

John Diak, Chair  
Ashley Stolzmann, Vice Chair  
Kevin Flynn, Secretary  
Steve Conklin, Treasurer  
Bob Fifer, Immediate Past Chair  
Douglas W. Rex, Executive Director

**AGENDA**  
**DRCOG Board Work Session**  
**Wednesday, December 2, 2020**  
**4 p.m.**  
**VIDEO/WEB CONFERENCE**  
**Denver, CO**

1. Call to Order
2. Public Comment  
The chair requests that there be no public comment on issues for which a prior public hearing has been held before the Board of Directors.
3. Summary of November 4, 2020 Board Work Session  
(Attachment A)
4. Results of 2050 small-area forecast “gap” analysis  
(Attachment B) Brad Calvert, Director, Regional Planning and Development
5. Briefing on the Wellness Fund  
(Attachment C) AJ Diamontopoulos, Manager, Area Agency on Aging
6. Adjourn

Persons in need of auxiliary aids or services, such as interpretation services or assisted listening devices, are asked to contact DRCOG at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting by calling (303) 480-6744.



**ATTACH A**

## BOARD WORK SESSION SUMMARY

November 4, 2020

**Note: Meeting held virtually via GoToWebinar**

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### **Directors present:**

Ashley Stolzmann, Vice Chair	Louisville
Nicholas Williams	City and County of Denver
Kevin Flynn	City and County of Denver
Aaron Brockett	Boulder
Deborah Mulvey	Castle Pines
Tammy Maurer	Centennial
Randy Weil	Cherry Hills Village
Nicole Frank	Commerce City
Steve Conklin	Edgewater
Linda Olson	Englewood
Bill Gippe	Erie
Lynette Kelsey	Georgetown
Jim Dale	Golden
Libby Szabo	Jefferson County
Stephanie Walton	Lafayette
Pamela Grove	Littleton
Wynne Shaw	Lone Tree
Joan Peck	Longmont
Hollie Rogin	Lyons
Collen Whitlow	Mead
John Diak	Parker
Jessica Sandgren	Thornton
Herb Atchison	Westminster
Anita Seitz	Westminster
Bill Van Meter	Regional Transportation District

Others present: Doug Rex, Executive Director; Chris Chovan, Adams County; Bryan Weimer, Arapahoe County; Alex Hyde-Wright, Boulder; Brad Boland, Lauren Pulver, Douglas County; Kent Moorman, Thornton; Danny Herrman, CDOT; Kathleen Bracke, RTD; and DRCOG staff.

Board Vice Chair Ashley Stolzmann called the session to order at 4:00 p.m.

### Public Comment

No public comment was received.

### Proposed fiscally constrained project and program investment priorities for the 2050 Metro Vision Regional Transportation Plan (2050 MVRTP)

Jacob Riger and Alvan-Bidal Sanchez provided an overview of the projects and program to the directors. DRCOG leads a multimodal transportation planning process for the Denver region, which includes developing a long-range transportation plan with the State and with public transportation operators. The Metro Vision Regional Transportation Plan helps implement the Metro Vision Plan and sets the framework for

the Transportation Improvement Program. Based on the 2050 MVRTP candidate project solicitation/evaluation process and criteria, DRCOG staff worked with the county transportation forums, mountain counties, CDOT, and RTD to solicit and evaluate major multimodal candidate projects for potential inclusion in the 2050 Fiscally Constrained Regional Transportation Plan.

- Candidate Project Solicitation & Evaluation Process  
DRCOG received a total of 137 candidate multimodal projects to evaluate through the project solicitation process from the county transportation forums, mountain counties, CDOT, and RTD. The candidate projects were qualitatively scored against the primary objectives in DRCOG's Metro Vision Plan as well as required performance criteria in the federal FAST Act. The project scoring provided an overall sense of how well the candidate projects would address Metro Vision Plan primary objectives. A review panel (comprised of one representative from each of the county transportation forums, mountain counties, and staff from CDOT, RTD, and DRCOG) met on September 8<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> to review the list of candidate projects and their qualitative scoring results.
- Fiscal Constraint Priorities  
To reach fiscal constraint, the interagency (DRCOG, CDOT, RTD) process incorporated all input to date in the 2050 planning process and emphasized these factors:
  - Multimodal project investments consistent with the priority programs investment strategy
  - The planning/project development status of a candidate project or corridor
  - Projects with some level of likely regional benefit
  - County forums' candidate project rankings
  - Regional agencies' priorities
  - Combining multiple versions of submitted projects and geographically adjacent projects
  - Geographic balance
- Draft 2050 Priority Programs Investment Strategy Overview  
The region's transportation planning priorities are expressed as specific projects, project type categories, financial plan allocations, text/narrative, etc. The interagency partners think the 2050 financial plan should communicate regional investment priorities through its structure and resource allocations to specific project types and categories:
  - TIP set-asides
  - Regional BRT network
  - Transit planning investments
  - Arterial safety/regional vision zero
  - Active transportation
  - Freight
  - 2040 MVRTP carryover projects
  - Maintenance
  - Asset Management

Directors asked staff to address a couple subjects:

- Director Brocket acknowledged that we don't yet have quantitative measures or guidance from HB 1261 rule making, but asked if there was a sense of how we might quantitatively meet those targets. Mr. Riger responded that yes, rule-making is still in progress and we won't have details prior to adopting the 2050 MVRTP. That said, staff has been working to incorporate greenhouse gas emissions and other analyses into the planning process. We anticipate revisiting the Plan as necessary once the rule making process is completed.
- There was concern expressed on the number of projects that include lane expansions and how that will affect the Regional High-Injury Network. Mr. Riger and Ron Papsdorf addressed this concern, stating that as difficult as it is to predict how these projects will affect the Regional Vision Zero goals, there are measures in place that will aid in the production of these projects: overall construction assessment, design evaluation, and administering a Complete Streets Toolkit.
- Directors wanted to know how the plan can be modified as a particular county grows in population. Mr. Riger stated that DRCOG is federally required to update this plan every four years and there are "cycle amendments" that can be made to modify the plan.

Mr. Papsdorf wanted to remind directors that the planning that goes into producing an entire 30-year plan is very difficult. All agencies who worked on the development of this plan performed due diligence to cover every facet possible, to ensure that the plan provides an overall advantage to the entire region. Directors were glad to see that this process is still on schedule to complete priorities as planned.

The work session ended at 4:46 p.m.

**ATTACH B**

To: Chair and Members of the Board of Directors

From: Douglas W. Rex, Executive Director  
303-480-6701 or [drex@drcog.org](mailto:drex@drcog.org)

Meeting Date	Agenda Category	Agenda Item #
December 2, 2020	Discussion	4

**SUBJECT**

Staff will share additional results of 2050 small-area forecast “gap” analysis

**PROPOSED ACTION/RECOMMENDATIONS**

N/A

**ACTION BY OTHERS**

N/A

**SUMMARY**

Background

DRCOG forecasts the distribution of household and employment growth across approximately 2,800 small areas, known as transportation analysis zones (TAZ). These small-area forecasts serve as one set of input assumptions for DRCOG’s regional travel demand modeling. These growth assumptions also inform other local and regional transportation planning and modeling efforts.

The recently developed 2050 household and job forecasts are available for viewing and downloading in a variety of formats on DRCOG’s Regional Data Catalog:

<https://data.drcog.org/dataset/small-area-household-and-employment-forecasts-2020>

In October, DRCOG staff shared analyses related to “how the region is growing” according to the 2050 small-area forecast and other data sources (i.e. trends in population-weighted density, cost-burdened households and access to opportunity). DRCOG Directors noted ongoing challenges the region faces in increasing affordable and attainable housing options and reducing transportation-related greenhouse gas emissions.

In December, staff will provide additional analyses to illustrate “where the region is growing”, including growth in existing communities and regionally designated urban centers.

Today’s Discussion

[Metro Vision](#) establishes the nexus between regional planning and growth assumptions and the ability of the region to achieve shared outcomes established by the board. Over the past two months, staff has provided an overview of the region’s anticipated “growth trajectory” and other insights into the implications of these anticipated growth patterns – e.g., do current assumptions suggest we are headed toward achieving Metro Vision outcomes or is there more work to do to ensure success.

As with the October presentation, staff is seeking feedback to shape additional research efforts. Director guidance will also inform future efforts to identify collaborative opportunities to address identified “gaps”.

PREVIOUS DISCUSSIONS/ACTIONS
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[January 15, 2020](#)

[September 16, 2020](#)

[October 21, 2020](#)

PROPOSED MOTION
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N/A

ATTACHMENTS
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Staff presentation

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
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If you need additional information, please contact Douglas W. Rex, Executive Director, at 303-480-6701 or [drex@drcog.org](mailto:drex@drcog.org); or Brad Calvert, Director, Regional Planning and Development, at 303-480-6839 or [bpcalvert@drcog.org](mailto:bpcalvert@drcog.org).





# Metro Vision gap analysis (part two)

*Comparing 2050 small-area forecast to  
regional aspirations and areas of  
continuous improvement*

*Presented by:*

**Brad Calvert**

December 2, 2020



# Overview

## Item

Sept. Board item

Oct. Board item

Dec. BWS item

## Question focus

Why are we growing and by how much?

How are we growing?

Where are we growing?

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**Note:** Recent and upcoming staff analysis and presentations are leveraging a completed product - final small area forecast (anticipated growth and development trends), *2050 Metro Vision Regional Transportation Plan* is currently being developed.

# DRCOG Strategic Planning Model and Metro Vision





## Interactive polling

### **Anonymous quiz:**

- How much are counties in the region growing?
- How much have they grown in recent decades?





# Objective: Promote investment/reinvestment in existing communities

low- or medium-  
density block  
2-10 household per  
acre

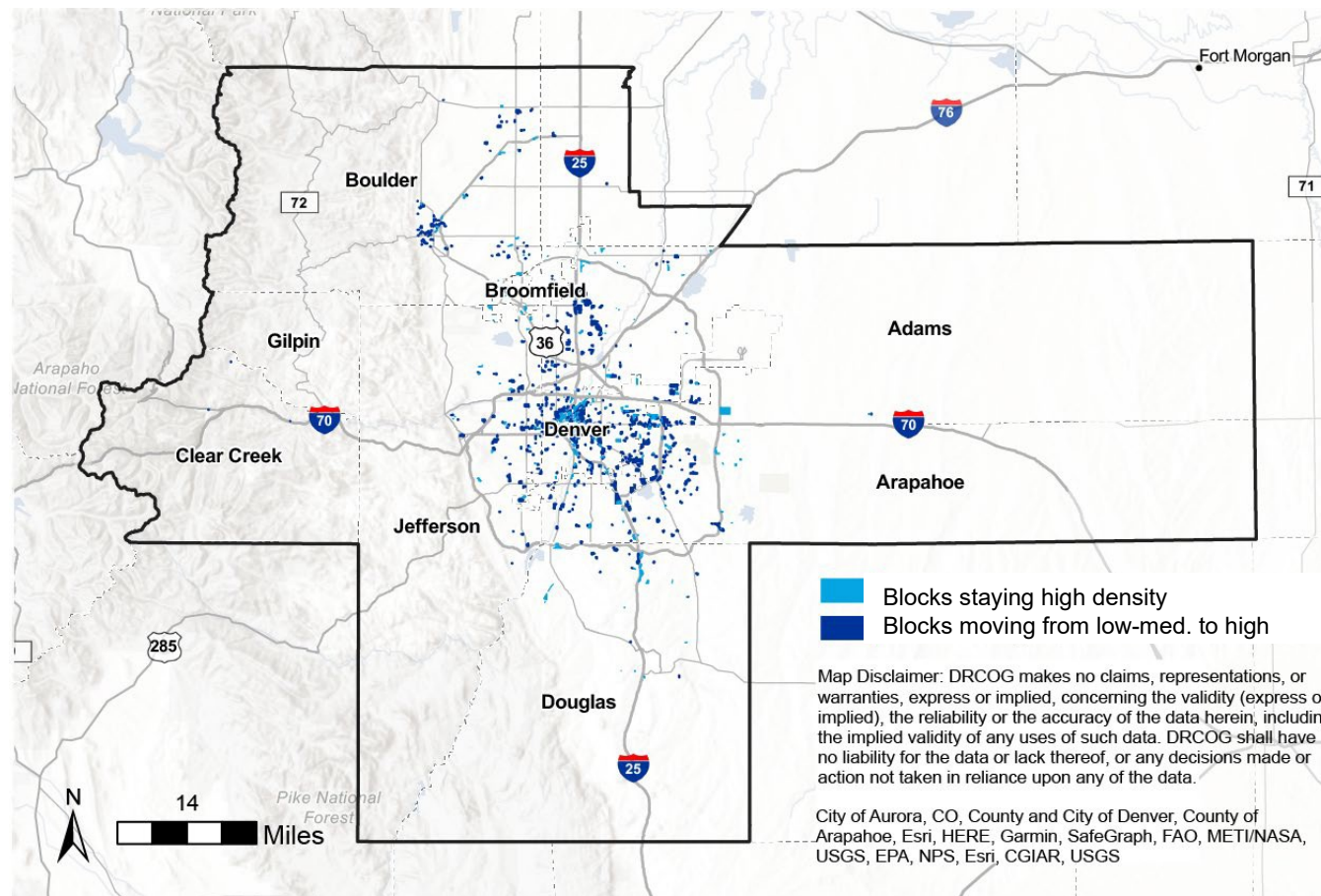
low-med to  
high-density  
2010-2050

high-density block  
10+ households per  
acre

## Household growth, 2010-2050

- 66,280 households
- 9.1% of total household growth
- ≈ 90% well-served by transit

- 49,520 households
- 6.7% of total household growth





# Objective: Promote investment/reinvestment in existing communities

## Employment growth, 2010-2050

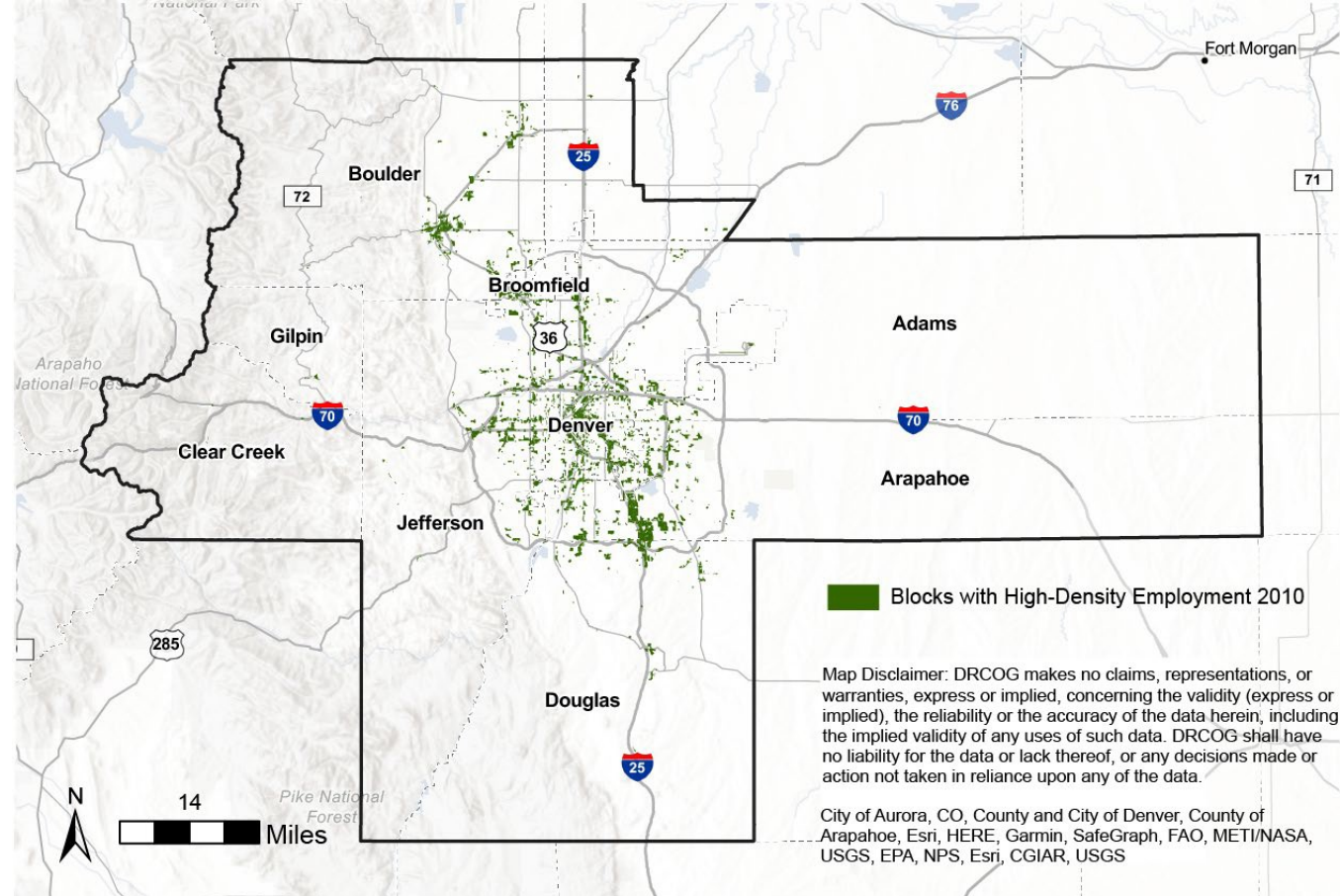
Existing high-density  
employment areas  
With 10+ jobs per acre

- 210,710 Jobs
- 16.4% of total job growth
- ≈ 95% well-served by transit

Not shown:

### All high-density employment areas in 2050

- 689,742 Jobs
- 53.6% of total job growth
- 86% well-served by transit







# Objective: Contain urban development in locations designated for urban growth and services

**sparse block**  
<1 household per acre

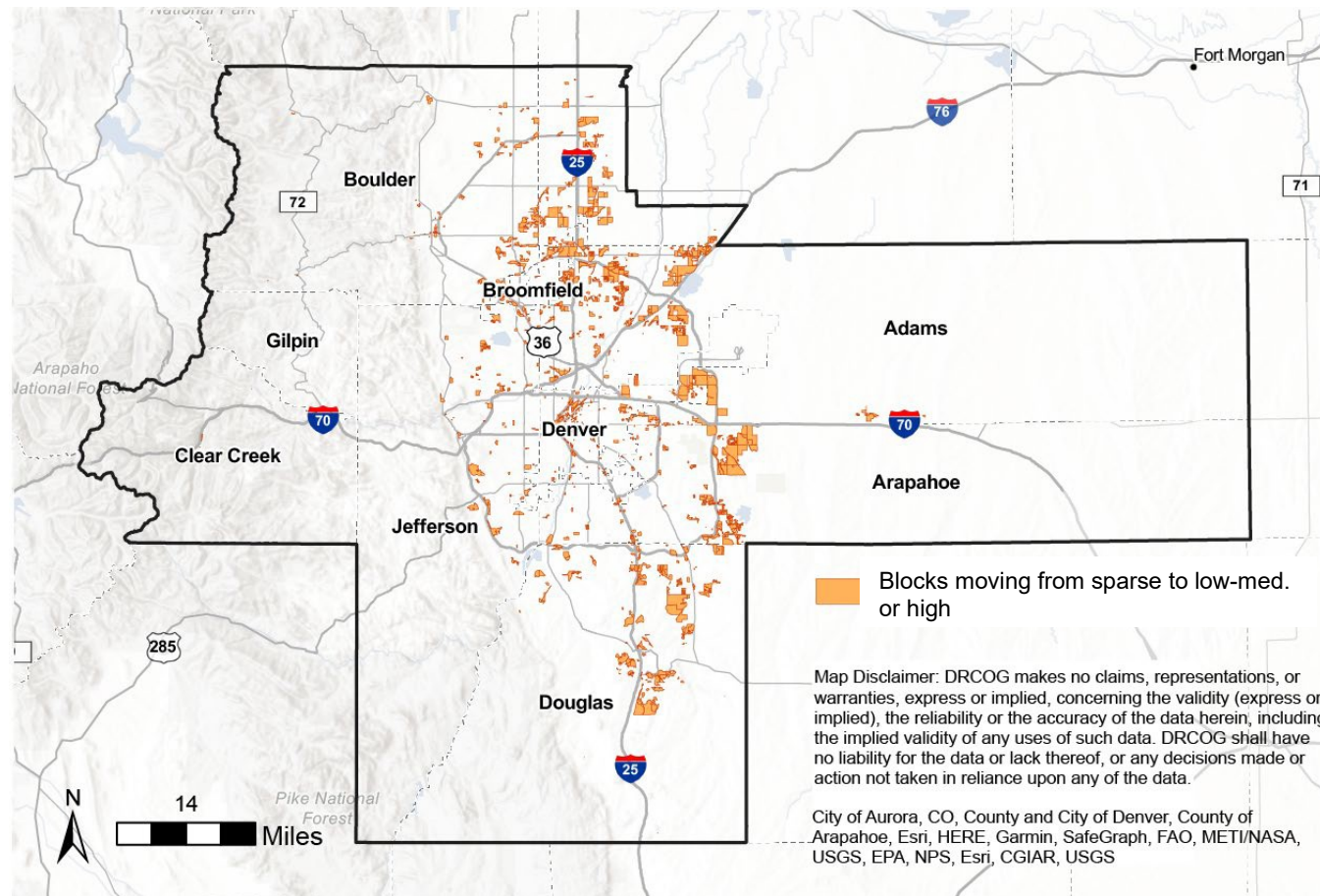
sparse to  
low-med. or  
high-density  
2010-2050

**high-density block**  
10+ households per  
acre

**low- or medium-  
density block**  
2-10 household per  
acre

## Household growth, 2010-2050

- 366,740 households
- 50% of total household growth
- ≈ 50% well-served by transit, ≈ 85% in RTD service area





Objective: Contain urban development in locations designated for urban growth and services

**Where are we growing,  
2020-2050, relative to 2010  
census urban area?**

**Within**  
62% | 84%  
of household | of job  
growth | growth

**Within ½ mile**  
16% | 6%

**Beyond**  
22% | 9%

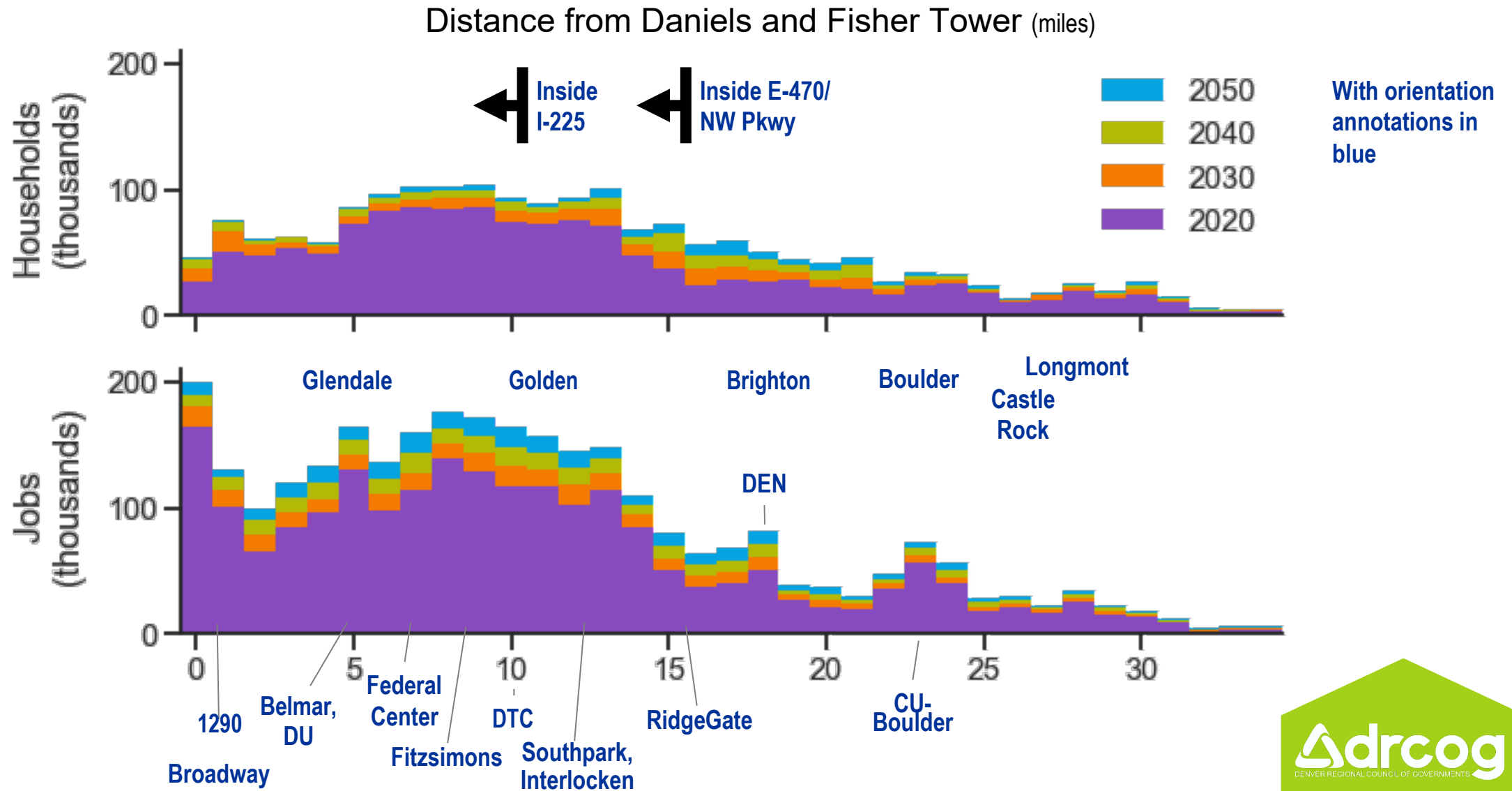
**What's the resulting total  
share in the 2010 urban area?**

Year	Share of total	
	Households	Jobs
2020	93.3%	92.7%
2050	84.8%	90.4%





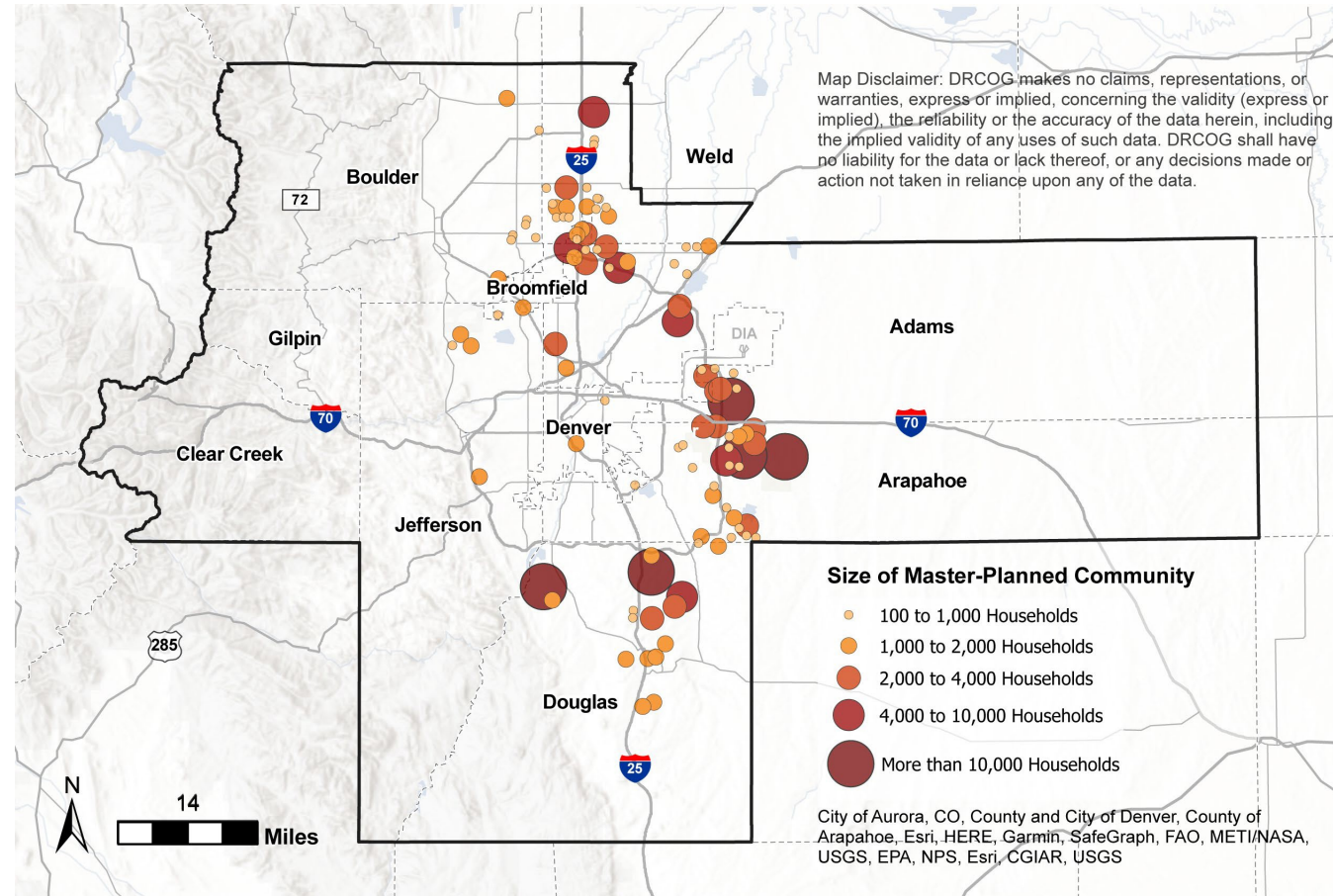
# Objective: Contain urban development in locations designated for urban growth and services





# Objective: Coordinate local and regional urban growth priorities... within regionally designated growth areas

- Estimated housing units in planned/approved **master-planned communities**: 215,000+
- Note: Many have estimated build-out year beyond 2050
- Small-area forecast attempts to balance local growth expectations with assumptions of growth deceleration (2030-2050)





# Objective: Increase housing and employment in urban centers

## Share not increasing as envisioned

### URBAN CENTER HOUSING

share of total housing units

2014 Baseline | **10.0%**  
2018 Observation | **11.7%**  
2040 Target | **25.0%**

[LEARN MORE](#)

### URBAN CENTER EMPLOYMENT

share of total employment

2014 Baseline | **36.3%**  
2018 Observation | **35.2%**  
2040 Target | **50.0%**

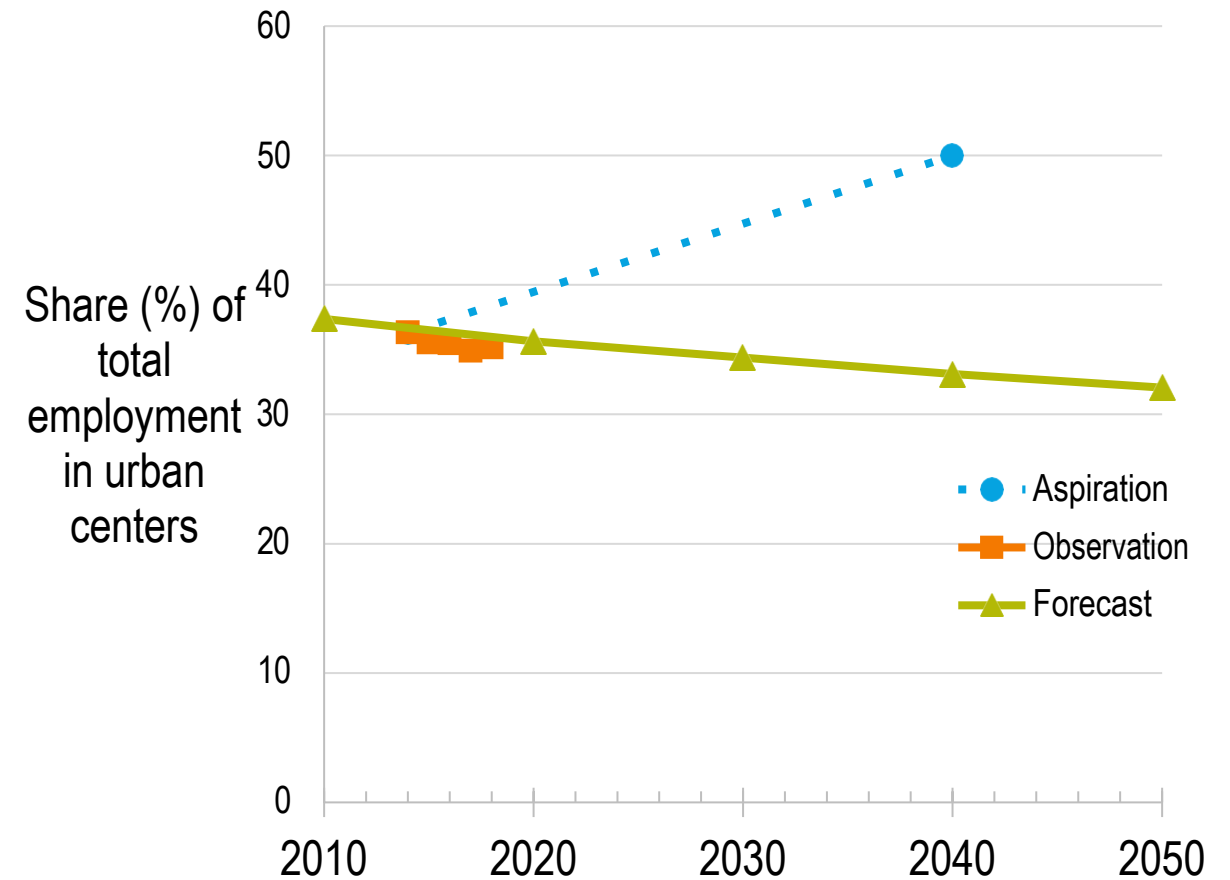
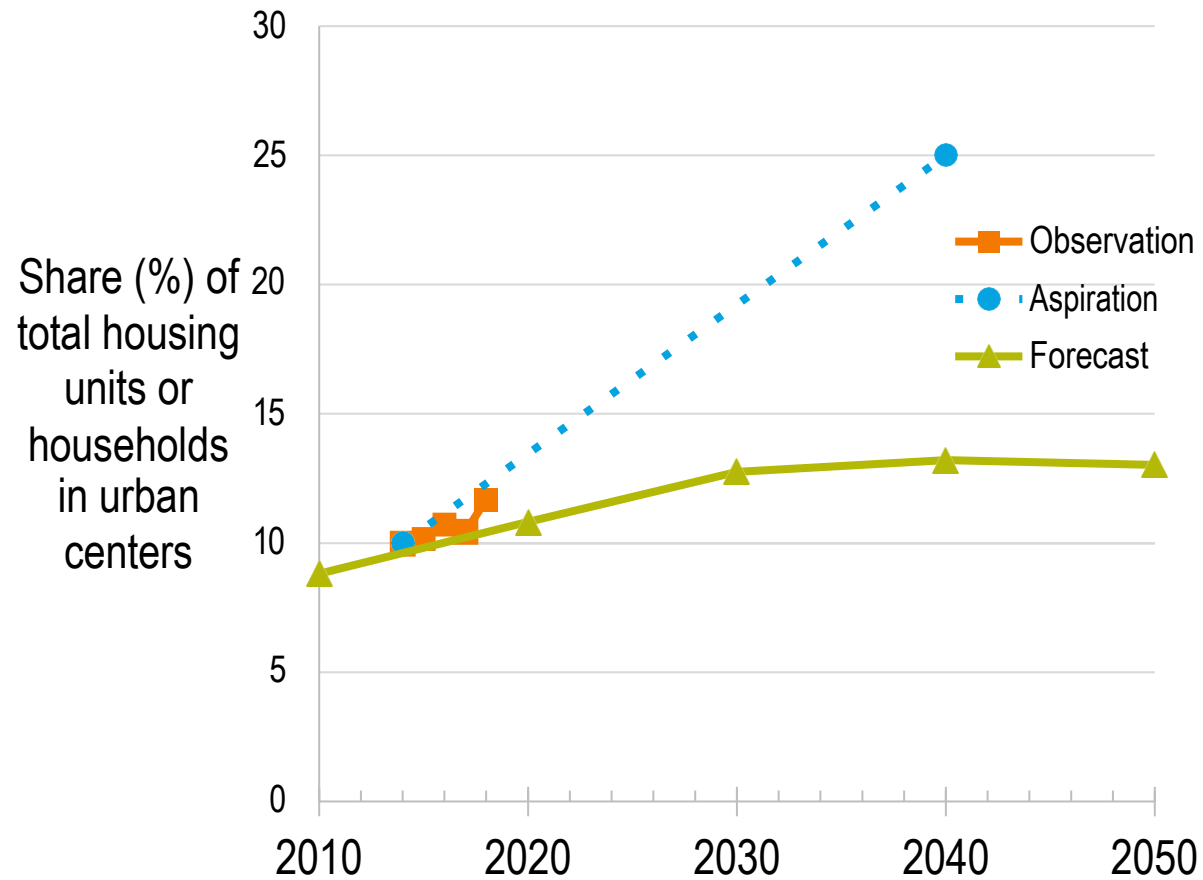
[LEARN MORE](#)

## Small-area forecast

Year	Share of Households	Share of Jobs
2010	8.8%	37.4%
2020	10.8%	35.6%
2030	12.7%	34.4%
2040	13.2%	33.1%
2050	13.0%	32.1%

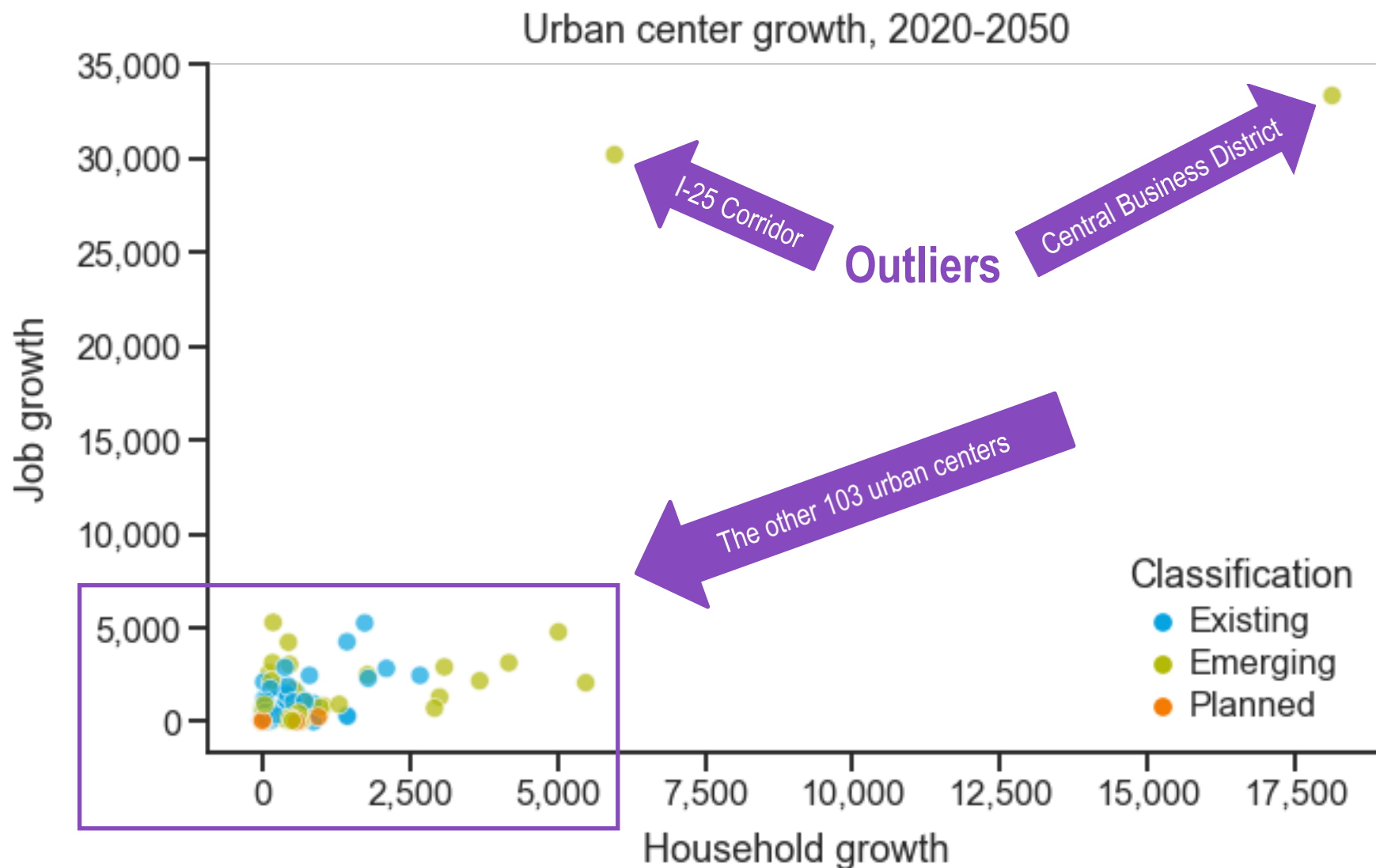


# Objective: Increase housing and employment in urban centers



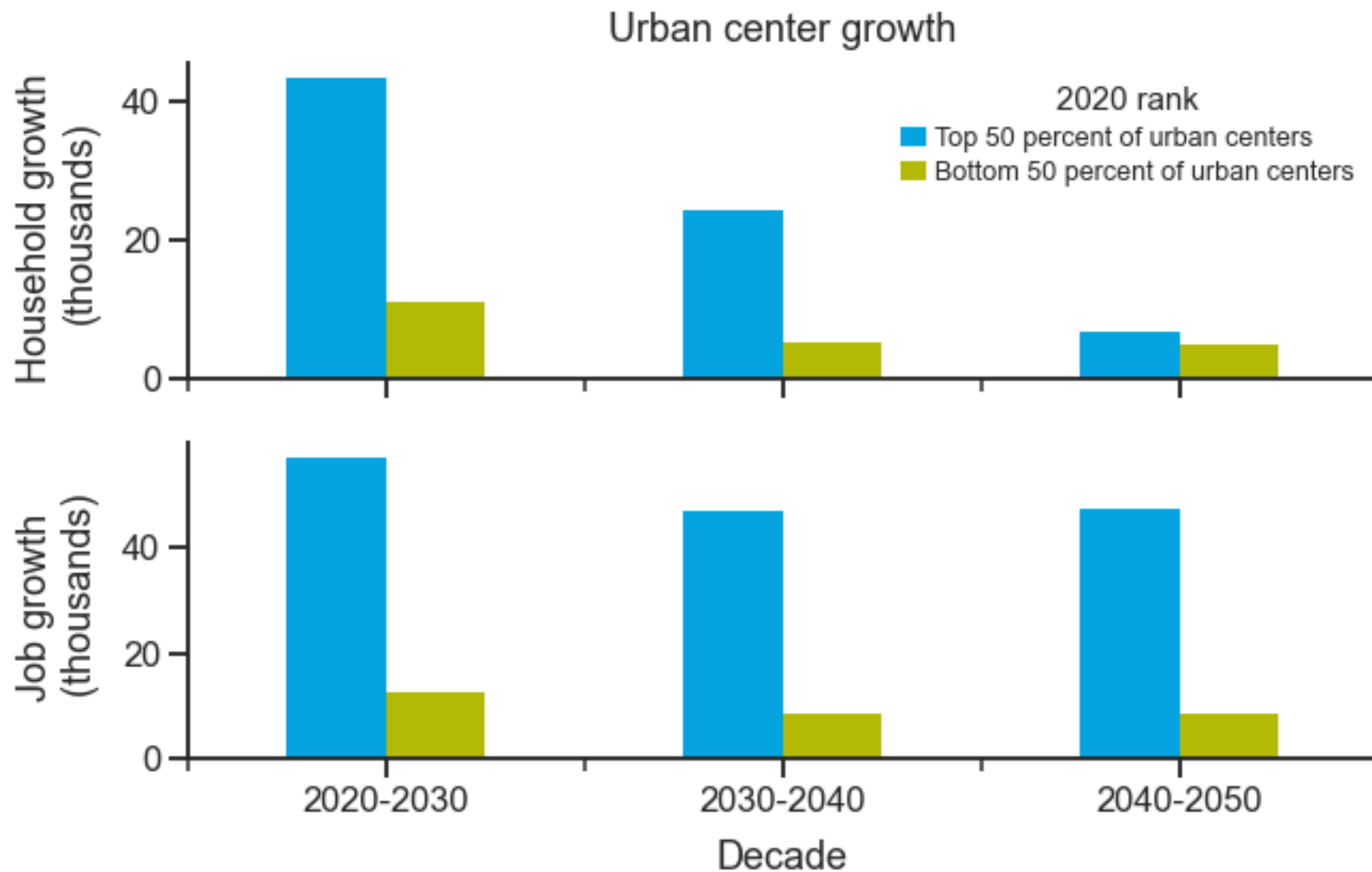


# Objective: Increase housing and employment in urban centers





# Objective: Increase housing and employment in urban centers





## Objective: Improve access to and from the region's developed and emerging housing and employment centers

- Identified groups of blocks that have **6 or more jobs per acre** and **10,000 or more jobs in total**
- Geography expands to “**grow**” **existing** centers and **add emerging** employment centers
- **20-30** employment aggregations over forecast period

Year	Employment identified	Emp. share	Area share
2010	697,600	42%	0.6%
2020	1,048,600	49%	1.1%
2030	1,299,600	53%	1.4%
2040	1,472,000	54%	1.6%
2050	1,696,600	57%	1.9%





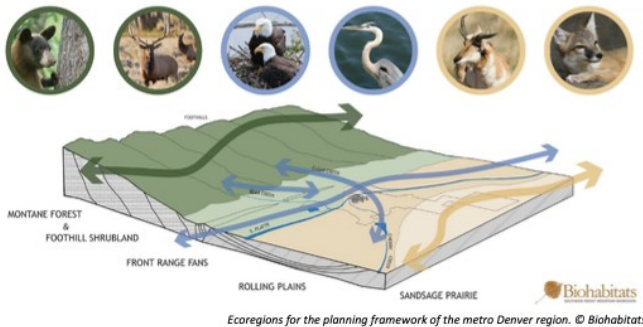
# Partner activity that will consider 2050 small-area forecast

## DENVER METRO REGIONAL CONSERVATION ASSESSMENT



By developing these tools in close partnership with key regional and local decision makers and ecological experts, The Nature Conservancy seeks to achieve multiple outcomes. These include:

- Influencing how decision makers prioritize lands and waters to protect, connect, restore, and enhance;
- Ensuring all people can have equitable access to nature and build community well-being;
- Supporting wildlife in the face of a changing climate;
- Creating a base of ecological knowledge to inform future policy, planning, and funding actions;
- Deepening collaboration between key organizations in the region, including city and open space managers, ecological experts, environmental organizations, outdoor recreation managers, and other stakeholders; and
- Improving planning and decision-making between stakeholders through the development of shared goals, priorities, and metrics.



### Project Deliverables

- **Regional Conservation Strategy:** A shared and adopted plan and portfolio of targets, metrics, and priority lands and waters in the Denver metro region. This plan will guide collaborative actions to establish a high-quality, connected conservation network that supports ecological function, community health, equitable access to nature, and outdoor recreation. This regional conservation strategy will be incorporated into other existing and ongoing efforts including Colorado's Climate Action Plan and other city and county plans.
- **Biodiversity Atlas for decision-makers:** A database (including methods and metadata) of relevant geospatial information accessible to Metro DNA partners, stakeholders, and the public that will be used to prioritize the region's lands and waters for protection, restoration, and enhancement. This product will include a spatially explicit map that will be accessible to decision makers across the region.
- **A diverse, engaged, and invested Leadership Council, Technical Advisory Team, and partner network:** Leveraging the expertise and input of our partners will drive implementation of the

Page | 2

- **MV Objective: Improve opportunities for recreation and access to nature**
- *This project will develop a ... suite of decision-making tools to identify high-priority places in the metro Denver region to protect, connect, restore, and enhance for people and nature.*





## Existing direction and guidance

### October Board discussion:

- Data suggests region is not making adequate progress on **supplying affordable/attainable housing**
- A "**deeper dive**" on this issue is warranted
- More **current data** sources (vs. "lag" data) would be helpful for local and regional analysis and initiatives

### Existing Metro Vision priorities:

- **Urban centers:** long-standing priority – more analysis needed to understand "under performance" in forecast
- Reducing **transportation-related GHG emissions** / alignment with GHG Roadmap (also noted in October )



# December BWS: additional direction and guidance requested

## Director input requested:

- "deeper dive" topics
- priorities/focus areas (if any) for coordinated regional efforts

## Next steps:

- Additional research, presentations on identified topics
- Focused, topic-specific conversations to identify and/or advance shared initiatives
- Metro Vision amendment (2021)
  - performance measure/target amendments
  - potential to account for priorities/focus areas

# QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION

Brad Calvert, Director  
Regional Planning and Development  
[bpcalvert@drcog.org](mailto:bpcalvert@drcog.org)  
303.480.6839

**ATTACH C**

To: Chair and Members of the Board of Directors

From: Douglas W. Rex, Executive Director  
303-480-6701 or [drex@drcog.org](mailto:drex@drcog.org)

Meeting Date	Agenda Category	Agenda Item #
December 2, 2020	Discussion	5

#### SUBJECT

AAA initiatives for expanding the Wellness Fund

#### PROPOSED ACTION/RECOMMENDATIONS

N/A

#### ACTION BY OTHERS

N/A

#### SUMMARY

Hospitals, insurance companies, and the State of Colorado will begin referring patients to community-based organizations (CBO) like DRCOG's Area Agency on Aging to address patients' social needs. To date, these efforts have been small in scale, but substantial growth is imminent. Beginning in February 2022, the State of Colorado will begin providing financial incentives paid to hospitals, to increase the number of patient referrals to CBOs for social needs. These incentives are based on evidence that addressing people's social needs like food security, inter-personal safety, and transportation improves health status and saves tax-payers money. While staff agrees with this assessment, there is growing concern that the higher volume of referrals will present real challenges for CBOs to provide critical services without new or increased funding.

Today's presentation will share an overview of the initiatives that will be operationalized by the State and health care companies in the region, as well as current plans to work with the State and health care companies to expand funding and partnerships to ensure appropriate community-based services are available to those that need them, when they are needed.

#### PREVIOUS DISCUSSIONS/ACTIONS

[November 6, 2019](#) – Board Work Session

#### PROPOSED MOTION

N/A

#### ATTACHMENT

Staff presentation

#### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

If you need additional information, please contact Douglas W. Rex, Executive Director, at 303-480-6701 or [drex@drcog.org](mailto:drex@drcog.org); or AJ Diamontopoulos, Manager, Accountable Health Communities at 303-480-6767 or [adiamontopoulos@drcog.org](mailto:adiamontopoulos@drcog.org).

# WELLNESS FUND

AJDiamontopoulos, Accountable  
Health Communities Manager

# Challenges to address health-related social needs



Several new health care initiatives will **dramatically increase the number of referrals** to community organizations, which are already at capacity and anticipating near-term budget cuts.





# CHALLENGE: NEW HEALTH CARE INITIATIVES



## Colorado Hospital Transformation Program

- Hospitals will receive incentives for screening and referring Medicaid patients.
- Many will screen and refer all patients.
- Hospitals are required to conduct on-going, meaningful engagement with their community

## Social Health Information Exchange

- a referral and tracking system that connects health services and community-based services





# CHALLENGE: NEW HEALTH CARE INITIATIVES (CONT.)



## Kaiser Permanente and the Unite Colorado Community Network

- a coordinated care network that uses shared technology to connect community-based organizations, health care providers and public agencies



# COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS ARE ALREADY STRUGGLING WITH ...



## waiting lists

- Most community organizations are already at service capacity.

## limited funding for community-based services

- State and local funding does not increase as needs increase.
- Philanthropic funding is limited.

## COVID-19

- Waiting lists have ballooned.
- Community-based organizations were hesitant to accept CARES Act money.

# Background: Health-related social needs



## **Denver Regional Accountable Health Community purpose:**

- goal: understand how health care costs are reduced
- Identify gaps in the delivery of community-based services and close them
- Integrate the workflow and screen Medicare and Medicaid patients at different clinical sites
- refer patients with health-related social needs to community-based organizations



# DENVER REGIONAL ACCOUNTABLE HEALTH COMMUNITY



## Screening results for the 29-month period ending October 2020



total screenings

32,698

beneficiaries screened with at least one need

11,144

34%

community referrals not fulfilled

approximately

50%



Referrals don't  
change outcomes.

Services change  
outcomes.



# POTENTIAL SOLUTION: WELLNESS FUND



**Purpose:** an evolution of the Denver Regional Accountable Health Community to enhance community-based organizations service capacity to deliver services to people when needed



# POTENTIAL SOLUTION: WELLNESS FUND NEXT STEPS



1

Engage stakeholders, including:

- community representatives
- governments
- payers
- providers
- others with a stake in the program's results



2

Identify community-based services that have a positive effect on health care costs and outcomes.



3

Improve service capacity through investment and coordination of community-based services.



# MODEL WELLNESS FUNDS: EXAMPLE A



## **Massachusetts Prevention and Wellness Trust Fund**

Between 2014 and 2018, the Massachusetts Prevention and Wellness Trust Fund became the first program in the country to invest on a large scale in evidence-based community strategies to prevent illness, improve health outcomes and reduce health inequalities across race, ethnicity and income.





# MODEL WELLNESS FUNDS: EXAMPLE B



## California Accountable Communities for Health Initiative

Under this approach, a wellness fund supports the vision and purpose of each site, including supporting a bridge organization.

A wellness fund is intended to pool, manage or align funds from varied sources in order to address the priorities and goals of each Accountable Health Community.



# WELLNESS FUND NEXT STEPS



We anticipate that **Strategic Action Planning Group on Aging** will recommend that the governor create two Wellness Fund pilots. DRCOG has recruited a **stakeholder group** to help implement one pilot when the recommendation is made.

We have asked them to:

- provide input on the structure of the Wellness Fund
- help identify funding for the creation of the Wellness Fund



THANK YOU!  
QUESTIONS

AJ Diamontopoulos  
Manager, Accountable Health Communities  
[adiamontopoulos@drcog.org](mailto:adiamontopoulos@drcog.org)  
303-480-6767