

# Metro Vision Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) Overview

## Background

The original Metro Vision 2020 Plan was the first comprehensive plan for the Denver Metro Area that integrated growth and development, transportation and environmental policies. A Regional Development Plan Task Force, comprised of local government officials, business leaders, developers, representatives of the transit agency and state agencies, neighborhood associations and other regional stakeholders, guided the planning process, which began in 1990 and culminated in the DRCOG Board's adoption of Metro Vision in 1997. Task Force activities included:

- Development of a Guiding Vision Statement
- Research on key issues
- Selection of evaluation criteria and policy alternatives for scenario modeling
- Recommendations regarding a preferred alternative

This inclusive, deliberative process provided a strong foundation for regional planning that has lasted for nearly 20 years, as DRCOG has continued to update Metro Vision and extend the planning horizon.

Over time, however, new issues have emerged, new people have risen to leadership positions, and awareness and regional "ownership" of the Metro Vision Plan have diminished. The time is ripe, therefore, to re-engage a broad constituency in a discussion regarding the future growth and development of the Denver region.

The Metro Vision 2040 effort will transform the current Metro Vision Plan into the People's Plan – a shared vision that **belongs to everyone** involved in shaping the future of the Denver Metro Area, with a particular focus on the built environment. The plan will:

- Identify common values and regional priorities
- Increase understanding of challenges and opportunities
- Point the region in a direction
- Serve as a call to action
- Guide decisions
- Support collaboration and efficient use of resources

A Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) will serve in an advisory role to the DRCOG Board and the Metro Vision Planning Advisory Committee (MVPAC) on the most efficient ways to involve residents in the Metro Vision 2040 planning process.

## Committee Responsibilities

The CAC will contribute to the Metro Vision 2040 update through the following responsibilities:

1. Advise DRCOG staff on effective and efficient ways to involve residents and businesses to ensure diversity of perspectives region wide are heard. Assist in the creation of a regional stakeholder engagement plan.
2. Assist the DRCOG Board, Metro Vision Issues Committee (MVIC) and the MVPAC in raising awareness of Metro Vision and spreading information on regional planning issues on a resident/stakeholder level. Assist DRCOG in making connections to the broader community including finding opportunities and venues to gather input of Metro Vision 2040.
3. Work with staff to help ensure issues and potential impacts residents care about are considered throughout the Metro Vision 2040 planning process. As needed, provide feedback through staff to the DRCOG Board, MVIC and MVPAC on regional planning issues.

## Proposed Membership

The committee will consist of 15-25 members. Members of the committee should have demonstrated connections and relationships with the broader public through their own existing networks. Though not required, committee members could have current and/or previous experience with groups such as neighborhood groups, homeowners associations, city/county advisory committees or active participation in varied city/county planning efforts.

As with all of our committees, DRCOG is seeking a broad, diverse group of individuals with a variety of perspectives. The hope is that participants include people of all ages, incomes and abilities and could include: retired persons, stay-at-home parents, students, and persons from various occupations, racial and ethnic backgrounds, and who are geographically dispersed around the region.

## Committee Selection

DRCOG will hold an application process to fill the CAC positions. DRCOG staff will review the applications and make a recommendation to the DRCOG Board Chair for final appointments to the CAC. CAC member selection will include consideration of the following:

1. Outstanding connection and understanding of the local community
2. Geographic diversity
3. Representation of diversity among a cross section of community interests

## Use of Alternates

There are no provisions for alternates for CAC. Committee membership shall be assessed annually and a member's attendance at CAC meetings will be considered.

## Quorum/Voting

The CAC will not vote on specific issues or be required to come to a consensus on specific topics, but rather aid the planning process by providing stakeholder feedback and information. The CAC will be facilitated by DRCOG staff and staff will be responsible for creating facilitated discussions that allow all Committee members to participate, engage, and respond to Board or MVPAC direction in an effective and organized manner.

DRCOG staff will ensure that all comments or disagreements are conveyed for Board and MVPAC consideration. Examples of CAC input may include:

- Outreach to the broader public.
- Advisement of additional partners to target, focus groups to facilitate, etc.
- Knowledge of current resident level regional planning efforts and needs.

## Committee Structure/Operations

The CAC will convene initially in winter of 2013. DRCOG staff will orient the Committee to the Metro Vision 2040 planning process. Members of the CAC can expect to dedicate approximately 2-3 hours a month to CAC efforts. CAC members may expect to attend monthly meetings in the beginning of the Metro Vision Planning process but meetings may become less frequent throughout the planning process.