

Transportation Advisory Committee

Meeting date: March 24, 2025

Agenda Item #: 5 (Attachment C)

Fiscal Year 2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program

Agenda item type: Action

Summary

The Draft Fiscal Year 2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program, or TIP, adds two years to the previously adopted FY 2024-2027 TIP to align with the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). No new projects have been added. Because this involves adopting a “new” TIP, a new Air Quality Conformity determination is included that refers to the previous analysis.

Background

The 2026-2029 TIP is a short-term 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, the Regional Transportation District, or RTD, DRCOG, and local governments throughout the region, and is how these important projects are funded and implemented. The TIP is a crucial step in realizing the vision established in Metro Vision and the Regional Transportation Plan, or RTP. The document lists 265 projects with roughly \$5.4 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 2024-2027 TIP have been carried forward, as appropriate, to the new 2026-2029 TIP. 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 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. Similar to the air quality conformity document previously mentioned, 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 the RTP was previously found to be in compliance with the rule, and no new regionally significant projects are being added to this new TIP, the 2026-2029 TIP is in compliance with the greenhouse gas planning rule and document previously approved.

The documents were released for public comment on February 12. Included within the attachments are the public comments received and an outline of proposed changes to the TIP document since it was released for public comment in February.

Action by others

None

Previous discussion/action

None

Recommendation

Move to recommend to the Regional Transportation Committee the 2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program, including those adjustments contained within the errata sheet, and the associated air quality conformity document.

Attachment

1. Staff presentation.
2. [Draft 2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program and air quality conformity documents.](#)
3. Public comments received (to be provided on March 20).
4. Errata sheet, containing changes to the draft document since being released for public comment (to be provided on March 20).

For more information

If you need additional information, please contact 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.





2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program Recommendation

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Documents for recommendation

- 2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program, or TIP, including Appendix F.
 - Includes errata sheet adjustments.
- Ozone conformity determination.

Programming context

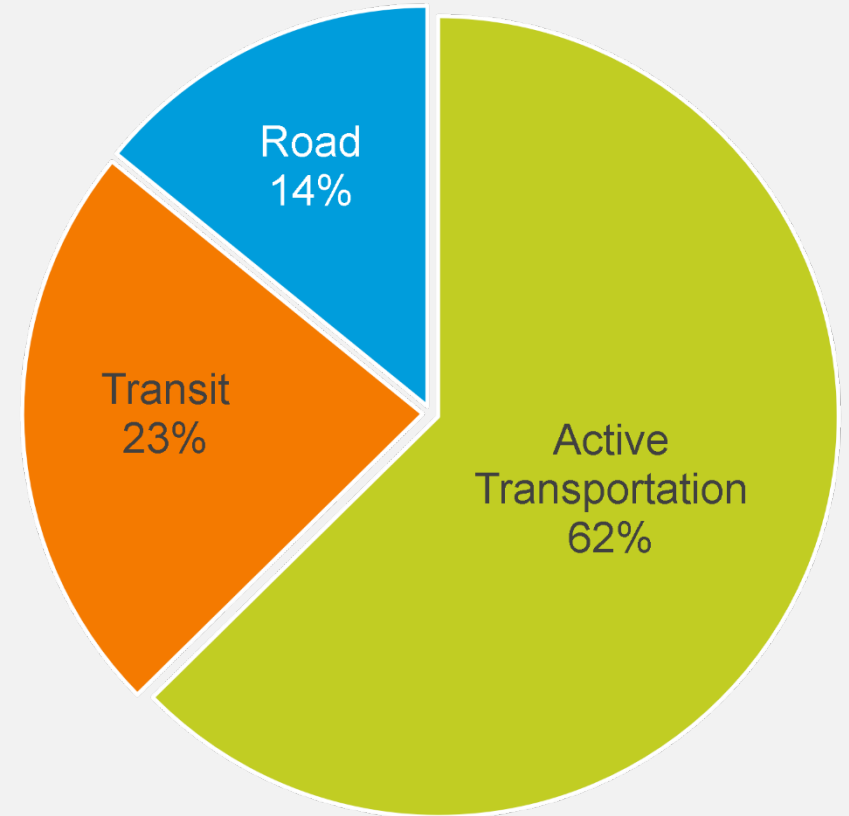
- **Metro Vision:** sets overall regional vision, and outlines this with themes, outcomes, and objectives.
- **Regional Transportation Plan, or RTP:** 20+ year guide for regional transportation investments. Outlined by:
 - Vision projects: outlines the regional needs without funding restraint.
 - Fiscally-constrained projects: 1) regionally significant for air quality conformity projects, 2) “regionally important” projects, and 3) programmatic investment categories
 - Programmatic investment categories include multimodal mobility, freight, active transportation, safety, air quality, and regional transit.
- **Transportation Improvement Program, or TIP:** implements the RTP.

Transportation Improvement Program

- Short-term 4-year planning program: specific and dedicated funding.
- Contains all federally and state-funded transportation projects within the region, not just those awarded through DRCOG.
 - Locally funded if regionally significant for air quality.
- New document every 2 years, major calls every 4 years.
- No new calls to develop this TIP.
- Adopted TIP adjusted almost monthly through amendments and administrative modifications.

Previous DRCOG calls for projects

- Four calls for projects in 2022-2023.
- **Five** funding sources (4 federal, 1 state), **six** years (federal fiscal years 2022-2027), **two** TIPs (2022-2025, 2024-2027).
- \$495 million in DRCOG investments.



By Funding

Air quality conformity

- Based on regional non-attainment status, pollutants must be reduced.
- Conformity is regional (entire RTP and TIP); not based on individual projects.
- Current 2024-2027 TIP and 2050 RTP passed both ozone emission tests (federal) and greenhouse gas reduction analysis (state) for regional air quality conformity.
- No new tests or analysis due to no new regionally significant projects being added to 2026-2029 TIP.

Public process

- Public comment process began on February 12.
- DRCOG website notices:
 - DRCOG.org homepage.
 - Transportation Improvement Program webpage.
 - Separate engagement webpage.
- Eblasts.
- Denver Post.
- DRCOG social media campaign (X, Instagram, Facebook, LinkedIn).
- March 19 public hearing.

Proposed motion

Move to recommend to the Regional Transportation Committee the 2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program, including those adjustments contained within the errata sheet, and the associated air quality conformity document.



Thank you! Any questions?

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