

## Board of Directors

Meeting date: January 21, 2026

Agenda Item #: 14

### Potential Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) geographic expansion

Agenda item type: Informational briefing

#### Summary

Overview of DRCOG staff exploration of expanding DRCOG's MPO planning boundary to include Clear Creek County and Gilpin County.

#### Background

Under federal law, MPOs are required after each decennial census to review their planning boundary "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..."

Conducting this review has led to collaborative discussions with staff and elected officials in Clear Creek County and Gilpin County about the potential of joining the DRCOG MPO. 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 direct expanding the MPO boundary to include.

Given the strong existing links between both counties and the rest of the region (especially including the Interstate 70 corridor) and that both counties are already part of DRCOG in most other respects, expanding the MPO boundary is a potentially low-cost, high-return strategy to strengthen regional planning coordination and streamline transportation planning processes.

DRCOG staff will provide an overview of collaboration to date and potential next steps.

#### Action by others

None

#### Previous discussion/action

None

#### Recommendation

None

#### Attachment(s)

Staff presentation

#### 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](mailto:jriger@drcog.org).

