

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON AGING
MEETING SUMMARY
Friday, May 15, 2020**

Members Present

Ada Anderson	Douglas County
Anne Gross	At Large Arapahoe County
Barbara Boyer	At Large Arapahoe County
Bob Bocker	At Large Denver
Bob Davis	City and County of Broomfield
Cathy Noon	At Large Arapahoe County
Connie Ward	At Large Jefferson County
Dawn Perez	Adams County
Donna Mullins	Jefferson County
Houston "Tex" Elam	At Large Arapahoe County
Karie Erickson	Douglas County
Perla Gheiler	City and County of Denver.
Phil Cernanec	At Large Arapahoe County

Guests Present

Chris Lynn, Seniors" Resource Center, Paulette St. James, Colorado Commission on Aging, Kristine Burrows, Director of Older Adult Services at Easterseals, Valerie Robson, Douglas County,

Others Present

Adriana Francis, Intake Case Manager, AJ Diamontopoulos, AHC Program Manager, Amy Pulley ADRC Program Manager, Alejandra Lerma, Case Manager, Caitlin Phillips, Ombudsman, Caleb Susuras, Community Resource Specialist, Douglas Rex, Executive Director, Heather Kamper, Veterans and Transitions Program Manager, Ines Rosas, VDC Lead Case Manager, Jayla Sanchez-Warren, AAA Division Director, Jennifer Reeves, Ombudsman, Kelly Roberts, Community Resource Specialist, Lauren Bell, SHIP - Aging Services Counselor, Lisa Houde, Public Engagement Specialist, Matthew Helfant, Senior Transportation Planner, Mindy Patton, AAA Division Assistant, Rich Mauro, Senior Policy and Legislative Analyst, Ryan McGee, Transitions Counselor, Sharon Day, Program Manager, AAA Business Operations, Travis Noon, Senior Program Specialist, Zack Gibbons, Senior Fiscal Specialist

Phil Cernanec, Committee Chair – Called the meeting to order at 11:02 p.m. with a quorum present.

Public Comment Period (Non-ACA Members)

There was no Public Comment

Report of the Chair

- Phil made a recap of the agenda and general COVID information.
- He spoke of Joint Budget Committee (JBC) and the dire situation for the budget, that the property tax credit is on the cutting block.

Report of the AAA Director

- JBC did eliminate the \$13M allocated to the AAA.

- Currently trying to protect the rest of the funds.
- Jayla spoke with 2 JBC members about what the AAA is doing and how important the funding is to the programs.
- Colorado Legal services has been slow, but as things are beginning to opening up seeing changes, they are gearing up for evictions.
- A Little Help, SRC and Brighton are providing critical needs transportation.
- Home delivered meals are being supplied by several providers throughout the DRCOG region.
 - Grab and go meals are being supplied, some systems have been setup with the schools
 - Market Meals expanded with frozen meals, vegetables, whole grains, dairy, eggs.
- Contractors are providing reassurance calls
- Respite being provided on a limited basis particularly for those with an elderly caregiver, or those who received a medical procedure or had an emergency.
- Video chats for caregiver support and counseling.
- Prescription delivery
- Services that are starting up again.
 - Prescription and meal delivery in Broomfield.
 - Chore services, they ask client to go into another room to adhere to safety precautions
 - Urgent handyman and outdoor services
 - Respite services are increasing as caregivers return to work
 - Southwestern Improvement Council (SWIC) has a Native American food pantry every Tuesday
 - A Little Help and SRC provided Kindness Kits (activity kits)
 - Zoom group meetings at the Colorado Center for the Blind
 - Lutheran Family Services are providing restaurant boxes to approximately 100 people
 - Delivery of incontinent supplies
 - Insite is providing remote support and setup of technology for those getting new devices
- Clients want services they are starting to see them feeling the emotional effects, care givers are going back to work and are ready to start services.
- Must consider protection of clients and staff to before starting things back up.
 - Worry of liability if someone got sick due to not following specified protocols.
 - Asking contractors to provide written plans for startup.
 - Looking for directive from officials on proper PPE, what's needed, masks, shields, gowns, foot covering.
- Must consider staff protection to prevent outbreak within DRCOG, an outbreak could mean higher costs in premiums to all DRCOG employees.
 - Training staff on proper use and disposal of PPE

- Should testing be done, how often, access to kits
- Guidelines and response must be set for staff who become infected
- Don't want to be over cautious but be smart about moving forward

There was discussion regarding nursing homes and the startup of visitation by ombudsmen.

Move to approve consent agenda

Phil asked for approval of the consent agenda. Tex Elam made the motion and Barbara Boyer seconded, minutes passed unanimously.

Items on the consent agenda included:

Summary of the April 7, 2020 meeting

Action Items

Discussion of Amendments to the DRCOG Service Provider Contracts

Sharon made the following points prior to the discussion.

- A 2-month extension from state will be deferred until September 1st
- All current state funds will be used by June 30th.
- Requests by providers to have additional funds for the 2-month extension period have been approved by the Funding Subcommittee.
- Some providers have not requested additional funds because they are no longer providing the service after June 30th.

Question: As supply and demand increase is there an expectation that the gap in service will increase as well?

Answer: Transportation services for critical trips, dialysis and urgent medical have been going on with some transportation providing food and other material aid delivery. Distancing between driver and cleaning protocols are in place with all transportation. The gap is widening as doctors start accepting appoints. DRCOG continues to provide all rides for those who call them through various programs and their voucher program.

Question: How will dollars be spent on programs that would have been spent on congregate meals and reduced respite care?

Answer: Congregate meal sites that are open have grab and go meals. Those who attended a closed site are receiving home delivered meals and are still counted as congregate meals. Still having discussions on what reopening those sites will look like. Respite care is being done virtually when possible and using material aid funds to provide a restaurant meal so caregivers don't have to cook, and for activity kits.

Cathy Noon wanted to know if the changes for less in person services currently being done can continue going forward and what other ideas have providers had to spend the additional funds. Her concern is that the funds be spent on the older adults to make their life better.

Answer: Jayla has been talking with providers on innovative uses for funds. She said that a lot of the virtual work has been very successful and may be a way to extend services.

Vote for approval of extension funding.

Cathy Noon motioned for approval and was 2nd by Tex Elam

Roll vote 10 approvals and 1 abstention due to conflict of interest - approved.

Discussion of Federal COVID-19 Emergency Relief Funds for ADRC

- ADRC will receive a grant from the Administration of Community Living for \$129K to \$220K.
- Can be used for support work of information and assistance, options counseling, and transitions to enhance efforts during the COVID pandemic.
- These funds will allow ADRC to use for those 60 and under, veterans who require long-term supports,
- Can also be used to enhance virtual communication such as purchase of tablets to aid in social isolation.
- 1 year grant good through April 2021.

Vote to accept funds

Barbara Boyer motioned for approval and was 2nd by, Donna Mullins

Roll vote with a unanimous approval

Discussion on the Distribution Process and Timeline for Federal COVID-19

Sharon presented documentation on how COVID funds will be spent. She explained the documentation.

- There are some uncertainties regarding how much state funding will be received from the state.
- Currently there is approximately \$5.2M unallocated funds that can be distributed to respond to COVID-19 needs.
- Money must be used to sustain services and not operations as outline by the state.
- A retroactive expansion of services allowed providers to carve out funds for material aid items and expand services for reassurance calls.
- Working with county councils, county commissioners, ACA and county human services to get the word out about these available funds.
- ACA Funding Subcommittee is at the ready for any approvals needed by them.

Cathy Noon suggested seeking out new providers not in the existing network, possibly cities who can use a one-time use of dollars for such items as technology.

Jayla agreed that cities were in more need than the counties. She is working with Linda Haley of Arapahoe County to look into other options in Arapahoe County and will look to others.

Vote on distribution and timeline of funds.

Tex Elam motioned to endorse, Cathy Noon 2nd the motion

Roll vote, 11 approvals - motion approved unanimously.

Informational Briefings

Update on Service Offerings from Seniors' Resource Center (SRC)

- Chris Lynn informed the group of the following continued services:
 - Providing meals fresh and froze and supply boxes
 - Adult day and In-home team providing activity packets and Zoom entertainment calls
 - SRC is going into homes that need critical care to get up, bathe, do meal prep and laundry and to provide respite care for those caring for an older adult who need a break.
 - Continuing reassurance calls and are doing some email reassurance
- Laid off 70% of staff due to COVID.
- SRC notified Jayla in mid-March that they would be unable to provide transportation services beginning July first.
 - Cost to continue to run the program have exceeded budget making it detrimental to other programs offered.
 - Have been talking with DRCOG, CDOT, RTD, Via and the City of Lakewood to try and shift their transportation program in a nice package that can be easily transferred somewhere else
 - Goal is to not have interruption in services, that their partners would not be stranded and SRC can survive and still be a viable organization.

Doug commended Chris on his willingness to help to prevent interruption to service, he told the group that currently Via looks like they will be on board at least short-term.

Jayla wanted to be sure that all the counties knew that they would be supported and included in conversations for long-term remedies.

Phil asked how Uber and others would fit into the voucher plan since they were not providing service due to COVID. Doug said everything was being evaluated and they will be an option.

Chris wanted to be sure that everyone knew that SRC was still in business and that transportation was the only program that was being terminated.

Karie asked Chris what was the tipping point in the decision since they had such a large market share. Chris said it was the cost of the program, insurance cost had gone up nearly 50% since the previous year.

Briefing on the Upcoming FTA 5310 Request for Proposals

- DRCOG recently released the RFP for the Federal Transit Administration 5310 program.
 - The program funds projects to increase the mobility of older adults and individuals with disabilities
- Eligible projects include both capital investment and operating assistance for service beyond minimum Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements.

- There is an annual allocation just under \$2 million for the Denver-Aurora Urbanized Area
- DRCOG will administer this program as designated by the Governor as a recipient of the funds following approval by the DRCOG Board of Directors.
- In the summer of 2018, a set-aside for \$4 million over four years for Human Services Transportation (HST) was adopted as part of the FY 2020-2023 TIP Policy.
 - The new HST set-aside directly addresses the Board-adopted 2020-2023 TIP focus area of improving mobility infrastructure and services for vulnerable populations.
 - The HST set-aside will provide a dedicated funding source to improve mobility for vulnerable populations, including older adults, low-income individuals, veterans, and individuals with disabilities.
 - This includes addressing identified gaps such as underfunded and underserved trips and vehicle expansion.
 - This set-aside is intended to complement FTA 5310 and Older Americans Act/Older Coloradans Act dollars by funding identified needs that are underfunded or underserved by those sources
 - It is the intent of this set-aside to be coordinated with these other funding sources to reduce duplication, provide more needed trips, and help maximize the effectiveness of all three funding sources
- RFP will have an 18-month grant period starting January 1, 2021 and ending June 30, 2022.
 - Proposals are due to DRCOG June 19, 2020.
- Contracts will be for 18 months to align with the FTA 5310 and the HST funding to align with the same fiscal year as the OAA funding.
 - OAA funding can be used as matching funds on FTA 5310 funding, having these funding streams aligned will allow for greater coordination, effectiveness, transparency and oversight of these funds.
 - AAA is planning to release its next Older Americans Act RFP this Fall, which typically would include all services for two years, this call some services will only be granted one-year contracts for transportation.
 - DRCOG will then plan to release a “Super” call in Fall 2021 for FTA 5310, HST, and OAA Transportation funding
- Travis asked that if anyone would like to be a part of a review committee to let him know. They would like the committee to have representation from all organizations involved, the Funding Subcommittee and DRCOG staff.

Phil suggested that some members of the Funding Subcommittee be included so that there was some continuity. Dawn Perez and Ada Anderson volunteered as members of the Subcommittee.

Briefing on the Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation

Matthew Helfant, Senior Transportation Planner for DRCOG presented on DRCOG’s Metro Vision Regional Transportation Plan (MVRTP) included as Attachment B. His presentation followed the slides without any additional comments.

Lisa Houde, Public Engagement Specialist for DRCOG followed up with the Coordinated Transit Plan survey which is part of the MVRTP. She led us through the survey that would help identify needs and gaps and prioritize needs to develop strategies.

The survey was done through an interactive poll. The survey has been sent out to local governments, TMA's, Local Coordinating Councils, County Councils on Aging, AHC Advisory Board.

Results have been consistent and will be reviewed and discussed.

County Reports

Arapahoe County – Barbara Boyer and Cathy Noon

- First Zoom council meeting on Monday
- Seeing an increase in funding for municipalities.

Jefferson County – Donna Mullins

- Had first Zoom meeting yesterday
- Trying to figure out future events to accommodate social distancing
- Jayla attended the call and was surprised how many people and staff had the virus.

Denver – Bob Brocker Colorado Senior Lobby

- Interest in doing nursing home legislation that has not been defined

Next meeting – June 19, 2020

Other matters by members

- Donna Mullins asked how things were in nursing homes.
- Jayla told the group there were PPE concerns, short staffing, staff taking other jobs with less risk. Nursing home staff are working at several facilities. She said there would probably be a lot of reform coming out of the COVID pandemic.
- Tex Elam brought up from last month's meeting the topic of allowing DRCOG to move forward when needed on pre-approval since the Funding Subcommittee has reviewed. Doug said he appreciated that offer but DRCOG would still need an official agenda item. He wants some transparency between ACA and DRCOG.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:32 p.m.



2050 Metro Vision Regional Transportation Plan: Coordinated Transit

Advisory Committee on Aging Meeting

Presented by:

**Matthew Helfant &
Lisa Houde**

May 15, 2020

DRCOG BACKGROUND



What is DRCOG?

Regional Planning Commission

Organized under state statute, prepares plan for physical development of the region (Metro Vision)

Area Agency on Aging

Established under federal law to respond to needs of Americans age 60 and over. Established under federal law to respond to the needs of Americans age 60 and over. Also serves adults with disabilities.

Metropolitan Planning Organization

Federally mandated and funded transportation policy-making organization. Also state designated Transportation Planning Region



Area Agency on Aging (AAA) Transportation

DRCOG AAA **funds transportation for older adults** with Older American Act and Older Coloradans Act funding

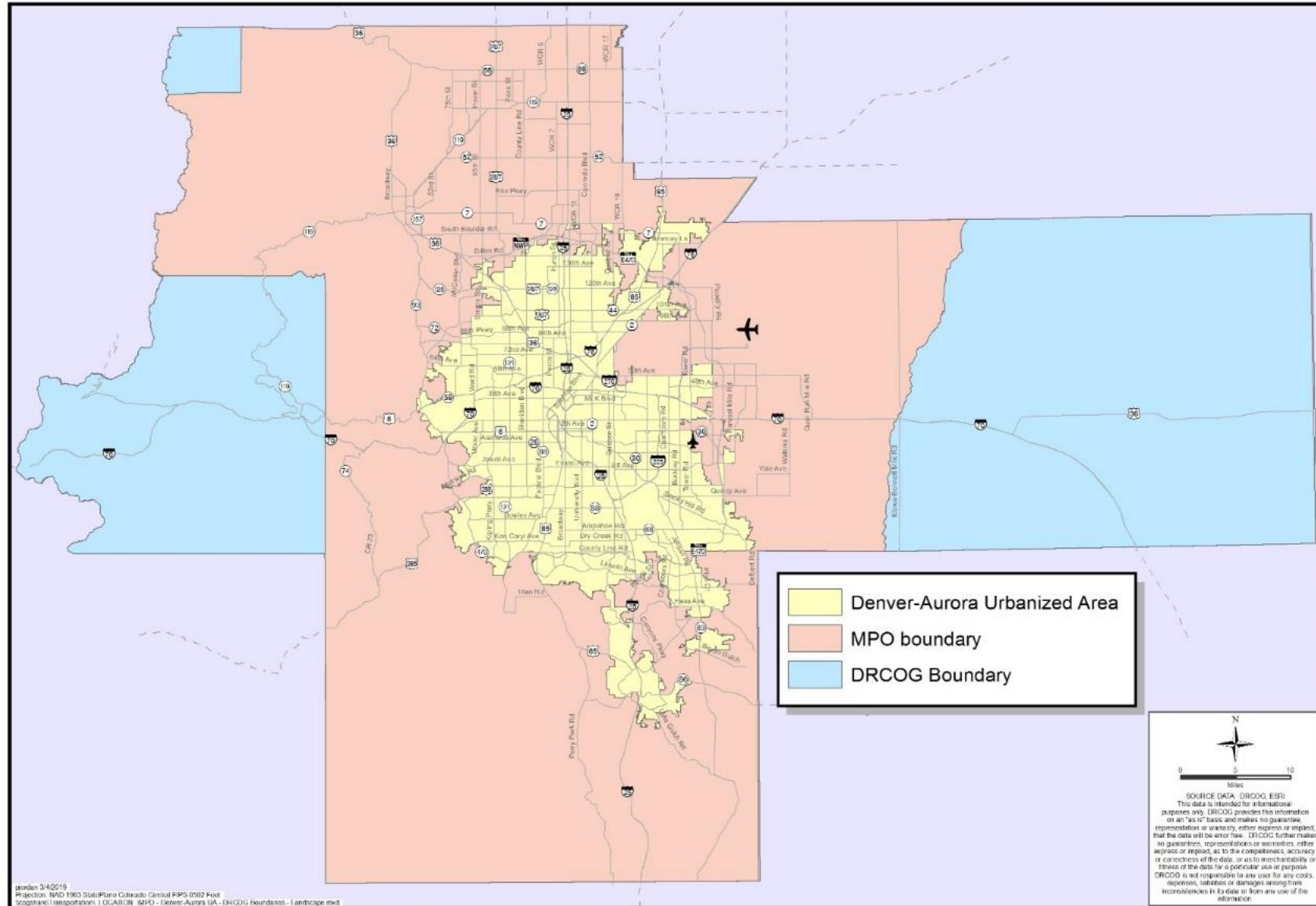
- Consumer choice vouchers
- Contracts with service providers

Clients wanting to connect with DRCOG's transportation services can:

- contact DRCOG's information and assistance call center
- contact service providers directly



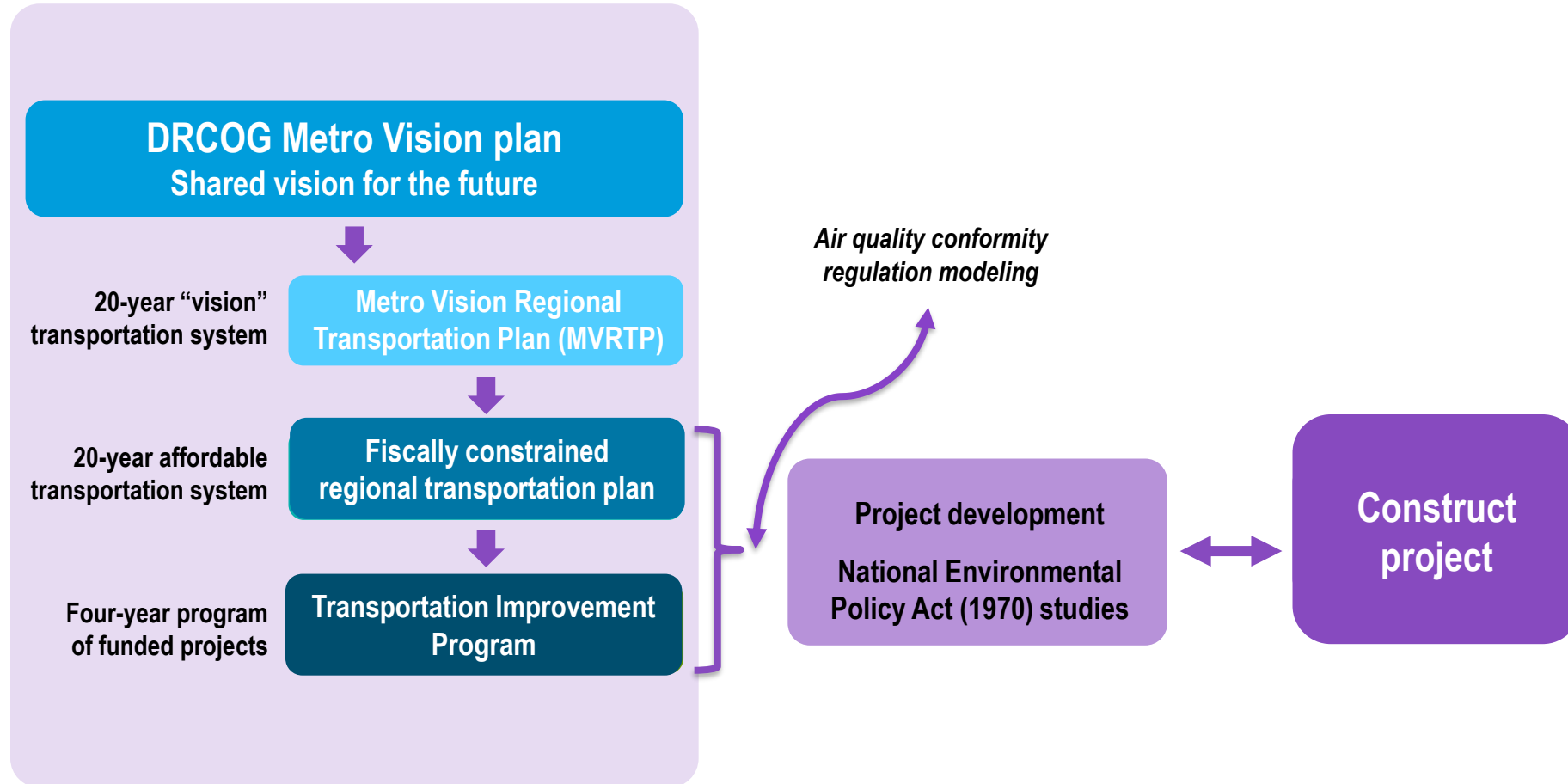
DRCOG Planning Boundaries



REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

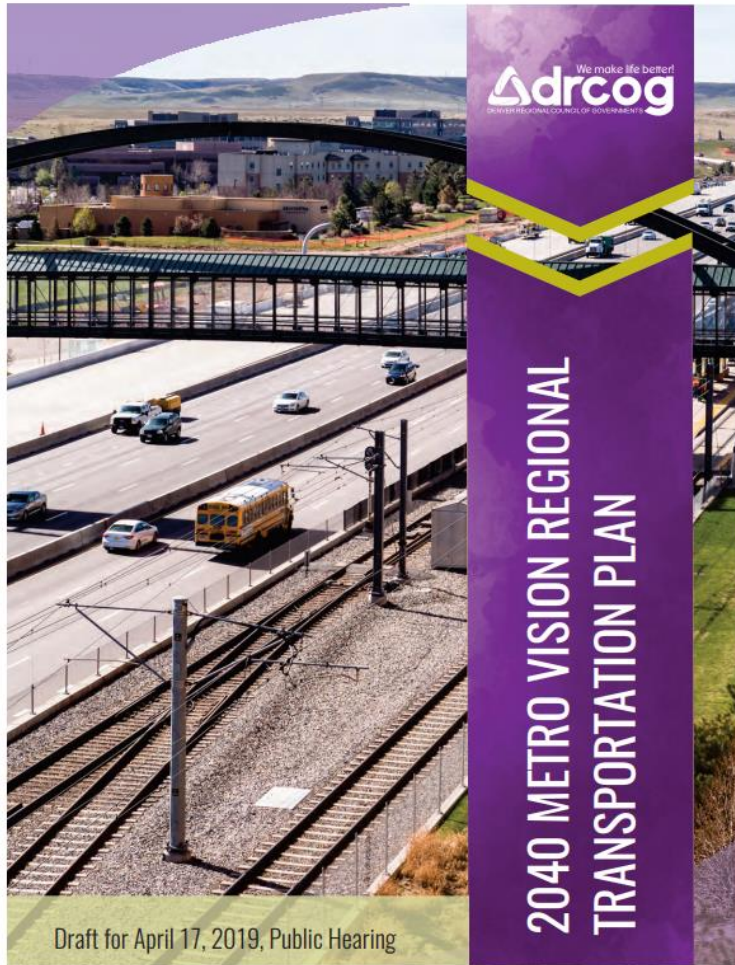


DRCOG Planning Framework





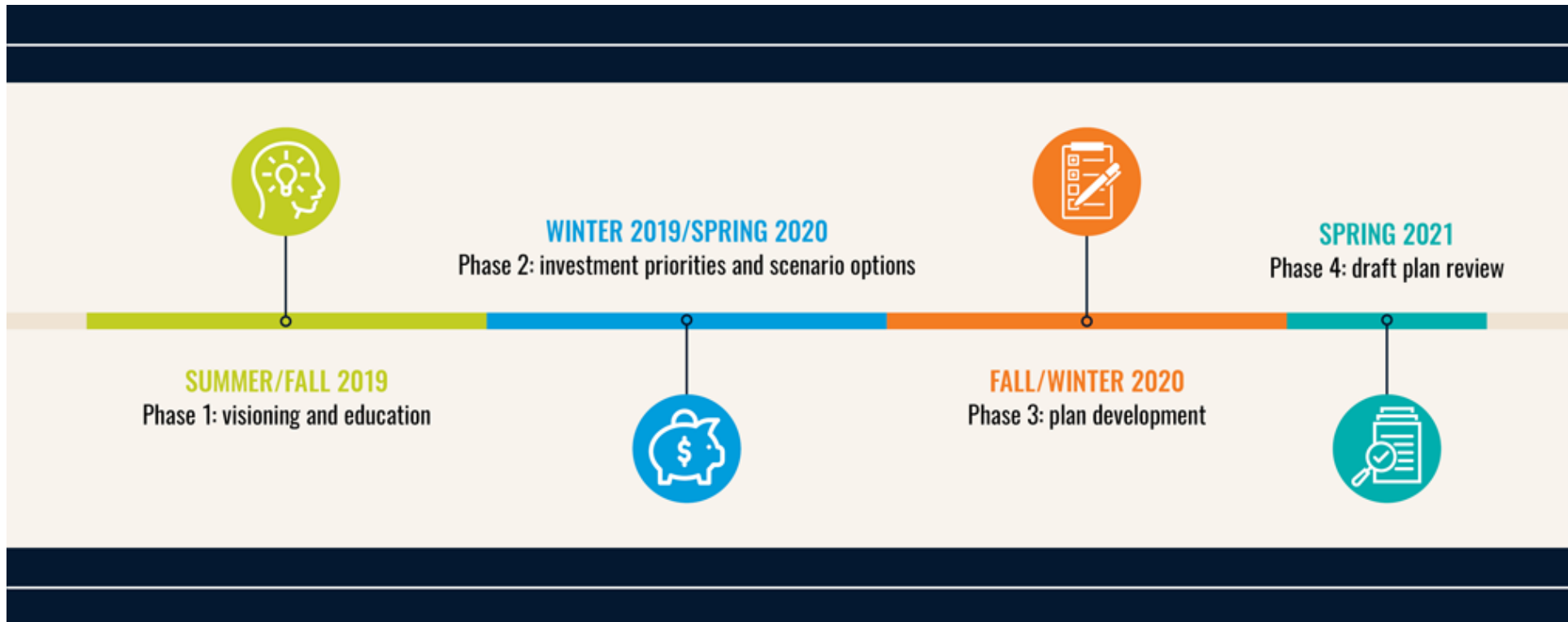
MVRTP Overview



- Presents region's vision for multimodal transportation system
- Helps implement Metro Vision
- Addresses federal requirements – core MPO function
- Determines eligibility for major projects to compete for Transportation Improvement Program funding
- Is updated every four years and amended more frequently



MVRTP Timeline





2050 MVRTP Strategic Issues

- How will our region grow & change by 2050?
- How do we make our streets safer for all travelers?
- What role will technology play in travel and mobility?
- How do we respond to the persistent lack of adequate transportation funding?
- What mix of investments in the 2050 MVRTP will best achieve the shared expectations outlined in Metro Vision?
- What choices and tradeoffs is the region willing to make around mobility, travel choices, congestion, and maintenance?
- **What can we learn from current pandemic to plan for possible future challenges?**



DRCOG Transportation Planning Process Participants

- **Local Governments of DRCOG**
- Denver Regional Mobility & Access Council (DRMAC)
- Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)
- Federal Transit Administration (FTA)
- Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT)
- Regional Transportation District (RTD)
- Regional Air Quality Commission (RAQC)
- Transportation Management Associations (TMAs)
- Interest Groups / General Public



Primary Sources of Funding

- Federal fuel tax (no increase since 1993)
- Federal general fund
- State fuel tax (no increase since 1991)
- State funding (SB 267, SB 228, FASTER)
- RTD sales & use taxes + fare box revenues
- Local governments, tolling, & private



TIP Set Aside for Human Service Transportation (HST)

DRCOG Board established (HST)

- \$4 million over 4 years
- To improve mobility for vulnerable populations including older adults, individuals with disabilities, low-income, veterans, and others
- “Swapped” with state FASTER \$ to allow for maximum flexibility and count toward federal local match requirements

COORDINATED PUBLIC TRANSIT HUMAN SERVICES TRANSPORTATION PLAN (CPTHSTP)



CPTHSTP- “Coordinated Transit Plan”

- Required by FAST ACT federal legislation
- Incorporated into 2050 RTP – scheduled for Spring 2021 adoption
- Describes existing coordinated transportation activities
- Analyzes available data, recent surveys (such as CASOA, AHC, RTD)
- Identifies gaps, needs, strategies
- Outlines future coordinated transportation activities
- Helps define eligible FTA 5310 projects
 - New role for DRCOG as administrator



Coordinated Transit Plan does not...

- Fund specific projects
- Preclude local coordination plans



DRCOG is new Designated Recipient for FTA 5310

- Spring 2020: Call for projects
- Fall 2020: Contracting
- January 2021: Administration of projects



Coordinated Transportation Activities

DRCOG coordinating and administering three funding sources

- Older Americans Act
- FTA 5310
- HST

Streamline implementation & coordination

- 1 call for projects
- Invoicing and reimbursement simultaneous
- Concurrent auditing & oversight

INPUT ON COORDINATED TRANSIT PLAN



We need to hear from you

Identify needs & gaps

Develop and prioritize strategies

Last plan completed in 2016 - what has changed in last 4 years?



Input opportunities

Brief exercise & discussion today: interactive web polling

- About a dozen multiple choice questions
- 2 discussion questions as a group

Follow-up questionnaire

- Similar questions to today's exercise
- Additional opportunities to provide more detail
- Screen-reader friendly questionnaire link:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CoordinatedTransitPlan>
- Hard copy can be mailed to you



Ongoing engagement

- Questionnaire to local governments, TMAs, Local Coordinating Councils, County Councils on Aging, Accountable Health Communities (AHC) Advisory Board and AHC Provider Group members
- DRCOG Advisory Committee on Aging
- MVRTP Youth Advisory Panel & Civic Advisory Group
- Colorado Access meetings (if possible)
- Local Coordinating Council meetings
- 2050 MVRTP engagement: Draft plan review in early 2021

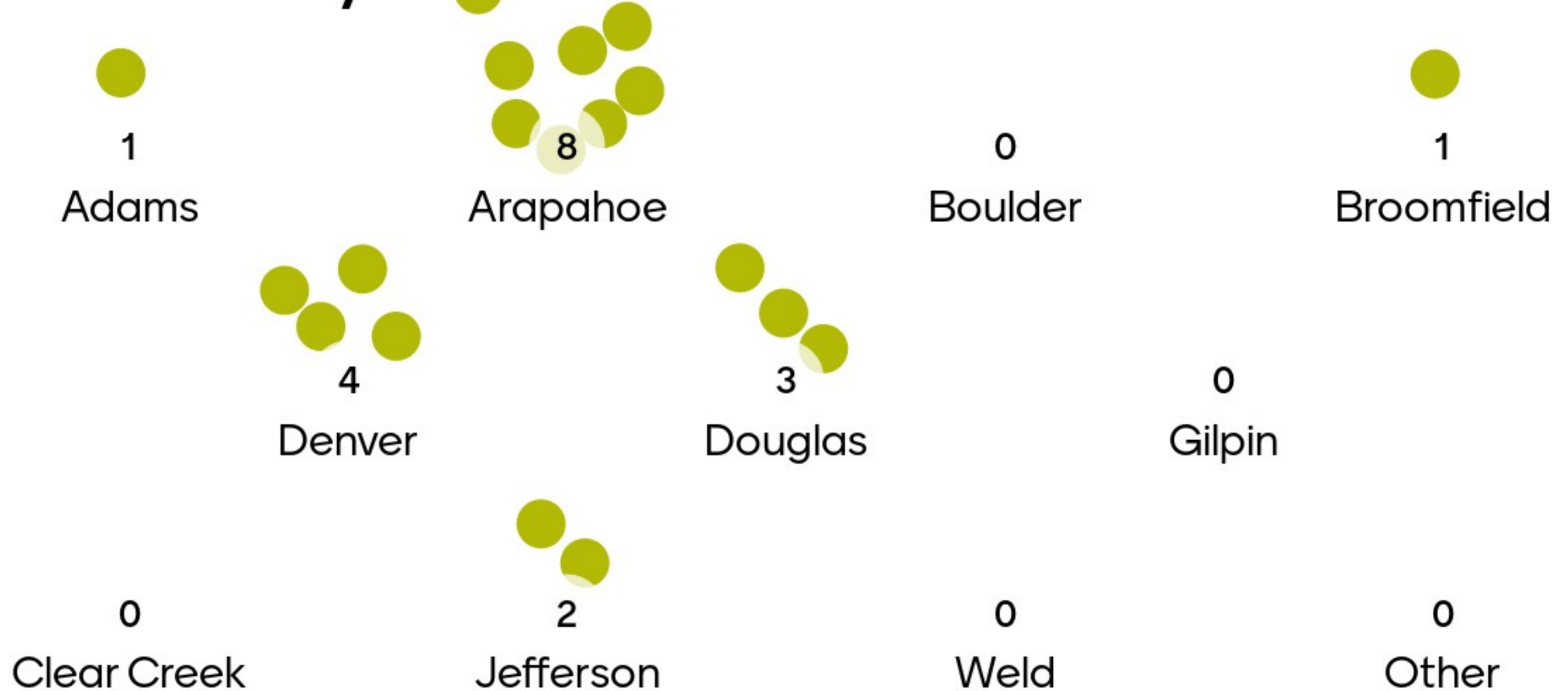


Exercise & discussion

In what state (or country) did you grow up?



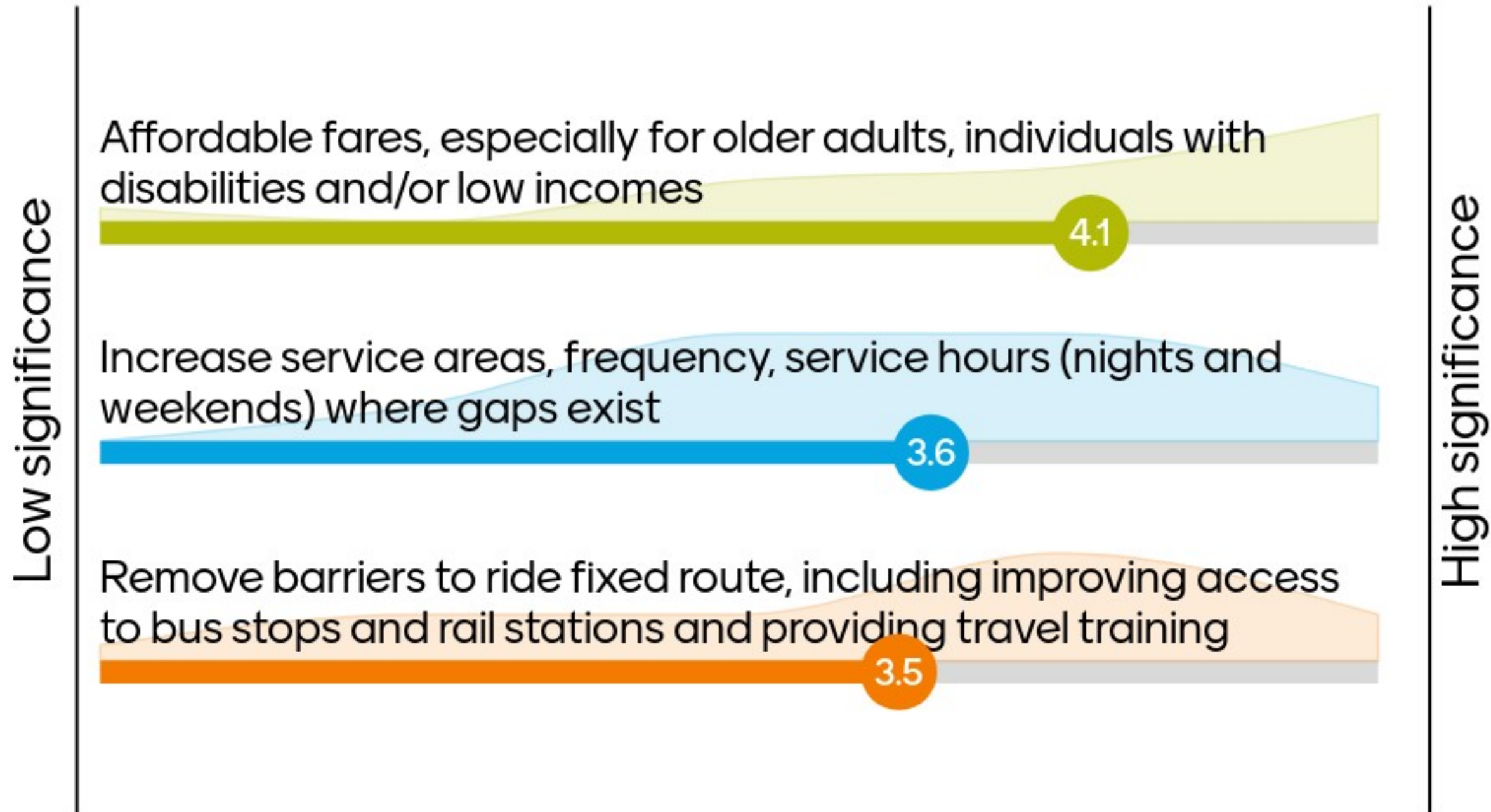
In which county do you reside?



Transportation needs - Current Plan

- Affordable fares, especially for older adults, individuals with disabilities and/or low incomes
- More cross-jurisdictional trips, better trip coordination, and more accessibility
- Better regional coordination to build on improving local coordination
- Demand for transportation will increase as the population increases and ages
- Expand volunteer driver programs
- Accessible and understandable transportation information and referral services
- Increase service areas, frequency, service hours (nights and weekends) where gaps exist
- Increase transportation options for quality of life trips such as hair appointments and social visits
- Remove barriers to ride fixed route, including improving access to bus stops and rail stations and providing travel training
- Improve access to healthcare for non-emergent visits
- Make sure that veterans have access to transportation

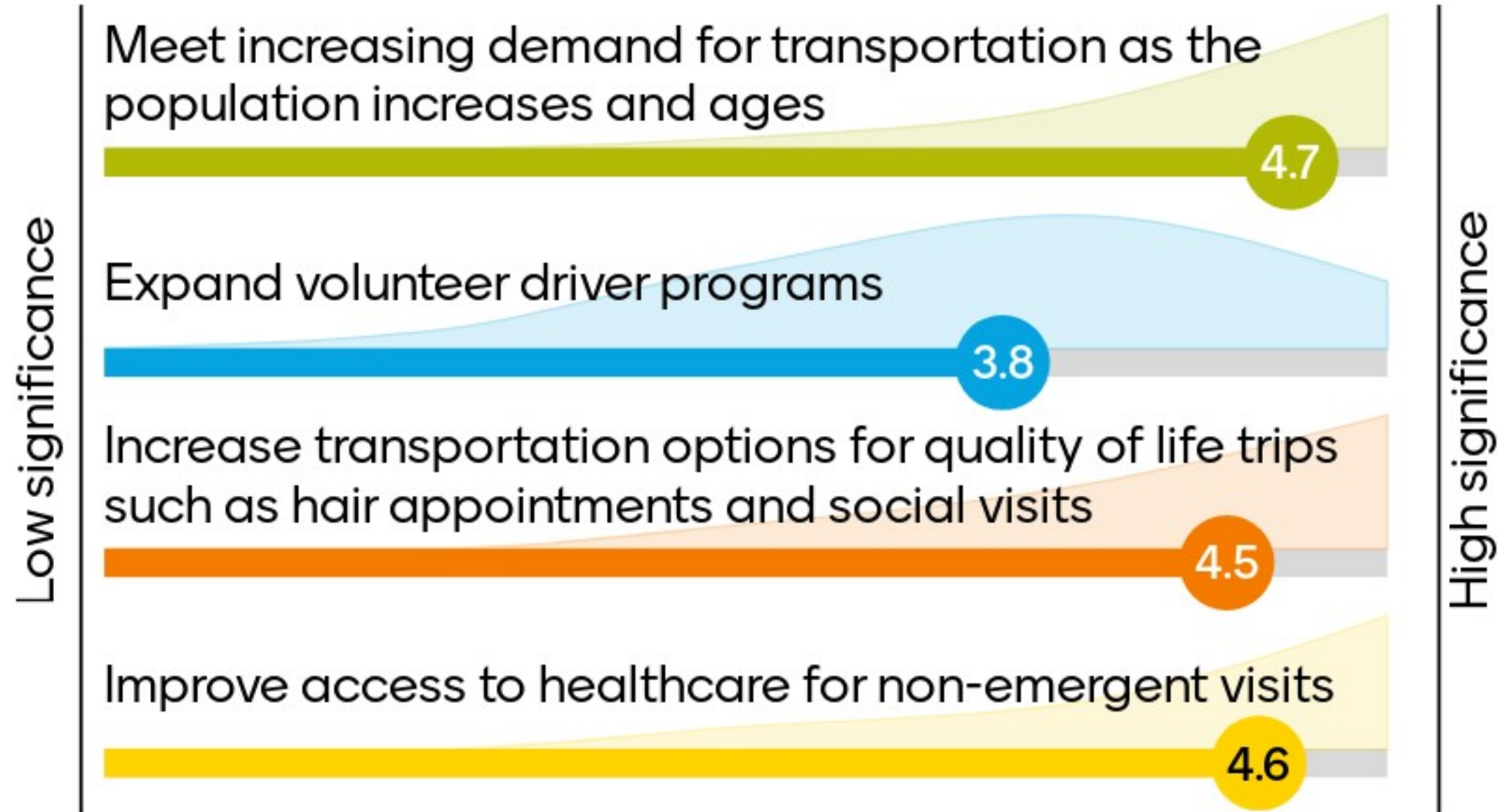
How significant is this need in 2020? - Access



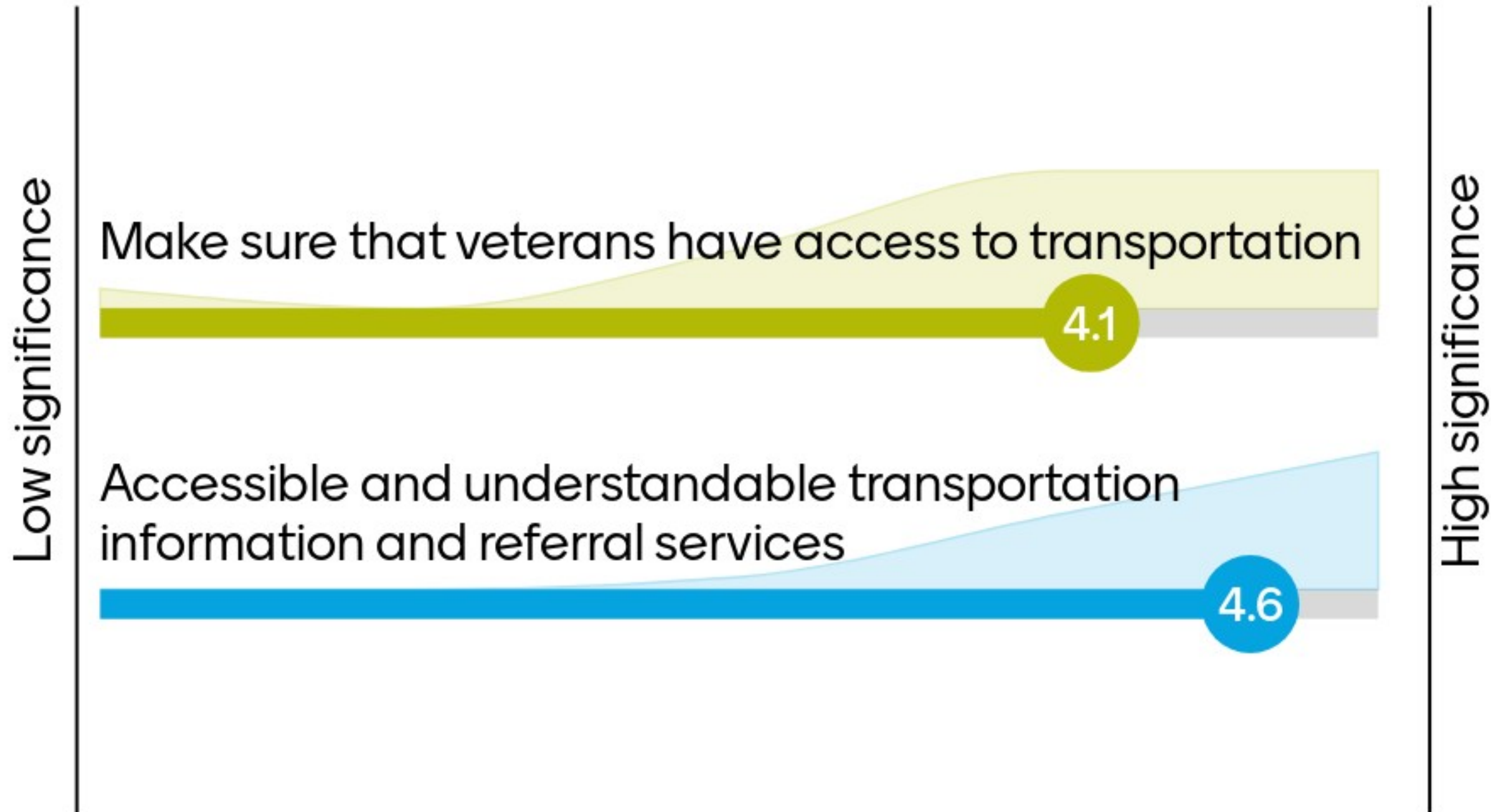
How significant is this need in 2020? - Coordination



How significant is this need in 2020? - Service expansion



How significant is this need in 2020? - Others



What other needs are there that haven't been mentioned?

Congestion on trains at peak times.

Faster response time

Rural transportation

Thru the door help

Parking.

DRCOG as coordinator for all rubber tire rides to avoid wasted empty miles. In other words, increased loaded miles through better coordination

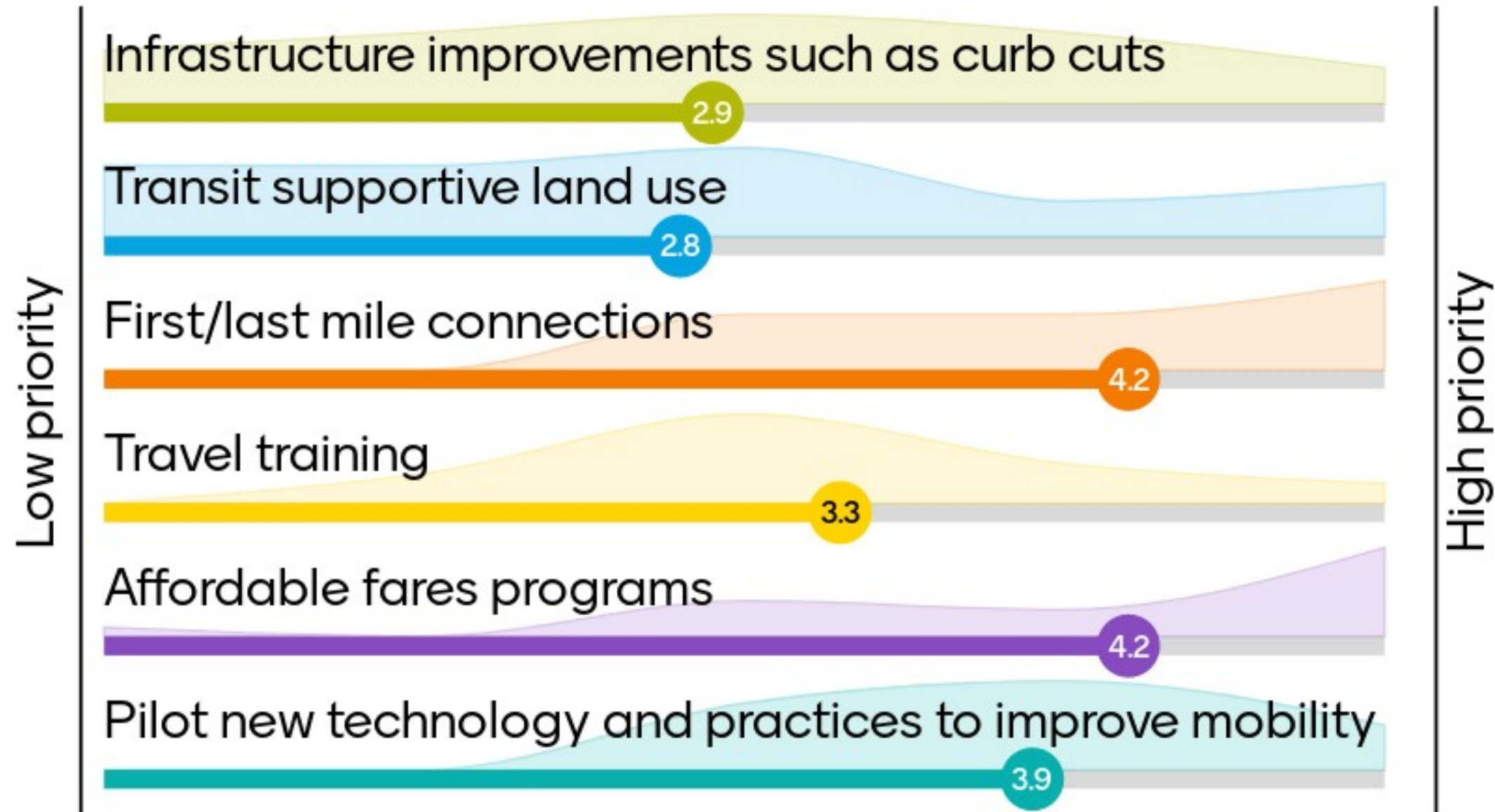
The lack of progress toward increasing density across the region, and the living-in-place, continues to put pressure on transit solutions. Also, where is the future of autonomous vehicles!

Thru the door help

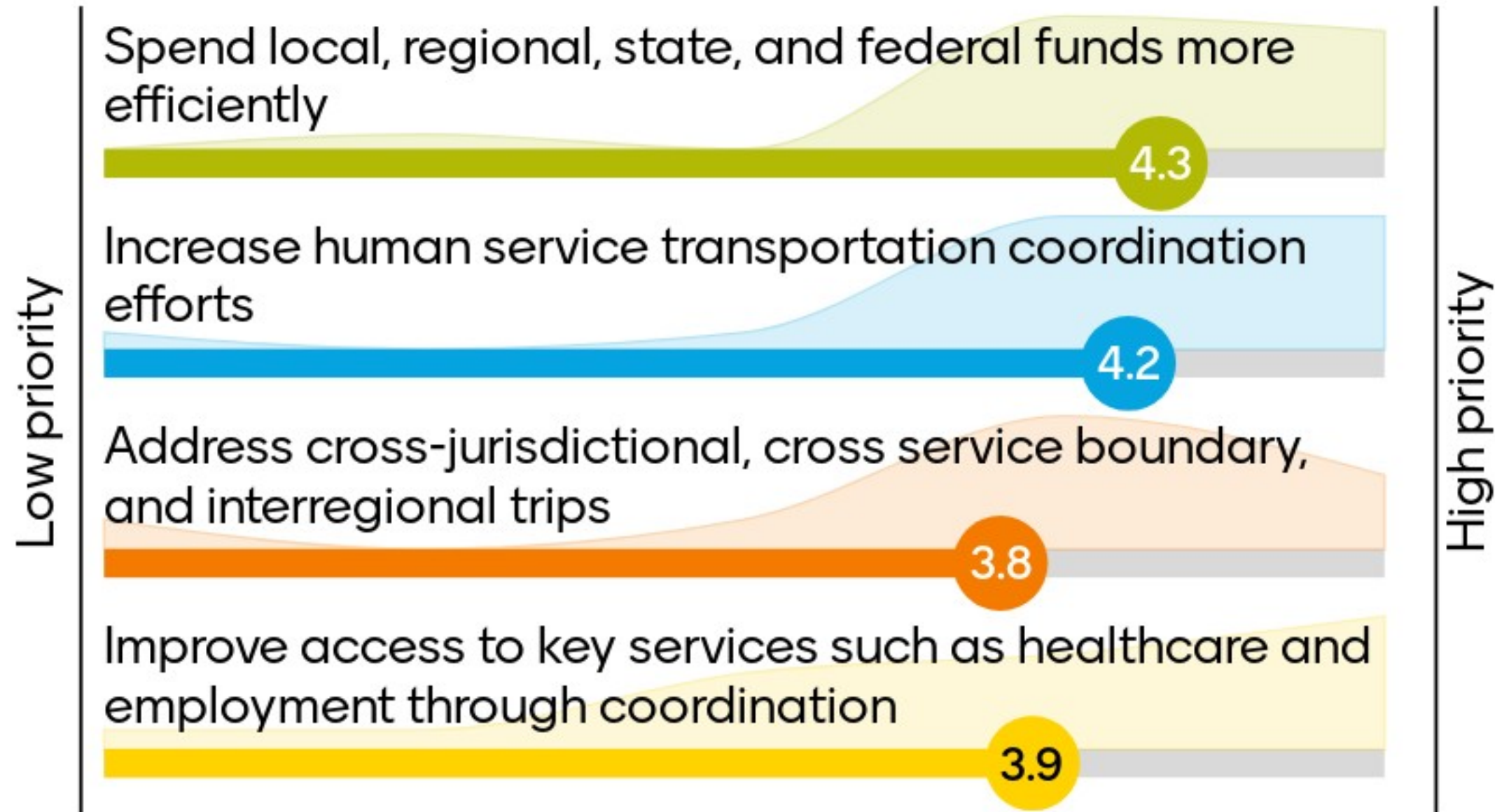
Strategies and activities to address identified needs and service gaps - Current plan

- Infrastructure improvements such as curb cuts
- Transit Supportive Land Use
- First Last Mile Connections
- Travel training
- Affordable Fares Programs
- Pilot New Technology and Practices to Improve Mobility
- Spend local, regional, state, and federal funds more efficiently
- Increase human service transportation coordination efforts
- Address cross-jurisdictional, cross service boundary, and interregional trips

What level of priority should be given to each of strategies to address current needs and gaps?



What level of priority should be given to each of strategies to improve coordination?



Are there any other strategies that could address the current transportation needs and gaps?

More volunteer drivers

Public/private partnerships

Work with medical providers

Throw out the barriers to efficiency and efficacy and then put the ones back in that are really important.

Ride sharing and transit have taken a hit with COVID!

More education and understanding on transportation and older adult needs

Tele-work and telecom-medicine help!

THANK YOU!

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