

# CLIMATE POLLUTION REDUCTION GRANT

Local Stakeholder Group  
May 1, 2023

Robert Spotts, Mobility Analytics Program Manager

# INTRODUCTIONS



- Add your title and jurisdiction to the comments
- Raise your hand any time, we want an open discussion
- I will be presenting draft proposals; we are open to further discussion.

# CLIMATE POLLUTION REDUCTION GRANTS (CPRG)



- Section 60114 of the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) provides \$5 billion to support efforts to develop and implement greenhouse gas reduction strategies.
- EPA is administering grant funds

# CLIMATE POLLUTION REDUCTION GRANT (CPRG) PROGRAM



## **Phase 1- Planning grants** to develop strong climate pollution reduction strategies (\$250 million)

- Administered through non-competitive cooperative agreements, no match requirement
- \$3m per state, \$500k per tribe, \$500 per territory
- \$1m each for the 67 most populous metropolitan areas

## **Phase 2- Competitive implementation grants** to help put plans into action (\$4.6 billion)

- Competitive process is still under development
- Entities eligible to apply for an implementation grant are those covered by a plan developed with funding from Phase 1
- Wide range of funding levels, with largest grant possibly more than \$100m

# NOTICE OF INTENT TO PARTICIPATE (NOIP)



- On April 19, 2023, the DRCOG Board voted unanimously to authorize DRCOG as the lead agency and grant recipient for the CPRG Planning Grant.
- NoIP submitted to EPA on April 20, 2023
  - Including letters of support from Denver, Aurora, Lakewood, Adams County and Commerce City



**We have \$1,000,000!**

# One planning grant, three deliverables over 4 years



## Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP)

---

- Due **March 1, 2024**
- Near-term, implementation-ready, **priority greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction measures**
- **Prerequisite** for implementation grant



## Comprehensive Climate Action Plan (CCAP)

---

- Due in **2025** (later for tribes and territories)
- **All sectors / significant GHG sources and sinks**
- **Near- and long-term GHG emission reduction goals and strategies**



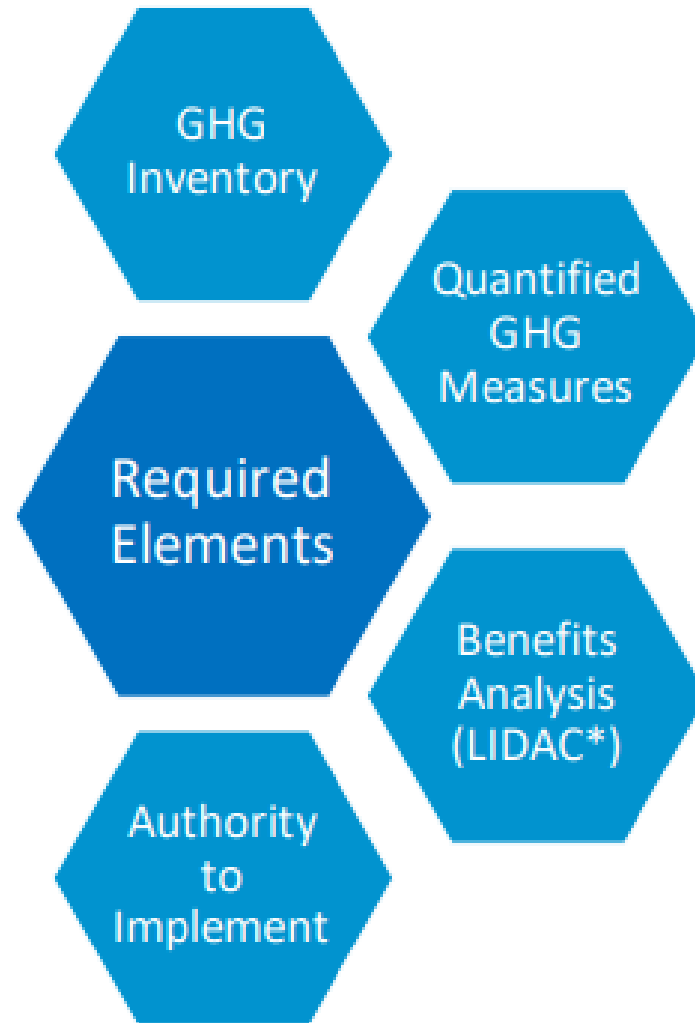
## Status Report

---

- Due in **2027** (N/A for tribes or territories)
- **Updated** analyses and plans
- **Progress and next steps** for key metrics

The first tranche of grants from the \$4.6b program will be available to apply for in Q1 2024

# Priority Climate Action Plan

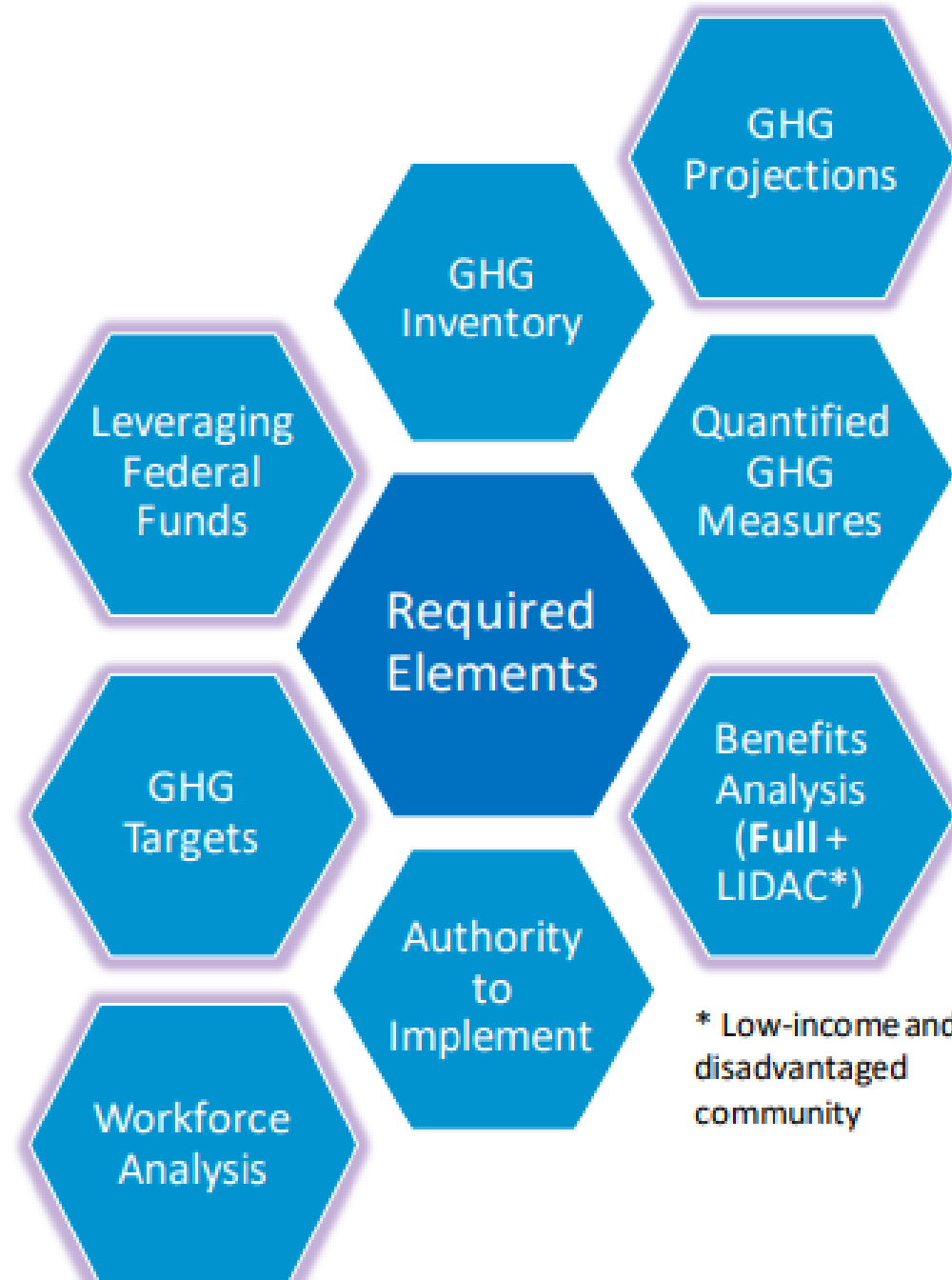


- Due March 1, 2024
- Identifies near-term action items to prepare for implementation grants
- Can focus on specific sector(s) or sources
- Limited set of requirements that set foundations for informed decisions
- May build on previous climate planning efforts

\* Low-income and disadvantaged community



# Comprehensive Climate Action Plan



\* Low-income and disadvantaged community

- Due 2 years from the date of award for states and metro areas (summer 2025) and at close of grant for tribes and territories
- Covers GHG reduction measures across all significant sources/sinks and sectors
- Establishes near-term and long-term GHG emission reduction targets
- Adds additional required analyses to support robust implementation

# RESPONSIBILITIES OF LOCAL AGENCIES



- No requirement for agencies to participate in the planning process
  - Opportunities to collaborate and plan for those willing and able
  - Does not replace, nor does it need to align with, local or state GHG plans
- The plan will not create new rules, regulations, or requirements for local jurisdictions
- **Position local governments to access \$4.6b of competitive implementation grants nationwide**

# TIMELINE FOR FIRST YEAR OF PLANNING



*April 19* – DRCOG Board Meeting

- Approved a resolution supporting DRCOG submitting the Notice of Intent to Participate (NoIP)

*April 20* – DRCOG submitted NoIP to EPA

***By May 31* – submit grant application to EPA**

*June 2023* – *February 2024*

- Planning activity for agencies that wish to participate

*March 1, 2024* – Priority Climate Action Plan Due to EPA

# CPRG GRANT APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS



- Due May 31, 2023
- Workplan
  - List of coordinating entities expected to be involved in the planning process
  - General approach to developing all required elements of each deliverable
    - GHG Inventory
    - GHG Emissions Projections
    - GHG Reduction Targets
    - Quantified GHG Reduction Measures
    - Benefits Analysis for the full geographic scope and population covered by the plan
    - Low Income/ Disadvantaged Communities Benefits Analysis
    - Review of Authority to Implement
    - Intersection with Other Funding Availability, and
    - Workforce Planning Analysis
    - Tracking and measuring progress towards achieving expected outcomes

# CPRG GRANT APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS



- Workplan (cont.)
  - Decision-making process and the roles of the coordinating jurisdictions, contractors, subawards, lead organization and the general public, especially low-income and disadvantaged communities
  - Anticipated approach to interagency and regional coordination, and public and stakeholder engagement
  - How coordinating entities will consider previously developed climate action plans, GHG inventories, or analysis to inform deliverables.
  - Timeline of activities
- Budget detail
- A bunch of other government forms

# TIME-SENSITIVE DECISIONS FOR TODAY'S MEETING

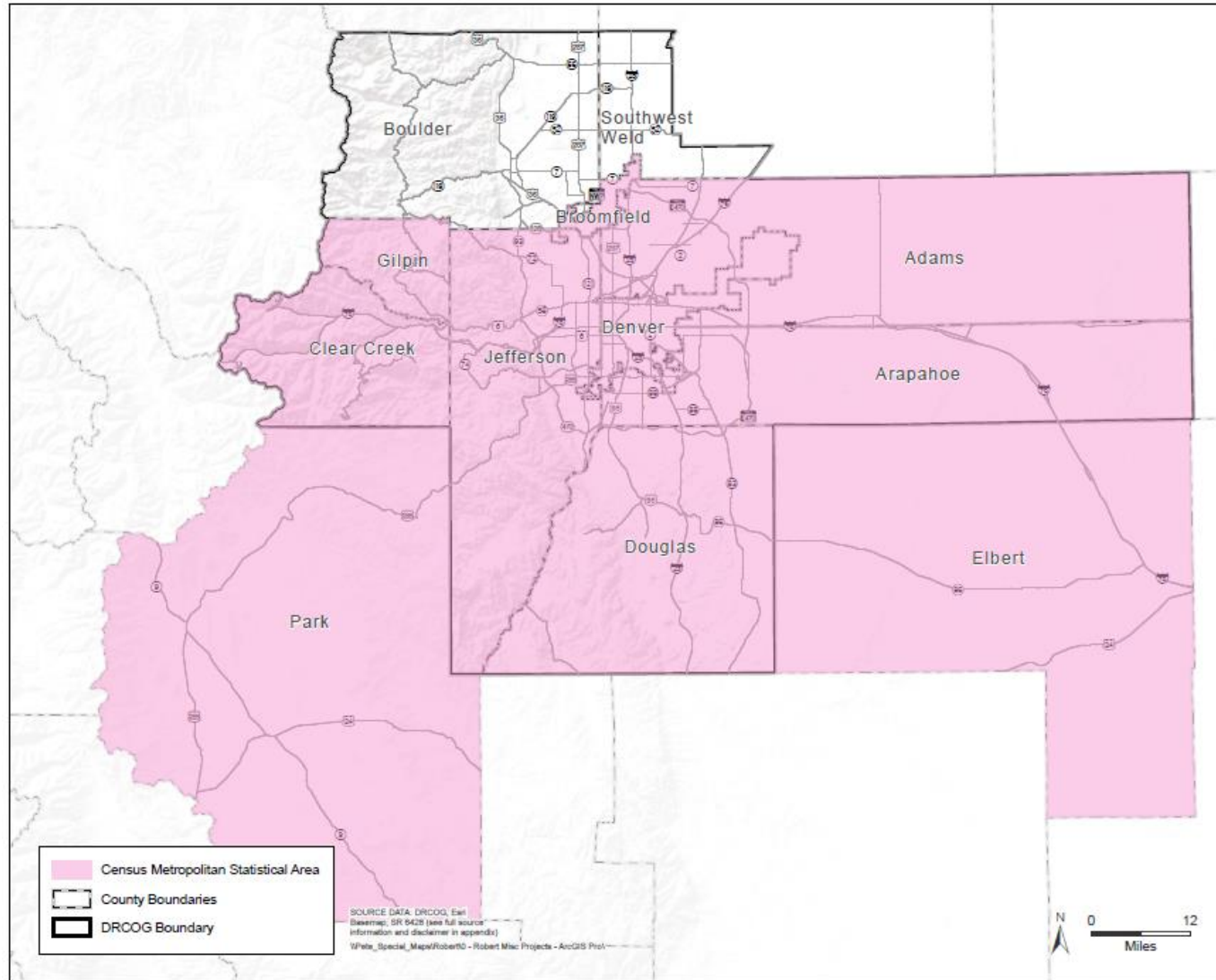


- Planning geography
- Communication
- Governance
- Budget
- Local agency priorities



# PLANNING GEOGRAPHY

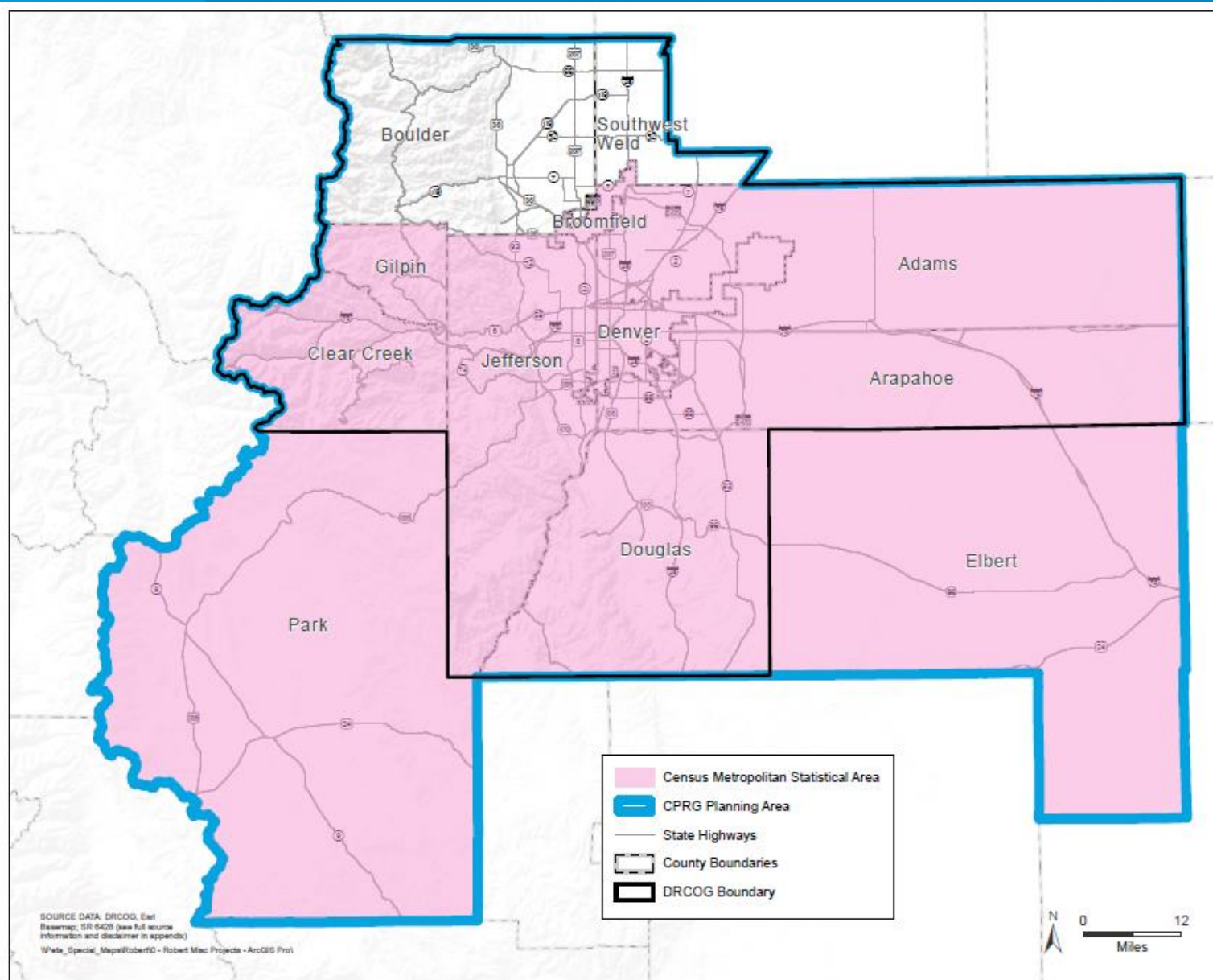
# DENVER METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREA



- Planning grant applies to Census Metropolitan Statistical Area
- Inclusion of neighboring jurisdictions, outside the boundary lines of the MSA, is allowed and encouraged



# PROPOSED PLANNING GEOGRAPHY



## DRCOG Boundary plus Park and Elbert Counties

- Include Boulder County and Southwest Weld County in the planning process and emission inventory.



# COMMUNICATION

# PROPOSED COMMUNICATION STRATEGY



- Create a project management team for more frequent, detailed involvement
- Monthly stakeholder meeting
  - Only time for 6-8 meetings before requirement to complete Priority Climate Action Plan (March 1, 2024, deadline)
  - Focus on specific sectors at some meetings so that subject matter experts can participate
  - Meeting summary and other updates sent monthly and as needed
- Develop a plan for public, private, and industry outreach, with focus on low income and disadvantaged community representation



# GOVERNANCE

# PROPOSED GOVERNANCE



- Stakeholder group makes recommendations by straw poll
- Some decisions could be made via surveys sent to all jurisdictions
- The DRCOG Board will be the final vote on approving the Climate Action Plans
  - Meaningful commitment from elected officials representing 58 local agencies
  - Park and Elbert Counties participate in the planning process and provide input in writing or public comment to the DRCOG Board.



# BUDGET

# DRAFT PROPOSED USE OF \$1M PLANNING GRANT



- Hire senior-level staff for four years (~\$500k)
  - Primary point of contact and project organization
  - Manage consultant
  - Focus on best practices and assist with implementation
  - Support local planning efforts
- Consultant (~\$400k)
  - Perform primary technical work, including GHG inventory and projections
  - Outreach
  - Final production of deliverables
- Other (~\$100k)
  - DRCOG resources (project management, staff time, website, graphics)
  - Travel



# LOCAL AGENCY PRIORITIES



# BENEFITS OF REGIONAL CLIMATE PLANNING



- Match action to the scale of systems
- Leverage resources and collective efforts
- Resolves lack of human and financial resources for smaller municipalities
- Co-benefits to improve regional air quality and address social inequities

# CPRG PLANNING PRIORITIES



- Inclusion of strategies eligible for implementation grants in planning documents
  - Amplify existing programs
  - Stand up new programs that currently lack funding
  - Evaluate funding opportunities through BIL, IIJA, and other sources
- Planning products that are:
  - useful at regional and local scales
  - beneficial beyond the four-year grant period
  - dynamic and accessible



**MENTI**



# OPEN DISCUSSION ON WORKPLAN ELEMENTS



- General approach to developing each deliverable
- GHG Inventory
- GHG Emissions Projections
  - Methodology preferences?
- GHG Reduction Targets
- Quantified GHG Reduction Measures
- Benefits Analysis
  - Co-benefits, with focus on air quality
- Low Income/ Disadvantaged Communities Benefits Analysis
  - Guidance pending

# OPEN DISCUSSION ON WORKPLAN ELEMENTS



- General approach to developing each deliverable
- Review of Authority to Implement
  - Can a strategy be implemented? Would it require new rule or law by state/local agency?
- Intersection with Other Funding Availability
  - Evaluate funding from other sources, including BIL and IIJA
- Workforce Planning Analysis
  - If strategies require special training or educational programs
- Tracking and measuring progress towards achieving expected outcomes

# NEXT STEPS



- Who is not here?
- Upcoming timeline
  - Project Management team finalizes grant application
  - Schedule future stakeholder meetings
    - What time/date would work for monthly meetings?
  - Begin hiring process and consultant procurement ASAP



**THANK YOU!**  
**QUESTIONS?**

**Robert Spotts**  
**Mobility Analytics Program Manager**  
**[rspots@drcog.org](mailto:rspots@drcog.org)**