

January 2016

DRCOG'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS ADOPTS 14 METRO VISION OUTCOMES

In February 2015, the DRCOG Board of Directors received for review and deliberation a draft Metro Vision plan including 16 draft outcomes. Throughout 2015 the Metro Vision Issues Committee (MVIC) worked closely with DRCOG staff to review the draft document and provide the Board with recommended changes. After a thoughtful review of the draft outcomes, MVIC recommended removing two outcomes (“Freestanding communities and rural town centers remain distinct from the larger urban area;” and “A transportation system contributing to a better quality of life”). The committee emphasized, however, that subsequent discussions will consider the strategic objectives associated with those outcomes. **At its Jan. 20, 2016 meeting, DRCOG’s Board of Directors approved the 14 outcomes and accompanying narratives, which provide further insight about the intent of the overarching outcomes (see next page) put forth by MVIC:**

- Outcome 1: The region is comprised of diverse, livable communities.
- Outcome 2: New urban development occurs within the contiguous and designated areas identified in the Urban Growth Boundary/Area (UGB/A).
- Outcome 3: Connected urban centers and multimodal corridors accommodate a growing share of the region’s housing and employment.
- Outcome 4: The regional transportation system is well-connected and serves all modes of travel.
- Outcome 5: The transportation system is safe, reliable and well-maintained.
- Outcome 6: The region has clean water and air, and lower greenhouse gas emissions.
- Outcome 7: The region values, protects, and connects people to its diverse natural resource areas, open space, parks and trails.
- Outcome 8: The region’s working agricultural lands and activities contribute to a strong regional food system.
- Outcome 9: The risk and effects of natural and human-created hazards are reduced.
- Outcome 10: The built and natural environment supports healthy and active choices.
- Outcome 11: The region’s residents have expanded connections to health services.
- Outcome 12: Diverse housing options meet the needs of residents of all ages, incomes, and abilities.
- Outcome 13: All residents have access to a range of transportation, employment, commerce, housing, educational, cultural, and recreational opportunities.
- Outcome 14: Investments in infrastructure and amenities allow people and businesses to thrive and prosper.

Outcome 1: The region is comprised of diverse, livable communities.

The Denver metro region will continue to embrace its diverse urban, suburban and rural communities. Varied housing and transportation options, access to employment and a range of services and recreational opportunities will promote livable communities that meet the needs of people of all ages, incomes, and abilities.

Outcome 2: New urban development occurs within the contiguous and designated areas identified in the Urban Growth Boundary/Area (UGB/A).

A defined Urban Growth Boundary/Area (UGB/A) leads to an orderly and more compact pattern of future development. While locally adopted policies and market demand determine the location of urban development, commitment to the UGB/A leads to better use of regional resources for infrastructure, reduced regional vehicle travel and conservation of open land outside the boundary/area.

Outcome 3: Connected urban centers and multimodal corridors accommodate a growing share of the region's housing and employment.

The location and context of each center define its unique character. They are transit-, pedestrian-, bicycle-friendly places that contain a more dense and diverse mix of land uses than the surrounding areas; are designed to allow people of all ages, incomes and abilities to access a range of housing, employment, and services without sole reliance on having to drive. Urban centers provide public spaces where people can gather; aid in reducing per capita VMT, air pollution, greenhouse gas emissions and water consumption; and respect and support existing neighborhoods.

Outcome 4: The regional transportation system is well-connected and serves all modes of travel.

The transportation system integrates regional and local roadways and streets, transit (bus and rail), bicycle and pedestrian facilities, and air and freight rail linkages. The transportation system connects the region to the rest of the state and beyond, and will evolve to include future technology and mobility innovations as appropriate.

Outcome 5: The transportation system is safe, reliable and well-maintained.

Educational, enforcement, and engineering approaches enhance safety to reduce crashes, serious injuries, and fatalities. Coordinated operations and management of the system maximizes capacity and reliability for all users. Transportation system physical components are well-maintained to extend their useful life and provide a quality travel experience.

Outcome 6: The region has clean water and air, and lower greenhouse gas emissions.

The region meets or exceeds applicable federal, state, and local requirements and regional targets for air and water quality.

Outcome 7: The region values, protects, and connects people to its diverse natural resource areas, open space, parks and trails.

The region's protection and restoration of its diverse natural resource areas—its mountain backdrop, unique prairie landscapes, extensive riparian corridors, and other open space areas, parks and trails and is essential as the region continues to grow. Access to these areas provides the opportunity to participate in a variety of recreational pursuits that support community health and wellness.

Outcome 8: The region’s working agricultural lands and activities contribute to a strong regional food system.

Working agricultural lands are essential to the region’s heritage, health, and economic and cultural diversity. Livestock feeding and production, growing feed and forage crops for livestock, food production, or greenhouse and nursery crops, agricultural lands and operations of all sizes create jobs in the region, support economic vitality, and promote healthier communities by bringing people closer to their food source.

Outcome 9: The risk and effects of natural and human-created hazards are reduced.

Hazard mitigation planning reduces injuries and loss of life; trauma; and damage to property, equipment, and infrastructure. Communities are more resilient when planning also accounts for disaster response and recovery.

Outcome 10: The built and natural environment supports healthy and active choices.

A deliberate focus on the built environment’s influence on physical activity, mobility choices, access to healthy food, and the natural environment supports the opportunity to lead healthy and active lifestyles throughout the region.

Outcome 11: The region’s residents have expanded connections to health services.

Expanded connections to health services improve the health and wellness of residents in the Denver region. Connections to health services are expanded through improved multimodal transportation access, the location of new health services, and other innovative approaches resulting in more convenient access to health services.

Outcome 12: Diverse housing options meet the needs of residents of all ages, incomes, and abilities.

Housing choices allow individuals and families to find desirable housing affordable and accessible to them in communities throughout the region and stay in their community of choice as their economic or life circumstances change. A range of housing options across the region benefits both individuals and families, and can improve the economic vitality and diversity of local communities.

Outcome 13: All residents have access to a range of transportation, employment, commerce, housing, educational, cultural, and recreational opportunities.

The region’s economy prospers when all residents have access to a range of transportation, employment, housing, education, cultural, and recreational opportunities. The region’s transportation network plays a critical role in enabling commerce and providing access to basic needs and quality of life amenities that allow the region’s residents to succeed.

Outcome 14: Investments in infrastructure and amenities allow people and businesses to thrive and prosper.

The region’s continuous investments in infrastructure support a globally connected economy and offer opportunities for all residents to share and contribute to sustained regional prosperity. Vibrant and thriving communities, accessible and protected natural resources, and diverse cultural amenities are considered economic assets and make our region a highly desirable place to live, work and raise a family.