

Board of Directors

Meeting date: March 19, 2025

Agenda Item #: 5

Public Hearing on the Draft 2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program

Agenda item type: Public hearing

Summary

Public hearing on the draft 2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program and Air Quality Conformity document.

Background

The purpose of this public hearing is to receive and consider public testimony on [two draft DRCOG planning documents](#); the 2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program, or TIP, and the Denver Southern Subarea 8-hour Ozone Conformity Determination. This public hearing also serves as the public comment process for the Federal Transit Administration Section 5307 Programs portion of the Regional Transportation District, or RTD, Program of Projects (also referred to as RTD's Five-Year Financial Forecast).

The TIP is a document listing all transportation projects in the Denver region funded with federal or state funding during the next four years. The document includes projects managed by the Colorado Department of Transportation, or CDOT, RTD, DRCOG, and local governments throughout the region. The document is how these important projects are funded and implemented, and is a crucial step in realizing the vision established in Metro Vision and the Regional Transportation Plan, or RTP. The document lists 263 projects with roughly \$2.1 billion in total funding, representing a substantial investment in the Denver region's transportation network.

DRCOG selects some of the projects for inclusion in the document. The last call for projects was part of the development of the current 2024-2027 TIP. DRCOG develops and adopts a new program listing every two years to keep funding aligned with the annual State Transportation Improvement Program developed by CDOT. The projects listed in the current TIP have been carried forward, as appropriate, to the new 2026-2029 TIP. DRCOG conducts calls for projects to add new projects to the document every four years, but when a new TIP is developed in between calls for projects, the projects previously selected carry over to the new document based on the years the funding was programmed. No new DRCOG-selected projects have been added to the draft 2026-2029 TIP document.

Per federal transportation planning requirements, each TIP must demonstrate it will not cause a violation of federal air quality conformity standards. Accordingly, the 2050 Metro Vision RTP roadway and transit networks, which include all projects classified as regionally significant for air quality contained in the 2026-2029 TIP, were previously modeled for air quality conformity



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for the 2024-2027 TIP. Since the regionally significant projects remain the same as they did for the 2024-2027 TIP, no new model runs were conducted for the 2026-2029 TIP. The previous results carry forward and were used by the state Air Pollution Control Division to calculate pollutant emissions. All pollutant emission tests were passed, as shown in the air quality conformity document.

Per the state Greenhouse Gas Transportation Planning Standard adopted in December 2021, the TIP is considered an “applicable planning document”, and therefore must meet the DRCOG region’s greenhouse gas emissions reduction requirements for all staging periods defined by the rule. Since all of the projects in the TIP defined as regionally significant for air quality are required to be in the current RTP before they are eligible for TIP funding, and no new regionally significant projects are in the TIP that are not already in the current RTP, this TIP is in compliance with the greenhouse gas planning rule and document previously approved.

The documents were released for public comment on February 12. DRCOG staff will prepare a summary of all public comments for Board review prior to its scheduled action in April.

Action by others
None

Previous discussion/action
None

Recommendation
No action at this time; this is a public hearing. The Board is anticipated to act on the 2026-2029 TIP at its April meeting.

Attachment
1. Staff presentation
2. Comments received will be distributed at the Board meeting

For more information
If you need additional information, please contact Douglas W. Rex, Executive Director, at 303-480-6701; or Ron Papsdorf, Director, Transportation Planning and Operations, at 303-480-6747 or rpapsdorf@drcog.org; or Todd Cottrell, Project and Program Delivery Manager, Transportation Planning and Operations, at 303-480-6737 or tcottrell@drcog.org.

