



## 2024-2025 Transportation Corridor Planning Set Aside: Letter of Interest Overview

### Program Overview

The Transportation Corridor Planning Set Aside is a DRCOG-led planning program in the 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The goal of this program is to advance planning for projects and priorities outlined in the 2050 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and move them towards implementation. As part of this program, DRCOG will fund and lead planning studies to advance infrastructure investment priorities along regional arterial corridors identified in the RTP. An estimated \$3,000,000 is available for the full four-year set-aside program, with \$1.5 million expected to be spent each two-year cycle.

DRCOG will fund the studies, manage consultant procurement, and serve as project manager for corridor studies selected for the program. DRCOG staff anticipates representatives from participating local government(s) will, at minimum, serve on a steering committee, provide data, provide background on existing conditions and past planning efforts, and support community engagement. Local governments can be more involved if they would like to be.

### 2024-2025 Corridor Selection Process

#### 2024-2025 Timeline:

July 10, 2023	Letter of Interest Released
July - August 25, 2023	Invitations to submit letters of interest & meetings with interested jurisdictions
August 25, 2023	Letters of Interest DUE
August – September, 2023	Selection committee recommends corridors for 2024-2025 cycle
September - October 2023	TAC, RTC, and Board approve selection
2024 - 2025	Begin studies. Kick-offs may be staggered.

DRCOG is conducting a call for letters of interest to solicit potential corridors for the program for 2024-2025. Key information about this selection is below.

- **Eligibility:** Letters of interest may be submitted by county and municipal governments in the DRCOG region, regional agencies including RTD, CDOT, and DRCOG, or groups or partnerships of local or regional agencies. Other organizations that are interested in the program should coordinate with the relevant local jurisdiction(s) to support their submission of a letter of interest.
- **Project eligibility:** Only corridors identified in the RTP are eligible for letters of interest. Trails and limited access highways are not eligible. See section below for information about corridors in the RTP considered to have high planning need.
- **Required Conversations with DROG Staff:** In addition to submitting a letter of interest, all jurisdictions will also need to schedule a call with DRCOG staff to discuss their proposed corridor. Please contact Nora Kern, [nkern@drcog.org](mailto:nkern@drcog.org) to arrange a meeting to



discuss your project. These conversations should take place before the end of the letter of interest window.

- **Deadline** Letters of interest are due by August 25<sup>th</sup>.
- **Final Selection:** A selection committee comprised of DRCOG staff and representatives from CDOT and RTD will recommend corridors for the program based on the letters of interest that were received. Selection criteria that will be used are listed below. The final selection will be approved by DRCOG’s board of directors.

### List of RTP Corridors by Planning Need

To inform this call for letters of interest, DRCOG staff, with guidance from our Transportation Advisory Committee, have reviewed all the corridors in the RTP and categorized each as either: high, medium, or low planning need. This categorization of planning need is focused on how relevant the corridor is specifically for the Corridor Planning Set-Aside. It does not reflect the overall regional importance of the corridor.

DRCOG encourages all jurisdictions with a corridor ranked as High Planning Need to consider submitting a Letter of Interest for the program. Jurisdictions may also submit letters of interest for other corridors on the list, particularly if there is need for additional planning work that DRCOG staff may not be aware of.

The current list of RTP corridors by [planning need is here](#). This list was based on an analysis of all corridors in the RTP using the following factors:

1. RTP staging period.
2. Regional impact, including number of impacted jurisdictions and impact on regional travel.
3. DRCOG’s Equity Index.
4. Metro Vision Goals, including 2050 Population and Jobs, the DRCOG Regional High Injury Network, 2050 transit corridors, and DRCOG’s Complete Streets Prioritization
5. Planning need.

### Not Eligible:

Several corridors in the RTP are not eligible for the program. These corridors are:

- Corridors for which studies are currently being led by other agencies, for which recent similar studies (within the last five years) have been completed, and/or where projects from such studies have been funded or are in final design or construction.
- Limited access roadways and freeways.
- Trails and multi-use paths.

### Selection Criteria

Selection criteria for this set-aside will include:

Criteria	Category	Description	Scoring
1	Metro Vision Alignment	Will a study of this corridor advance overarching	0 – Not discussed or no impact

		themes and outcomes outlined in Metro Vision?	5 – The project has clearly defined goals tied to Metro Vision themes and could help make a significant impact
<b>2</b>	Alignment with 2050 Regional Transportation Plan priorities	Will this corridor study advance goals outlined in the RTP, in particular safety, regional transit, multimodal options, and air quality? Is this corridor identified in a sub-plan like the Regional Vision Zero Plan or Transit Plan?	0 – Not discussed or no impact  5 – The project has clearly defined goals tied to 2050 RTP project and program investment priorities and could help make a significant impact
<b>3</b>	Benefit to Environmental Justice Communities	Will this project provide benefits to Environmental Justice (EJ) communities (communities of color and low income) in the region?	0 – This project will not benefit EJ communities or will negatively impact historically marginalized populations.  5 – This project will have a large positive benefit to EJ communities. The majority of the project benefits are in an EJ area.
<b>4</b>	Regional impact	Does this corridor provide key regional transportation and community connections for the region	0 – This is a local corridor with limited to no impacts for the region.  5 – This is a critical corridor for many people in the region.
<b>5</b>	Planning Need	Is this corridor study ready to proceed? Is this project in an earlier RTP staging period? Is there a need for additional planning work on this corridor? Is there commitment from the planning partner(s) for the study?	0 – Improvements to this corridor are not urgently needed, it appears in a later staging period in the RTP, and/or there is limited support from regional and local partners.  5 – This project is in an early RTP staging period and is supported and prioritized by local and regional partners.



## Letters of Interest

DRCOG invites all jurisdictions with a corridor rated as a “high planning need” on the RTP Corridors by Planning Need List to submit a letter of interest indicating their interest in having DRCOG led a planning effort on the corridor.

Eligible agencies may also submit a letter of interest for any corridor on the RTP Corridors by Planning Need List, including those rated as low and medium planning need, particularly if there is additional justification for the planning need on the corridor.

Letters of interest can be submitted either through the [online form here](#), or by returning the following questions as a word doc or pdf to Nora Kern, [nkern@drcog.org](mailto:nkern@drcog.org). **Letters of interest are due August 25, 2023.**

In addition to submitting a letter of interest, all jurisdictions will also need to schedule a call with DRCOG staff to discuss their project idea. Please contact Nora Kern, [nkern@drcog.org](mailto:nkern@drcog.org) to arrange a meeting to discuss your project. These conversations should take place before the end of the letter of interest window.

### Letters of Interest Form

1. Name of person filling out form:	
2. Title:	
3. Email:	
4. Phone:	
5. Jurisdiction/Agency/Partnership:	
6. Name of corridor to be considered for DRCOG's Corridor Transportation Planning Set-Aside.	
7. Why would this corridor be a good candidate for the DRCOG Corridor Planning Set Aside?	
8. Is this corridor in your city/county's transportation plan?	
9. Have any corridor or subarea plans been conducted in the last 5-10 years focused on this corridor? If yes, please name the study and provide a short description or website address.	
10. How could a study of this corridor help	



<p>the advance overarching themes and outcomes outlined in Metro Vision?</p>	
<p>11. How will this corridor study advance priorities outlined in the 2050 Regional Transportation Plan, in particular safety, regional transit, multimodal options, and air quality?</p>	
<p>12. How will the proposed corridor study address the needs of environmental justice communities?</p>	
<p>13. How will your agency be able to support this study? At a minimum this should include attendance of monthly technical advisory committees, providing data, and supporting public engagement.</p>	
<p>14. Is there anything else the selection committee should consider or be aware of?</p>	