

## Transportation Advisory Committee

Meeting date: October 28, 2024

Agenda Item #: 8 (Attachment F)

### 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](mailto:asanchez@drcog.org).





# Update to the 2050 Regional Transportation Plan

Transportation Advisory Committee: October 28, 2024

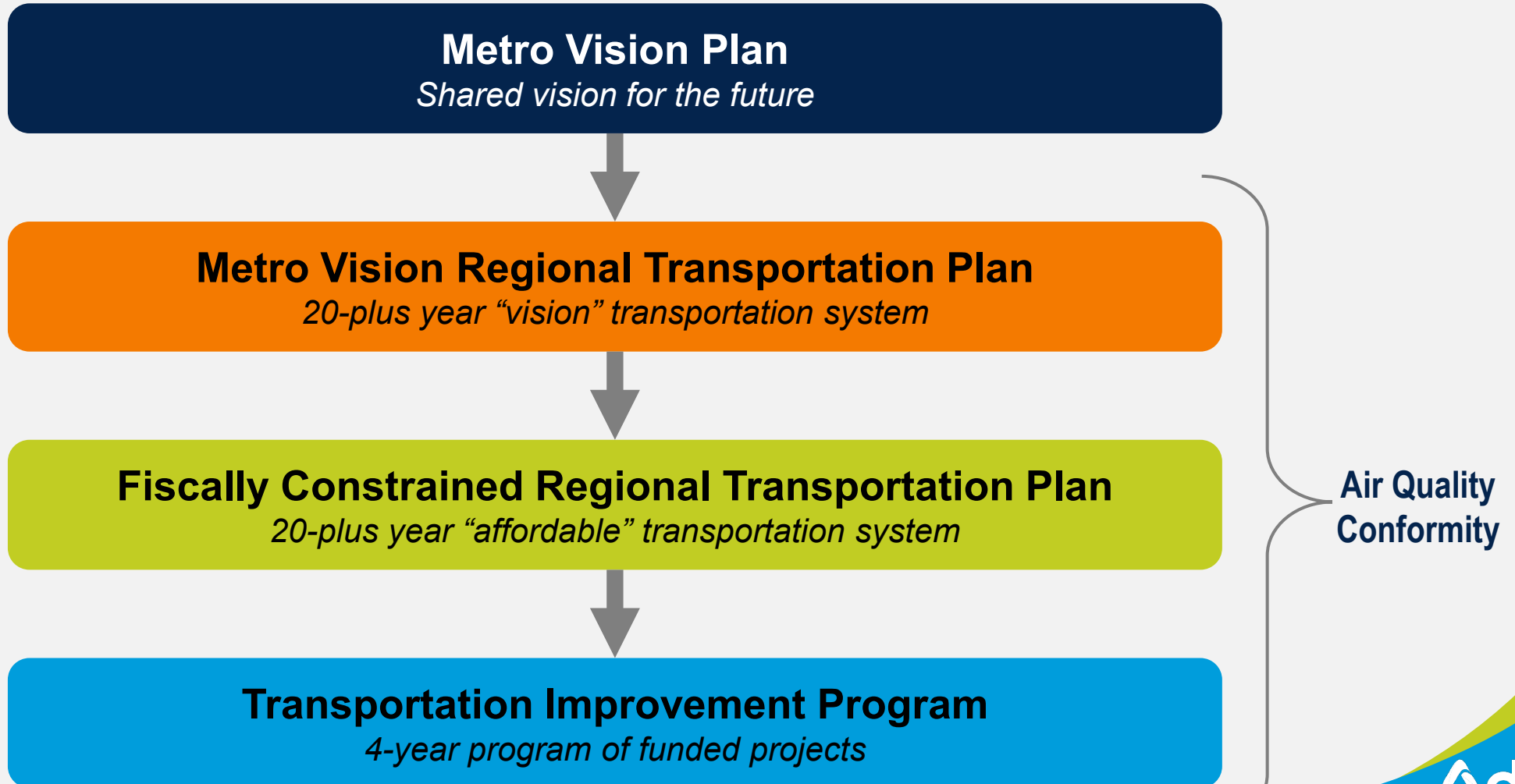


# Metro Vision Regional Transportation Plan

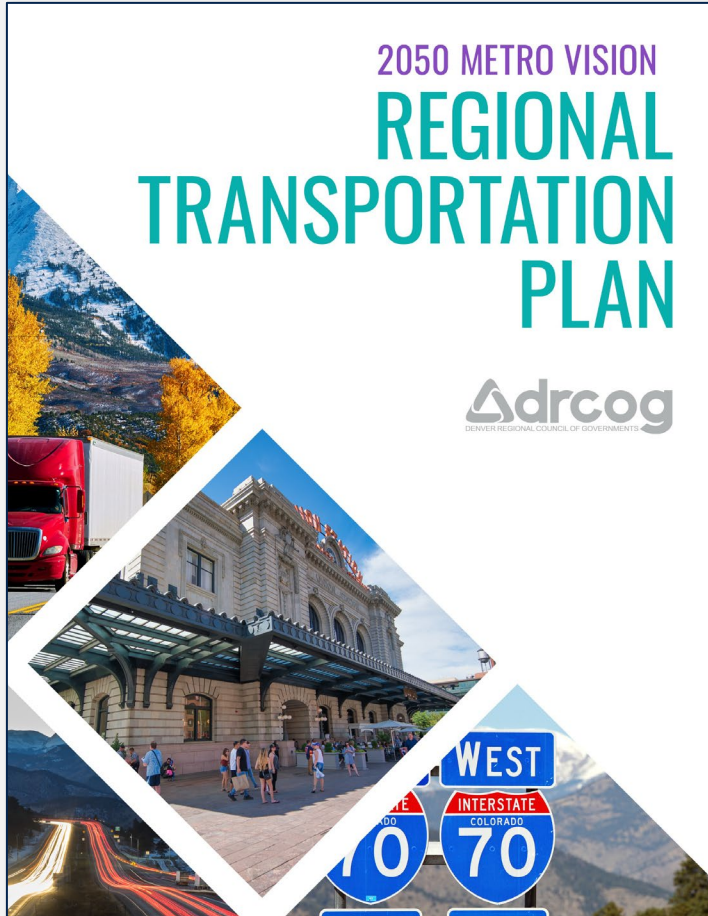


<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r802cmpCvig>

# Planning process structure



# What is the 2050 RTP?



**Implements  
Metro Vision**



**Region's  
multimodal  
vision**



**Fiscally-  
constrained  
(what's feasible)**



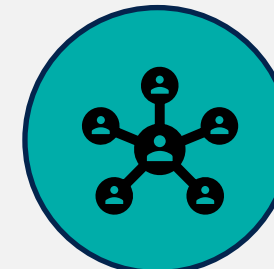
**TIP funding for  
road & transit  
projects**



**Updated  
frequently (every  
4 years)**



**Developed with  
partners**

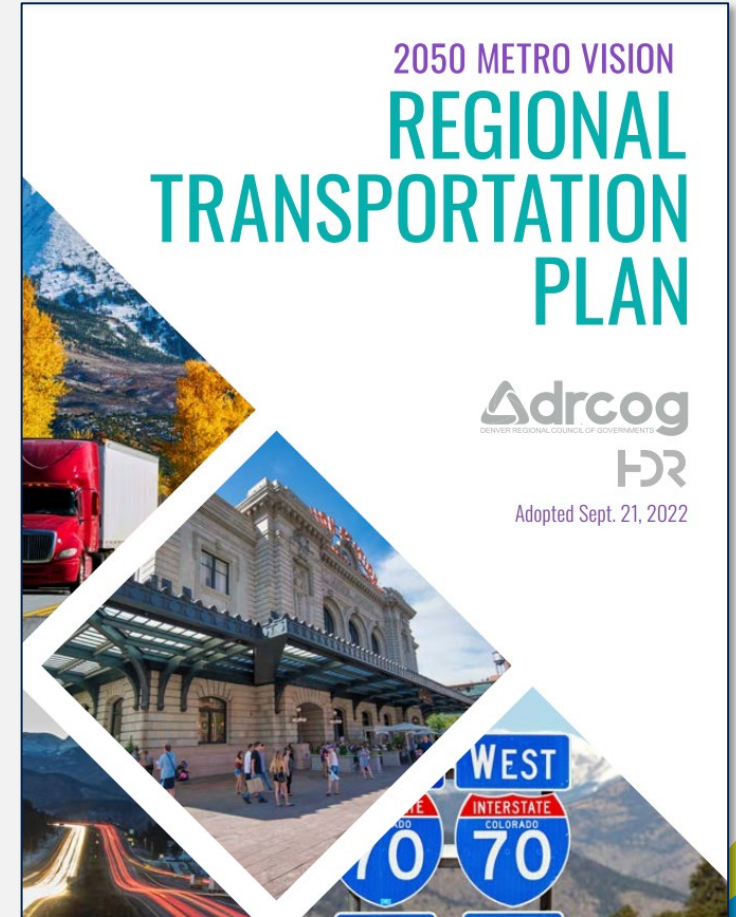


**Federally  
required (MPO  
function)**



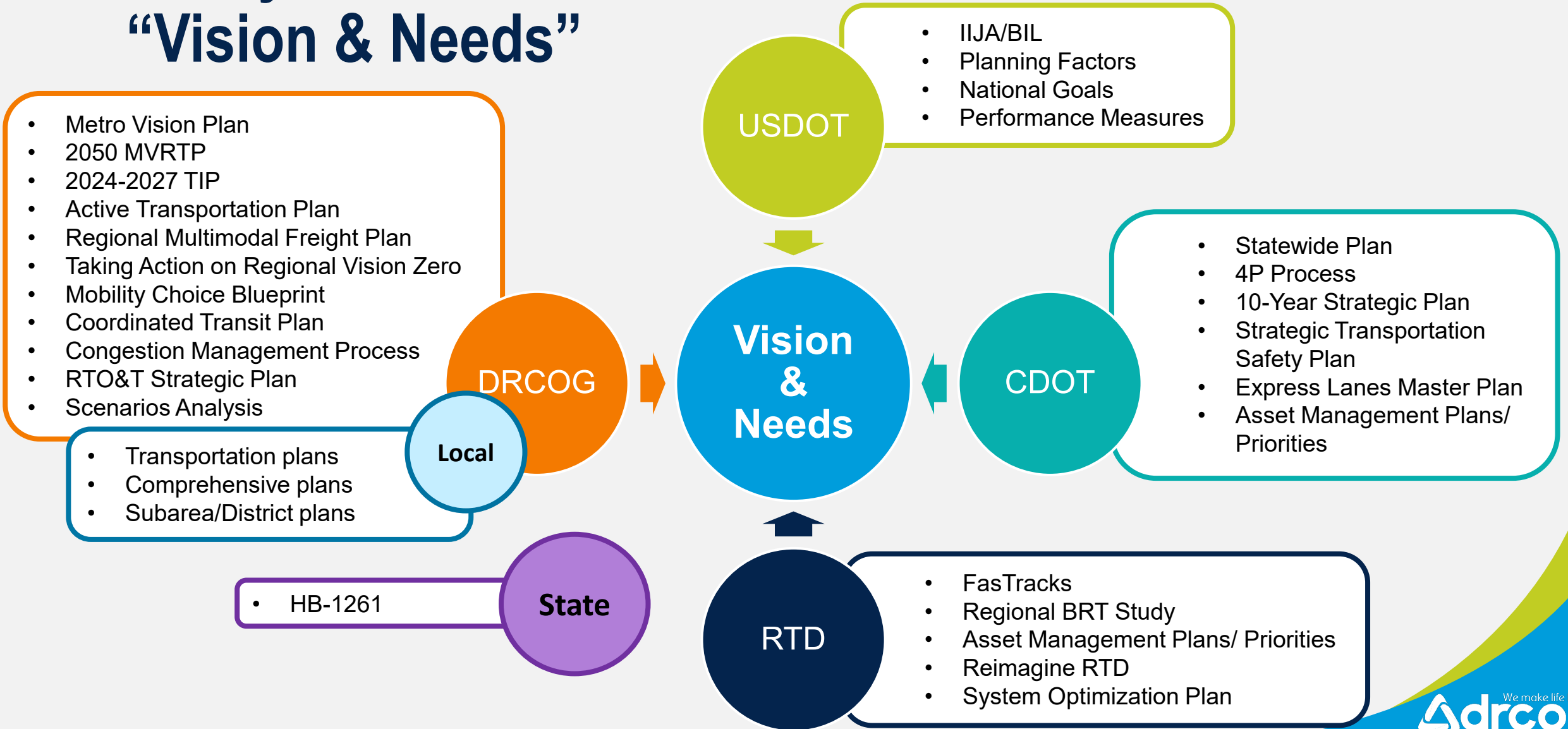
# Background

- 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”





# Project types in the MVRTP



Air quality regionally significant **roadway capacity** projects



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

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**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 underserved 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

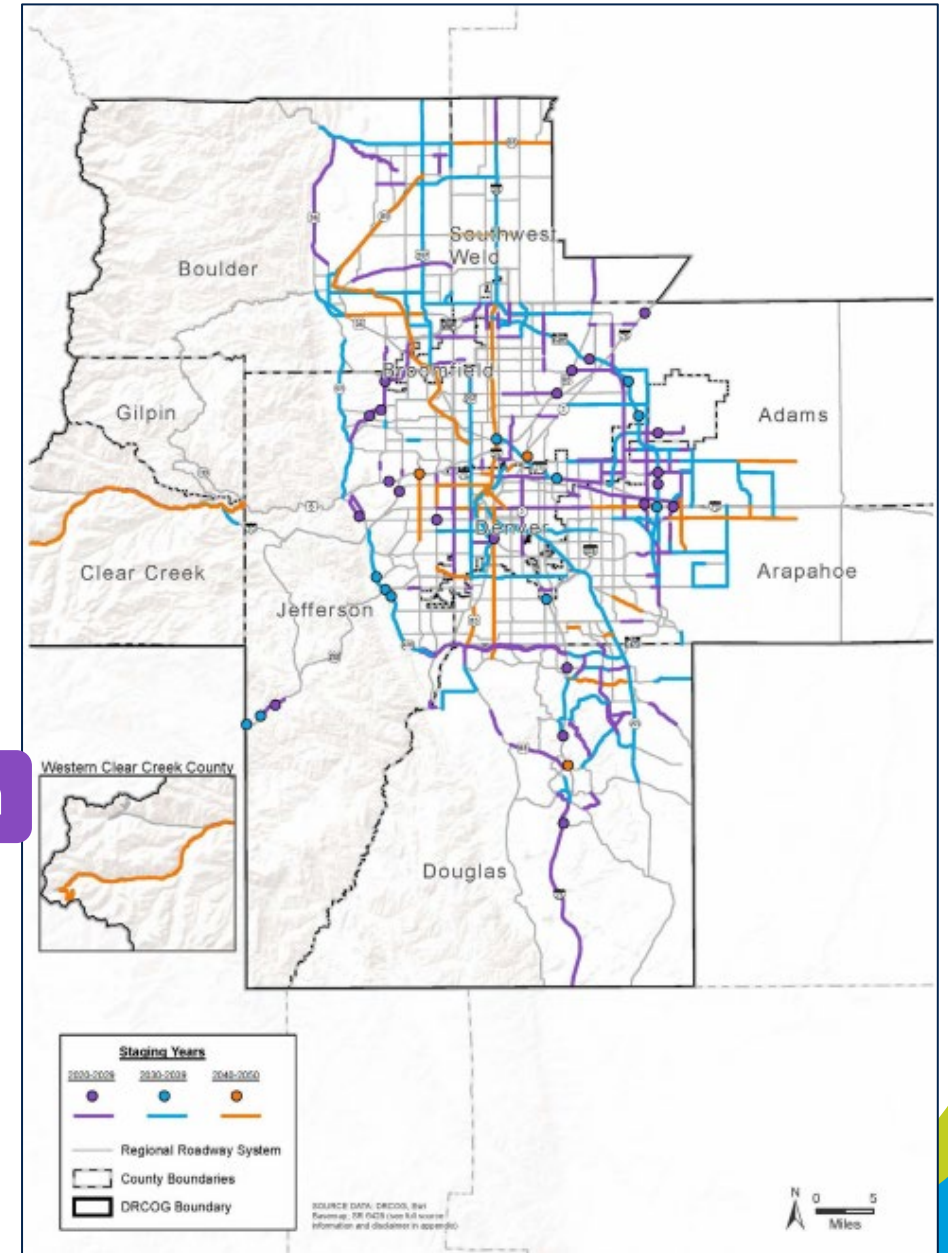
\$220 million



## 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.

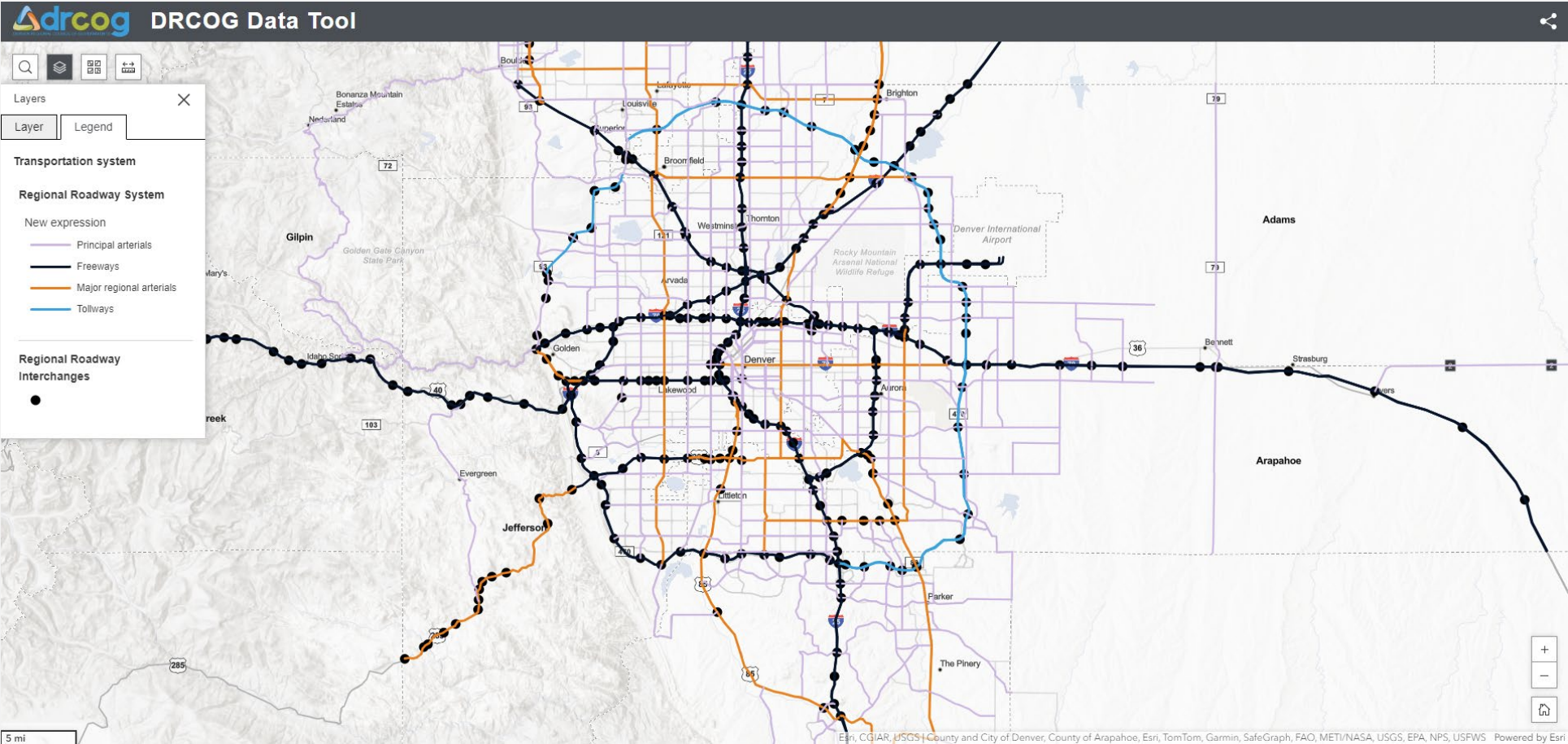
# 2050 RTP Update - Major activities

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

# 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.

# Regional Roadway System



# 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.