

Denver Region Sustainable Communities Initiative



DRCOG Board of Directors
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DENVER REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

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SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES INITIATIVE

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SCI Regional Principles

What the Regional Principles & Recommended Strategies are:

- ❖ A reflection of outcomes from *all* SCI activities
- ❖ A set of principles to serve as a *common* foundation for future work to meet shared challenges & goals through collaboration
- ❖ Guidance for individual jurisdictions, agencies & organizations in identifying policies & activities to achieve goals specific to their needs & circumstances

SCI Regional Principles

What the Regional Principles & Recommended Strategies are NOT:

- ❖ An exhaustive, inflexible & unchanging list of possible policies and actions – need for adaptation & augmentation to meet changing needs & circumstances
- ❖ Mandates for specific action by jurisdictions, agencies & organizations – adoption & implementation voluntary based on needs, circumstances, missions & roles

SCI Regional Principles

Housing Opportunity

Housing is more than just shelter. It is a key determinant of local and regional economies, drives travel patterns and habits, and is a primary factor in determining the physical and social health of the region's residents. Ensuring that every resident has a safe, decent, accessible and affordable place to live is critical to the long term economic success of the Denver Region.

1. Targets
2. Location & accessibility
3. Financing
4. Coordination
5. Incentives to jurisdictions
6. Eliminate Racially Concentrated Areas of Poverty

SCI Regional Principles

Healthy Places

One of the biggest attractions of the Denver region has long been the high quality of life and public health supported largely by environmental conditions and access to amenities that encourage active living. As the region continues to grow it must do everything possible to continually support and enhance the quality of public health, environmental resources and the built environment. The expansion of the regional transit system offers new opportunities for achieving this goal by enhancing accessibility to services and amenities, increasing activities that support healthy lifestyles, encouraging development that is conducive to health, and providing the availability of alternative modes of transportation. These activities should be conducted in partnerships with organizations currently involved in related work and should build on existing efforts.

1. Targets
2. Best practices
3. Coordination
4. Incentives to jurisdictions

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Economic Vitality & Resiliency

The strength of the Denver region's economy is its workforce. Continued economic vitality and resilience requires a targeted approach to ensure access to opportunity for all residents. This includes access to good paying jobs, affordable housing, health care and transportation that supports people in maintaining employment. Open communication and collaboration must cut across all sectors of the economy and focus on improving opportunity for all incomes, races and education levels. That is the basis for long-term economic growth.

1. Targets
2. Location & accessibility
3. Incentives
4. Jobs & training/education
5. Coordination
6. Inclusive economic growth

SCI Regional Principles

Transit Accessibility

The Denver region's investment in building out its transit service presents an opportunity to provide enhanced access to opportunity such as jobs, education and health for all residents. However, these benefits can only be realized if the transit service is both physically and financially accessible to residents. Increased access to transit and multi-modal options is especially critical for communities throughout the region, including low-income communities, the disabled, communities of color and seniors.

1. Accessibility to stations – First/Final Mile
2. Reduce transit costs to vulnerable populations – low income, seniors, etc.
3. Transit access to jobs, housing & needed services

SCI Regional Principles

Transit Oriented Communities

Vital Transit Oriented Communities (TOC) are key to fully leveraging the regional transit system. These communities should demonstrate diverse uses including residential, retail, commercial, and industrial depending on the conditions specific to that station area. They should include a range of amenities and services to serve people who reside and work in the station area, but also assist those who use the station to access transit. TOCs should be characterized by increased density, infrastructure that enhances accessibility and promotes active living, and design for resource efficiency (including water, energy, etc.). They also should be sensitive to the culture, character and needs of existing and surrounding communities.

1. Continued collaboration in planning & development
2. Meaningful stakeholder engagement
3. Incentives to planning, policy & development
4. Tools & resources to support planning & development
5. Coordinated infrastructure resource planning & reduced impacts

Questions?

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