DENVER REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

TRANSPORTATION/LAND USE CONNECTION
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM PILOT

PROGRAM SUMMARY

Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG) is hosting the first call for projects for the Transportation/ Land Use Connection Technical Assistance Program. This technical assistance pilot program will connect local governments with consultants to reassess plans or studies that have a transportation and land use connection and consider a subarea of the jurisdiction, such as a corridor or urban center. Projects will examine past efforts to find opportunities to remove barriers in the way of achieving local planning goals or provide communities with an opportunity to analyze how the plan has performed in achieving stated goals. Plan reassessment projects may also leverage current data and methodologies to update prior analysis to ensure planning efforts are reflective of current conditions.

This program is intended for communities wanting to understand the impact of plans after implementation to determine what still needs to be done or what's next, or communities wanting to reevaluate plan or study recommendations. Successful plan reassessment projects should also include recommended actions for achieving the goals or a pathway to implementation.

PROGRAM GOALS

Local governments and other stakeholders may have successfully begun implementing many of their plans. Others have assuredly not gone according to plan. Regardless, the time, energy and attention put into these efforts may still have future value. By revisiting in today's context, local governments can investigate these questions:

- What's getting in the way of advancing the original effort's recommendations?
- What's changed since the original effort that should be accounted for?
- Where can the local government or other stakeholders get started with (re)implementation?

Additionally, DRCOG encourages projects that:
- support the outcomes in Metro vision
- are in/near short trip opportunity zones, urban centers and/or rapid transit station areas
- identify opportunities to improve access for traditionally underserved populations

PROJECT ELIGIBILITY

The following projects are considered eligible for this program. This list is not exhaustive. Projects that clearly demonstrate the connection between land use and transportation are eligible.

Plans or studies that connect transportation and land use strategies:

Examples: transit oriented development, parking, housing, economic development, mobility, station area/small area planning, zoning, market, land use, bicycle/pedestrian, complete streets, micromobility, multi-use trails, accessibility/ADA, Safe Routes to School

Policy development to increase mixed use development or housing options accessible by multimodal transportation:

Examples: zoning, land use, complete streets, parking credits

Data collection, analysis and mapping to help prioritize implementation:

Examples: sidewalk assessment and inventory, parking turnover, accessibility audit, leveraging existing regional datasets (planimetric data, land cover, lidar) to enhance local planning efforts.

<u>Projects must be completed by June 30, 2023.</u>

INELIGIBLE PROJECTS

The following projects will not be eligible for this program:
* Any projects requiring land acquisition or engineering
* Multi-year projects
* New plans or studies

FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS

There is no local match required or accepted. Applicants should be mindful of the requested amount, the scope of the project and the amount of funds available. Project awards cannot exceed $50,000. The total amount of funding available is $150,000.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Potential applicants should submit a PDF application to Amir Aldeek at aaldeek@drcog.org. The application window opens on May 18, 2022 and closes on June 22, 2022. Please include "2022 DRCOG Technical Assistance Program Application" in the subject line. The application can be found here on the webinar event page or on the DRCOG website. No supplemental materials are required other than a link or copy of the original plan, but they may be provided. Submission of an application does not guarantee funding.

APPLICATION REVIEW AND SELECTION

Once all applications have been received, DRCOG staff will score each project relative to the other projects submitted. Scoring will be based on both quantitative and qualitative factors. We are looking for a holistic application that is well-thought out and addresses the transportation/land use connection. Scoring criteria were developed based on Metro Vision outcomes, program understanding and cost effectiveness.

SCORING CRITERIA

PROJECT TYPE
How well the project address the transportation/land use connection.

PROBLEM STATEMENT
The extent to which the reassessment will solve the problem identified in the problem statement.

ALIGNMENT WITH METRO VISION
The project's ability to contribute to the implementation of Metro Vision.

INTERACTION WITH DRCOG-DEFINED AREAS
The extent to which the project interacts with the DRCOG-defined areas.

PROJECT CONTEXT
The extent to which the project context meets the goals of improving access to traditionally underserved populations.

PROJECT READINESS
The extent to which the application demonstrates a clear understanding of the project's needs from the consultant, the overall project team responsibilities and an appropriate timeline for completing the project.

BID PROCESS

Once projects have been scored and ranked, the top three applicants will be notified. DRCOG will begin the bid process with each of the three applicants. A team of staff from DRCOG and the selected applicants will then choose at least 5 consultants who may submit an Request for Proposal (RFP) for the project. Those submitting an bid will then submit a 1-2 page document including a scope, team information, timeline and cost. The team of DRCOG and applicant staff will select the preferred bid and move forward with the bid process. If funding is still available, the next ranked applicant will be notified.

TIMELINE

May 18, 2022	Informational webinar
	Application period opens
June 22, 2022	Application period closes
July 11, 2022	Applicants are notified of status
June 30, 2023	Funding must be exhausted