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DRCOG HONORS TOWN OF LYONS LICENSURE PROGRAM

May 7, 2019 (DENVER) – The Town of Lyons received a 2019 Metro Vision Award from the Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG) at its annual awards celebration May 3 at the Hyatt Regency at Colorado Convention Center.

In 2013, catastrophic floods affected our region, particularly Lyons and much of Boulder County. In Lyons, where nearly 200 homes were significantly damaged, residents have been working to successfully rebuild their community. One of the issues the town faced came because of a federal buy-out program whereby damaged residential homes were purchased and then designated as open space with significant land-use restrictions, presenting maintenance and budgetary challenges.

In response, and through significant public involvement and engagement the town developed an innovative groundbreaking program which allows property owners adjacent to these newly designated lots to make good use of them. Through the Lyons Neighborhood Licensure Program, adjacent homeowners are encouraged to create community and habitat gardens, paths and privacy buffers. The parcels become the responsibility of the licensees, relieving the town of associated maintenance costs.

“The Town of Lyons has shown great resiliency since these catastrophic floods,” said Douglas Rex, executive director for DRCOG. “The Neighborhood Licensure Program sets a precedent for communities nationwide and will improve life in the community for years to come.”

The region’s plan for growth and development, Metro Vision, recognizes the importance of resiliency and sees a future with more healthy, livable communities. With significant community input and engagement this project demonstrates how one community has us headed in the right direction.

DRCOG’s Metro Vision Award program recognizes exemplary projects, plans and initiatives that significantly improve the quality of life in the Denver region and its communities. The regional council has been honoring outstanding achievements for more than 30 years.

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The Denver Regional Council of Governments is a planning organization where local governments collaborate to establish guidelines, set policy and allocate funding in the areas of transportation and personal mobility; growth and development; and aging and disability resources.