

Board of Directors

Meeting date: April 15, 2026

Agenda Item #: 9

Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Boundary Expansion

Agenda item type: Action

Summary

Proposal to expand DRCOG's MPO planning boundary to include Clear Creek County and Gilpin County.

Background

As discussed at the January BOD meeting, DRCOG has been exploring with staff and elected officials in Clear Creek County and Gilpin County the potential of joining the DRCOG MPO. DRCOG reviewing its MPO planning boundary after the 2020 Census is both a requirement and encouragement of federal regulations "to determine if the existing [boundary] meets the minimum statutory requirements for new and updated urbanized area(s), and shall adjust them as necessary." The relevant federal regulation (23 CFR 450.312(i)) also notes that "as appropriate, additional adjustments should be made to reflect the most comprehensive boundary to foster an effective planning process..."

As noted in February, both counties are already located within DRCOG's state-defined [Transportation Planning Region](#), and both counties and their municipalities are already members of DRCOG and part of the Area Agency on Aging and Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy. From a regulatory perspective, there is a small component of the Evergreen Small Urbanized Area that extends into Clear Creek County, which federal regulations would require expanding the mpo boundary to include.

After significant collaboration with both counties, their local governments, and with CDOT and RTD staff (a federal requirement), DRCOG staff proposes to expand the mpo boundary as a low-cost, high-return strategy to strengthen regional planning coordination and streamline transportation planning processes.

If approved by the DRCOG Board, staff will submit a letter and required documentation to CDOT for review and transmittal to the Governor, who makes the final determination under federal regulations and then notifies the Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration. DRCOG will then update its [Memorandum of Agreement for Transportation Planning and Programming](#) with CDOT and RTD to revise the description of the mpo planning area covered by the MOA and begin incorporating the revised mpo planning boundary into the agency's maps, documents/products, and planning processes.

Action by others

[March 23, 2026](#) – Transportation Advisory Committee recommendation.

[April 14, 2026](#) – Regional Transportation Committee will make a recommendation.



Previous discussion/action

[January 21, 2026](#) – Board of Directors.

Recommendation

Move to approve expanding DRCOG’s metropolitan planning organization boundary to include the geography of Clear Creek County and Gilpin County and to update the Memorandum of Agreement for Transportation Planning and Programming’s description of the mpo planning area.

Attachment

1. DRCOG MPO boundary proposed expansion map.
2. Resolution

For more information

If you need additional information, please contact Douglas W. Rex, Executive Director, at 303-480-6701; or Jacob Riger, Director, Transportation Planning and Operations, at 303-480-6751 or jriger@drcog.org.



