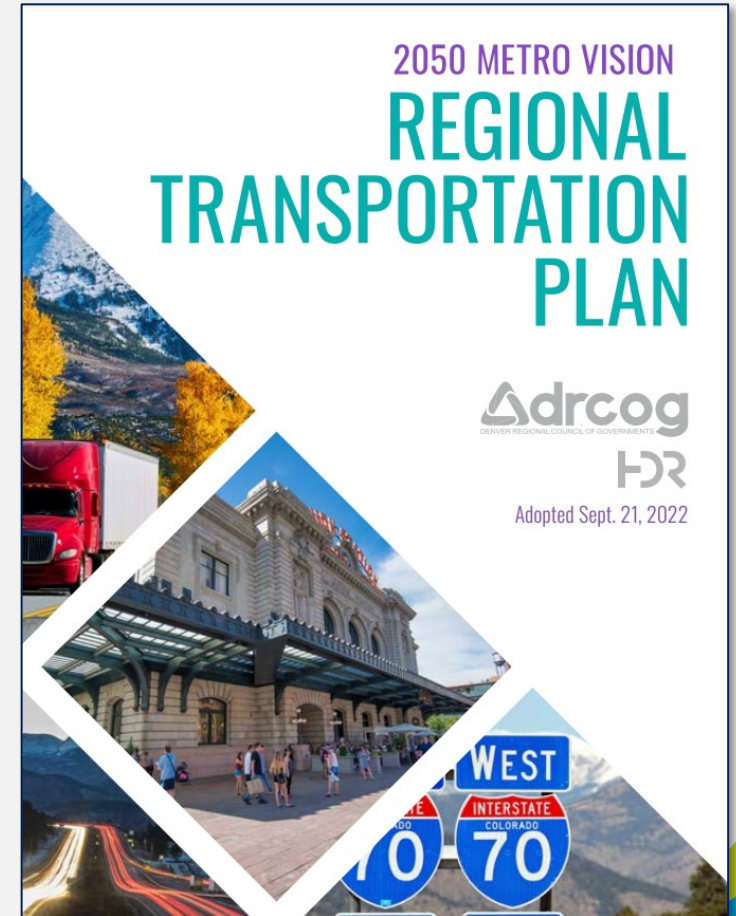


Federally
required (MPO
function)



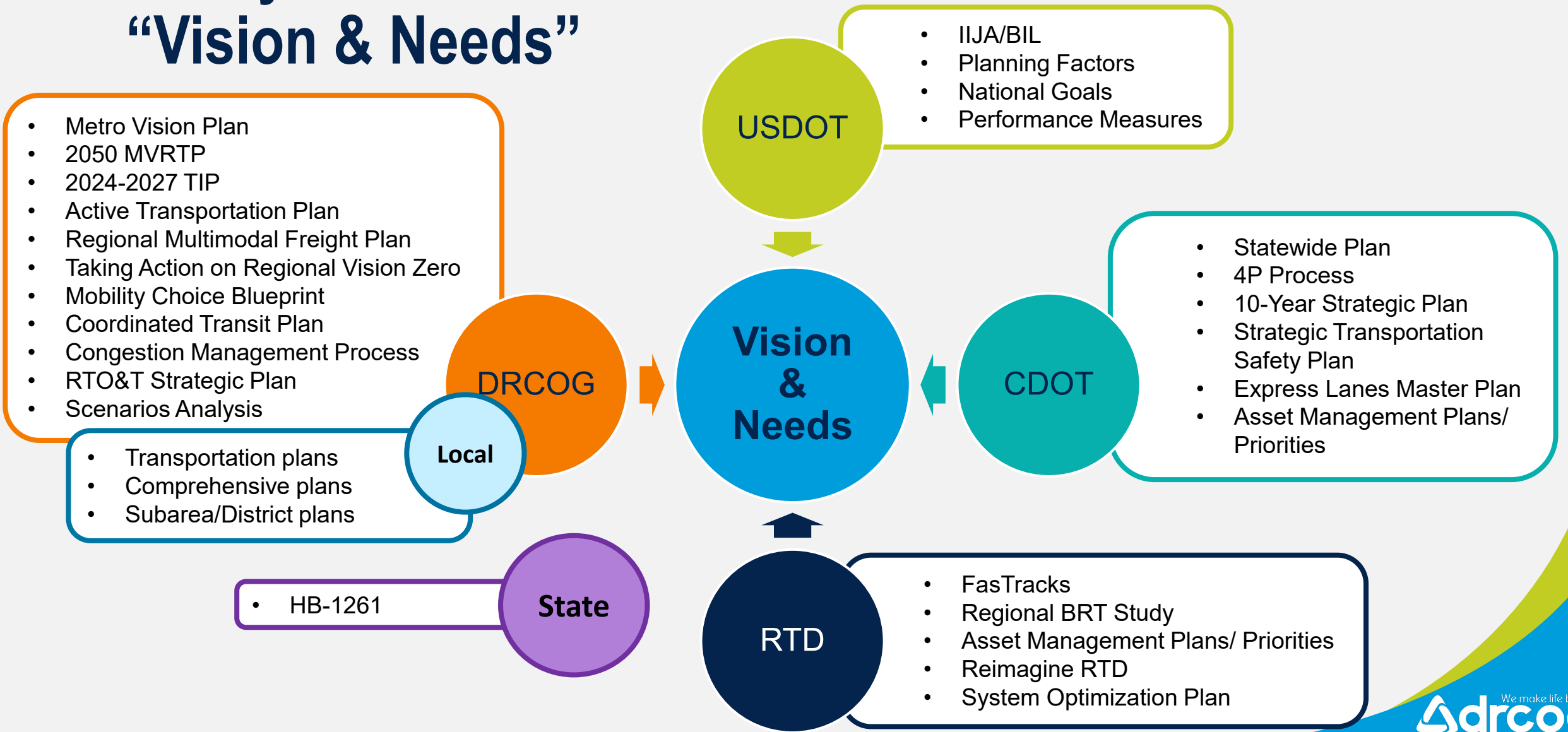
Background

- The RTP is required to be **updated every four-years** based on the region's air quality designation.
 - In-between, staff provide an opportunity for **project-based amendments** called 'cycle amendments.'
- The 2050 Metro Vision Regional Transportation was **adopted in September 2022, amended in May 2024.**



Policy framework & desired outcomes

“Vision & Needs”



- Metro Vision Plan
- 2050 MVRTTP
- 2024-2027 TIP
- Active Transportation Plan
- Regional Multimodal Freight Plan
- Taking Action on Regional Vision Zero
- Mobility Choice Blueprint
- Coordinated Transit Plan
- Congestion Management Process
- RTO&T Strategic Plan
- Scenarios Analysis

- IJJA/BIL
- Planning Factors
- National Goals
- Performance Measures

- Statewide Plan
- 4P Process
- 10-Year Strategic Plan
- Strategic Transportation Safety Plan
- Express Lanes Master Plan
- Asset Management Plans/Priorities

- Transportation plans
- Comprehensive plans
- Subarea/District plans

- HB-1261

- FasTracks
- Regional BRT Study
- Asset Management Plans/ Priorities
- Reimagine RTD
- System Optimization Plan

Project types in the MVRTP



Air quality regionally significant **roadway capacity** projects



Air quality regionally significant **rapid transit capacity** projects



Arterial safety, Complete Streets retrofits, and **regional Vision Zero** improvements



Active transportation improvements (bicycle facilities, pedestrian facilities, trails)



Freight improvements (bridge reconstructions, overpasses/underpasses, new bridges)



Corridor planning – roadway and transit (generalized corridors/concepts)

Project and program investment priorities

Multimodal mobility

Provide more ways to travel by car, bus, bicycle, and foot.

Safety

Increase the safety for all users of the transportation system.

Freight

Maintain efficient movement of goods within & beyond the region.

Air quality

Improve air quality and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Active transportation

Expand travel options for vulnerable and underserve transportation users.

Regional transit

Expand the region's rapid transit network.



Projects and programs



Multimodal mobility

Multimodal capital projects

\$6.9 billion



Air quality

Transportation Improvement Program set-asides

\$375 million



Regional transit

Regional bus rapid transit projects
Corridor transit planning projects and program

\$1.2 billion
\$940 million



Safety

Arterial safety and Regional Vision Zero projects and program

\$548 million



Active transportation

Active transportation program

\$970 million



Freight

Freight program

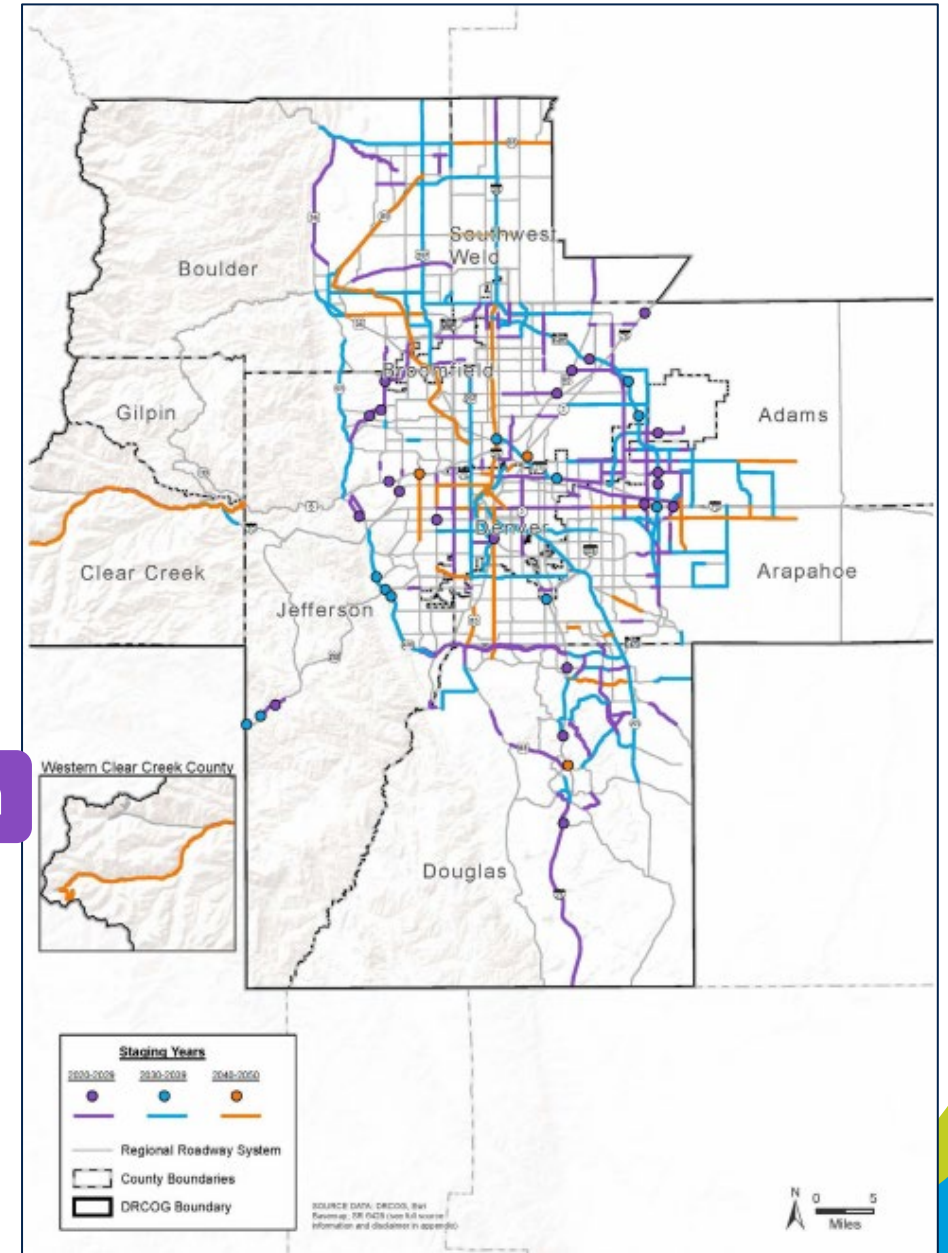
\$220 million



Local projects

Locally funded projects

\$4.0 billion



2050 RTP scheduling

	2023				2024				2025				2026			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
RTP Cycle Amendment																
RTP 4-Year Update																

- 2024 Cycle Amendments:
 - 9-month long effort.
 - Adopted **May 2024**. Approved **July 2024**.
- Regional Transportation Plan four-year update:
 - Can take one and a half/two years.
 - **Due winter of 2026** (will address all federal/state requirements, including GHG).
 - Major activities include **equity analysis**, **scenario planning**, project **solicitation and evaluation**, **ongoing engagement** opportunities, **accessibility** remediation.

2050 RTP Update - Major activities

	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												

Additional activities

- Greenhouse gas tasks:
 - Annual Mitigation Action Plan reporting.
- ‘Definitions’ tasks:
 - Public Engagement Plan.
 - Regional Roadway System.
 - Equity analysis.
 - Confirm ‘Existing + Committed’ and ‘Vision’ projects.
- Financial planning tasks:
 - Regional, local, discretionary, toll funding.
 - Project versus program allocations.

Changes since 2020 (select list)

- Population and employment forecasts.
- New federal and state financial resources.
- Progress on the Regional Bus Rapid Transit Partnership.
- New TDM Strategic Plan, RTO&T Strategic Plan, and Regional Housing Needs Assessment.
- Ongoing and upcoming updates to the Active Transportation Plan, Regional Multimodal Freight Plan, and Coordinated Transit Plan.

Next steps

- Provided notice to CDOT and CDPHE, as required by IGA.
- Continue exploring scenario analysis options.
- Provide deliverable-specific updates when appropriate:
 - Regional Roadway System.
 - Existing + committed, and vision projects.
 - Equity analysis.
- Outreach to partners for financial planning.
- Coordination with CDOT on their 2050 Statewide Plan update.

Thank you! Questions?

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