Denver Regional Council of Governments Summary Document of the 2013 Cycle 1 Amendments to the 2035 Metro Vision Regional Transportation Plan

Draft: July 22, 2013

I. Summary

Two amendments are proposed to the Fiscally Constrained 2035 Regional Transportation Plan (FC-2035 RTP) of the 2035 Metro Vision Regional Transportation Plan (2035 MVRTP):

- 1. Change the network staging period for the construction of the segment of the North Metro Rail Line from the National Western Stock Show station to the 72nd Avenue station from 2025-2035 to 2015-2024.
- 2. Add a non-FasTracks-funded station to the Fiscally Constrained Rapid Transit System. The station, to be known as Aviation Station, would be on the East Rail Line at 61st Avenue and Pena Boulevard. It would open concurrently with the East Rail Line in 2016.

Figure A shows the location of each proposed amendment.

II. Analysis of Amendments

1. North Metro Amendment

The North Metro Rail Line amendment must be reflected in a new air quality conformity determination. This is because the segment (National Western Stock Show to 72nd Avenue) would be constructed sooner and "added" to the 2015-2024 network staging period. Because this segment would be completed several years sooner, its capital construction cost will decrease.

2. Aviation Station Amendment

The new Aviation Station must also be reflected in a new air quality conformity determination. The station will add 800 new parking spaces.

Air Quality Conformity Modeling

The FC-2035 RTP networks resulting from the proposed amendments were tested to ensure they would pass all applicable air quality conformity pollutant emission tests. Modeling was conducted to produce vehicle miles of travel (VMT) and roadway operating speeds for the 2010, 2015, 2025, and 2035 network staging years. Results were used by the Colorado Air Pollution Control Division to calculate the mobile source pollutant emissions. **The results for each of the plan staging years pass all of the pollutant budget tests.** More details can be found in the companion 2013 Cycle 1 conformity documents (CO and PM10 Conformity Determination).

Amendment Documentation & Financial Analysis

RTD provided documentation and analyses addressing the proposed amendments, their need and benefit, and cost and revenue implications for fiscal constraint. RTD's amendment documentation indicates the projects can be completed as scheduled with reasonably expected funds. The revised project cost for the North Metro Rail Line appears reasonable, and RTD's method of financing is only a minor change from the full Financial Plan approved by the DRCOG Board for 2012 Cycle 2 at its February 20, 2013 meeting. The capital construction cost decreases from \$484.6 million YOE\$ to \$351.5 million YOE\$.

Documentation associated with the RTD FasTracks Amendments includes:

- RTD's proposed amendments (March 2013)
- RTD responses to DRCOG comments/questions (March 8, 2013 and April 9, 2013)

III. Proposed Amendments and Changes to 2035 MVRTP document

The amendments and changes discussed above will be incorporated into applicable text, tables, and figures within the 2035 MVRTP document. Updated Figure 29, Appendix 2 and Appendix 4 will be posted to the DRCOG 2035 MVRTP web page.

