

## Transportation Advisory Committee

Meeting date: May 18, 2026

Agenda Item #: 5 (Attachment C)

### Proposed 2029-2032 Transportation Improvement Program Set-Asides

Agenda item type: Informational briefing

#### Summary

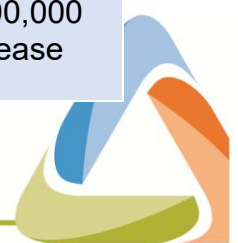
Proposals for the new set-aside programs to be funded through the 2029-2032 Transportation Improvement Program, known as the TIP.

#### Background

DRCOG includes set-asides as part of its Transportation Improvement Program. These programs are oriented toward meeting regional needs that are a priority but may not be competitive in the main calls for projects due to their smaller scale, and funding for them is removed “off-the-top” prior to the main Regional and Subregional Share calls for projects. Currently, [eight set-aside programs](#) are established in the existing 2024-2027 TIP Policy totaling \$63,360,000 in DRCOG funds. By prior board action in late 2025, each of these programs was extended by one year at the current funding levels to cover fiscal year 2028.

DRCOG staff have been working internally and with key stakeholders, including the Regional Air Quality Council, or RAQC, and CDOT, to identify potential changes to the set-asides to incorporate in the policy for the upcoming 2029-2032 TIP. For the 2029-2032 TIP, staff is proposing six set-asides totaling \$68,280,000, representing an 8% increase. The following table demonstrates the proposed changes in funding by program.

Set-aside program	2024-2027 funding	2029-2032 funding	Change
Air Quality Improvements	\$7,920,000	\$7,920,000	No change
Human Service Transportation	\$8,000,000	\$8,000,000	No change
Livable Centers Small-Area Planning	\$2,500,000	\$3,000,000	\$500,000 increase
Regional Transportation Operations and Technology	\$20,000,000	\$20,400,000	\$400,000 increase
Transportation Demand Management	\$15,440,000	\$17,520,000	\$2,080,000 increase
Community-Based Transportation Planning	\$2,500,000	\$12,000,000	Combination and \$2,500,000 increase
Innovative Mobility	\$4,000,000		
Transportation Corridor Planning	\$3,000,000		



Additional information for each proposed 2029-2032 set-aside follows.

### Air Quality

The Air Quality Set-Aside dedicates DRCOG funding exclusively for the RAQC to implement programs designed to measurably reduce emissions of volatile organic compounds, oxides of nitrogen, and particulate matter within the Denver Metro/North Front Range Nonattainment Area, helping the region to make progress towards attainment of National Ambient Air Quality Standards.

This is a continuation of an existing set-aside. Changes to programmatic areas have been proposed by the RAQC to focus on five areas:

- Ozone modeling and technical analysis for State Implementation Plan preparation - \$980,000.
- Simple Steps, Better Air public awareness campaign - \$3,300,000.
- Emission reduction grants, education and recognition program - \$1,620,000.
- Mobile source repair and education - \$1,720,000.
- Emission source data tracking - \$300,000.

\$7,920,000 is proposed for this set-aside over fiscal years 2029-2032, representing no change in funding level from the current TIP.

### Human Service Transportation

The Human Service Transportation Set-Aside provides an additional dedicated funding source to improve mobility for vulnerable populations including older adults, people with low incomes, veterans and people with disabilities. This set-aside complements Federal Transit Administration Section 5310 – Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities and Older Americans Act dollars by funding identified needs that are underfunded or underserved by those sources.

This is a continuation of an existing set-aside. The only change proposed for this set-aside is a change in the funding source to federal Congestion Mitigation/Air Quality which will impact eligibility requirements.

\$8,000,000 is proposed for this set-aside over fiscal years 2029-2032, representing no change in funding level from the current TIP.

### Livable Centers Small-Area Planning

The Livable Centers Small-Area Planning Set-Aside is designed to implement Metro Vision and the Regional Transportation Plan by supporting integrated land use, housing and multimodal transportation planning. A partnership with CDOT allows DRCOG to utilize state toll credits, eliminating the need for local match contributions. DRCOG staff will manage procurement, provide project management support and coordinate with CDOT to streamline funding administration and reduce administrative burden for project sponsors. Project sponsors and DRCOG staff will work together in close partnership throughout the project to support community needs and goals.

This is a continuation of an existing set-aside. The primary change is to strengthen the land use and housing emphasis of the set-aside while maintaining fidelity to its transportation



funding source. Projects supported through this program will use land use and housing planning as essential mechanisms to advance Metro Vision outcomes and work toward the Denver region's multimodal transportation vision. Evaluation will prioritize integrated land use-transportation strategies.

\$3,000,000 is proposed for this set-aside over fiscal years 2029-2032, representing a \$500,000 increase in funding levels from the current TIP. This increase is largely due to the high interest shown by local agencies in the current program and anticipated ongoing challenges around housing and land use in the region which is anticipated to sustain high interest in the 2029-2032 period.

### Regional Transportation Operations and Technology

The Regional Transportation Operations and Technology Set-Aside aims to improve the safety, efficiency and reliability of the multimodal transportation systems in the Denver region. DRCOG, CDOT, RTD, local governments and other entities collaborate to implement, operate and maintain transportation technologies and systems to achieve that objective. The [Regional Transportation Operations and Technology Strategic Plan](#) identifies priority program initiatives.

This is a continuation of an existing set-aside. The primary change will be a focus on the initiatives outlined in the Strategic Plan. There are two proposed set-aside components:

- Capital project call for projects - \$16,000,000.
- Transportation operations support services - \$4,400,000.

\$20,400,000 is proposed for this set-aside over fiscal years 2029-2032, representing a \$400,000 increase in funding levels from the current TIP. This increase is to account for inflation for the DRCOG staff operations support services, as well as additional anticipated support as new regional initiatives from the Strategic Plan are built out.

### Transportation Demand Management

The Transportation Demand Management Services Set-Aside supports marketing, outreach and research that leads to reduced single occupant vehicle travel, reduced traffic congestion and improved regional air quality.

This is a continuation of an existing set-aside. The primary changes include aligning the call for projects with the Way to Go annual work plan, expanding outreach to reach traditionally underrepresented groups, and expanding the scope of transportation demand management work in the region to include all trips, rather than just work commutes. These expansions are in line with the [Transportation Demand Management Strategic Plan](#). There are three proposed set-aside components:

- Non-infrastructure call for projects - \$2,000,000.
- Transportation management association partnerships (eight at \$140,000 each per year) - \$4,480,000.
- Way to Go program - \$11,040,000.

\$17,520,000 is proposed for this set-aside over fiscal years 2029-2032, representing a \$2,080,000 increase in funding levels from the current TIP. This increase is largely due to the



increase in cost to the Way to Go program and the transportation management associations due to their expanded scope and inflation.

### Transportation Technical Assistance

The Transportation Technical Assistance Set-Aside program is a streamlined program to bring DRCOG staff expertise and project management support to advance the projects, priorities and outcomes of the 2050 Metro Vision Regional Transportation Plan. This set-aside provides technical assistance to member governments and regional partner agencies in the form of studies, planning, feasibility analysis and the development of tools and resources. In order to reduce the burden for member governments and partner agencies, these projects will be administered by DRCOG in close partnership with the nominating agencies. Additionally, no local match is necessary to be provided by project sponsors, as DRCOG will use CDOT toll credits to provide the local match.

This is a combination and revision of three existing set-asides. By merging the three set-asides, staff anticipate simplification for applicant agencies, improved flexibility allowing the program to focus on the needs of the time and greater administrative streamlining. The primary focus of the three previous set-asides are anticipated to continue as thematic focus areas including Regional Transportation Plan corridors (formerly Transportation Corridor Planning Set-Aside), marginalized community mobility (formerly Community-Based Transportation Planning Set-Aside), innovative mobility (formerly Innovative Mobility Set-Aside), and additional themes anticipated to include, but are not limited to, safety. These themes will be set by DRCOG staff in collaboration with the DRCOG Transportation Advisory Committee.

\$12,000,000 is proposed for this set-aside over fiscal years 2029-2032, representing a \$2,500,000 increase in funding levels from the combined three set-asides in the current TIP. This increase is largely due to high interest shown by local agencies in the current program, increased staff capacity and inflation.

### **Action by others**

None.

### **Previous discussion/action**

None.

### **Recommendation**

None.

### **Attachment(s)**

Staff presentation.

### **For more information**

If you need additional information, please contact Josh Schwenk, Senior Planner, Transportation Planning and Operations, at 303-480-6771 or [jschwenk@drcog.org](mailto:jschwenk@drcog.org); or Todd Cottrell, Programming and Project Delivery Program Manager, Transportation Planning and Operations, at 303-480-6737 or [tcottrell@drcog.org](mailto:tcottrell@drcog.org).

