



# 2026-2027 Transportation Corridor Planning Set Aside: Letter of Interest Overview

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## Program Overview

DRCOG is conducting a call for letters of interest for the Corridor Planning Set Aside, April 28 – June 13, 2025. The Transportation Corridor Planning Set Aside is a DRCOG-led planning program in the 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program, known as the TIP. The goal of this program is to advance planning for projects and priorities outlined in the 2050 Regional Transportation Plan, known as the RTP, and move them towards implementation. As part of this program, DRCOG will fund and lead planning studies to advance infrastructure investment priorities along regional arterial corridors identified in the RTP. \$3,000,000 is available for the full four-year set-aside program, with \$1.5 million expected to be spent each two-year cycle.

DRCOG will fund the studies, manage consultant procurement, and serve as project manager for corridor studies selected for the program. DRCOG staff anticipates representatives from the nominating local government(s) will collaborate closely on these projects. At a minimum, this will include serving on a committee for consultant selection, participating in project advisory committees, providing data, providing background on existing conditions and past planning efforts, supporting community engagement and being involved in future implementation. Local governments can be more involved if they would like to be.

## 2026-2027 Corridor Selection Process

Dates	Step in process
<b>April – June 2025</b>	DRCOG staff available for meetings or discussions with local or regional agencies.
<b>April 28, 2025</b>	Call for Letters of Interest open through <a href="#">online form</a> .
<b>June 13, 2025</b>	<b>Letters of Interest due.</b>
<b>June 14 – July 2025</b>	Selection committee recommends corridors for 2026-2027 cycle.
<b>July – August 2025</b>	DRCOG Technical Advisory Committee, Regional Transportation Committee and Board approve selection.
<b>September 2025 – March 2026</b>	Scoping, procurement and contracting for projects.

## Key information about this selection process:

DRCOG is conducting a call for letters of interest to solicit corridor planning projects for the program for 2026-2027. Key information about this selection is below.

- **Nominator eligibility:** Letters of interest may only be submitted by county and municipal governments in the DRCOG MPO boundary or regional agencies including RTD, CDOT, and DRCOG, or groups or partnerships of local or regional agencies.
- **Project eligibility:** Only corridors identified in [the 2050 Metro Vision Regional Transportation Plan](#) are eligible for letters of interest. Trails and limited access highways are not eligible. See the section below for detailed information on eligible and high priority candidates within the Regional Transportation Plan. This program only covers planning activities on these corridors, it cannot be used for advanced design or construction.
- **Required conversations with DRCOG staff:** In addition to submitting a letter of interest, all jurisdictions also need to schedule a short call with DRCOG staff to discuss their proposed corridor study. Please contact Nora Kern, [nkern@drcog.org](mailto:nkern@drcog.org) to arrange a meeting to discuss your project. These conversations should take place before the end of the letter of interest window (June 13, 2025).
- **Letter of support and commitment from local leadership:** All project sponsors are required to submit a letter detailing their leadership's commitment to supporting this project. This must be signed by the mayor, city or county manager, executive director or senior executive officer of similar level. DRCOG can provide a sample letter upon request.
- **Letters of interest:** All letters of interest should be submitted through [the online form](#).
- **Deadline:** Letters of interest are due by June 13, 2025 at 11:59 PM.
- **Final Selection:** A selection committee comprised of DRCOG staff and representatives from CDOT and RTD will recommend projects for the program based on the letters of interest that were received. Selection criteria are listed below. The final selection will be approved by DRCOG's Board of Directors.
- **Matching funds:** DRCOG will coordinate with CDOT to use toll credits to eliminate the match requirement on the federal Surface Transportation Block Grant funds for this program. As such, no additional match will be required from program participants.

## Eligible and high priority candidates for this program

Regionally funded corridor projects listed in [the 2050 Regional Transportation Plan](#) in tables 3.1 through 3.9 are eligible for this program, with three exceptions:

- Corridors for which similar studies are currently being led by other agencies, for which recent similar studies (within the last five years) have been completed, and/or where projects from such studies have been funded or are in final design or construction are NOT eligible. Additional planning on these corridors may be eligible, but the nominator should clearly outline how the proposed study will advance the project through a new phase of project development.
- Limited access roadways and freeways are NOT eligible.
- Off-street trails and multi-use paths are NOT eligible.

Refer to the *RTP Corridors Eligible for Corridor Program, 2025 Update* spreadsheet on [the Corridor Planning website](#) for a list of corridors and projects that are eligible for this set aside. You can also use [the Regional Transportation Plan webmap](#) to see the projects in the plan. The proposed study should align with the description of the project in the Regional Transportation Plan. For example, if the corridor project is identified in the Regional Transportation Plan as an Arterial Safety/Regional Vision Zero project, safety should be the primary focus of the proposed study.

Priority will be given to corridors in earlier staging periods, projects of high regional significance, and projects for which there is a clear, urgent planning need.

## Evaluation criteria

Each criterion in the table below will be scored on a scale from 0-5. These will then be multiplied by the weighted percentage and totaled to create a weighted average score.

Category	Description	Scoring	Weight
<b>Metro Vision alignment</b>	Will a study of this corridor advance overarching themes and outcomes outlined in Metro Vision?	0 – Not discussed or no impact.  5 – The project has clearly defined goals tied to Metro Vision themes and could help make a significant impact.	10%

Category	Description	Scoring	Weight
<b>Alignment with RTP priorities</b>	Will this corridor study advance goals outlined in the RTP, in particular safety, regional transit, multimodal options and air quality? Is this project or priority specifically identified in the plan? Is this corridor identified in a sub-plan like Taking Action on Regional Vision Zero or Coordinated Transit Plan?	<p>0 – Not discussed or no impact.</p> <p>5 – The project has clearly defined goals tied to RTP priorities and could help make a significant impact.</p>	25%
<b>Benefit to marginalized communities</b>	Will this project provide benefits to marginalized communities in the region?	<p>0 – This project will not benefit marginalized communities or will negatively impact marginalized communities.</p> <p>5 – This project will have a large positive benefit to marginalized communities. The majority of the project benefits are in a state-defined disproportionately impacted community. The area around this project has a high density of marginalized communities (per the DRCOG Index).</p>	10%

Category	Description	Scoring	Weight
<b>Regional impact</b>	Does this corridor provide key regional transportation and community connections for the region?	<p>0 – This is a local corridor with limited to no impacts for the region.</p> <p>5 – This is a critical corridor for many people in the region.</p>	20%
<b>Readiness</b>	Is this corridor study ready to proceed? Is this project in an earlier RTP staging period? Is there a coalition of regional partners and local jurisdictions prepared to support this study?	<p>0 – Improvements to this corridor are not urgently needed, it appears in a later staging period in the RTP and/or there is limited support from regional and local partners.</p> <p>5 – This project is in an early RTP staging period and is supported and prioritized by local and regional partners.</p>	20%
<b>Planning need</b>	Is there a clear need to conduct this transportation planning effort? Are there urgent transportation challenges on this corridor? Are there barriers to regional collaboration on this corridor? Is this corridor key to the future of the region's transportation system?	<p>0 – Little to no urgent need for a study on this corridor led by DRCOG.</p> <p>5 – Significant need for planning support to advance regional priorities on this corridor and/or address urgent mobility challenges.</p>	15%

## Approval process

The recommended corridor(s) will be considered by the DRCOG Transportation Advisory Committee, Regional Transportation Committee and the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors' action represents final project selection.

## Letters of Interest

Eligible agencies may also submit a letter of interest for any eligible, regionally funded corridor in the [2050 Regional Transportation Plan](#).

Letters of interest must be submitted through [the online form](#) by June 13, 2025 at 11:59pm. The questions are posted below for reference, but all letters of interest must be submitted through [the online form](#).

In addition to submitting a letter of interest, all jurisdictions will also need to schedule a short call with DRCOG staff to discuss their project idea prior to June 13, 2025. Please contact Nora Kern, [nkern@drcog.org](mailto:nkern@drcog.org) to arrange a meeting to discuss your project.

### Information on Letter of Interest Form

- Project contact.
- Title.
- Email.
- Phone number.
- Name of Jurisdiction/Agency/Partnership.
- Name of corridor study to be considered for DRCOG's Corridor Transportation Planning Set-Aside.
- Description of study. What phase of project development will this study address? What are the desired outcomes or key deliverables?
- Do you have an idea of how much the corridor study, as you are proposing it, would cost?
- Is this corridor in and transportation plans for your city or county, or in a regional plan from DRCOG, CDOT or RTD? If so, please describe which plan it is included in and if possible, link to the relevant plan.
- Have any corridor or subarea plans been conducted in the last 5-10 years focused on this corridor? If yes, please name the study and provide a short description or project website address.
- Have you had a conversation with DRCOG staff about this letter of interest?
- Letter of Support and Commitment from local leadership (uploaded).
  
- Why would this corridor study be a good candidate for the DRCOG Corridor Planning Set Aside?
- **Metro Vision:** How could a study of this corridor help advance overarching themes and outcomes outlined in Metro Vision?



- **2050 Regional Transportation Plan:** How will this corridor study advance priorities outlined in the 2050 Regional Transportation Plan, in particular safety, regional transit, multimodal options, and air quality?
- **Marginalized communities:** How will the proposed corridor study address the needs of marginalized communities? What is the average [DRCOG Index score](#) within the half mile buffer around this corridor? Are there any other specific community needs that this study will address? *Tip, you can use the [DRCOG Data Tool](#) to analyze demographic information and calculate the average DRCOG index score.*
- **Regional impact:** What is the regional significance of this study or this corridor?
- **Project readiness:** Is this corridor study ready to proceed? Is there strong local support for this study? How will your jurisdiction be able to support this study? Are there any partners prepared to support this study?
- **Planning Need:** Is there a clear need to conduct this transportation planning effort? How far along is this project in the planning process and how will this study move the project towards implementation? Is this corridor key to the future of the region's transportation system? Are there urgent transportation challenges on this corridor? Are there barriers to regional collaboration on this corridor?
- Is there anything else the selection committee should consider or be aware of?