

Board of Directors

Meeting date: January 21, 2026

Agenda Item #: 10

Discussion of the 2050 Regional Transportation Plan update – recommended investment priorities

Agenda item type: Action item

Summary

Discussion and action on the recommended project and program investment priorities for the major update to the 2050 Metro Vision Regional Transportation Plan.

Background

The call for candidate projects for the 2050 RTP closed October 17 and DRCOG staff received 133 applications, 109 through the subregional/county track and 24 through the interagency tract. The candidate projects were scored by DRCOG staff using the six adopted RTP priorities and three Metro Vision themes.

The qualitative scores are only one consideration in the development of recommended investment projects and programs as described below. The scores were provided to the Regional Review Panel, alongside information related to congestion, equity, and county rankings (if available), which can be reviewed in Attachment 2. A summary of public feedback to date was also provided.

The panel met three times in November to identify additional considerations DRCOG staff and the regional partners could consider in evaluating the candidate submittals. DRCOG staff have also been meeting weekly since late October with planning staff from CDOT and RTD to review all the information and combining that information with the draft financial plan to recommend a list of project and program investment priorities.

Attachment 3 reflects the recommended list of project and program investment priorities. The investment strategy largely carries forward the existing identified priorities in the current adopted 2050 RTP, while including additional major, non-regionally significant projects funded programmatically. The framework for identifying investment priorities includes:

- Projects automatically carried over were updated first. This included changes to scope, cost, and staging period.
- Priority was then given to current projects resubmitted for continued inclusion.
- Alongside the qualitative scores, additional information to identify priorities included:
 - High congestion mobility scores.
 - High equity index scores.
 - Geographic balance, with a focus on new applicants or areas that had not previously had projects reflected in the RTP.
- Where appropriate, overlapping supportive projects were combined.



While the focus of this discussion is on the regionally-funded projects, DRCOG staff have also been coordinating with project sponsors to update the locally-funded list of projects. This coordination includes project applicants whose projects were not recommended for inclusion in the fiscally-constrained regionally funded list, sponsors with existing locally-funded projects, and toll highway authorities.

At the December 15 Transportation Advisory Committee, DRCOG staff were directed to explore targeted revisions to the recommended list of projects and programs. The following changes were made and are reflected in the recommended list:

- Updated the CDOT-administered I-25 Central project to reflect a new name and staging period.
- Updated the CDOT-administered I-25 North (Segment 2a) cost and staging period.
- Swapped staging periods between the US85/104th and US85/120th interchange projects at the request of staff from the City of Commerce City.
- Swapped the staging periods of the 38th Ave. and Welton St. projects at the request of staff from the City and County of Denver.
- Updated the costs and revenues of RTD's portion of the financial plan based on RTD's new Long-Range Financial Plan.
- Split the US36/28th St. and CO93/Broadway project across two staging periods to show earlier investment at the request of staff from the City of Boulder.

DRCOG staff will outline the process to arrive at the recommended investment priorities, provide an overview of the recommended list, and discuss next steps at the January RTC meeting.

Action by others

[December 15, 2025](#) – Transportation Advisory Committee recommended adoption.

[January 20, 2026](#) – Regional Transportation Committee will make a recommendation.

Previous discussion/action

[January 7, 2026](#) – Special Board of Directors Meeting

Recommendation

Move to adopt the recommended investment priorities for the 2050 Metro Vision Regional Transportation Plan.

Attachments

1. DRCOG staff presentation.
2. List of recommended project and program investment priorities.

For more information

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