

To: Chair and Members of the Board of Directors
From: Douglas W. Rex, Executive Director
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Meeting Date	Agenda Category	Agenda Item #
February 7, 2018	Informational	5

SUBJECT

Discussion of proposed amendments to *Metro Vision* to be included in public review materials.

PROPOSED ACTION/RECOMMENDATIONS

No action requested. This item is for information.

ACTION BY OTHERS

N/A

SUMMARY

Background

DRCOG issued a call for proposed amendments to the *2040 Metro Vision Regional Transportation Plan* and *Metro Vision* in October 2017, with anticipated adoption of the amended plans in early 2018. Prior to acting to amend both plans, DRCOG will make the proposed amendments available for review and comment. A public hearing on the proposed amendments will also be held prior to Board consideration.

Staff-proposed amendments

The following amendments to *Metro Vision* performance measures and targets are proposed by DRCOG staff:

1. Amend description of “Share of the region’s housing and employment near high-frequency transit” as follows:

Share of the region’s housing and employment near ~~high-frequency~~ capacity transit

This change will better describe the measure methodology, which calculates the share of the region’s housing and employment within ½ mile of rapid transit stations, or within ¼ mile of bus stops with 96 or more departures per weekday, which is an average of 4 per hour. The proposed amendment does not change the measure, or the methodology used to take the measure, only the description of the measure.

2. Update baseline and 2040 target for the above measure to correct for error in original baseline calculation

As adopted, *Metro Vision* includes a 2014 baseline observation of this measure. The erroneous baseline observation was shared with the Board during the Board’s deliberations on establishing performance measures and targets. DRCOG staff discovered the mistake in preliminary efforts to collect updated observations for all *Metro Vision* performance measures.

This measure relies on analysis to determine the total number of scheduled bus departures for each stop for a typical weekday during the period covered by the last transit service change of the year. Erroneously, weekday, Saturday, and Sunday departures were summed together for each stop, resulting in more stops being included in the area used to calculate the number of housing units and jobs located within the high-capacity service area. This gave stops a 72-hour window to reach 96 departures, rather than the intended 24-hour window.

Consequently, staff is recommending a revised 2040 target, as follows:

Measure	Where are we today? (Baseline)	Where do we want to be? (2040 Target)
Share of the region's housing and employment near high-frequency capacity transit	Housing: 29.7 <u>14.0</u> percent (2014)	35.0 20.0 percent
	Employment: 48.4 <u>32.3</u> percent (2014)	60.0 45.0 percent

The original and proposed targets are both for the year 2040. For the purpose of comparing the relationship between baseline measurements and targets, average annual change to meet the existing and proposed targets are described below.

- Under the existing target, housing units within the high-capacity area would need to increase an average of 0.20 percentage points each year, this would increase to 0.23 with the proposed amendment.
- Average annual employment percentage point change per year would go up from 0.45 to 0.49.
- Preliminary observations for 2016 suggest the region is already at 17.2 percent and 37.5 percent for housing and employment, respectively – significantly outpacing the required average annual change for both components of the measure.

Today's discussion on staff proposed amendments to Metro Vision

DRCOG staff is seeking discussion and guidance on the proposed changes to the measure description and target change, prior to including the proposed amendments in public review materials.

Other proposed amendments to be included public review materials

As noted above, a call for sponsor-submitted amendments to Metro Vision was opened in October 2017. DRCOG received four proposals to amend urban centers recognized in *Metro Vision*.

Plan Component	Description	Proposed by
Urban Centers	Boundary adjustment to <i>East Colfax Main Street</i>	Denver
Urban Centers	Boundary adjustment to <i>Highlands Ranch Town Center</i>	Douglas County
Urban Centers	Boundary adjustment to <i>CityCenter (Englewood City Center)</i>	Englewood
Urban Centers	Recognize <i>National Western Center</i> as an urban center	Denver

All four proposed urban center amendments will be included in the materials for public review and comment, alongside recommendations from 1) an evaluation panel composed of stakeholders familiar with *Metro Vision* and the role of urban centers in the region's growth framework, and 2) DRCOG staff.

The Board will consider the findings of the review panel, staff recommendations and public comment when the proposed urban center amendments are considered in April.

For the 2040 Metro Vision Regional Transportation Plan (2040 MVRTP), the proposed amendments primarily involve additions or changes to a few regionally significant roadway capacity projects, and air quality staging period changes to all projects. All proposed project and air quality staging period changes were approved by the Board in December 2017 to model for air quality conformity.

Other proposed changes to the 2040 MVRTP are staff-initiated changes to keep the plan updated and relevant, such as including updated traffic model outputs, Census data, congestion and air quality data, and other data and narrative updates since the 2040 MVRTP was adopted in April 2017. The updated plan will also include DRCOG's 2018 safety targets adopted by the Board in January as required by the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act.

Staff will provide a track changes version of the 2040 MVRTP as part of the adoption process with the Board and committees in March and April.

PREVIOUS DISCUSSIONS/ACTIONS

N/A

PROPOSED MOTION

N/A

ATTACHMENTS

1. Staff presentation
2. [Metro Vision](#)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

If you need additional information, please contact Douglas W. Rex, Executive Director, at 303-480-6701 or drex@drcoog.org; or Brad Calvert, Regional Planning and Development Director at 303-480-6839 or bcalvert@drcoog.org.