

July 2016

DRCOG'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS ADOPTS METRO VISION REGIONAL AND SUPPORTING OBJECTIVES AND ASSOCIATED NARRATIVES

In May 2016, the DRCOG Board of Directors received for review and deliberation a draft Metro Vision plan including regional and supporting objectives and associated narratives. 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.

Beginning in March 2016, a work session of the Board replaced MVIC.

In January 2016, DRCOG's Board approved 14 Metro Vision outcomes and accompanying narratives. For additional information on the January 2016 Board action, please refer to the January 2016 Metro Vision Update: "[DRCOG's Board of Directors Adopts 14 Metro Vision Outcomes.](#)"

At its May 2016 meeting, DRCOG's Board of Directors approved the regional and supporting objectives and associated narratives put forth by the Board work session:

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

- Regional Objective 1: Improve the diversity and livability of communities.
- Regional Objective 1 Narrative: Urban, suburban, and rural communities support a stronger, more livable region by building on their individual strengths and assets. This diverse range of communities will contribute to the achievement of regional outcomes in a variety of ways based on local needs and preferences. Communities throughout the region will pursue greater livability through built environments and development patterns that accommodate the widest spectrum of people – regardless of age, income or ability.
 - Supporting Objective 1.1: Encourage development patterns and community design features that meet the needs of people of all ages, incomes, and abilities.
 - Supporting Objective 1.2: Preserve and leverage the unique characteristics of the region's communities.
 - Supporting Objective 1.3: Promote investment/reinvestment in existing communities.

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

- Regional Objective 2: Contain urban development within the Urban Growth Boundary/Area (UGB/A).

- Regional Objective 2 Narrative: Metro Vision will help focus and facilitate future urban growth in locations where urban-level infrastructure already exists or areas where plans for infrastructure and service expansion are in place. DRCOG will work with member communities to maintain the UGB/A and update the growth allocations for each community in the region annually or as needed.
 - Supporting Objective 2.1: Identify and monitor the Urban Growth Boundary/Area (UGB/A).
 - Supporting Objective 2.2: Increase and prioritize funding to serve areas within the Urban Growth Boundary/Area (UGB/A).

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

- Regional Objective 3: Increase housing and employment in urban centers.
- Regional Objective 3 Narrative: Collectively, urban centers will increase their share of the region's total housing and employment. The ability for individual urban centers to absorb future growth will vary based on the characteristics of each center. Specific projects and initiatives will establish a network of clear and direct multimodal connections within and between urban centers, as well as key destinations. Public and private partners will direct investment toward programs and infrastructure improvements that help local governments and the private sector develop successful urban centers and multimodal connections.
 - Supporting Objective 3.1: Increase public/private investment and partnerships in urban centers
 - Supporting Objective 3.2: Increase transit service and ridership within and to urban centers.
 - Supporting Objective 3.3: Invest in multimodal enhancements along corridors.

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

- Regional Objective 4: Improve and expand the region's multimodal transportation system, services and connections.
- Regional Objective 4 Narrative: The region will continue to invest in a well-connected, multimodal transportation system to improve mobility and accommodate the anticipated increase of 1.2 million people and half a million jobs by 2040. Transportation system investment initiatives may include expanding transit service and coverage, improving on-street and off-street bicycle and pedestrian facilities, widening and adding new roadways and promoting travel options. The resulting transportation system will increase mobility choices within and beyond the region for people, goods, and services.
 - Supporting Objective 4.1: Improve the capacity of the multimodal regional roadway system.
 - Supporting Objective 4.2: Improve the region's comprehensive transit system.
 - Supporting Objective 4.3: Improve bicycle and pedestrian accessibility.

- Supporting Objective 4.4: Improve interconnections of the multimodal transportation system within and beyond the region.
- Supporting Objective 4.5: Expand Travel Demand Management (TDM) services and strategies.

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

- Regional Objective 5: Operate, manage and maintain a safe and reliable transportation system.
- Regional Objective 5 Narrative: The region will optimize the multimodal transportation system to improve the safe and reliable flow of people and goods. System optimization will include projects and initiatives that make the multimodal transportation system's capacity as productive as possible. The multimodal system will require maintenance to continue safe and sound conditions. Safety projects and other related initiatives will reduce fatalities and serious injuries for all travel modes. The region will also increase the deployment of technology and mobility innovations as they occur to improve reliability and optimize capacity.
 - Supporting Objective 5.1: Maintain existing and future transportation facilities in good condition.
 - Supporting Objective 5.2: Improve transportation system performance and reliability.
 - Supporting Objective 5.3: Improve transportation safety and security.

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

- Regional Objective 6a: Improve air quality and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- Regional Objective 6a Narrative: Local and regional initiatives will reduce ground level ozone, greenhouse gas emissions (GHG), and other air pollutants. Collaboration with regional partners, such as the Regional Air Quality Council (RAQC), CDOT, and RTD will be integral to improving air quality through reductions in ground level ozone concentrations, carbon monoxide (CO), and particulate matter (PM10). Additional initiatives will raise public awareness of the direct role individual actions play in pollutant and greenhouse gas emissions.
 - Supporting Objective 6.1: Increase collaboration with local and regional partners on air quality initiatives.
 - Supporting Objective 6.2: Increase public awareness of air quality issues.
 - Supporting Objective 6.3: Improve the fuel economy of the region's vehicle fleet.
- Regional Objective 6b: Improve the efficient use and quality of the region's waters.
- Regional Objective 6b Narrative: In a semi-arid climate, water resources remain critically important to the region's quality of life and continued prosperity. The region will ensure clean water for consumption, recreation, and a balanced, healthy ecological community, through initiatives to restore and maintain the chemical and physical integrity of the region's waters. DRCOG will focus on collaborative initiatives among local governments, water providers, agricultural producers, the design and development community, and other regional stakeholders to promote water conservation and responsible water management and land use practices.

- Supporting Objective 6.4: Increase collaboration with local and regional partners on water quality initiatives.
- Supporting Objective 6.5: Increase public awareness of water quality issues.
- Supporting Objective 6.6: Maximize the efficient use of municipal and industrial water.

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

- Regional Objective 7a: Protect a variety of open spaces.
- Regional Objective 7a Narrative: Open space and the natural environment are important assets in the region. A variety of open spaces – different sizes, settings, and purposes – will help define the urban area and distinguish individual communities. Additionally these open spaces can provide important wildlife habitat, support various outdoor recreational pursuits and protect the health of water and ecological systems. The region will conserve and protect natural resources including prominent geologic features, surface waters, riparian areas, wetlands, forests and woodlands, prairie grasslands, and other environmentally sensitive lands for future generations.
 - Supporting Regional Objective 7.1: Protect and restore natural resources of local and regional significance.
- Regional Objective 7b: Connect people to natural resource and recreational areas.
- Regional Objective 7b Narrative: In addition to local and regional initiatives to preserve, protect and expand open space assets, the region will ensure that residents and visitors may access these amenities. Active and passive open spaces will serve as a key component of the region’s overall growth framework, connecting people to open space amenities. Local and regional initiatives will prioritize the completion of “missing links” in the regional trail and greenways network and improve other multimodal connections to increase park accessibility.
 - Supporting Objective 7.2: Improve opportunities for recreation and access to nature.
 - Supporting Objective 7.3: Improve multimodal linkages to and between the region’s parks, open spaces, and developed areas.

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

- Regional Objective 8: Support continued agricultural capacity in the region.
- Regional Objective 8 Narrative: Agricultural land and the ability to bring additional land or operations into production, where viable, benefits local producers, saves energy resources, and offers a level of food security for the region. Local and regional initiatives will expand opportunities for local food cultivation, processing, and sales – improving the distribution of and access to food throughout the region.
 - Supporting Objective 8.1: Conserve significant agricultural lands.
 - Supporting Objective 8.2: Increase access to healthy and local foods.
 - Supporting Objective 8.3: Increase the efficiency of food distribution.

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

- Regional Objective 9a: Reduce the risk of hazards and their impact.
- Regional Objective 9a Narrative: The region will consider land use, open space protection and critical infrastructure in areas susceptible to natural and potential human-created hazards. Local and regional initiatives will limit new development, or the expansion of existing new development, in areas recognized as having a high probability of being impacted by natural and human-created hazards. More communities will have a hazard mitigation plan in place. Collectively, these initiatives will minimize the impact of community disruptions, as well as economic, environmental, and other losses.
 - Supporting Objective 9.1: Increase open space in high-risk areas.
 - Supporting Objective 9.2: Limit new development in areas susceptible to hazards
 - Supporting Objective 9.3: Increase the use of best practices in land use planning and management to decrease risk
 - Supporting Objective 9.4: Promote integrated planning and decision making in hazard mitigation
- Regional Objective 9b: Improve disaster response and recovery.
- Regional Objective 9b Narrative: Preparing for, responding to, and recovering from disasters and traumatic events is essential to the physical, economic and emotional health of the region's communities and residents. The region will continue to be proactive in preparing for disasters, including understanding and assessing risks and vulnerabilities that may create challenges to recovery. When disasters occur, impacted communities will overcome the physical, environmental, and emotional impacts in the shortest time possible relative to the severity of the disaster. Impacted communities will reestablish key elements of the community's economic, social and cultural fabric; reestablish those key elements to pre-disaster conditions; and, when needed, make improvements to become more resilient.
 - Supporting Objective 9.5: Enhance community resiliency.
 - Supporting Objective 9.6: Increase interagency coordination.

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

- Regional Objective 10: Increase access to amenities that support healthy, active choices.
- Regional Objective 10 Narrative: The region will expand opportunities for residents to lead healthy and active lifestyles. The region's streets and roads will be planned, designed, operated, and maintained to enable safe, convenient and comfortable travel and access for users of all ages and abilities, regardless of their mode of transportation. A mix of well-connected land uses and recreational amenities in communities throughout the region will create places that make active transportation and recreational physical activity safe, and part of an everyday routine. Additionally, local and regional initiatives will increase access to healthy food options in low-income neighborhoods and areas with high levels of food insecurity.
 - Supporting Objective 10.1: Increase safe and convenient active transportation options for all ages and abilities.
 - Supporting Objective 10.2: Expand the regional trail network.

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

- **Regional Objective 11:** Improve transportation connections to health care facilities and service providers.
- **Regional Objective 11 Narrative:** The region will support the integration of health care facilities and service providers of all sizes into centers throughout the region – both urban and rural – where residents can access care by walking, biking, driving or using transit. Local and regional initiatives related to transit service, including on-demand and other specialized services, will increase transit access to health care facilities, social service providers, and other retail outlets that offer health services.
 - **Supporting Objective 11.1:** Increase awareness and knowledge of community health and wellness issues and support networks.
 - **Supporting Objective 11.2:** Increase collaboration among stakeholders at the local, regional, and state level.
 - **Supporting Objective 11.3:** Locate health services in accessible areas.

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

- **Regional Objective 12:** Diversify the region’s housing stock.
- **Regional Objective 12 Narrative:** The region will have housing that meets the needs of current and future residents as they progress through the various stages of their lives, including changes in familial status, income, employment and ability level. Local communities and regional partners will pursue initiatives that reduce barriers and expedite the development of housing in desired locations. The supply and range of housing options, including attainable and accessible units, in or near major employment centers will increase.
 - **Supporting Objective 12.1:** Increase the regional supply of housing attainable for a variety of households.
 - **Supporting Objective 12.2:** Increase opportunities for diverse housing accessible to multimodal transportation.

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

- **Regional Objective 13:** Improve access to opportunity.
- **Regional Objective 13 Narrative:** The region will reduce critical health, education, income and opportunity disparities in neighborhoods and communities. The region will capitalize on community, local, regional and state amenities by promoting reliable transportation connections to key destinations. Local and regional initiatives will continue to leverage investments in transit by concentrating new housing and employment in centers accessible via transit.
 - **Supporting Objective 13.1:** Improve the flow of people, goods, services, and information in and through the region.
 - **Supporting Objective 13.2:** Improve access for traditionally underserved populations.
 - **Supporting Objective 13.3:** Improve access to and from the region’s developed and emerging housing and employment centers.

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

- Regional Objective 14: Improve the region’s competitive position.
- Regional Objective 14 Narrative: The region’s economic vitality depends on providing a high quality of life in diverse communities. Investments in the region’s infrastructure will help ensure the region remains globally competitive by establishing and maintaining the connected multimodal transportation system that businesses depend on to access local, national and global customers, and an available, desirable workforce. Economic and community development initiatives and activities will assure that the region’s infrastructure will support and grow the region’s economic health and vitality.
 - Supporting Objective 14.1: Invest in the region’s infrastructure to ensure the region remains globally competitive.
 - Supporting Objective 14.2: Increase awareness of key regional growth, transportation and economic trends based on the region’s shared vision for the future.