



Executive Committee

Wynne Shaw, Chair
Jeff Baker, Vice Chair
Colleen Whitlow, Secretary
Richard Kondo, Treasurer
Steve Conklin, Immediate Past Chair
Douglas W. Rex, Executive Director

Agenda

Finance and Budget Committee

Wednesday, April 17, 2024
5:30 p.m. – 6:15 p.m.
1001 17th St. 7th Floor, Red Rocks Conference Room
Denver, CO

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1. Call to order

Consent agenda

2. Move to approve Consent agenda
 - A. Summary of February 21, 2024 meeting (Attachment A)

Informational briefings

3. 2024/2025 Draft Budget (Attachment B) Jenny Dock, Director, Administration and Finance

Administrative items

4. Report of the Chair
5. Report of the Executive Director
6. **Next meeting – Special meeting May 1, 2024 (virtual)**
7. Other matters by members
8. Adjourn

Attachment A

Summary of March 20, 2024 meeting

Finance and Budget Committee Meeting Summary

Wednesday, March 20, 2024

Members Present

Rich Kondo, Chair	City of Northglenn
Jeff Baker	Arapahoe County
Adam Paul	City and County of Denver
Andy Kerr	Jefferson County
Lisa Feret	Arvada
Deborah Mulvey	Castle Pines
Paul Haseman	Golden
Stephen Barr	Littleton
Wynne Shaw	Lone Tree
Tom Mahowald	Nederland
Neal Shah	Superior

Others Present: Douglas W. Rex, Executive Director; Colleen Whitlow, Mead; Lisa Vitry, Golden; and DRCOG staff.

Chair Rich Kondo called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. with a quorum present.

Move to approve consent agenda

Director Mahowald **moved** to approve the consent agenda. The motion was **seconded** and **passed** unanimously.

Items on the consent agenda included:

- Summary of the February 21, 2024 meeting.

Election of Vice Chair

Director Haseman **moved** to elect himself as vice chair of the Finance and Budget Committee. The motion was **seconded** and **passed** unanimously.

Discussion of a resolution authorizing the Executive Director to extend project completion date for contract number EX 22053 with Gravity Works to June 30, 2024, for the redesign and development of DRCOG's websites.

Steve Erickson provided a brief explanation of the contract extension to the directors. DRCOG's web presence includes a main site at drcog.org, along with secondary sites which support programs, like waytogo.org, and biketoworkday.co/. DRCOG last undertook a major website refresh more than seven years ago. This request does not seek any increase in funding, and this project is included in our approved budget.

Director Mahowald **moved** to approve **Resolution Number 9, 2024**, authorizing the Executive Director to extend project completion date for contract number EX 22053 with Gravity Works to June 30, 2024, for the redesign and development of DRCOG's websites. The motion was **seconded** and **passed** unanimously.

2023/2024 Budget Status Report

Jenny Dock provided a budget report to the members. Each year, DRCOG staff prepares a budget to inform and direct financial operations for the coming fiscal year. Projections are made on all streams of revenue for the organization to include federal and state funding, participating member contributions, local/other funding, and in-kind contributions. On December 31, 2023, DRCOG completed two quarters of FY 2023/2024. The [draft budget report](#) reflects a summary of revenue and expenses posted through this date and their variance to the FY 2023/2024 budget. An official financial statement is produced once a year upon the completion of the annual audit. The report is not intended to act as an official statement of position for the organization, but rather as a tool to track DRCOG's fiscal performance as it relates to the budget thus far in the fiscal year.

DRCOG Budget Primer

Jenny Dock provided an overview of the upcoming budget discussion to the directors. In anticipation of the committee's April meeting, staff had a discussion with members about DRCOG's financial framework and budgetary elements. Ms. Dock provided an overview of the budgetary process including sources of funding and expense categories. In April, the committee will be presented with a draft budget for review. Members will be provided with a final draft at a special meeting in May for approval to recommend to the full Board.

Report of the Chair

Chair Kondo expressed his gratitude for being the new Chair of the committee.

Report of the Executive Director

The Executive Director welcomed new members and thanked existing ones. He also stated that there will be no May Board work session, but there will be a special meeting for the committee on that day instead.

Next meeting – April 17, 2024

Other matters by members

There were no other matters by members.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 6:02 p.m.

Attachment B

2024/2025 Draft Budget

Finance and Budget Committee

Meeting date: April 17, 2024

Agenda Item #: 3

2024/2025 Draft Budget

Agenda item type: Informational Briefing

Summary

The 2024/2025 budget is a fiscal guide for the operation of DRCOG from July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025. The budget highlights work activities in DRCOG's Work Plan for the Denver metropolitan region.

Background

Each year the Finance and Budget Committee reviews and recommends approval of a proposed budget to the Board of Directors for the coming year. Attached is a summary of the draft budget for the new fiscal year of July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025.

Staff requests the Finance and Budget Committee review the fiscal year 2024/2025 draft budget and discuss any needed revisions

Action by others

n/a

Previous discussion/action

n/a

Recommendation

n/a

Attachments

1. Draft Fiscal Year 2024/2025 Budget Summary and Comparison
2. Draft Fiscal Year 2024/2025 Budget and Work Plan

For more information

If you need additional information, please contact Douglas W. Rex, Executive Director, at 303-480-6701 or drex@drcog.org; or Jenny Dock, Director of Administration and Finance, at 720-635-5733 jdock@drcog.org.





FISCAL YEAR 24/25 BUDGET SUMMARY AND COMPARISON

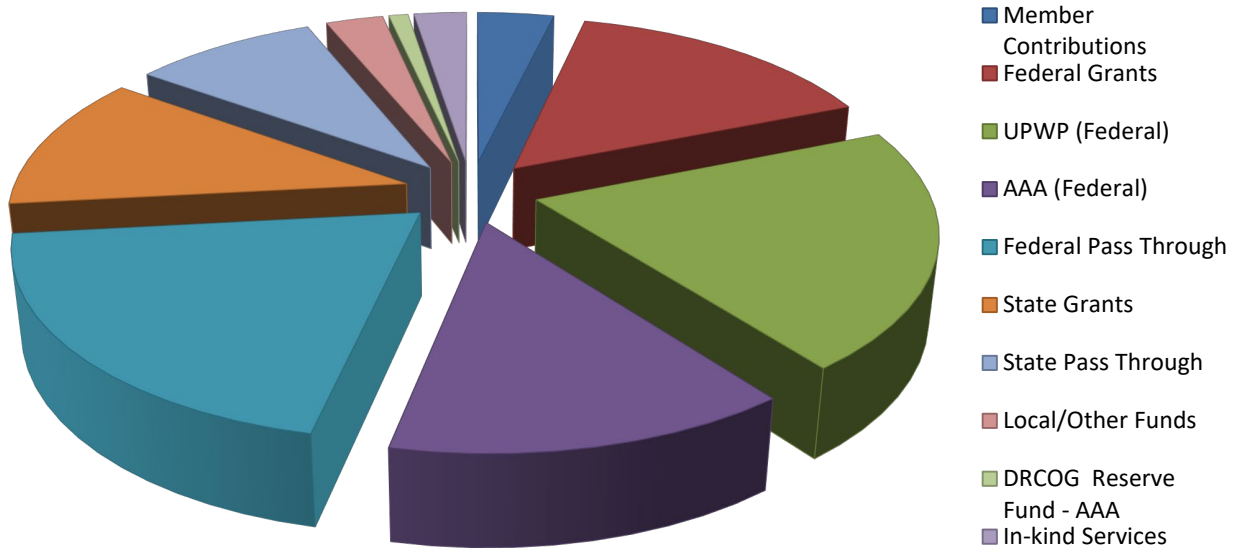
	22/23	23/24	24/25
	Actuals	Budget	Budget
BEGINNING BALANCE	¹ \$ 11,754,369	\$ 11,238,822	\$ 11,268,822
General Funds	\$ 8,215,036	\$ 8,215,036	\$ 7,729,489
Program Obligations	² \$ 3,539,333	\$ 3,539,333	\$ 3,539,333
 REVENUES			
Member Contributions	\$ 2,003,700	\$ 2,072,300	\$ 2,099,000
Federal Grants	\$ 16,605,487	\$ 25,695,432	\$ 28,248,394
State Grants	\$ 6,028,842	\$ 7,035,264	\$ 6,632,773
Local/Other Funds	\$ 1,135,291	\$ 1,371,812	\$ 1,568,874
In-kind Services	\$ 1,330,586	\$ 1,381,377	\$ 1,439,865
DRCOG Reserve Fund - AAA	³ \$ -	\$ -	\$ 522,000
Interest/Investment Income	\$ (2,365)	\$ 30,000	\$ 50,000
Pass Through Grant Funds	\$ 23,997,473	\$ 22,847,919	\$ 16,397,214
TOTAL REVENUES	\$ 51,099,014	\$ 60,434,104	\$ 56,958,120
TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE	\$ 62,853,383	\$ 71,672,926	\$ 68,226,942
 EXPENDITURES			
Personnel	\$ 14,152,030	\$ 17,956,470	\$ 17,644,463
Contractual Services	\$ 8,117,312	\$ 15,338,800	\$ 15,490,933
DRCOG Cash	\$ 1,330,586	\$ 1,593,386	\$ 2,099,000
Non-personnel	\$ 4,017,160	\$ 2,617,529	\$ 5,196,510
Capital Outlay	\$ -	\$ 80,000	\$ 80,000
Pass Through Grant Funds	\$ 23,997,473	\$ 22,847,919	\$ 16,397,214
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 51,614,561	\$ 60,404,104	\$ 56,908,120
 ENDING BALANCE	\$ 11,238,822	\$ 11,268,822	\$ 11,318,822
General Funds	\$ 7,757,886	\$ 7,729,489	\$ 7,779,489
Program Obligations ²	\$ 3,480,936	\$ 3,539,333	\$ 3,539,333

¹ The beginning balance for FY 23/24 budget is based on FY 22/23 actuals.

² Program obligations are pre-paid funds set aside for specific programs: Guaranteed Ride Home, DRAPP, and Regional Vanpool.

³ Includes \$522k of \$900k grant and funding opportunities in the AAA that are likely. These opportunities consist of state and federal revenue streams as well as private partnerships.

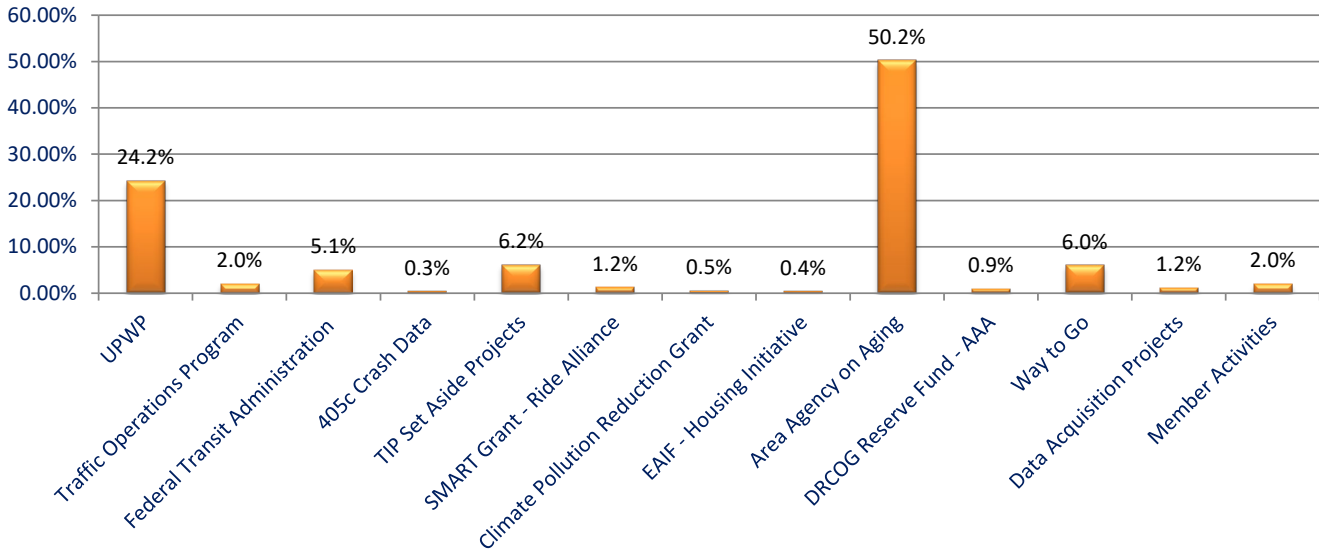
DRCOG 24/25 FISCAL YEAR FUNDING



Source	% of Total	Amount
Member Contributions	3.69%	\$ 2,099,000
Federal Grants	15.22%	\$ 8,658,829
UPWP (Federal)	20.67%	\$ 11,762,793
AAA (Federal)	13.75%	\$ 7,826,772
Federal Pass Through	19.95%	\$ 11,351,214
State Grants	11.66%	\$ 6,632,773
State Pass Through	8.87%	\$ 5,046,000
Local/Other Funds	2.76%	\$ 1,568,874
DRCOG Reserve Fund - AAA	0.92%	\$ 522,000
In-kind Services	2.53%	\$ 1,439,865
Projected Total Funding *	100.00%	\$56,908,120

*Does not include \$50,000 in projected interest income

FY 24/25 EXPENDITURES BY STRATEGIC INITIATIVE



Strategic Initiative	% of Total	Amount
UPWP	24.16%	\$ 13,751,094
Traffic Operations Program	2.03%	\$ 1,155,663
Federal Transit Administration	5.06%	\$ 2,881,214
405c Crash Data	0.34%	\$ 196,010
TIP Set Aside Projects	6.15%	\$ 3,500,000
SMART Grant - Ride Alliance	1.19%	\$ 674,956
Climate Pollution Reduction Grant	0.48%	\$ 271,309
EALF - Housing Initiative	0.35%	\$ 200,000
Area Agency on Aging	50.17%	\$ 28,549,372
DRCOG Reserve Fund - AAA	0.92%	\$ 522,000
Way to Go	5.96%	\$ 3,393,947
Data Acquisition Projects	1.17%	\$ 666,385
Member Activities	2.01%	\$ 1,146,170
Strategic Initiatives Total	100.00%	\$ 56,908,120

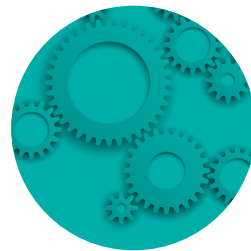
Fiscal Year 24/25 Strategic Initiatives Funding Summary

PROJECT	FEDERAL	FEDERAL PASS THROUGH	STATE	STATE PASS THROUGH	LOCAL/OTHER FUNDS	IN-KIND SERVICES	DRCOG Reserves AAA*	MEMBER CONTRIBUTIONS : CASH MATCH & DRCOG FUNDED	TOTAL
UPWP	\$ 11,762,793					\$ 1,337,623		\$ 650,678	\$ 13,751,094
Traffic Operations Program	\$ 1,155,663								\$ 1,155,663
FTA 5310	\$ 250,000	\$ 2,631,214							\$ 2,881,214
405c Grant - Crash Data	\$ 196,010								\$ 196,010
Tip Set Aside Projects	\$ 3,500,000								\$ 3,500,000
SMART Grant - Ride Alliance	\$ 674,956								\$ 674,956
Climate Pollution Reduction Grant	\$ 271,309								\$ 271,309
EIAF Grant - Housing Initiative			\$ 200,000						\$ 200,000
Area Agency on Aging	\$ 7,826,772	\$ 8,720,000	\$ 6,432,773	\$ 5,046,000	\$ 83,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 522,000	\$ 390,827	\$ 29,071,372
Way to Go	\$ 2,610,891				\$ 730,814	\$ 52,242			\$ 3,393,947
Data Acquisition Projects					\$ 666,385				\$ 666,385
Member Activities					\$ 88,675			\$ 1,057,495	\$ 1,146,170
TOTAL FUNDING SUMMARY	\$ 28,248,394	\$ 11,351,214	\$ 6,632,773	\$ 5,046,000	\$ 1,568,874	\$ 1,439,865	\$ 522,000	\$ 2,099,000	\$ 56,908,120

*Consists of likely funding opportunities from state and federal recourses as well as private partnerships
 Funding Summary does not reflect \$50,000 in projected interest income



2024-2025 Draft Work Program



Communities and residents



Collaboration with peer agencies

Ongoing collaboration with forward-thinking groups on topics of regional growth and development, transportation planning, and to promote and support communities that facilitate healthy and successful aging.

Population and employment forecast coordination

DRCOG staff will collaborate with the Colorado Department of Local Affairs to improve local, regional and state coordination on accurate, timely and transparent forecasts. The Small Area Forecast Work Group will continue to engage local stakeholders to ensure the incorporation of local plans in regional forecasts.

Metro Vision Idea Exchanges

Metro Vision Idea Exchanges provide a forum where DRCOG's planning partners and other stakeholders share information and ideas to identify local and regional successes worth continuing, as well as emerging and ongoing challenges and actions to address them.

City and County Managers Forum

DRCOG began hosting quarterly forums for the region's city and county managers in February 2019. The forums provide an opportunity for DRCOG staff to keep the region's managers apprised of current and emergent issues, programs and opportunities, as well as hear directly from the managers about challenges in their communities that may require a regional solution. Managers identify the topics for conversation, and DRCOG staff coordinate the meetings and identify information and relevant resources.

Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act regional grants navigator program

Launching in 2023, the program is a partnership among the Governor's Office, the Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade, the Colorado Department of Local Affairs, and DRCOG. Using funds made available in SB22-215, DRCOG has contracted to deliver support to its communities and locations with underserved populations to identify opportunities for Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act funding for areas such as broadband, water (supply, quality and drought mitigation), transportation, resilience and disaster preparedness, affordable and secure clean energy, and energy efficiency.

Way to Go

Way to Go is a foundational regional partnership between DRCOG and eight transportation management associations that reduces traffic congestion and improves air quality through education, marketing and outreach to encourage non-single-occupant vehicle travel. As the work environment and commute behavior continue to evolve post-pandemic, Way to Go outreach and marketing will augment promotion of telework, walking and biking with a renewed emphasis on transit, carpooling and vanpooling. Additionally, the Colorado Clean Commute marketing and outreach campaign will highlight tax credits available to employers for promoting commute options in the workplace.



Communities and residents



Public engagement

Through its ongoing public engagement initiative, DRCOG provides people-centered planning, projects and services by proactively offering opportunities for the region's residents to learn about and engage with DRCOG. DRCOG staff will continue to build on efforts using online tools and new tactics, while initiating new community partnerships to ensure ongoing input from voices promoting equity and inclusion.

Bike to Work Day

DRCOG will once again work with partners across the region to promote Bike to Work Day in June. Organized by the Way to Go program, the event is the second largest of its kind in the country, and introduces people to bike commuting in a fun, supportive environment, resulting in long-term behavior change.

Community visits

Metro Vision, the region's shared vision for its future, is implemented through collective contributions and efforts at the local level. DRCOG's Regional Planning and Development staff have established a community visits program to strengthen staff-level relationships, connect member governments to technical assistance and resources, and identify opportunities to elevate their work. Community visits are one of many ways that DRCOG complements and informs programming and engagement to meet the needs of the region's diverse communities.

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy

With unanimous Board approval for the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy, work will begin in earnest on the numerous strategic action items included in the document. This latest addition to Metro Vision includes five overarching themes of intentional workforce development; affordability; equitable access to opportunity; community investment in infrastructure; and a resilient, vibrant region. The document has been submitted to the Economic Development Administration for consideration and approval. Once it is approved, the region's communities will have access to new sources of federal grant funding.

Small Communities, Hot Topics

Started in 2014, the Small Communities, Hot Topics forum provides an opportunity for DRCOG staff to relay timely and targeted information about programs, opportunities and developing trends relevant to the region's smaller communities.

Legislative affairs

DRCOG staff provide ongoing analysis of the potential effects and benefits of proposed legislation that may accrue for all DRCOG activities, with a specific emphasis on transportation funding and funding and policy for aging services. DRCOG's legislative team is always available to provide insights on the effects of proposed legislation on the mission, vision and daily activities of DRCOG and any potential effects on member communities.



Regional Corridor Planning

The corridor planning program advances projects and priorities identified in the 2050 Regional Transportation Plan. It focuses on developing concepts and priorities for multijurisdictional regional corridors. DRCOG staff led efforts in 2023 and 2024 on two corridors: Alameda Avenue and South Boulder Road. Two additional corridor planning efforts will take place in 2024 and 2025: Sheridan Boulevard Safety Study (52nd to Hampden) and East Colfax Bus Rapid Transit Extension (I-225 to E-470).

Bus Rapid Transit Partnership

The Denver region has committed to implementing a regional bus rapid transit network consisting of 11 corridors by 2050 as part of DRCOG's Regional Transportation Plan. Regional partners have formed a BRT Partnership to lead the implementation of the network and coordinate work on corridor planning and project development.

Older Adult Refugees and Friends

The Older Adult Refugees and Friends program has partnered with the University of Colorado extension office to offer an eight-week training course to adults from refugee and immigrant communities. The Aging Mastery class is an evidence-based curriculum developed by the National Council on Aging. DRCOG staff have adapted and translated the course to help elders from other countries gain the skills and tools they need to manage their health, address economic security, and participate actively in their community.



Regional Housing Strategy

DRCOG's work on regional coordination of housing and transportation will continue this year with the launch of a Regional Housing Strategy planning process. Over the last year, DRCOG has studied the breadth and depth of housing needs in the region through a Regional Housing Needs Assessment. With data analysis to highlight current housing shortfalls and anticipated future demand, and stakeholder analysis to assess the barriers to meeting housing demand, the Regional Housing Needs Assessment will provide the foundation for the next phase of developing ways to work regionally to address housing. The Regional Housing Strategy will include prioritization of regional work and a robust implementation framework. The yearlong planning process will help local governments collaboratively leverage existing and planned investments in transportation, support an aging population and consider the efficient allocation of resources to ensure the region's residents can find a home in a challenging housing market. Ultimately, DRCOG staff will incorporate the Regional Housing Strategy into Metro Vision to ensure a sustainable approach to addressing housing affordability in our region.



Climate Pollution Reduction Grant

DRCOG is the lead agency for the metropolitan region under the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Climate Pollution Reduction Grant program. Through this program, DRCOG received a \$1 million planning grant to develop climate action plans in coordination with local stakeholders throughout the Denver-Aurora-Lakewood Metropolitan Statistical Area. The planning grant funds are designated for the completion of a Priority Climate Action Plan (submitted March 1, 2024), a Comprehensive Climate Action Plan (due August 1, 2025) and a Status Report (due August 1, 2027).



Photo courtesy of Regional Transportation District.

Communities and residents



Greenhouse Gas Mitigation Action Plan implementation

In October 2022, the DRCOG Board adopted the Greenhouse Gas Mitigation Action Plan, which identified initiatives to address greenhouse gas mitigation across the Denver region. Addressing parking standards to encourage smarter land use patterns is one of the initiatives identified in this plan. To support local governments through the process of assessing parking needs and use, DRCOG plans to conduct a region-wide parking utilization study to assess parking patterns and use of existing parking facilities. The study will illuminate opportunities for lowering parking standards and guide future work to support local governments in their efforts to update land development standards related to parking.

Active Transportation Plan

DRCOG staff will update the regional Active Transportation Plan. The plan guides the development of the region's bicycle and pedestrian network, with a focus on connecting urban centers and other activity nodes.

Advanced Mobility Partnership

DRCOG convenes regional and local participation in the Advanced Mobility Partnership to evaluate, prioritize, coordinate and implement Mobility Choice Blueprint tactics and other transportation technology innovations and initiatives. DRCOG staff are also working with regional partners to explore processes to collect, manage, maintain and share regional transportation data.

Metro Vision

Metro Vision serves as the foundation for the regional planning programs and initiatives. In the coming year, DRCOG will consider options for incorporating emerging work in the area of regional housing and transportation coordination and continue to align with regional implementation partners.

Regional corridor plans

DRCOG will coordinate and lead multimodal corridor planning efforts for priority corridors identified in the 2050 Metro Vision Regional Transportation Plan. These efforts include planning for regional bus rapid transit projects.

2050 Metro Vision Regional Transportation Plan

DRCOG will initiate the next major update to the Regional Transportation Plan. The update will consider changes in population and employment forecasts, travel patterns, and remote work dynamics. It will be informed by other regional efforts, including the Regional Housing Strategy, Active Transportation Plan and Regional Multimodal Freight Plan.

Community-based transportation plans

DRCOG staff will continue to work with member governments and community groups on planning efforts to improve mobility options for low-income and disadvantaged populations. The grassroots effort focuses on identifying local communities' most important transportation challenges and developing strategies to overcome them. DRCOG staff will begin work on the projects selected through the most recent solicitation process.

Communities and residents

Regional data acquisition projects

DRCOG staff facilitate and manage cost-effective partnerships and projects that acquire foundational datasets, including imagery, lidar, planimetric data and land cover, in support of local and regional planning.

Civic Academy

DRCOG continues to offer this valuable program, formerly known as Citizens' Academy, to build civic capacity and engagement. Through the seven-week course, DRCOG staff facilitate education and discussions about essential regional issues like transportation, growth and economic vitality, housing, civic engagement and more.

Innovative mobility

The Innovative Mobility Transportation Improvement Program Set-Aside facilitates planning for and developing innovative solutions for mobility challenges throughout the region, with a particular focus on innovative mobility preparedness, planning, demonstrations and pilots. Through a cohort model, the program engages regional partners to prepare and invest in innovative mobility solutions. The set-aside program will identify and deploy innovative mobility solutions throughout the region.

Technical assistance program

DRCOG provides resources, data analysis and best-practice guidance to incorporate inclusive and equitable approaches to community planning. DRCOG staff will continue to offer technical assistance to support communities with plan implementation.

Transit Design Standards Toolkit

As part of the Complete Streets initiative, DRCOG staff will develop a toolkit for local agencies and partners to use to facilitate transit and bicycle/pedestrian design standards for land use development near or adjacent to transit and other multimodal corridors. Design standards will include flexible options for improving safe and efficient access to transit and bicycle and pedestrian facilities.



Financial stewardship

Audit

An analysis and report resulting in findings related to DRCOG's financial health and compliance with grant management guidelines, the audit will commence in July for the prior fiscal year.

DRCOG budget

A foundational annual product, the budget directs financial decisions made throughout the fiscal year. The budget process begins in January and concludes with final approval by the Board of Directors in May.



Increase Area Agency on Aging funding

Diversifying funding continues to be a priority for the Area Agency on Aging and is essential to keep pace with the growing demand for services. The Area Agency on Aging will participate in a collaborative program, the Community Care Hub National Learning Community, to develop a community-clinical team and will address community disparity goals, needed workflow changes, new payment codes and the systems needed to operationalize sustainable Community Health Integration Services in the region. The goal for 2024-2025 is to provide more community services like transportation, nutrition and in-home services through partnership with health payers and care providers. The AAA will also adapt to reduced state and federal funding by prioritizing those most in need, prioritizing the core services of the Older Americans Act and sustaining services with fewer dollars. Staff will work with the Colorado Association of Area Agencies on Aging to advocate for increased state and federal funding for AAA services and will advocate for increased funding during the 2025 reauthorization of the Older Americans Act.

Board collaboration assessment

An annual improvement activity, the Board Collaboration Assessment gives DRCOG's Board of Directors the opportunity to provide feedback on collaboration with directors, committee structure and leadership.

Geographic information systems data development

Through an annual partnership with local governments, DRCOG creates regional datasets, including information on employment, housing, open space and zoning, in support of local and regional planning.

Regional Crash Data Consortium

DRCOG staff will convene stakeholders interested in improving the quality of crash data. Crash data accuracy is essential to identifying and solving safety issues in the region's transportation system.

Story maps

DRCOG staff develop data visualizations to engage stakeholders around planning and transportation topics using informative and easy-to-explore web maps and infographics. Story maps, a special addition to this suite of tools, enhance spatial analysis with narrative and photography to provide context to what might otherwise seem like abstract concepts.

Integrating accessibility best practices

In July 2024, a new state accessibility law goes into effect, which raises the standard for public entities to provide digital products that are perceivable, operable and understandable. DRCOG staff have prepared for this deadline by developing policies, procedures and training to ensure that accessibility becomes fully integrated into how the organization does business. Staff have already made significant progress toward the launch of a new, fully accessible website and remediation of DRCOG's most important documents for a wider audience. In the coming year, DRCOG staff will continue to refine methods for prioritizing, testing and remediating digital products.

Hybrid work environment

DRCOG employees continue to adapt to and enhance the organization's hybrid workplace. After implementing a shared workstation model this past year, DRCOG staff have taken stock of the changing needs of employees and programs to maximize efficiency while maintaining high-quality work. Staff will continue to assess and adjust the workplace configuration with a priority on collaboration and innovation, which may result in space adaptation.



Skilled workforce



Professional certification

In order to support staff's professional development and enhance networking opportunities that benefit the organization, DRCOG reimburses up to \$400 for each employee for approved job-related professional memberships and certifications.

Doug'n Donuts

Doug'n Donuts is an informal monthly town hall providing an opportunity for DRCOG staff to gather socially and interact with DRCOG's executive director, Douglas W. Rex, and the senior management team. Employees are encouraged to ask questions, offer suggestions, and learn about activities, developments and policies.

Training and development

DRCOG has a legacy of investing in staff through training and development. DRCOG maintains a cloud-based learning management system where employees can access a library of tens of thousands of training classes. Additionally, DRCOG offers on-site, remote and hybrid live training for staff. These training classes are recorded and stored on the learning management system for employees who cannot attend live to access on their own schedule.

Employee Engagement and Satisfaction Survey

An annual improvement opportunity, the Employee Engagement and Satisfaction Survey allows staff to provide feedback on their overall experiences at DRCOG, their work groups, supervisor, division director and the executive director.

Equity Action Committee

DRCOG's Equity Action Committee is an internally focused advisory group that works closely with Human Resources and senior management on diversity and equity topics.

Licensed clinical social worker sponsorship

DRCOG offers a licensed clinical social worker sponsorship program to eligible employees, affording them the opportunity to advance their careers while working in their field. This offering is a differentiator when recruiting staff for the Area Agency on Aging program.

Continuing education

In addition to a tuition reimbursement program, DRCOG maintains relationships with a number of institutions of higher education that offer tuition discounts to employees.

Partnerships: Claremont-Lincoln University, Colorado Christian University, Colorado State University-Global Campus, DeVry University, Regis University, Western Governors University and Grand Canyon University. DRCOG has recently formed a partnership with All Campus, a company that offers tuition discounts at 25 colleges and universities (including the University of Southern California, Carnegie Mellon University, DePaul University and Johns Hopkins University) to DRCOG employees and their families.

Internships

DRCOG maintains relationships with several institutions of higher education, serving as an internship site for students completing their degrees.

Partnerships: Metropolitan State University of Denver, University of Central Florida, University of Colorado Denver, University of Denver, Regis University.



Leadership opportunities

Through a quarterly Leadership Lunch, DRCOG is investing in the next generation of leaders. This voluntary opportunity encourages staff to build relationships, create community and share experiences that contribute to their professional growth. Topics of discussion include leadership styles, the benefits of being or seeking a mentor and solutions to shared challenges.

DRCOG's monthly supervisor meetings complement this offering by providing instructions on foundational concepts like hiring, budgeting and adherence to policy.



Skilled workforce



COG Cares

COG Cares is a service-based employee volunteer program that organizes and implements volunteer activities and events for staff. It's a way for DRCOG employees to connect with and give back to the region's communities, and to build teamwork skills across work groups and divisions. COG Cares offers a variety of events at least quarterly throughout the year, giving staff the opportunity to participate based on interest, ability, schedule, weather and location.

True to DRCOG's tagline, staff have contributed hundreds of hours each year to "make life better" across the region by supporting organizations such as Café 180, Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado, Frontline Farming, Bienvenidos Food Bank and Project C.U.R.E. In addition, staff come together for meaningful activities like holiday card-making and gift-giving for veterans and older adults.

