



The data consortium consists of Denver Regional Council of Governments members and regional partners with an interest in geospatial data and collaboration. The data consortium newsletter improves communication among local geographic information systems professionals and features updates from all levels of government as they relate to data and geospatial initiatives in our region. This newsletter is published quarterly.

Collaborative data development in the Mid-Ohio region

Article submitted by the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission. For more information, contact Cheri Mansperger at 614-233-4158 or cmansperger@morpc.org.

DRCOG's peer organization in Columbus, Ohio – the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) – recently shared how its staff collaborated with communities throughout central Ohio to maintain a convenient and useful roadway centerline and address-point file over the past decade.

MORPC took the lead in facilitating the project that includes Columbus, the 14th largest U.S. city, and many of its surrounding suburbs and townships in Franklin County. The project would not have been possible without participation from a strong geographic information system (GIS) community in the area.

The project, which continues today, was part of a larger, voluntary initiative corresponding to the State of Ohio's Location Based Response System (LBRS), launched in 2005. More information about the state's LBRS [can be found here](#).

MORPC – as a convener of local governments – recognized the increased efficiency that consistent, accurate, current, accessible regional centerline and address data presented, as well as the potential to expand the effort to accommodate other data sets, so the Franklin County LBRS project was created.

“It was the maintenance piece that was critical and our biggest focus,” said Cheri Mansperger, MORPC’s GIS manager. “We needed the data authorities to be our partners, so we invited local jurisdictions to the table from the start. In most cases we were asking them to give up their existing GIS files and use the regional LBRS data instead.”

In return, the communities had access to collaboratively edited files that were not restricted to jurisdictional boundaries — something especially important for safety services, many of which have mutual aid agreements with neighboring communities and require access to information about businesses and residents outside of their service areas in emergencies.

MORPC set up a system to enable multiple agencies to edit LBRS data on its network and sync it with the parent file on a MORPC server. For those interested in the details: Editors just needed a secure log-in and a two-way replicate of the data via geodata services. The replicated data now act like any other feature class in their geodatabase, except that it is a child and dynamic copy that can be synchronized back to the MORPC parent. All versions are synced with the parent data weekly using a model builder script.

Quarterly meetings of GIS users in the region have provided a forum to address any issues and for MORPC to advocate approaches to make data collection and maintenance uniform among its partners. Because of the success of the LBRS project, similar files have been added for regional bikeways and sidewalks.

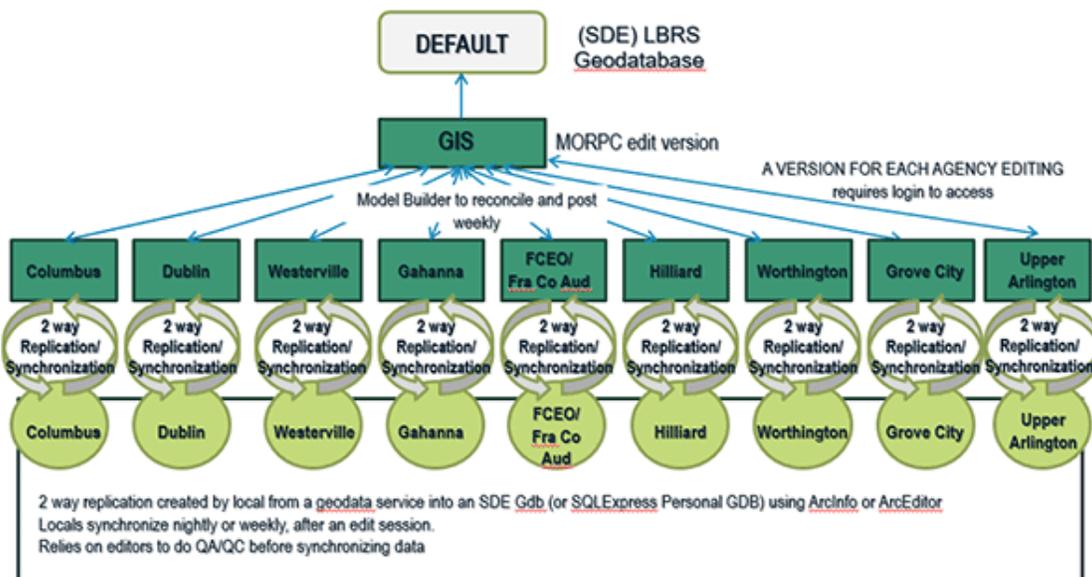


Diagram showing the configuration of the Franklin County LBRS system

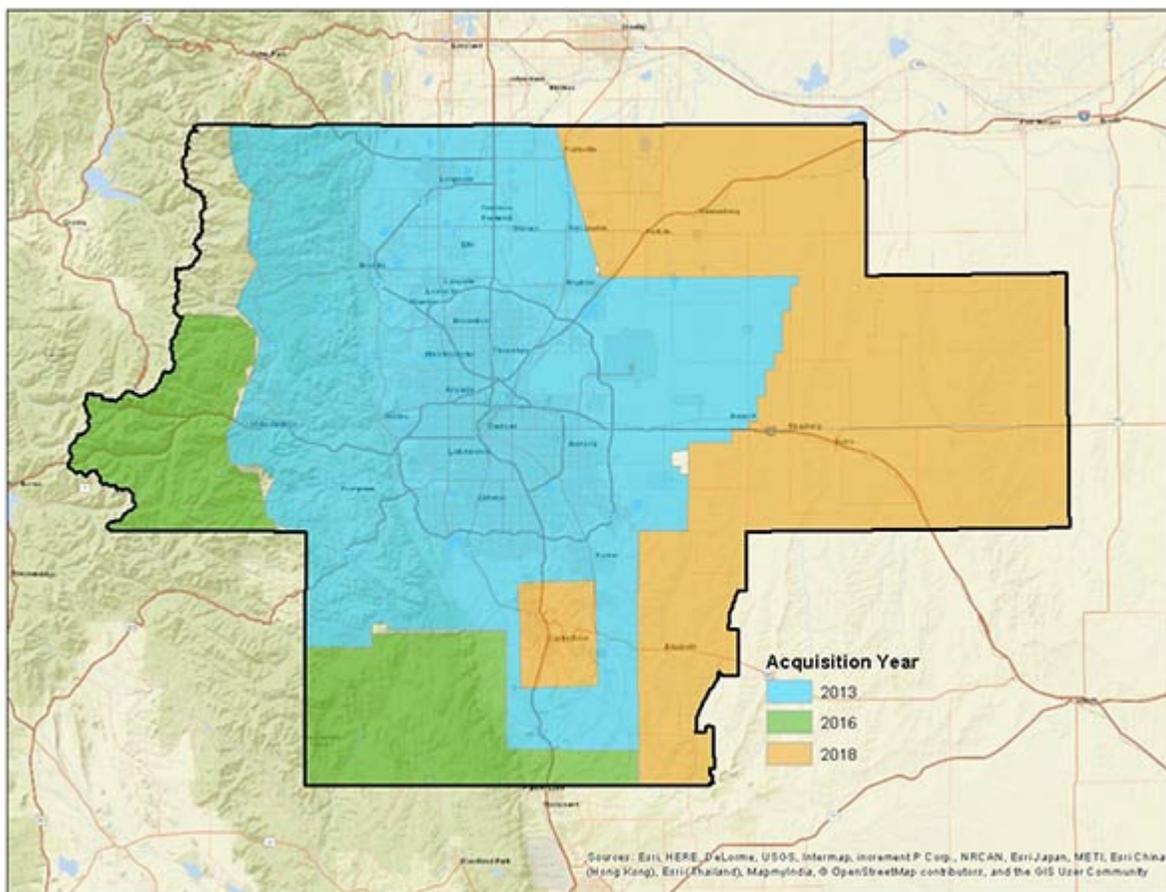
Planning begins for a 2020 lidar capture in the Denver region

Article submitted by Ashley Summers, GISP, PMP, information systems manager at

DRCOG. Ashley can be reached at 303-480-6746 or asummers@drcog.org.

DRCOG is considering a lidar collection in 2020. While some of the region has been captured in recent years, most of the Denver metro area has not been collected since the fall of 2013. During the 2013 project, DRCOG worked with local governments to contribute to an existing Federal Emergency Management Agency project. By partnering with local, regional, state and federal partners, DRCOG was able to acquire \$1.2 million of data for a local contribution of less than \$400,000. That project resulted in Quality Level 2 (QL2) lidar data and 1-foot contours, which can be downloaded from the [Colorado GeoData Cache](#) and [DRCOG's Regional Data Catalog](#), respectively.

Based on the popularity of the data and the fact that it is becoming outdated, DRCOG is interested in facilitating a project to collect QL2 data in all areas that haven't been flown since 2013:



The project could potentially coincide with the next Denver Regional Aerial Photography Project, scheduled for the spring of 2020. The acquisition will only be pursued if there is enough interest and funding from interested parties in the region. Public and private partners are both encouraged to contribute.

To learn more about the project, please join us on Wednesday, Jan. 16, from 10:30 a.m. to noon in the Red Rocks conference room (7th floor) at DRCOG's office, 1001 17th St., Denver, CO 80202.

Can't attend in person? No problem! Participate remotely using the details below:

Webinar ID: 720-012-011

United States: 415-655-0060

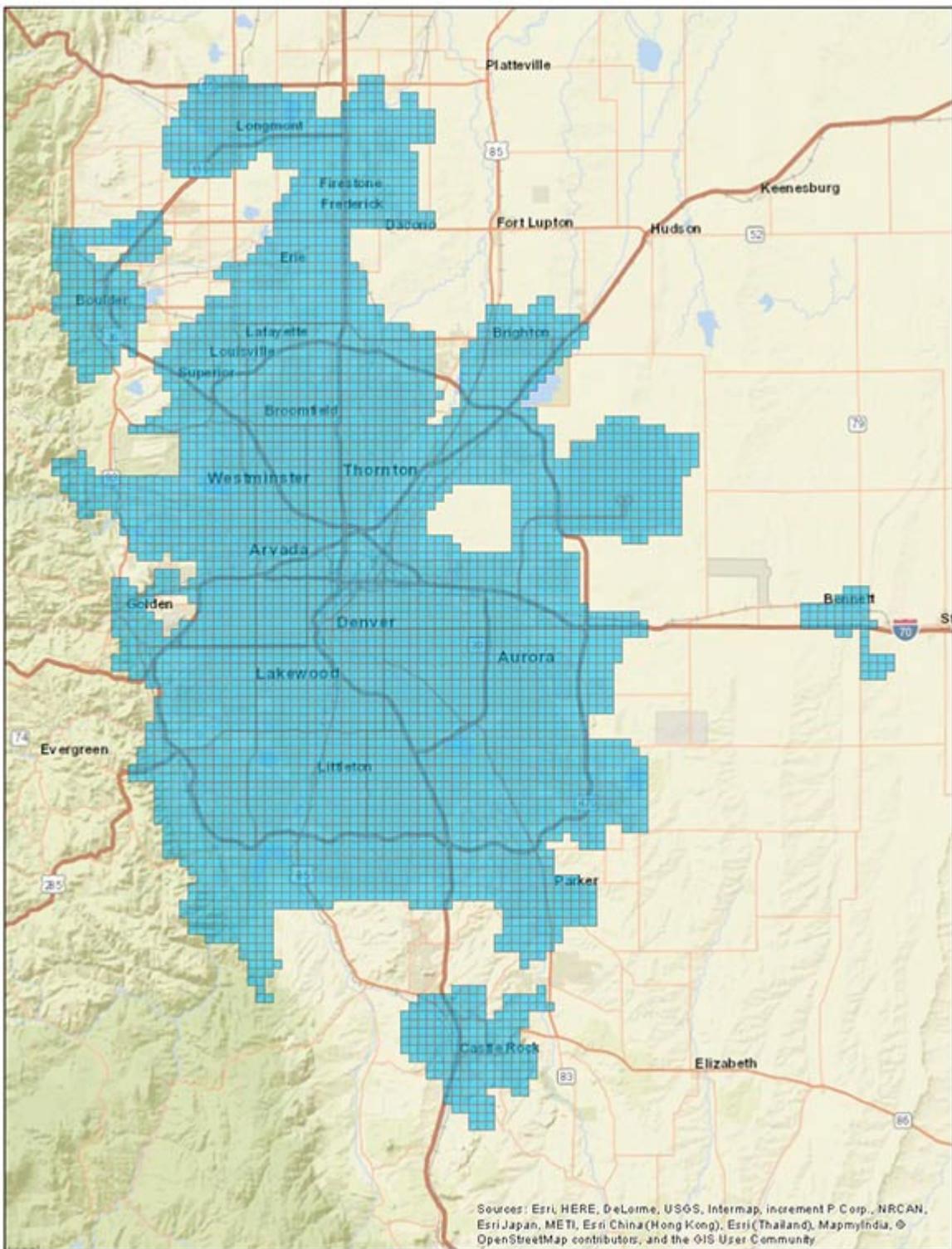
Access Code: 578-608-474

2018 Regional Planimetric Data Project begins

Article submitted by Ashley Summers, GISP, PMP, information systems manager at DRCOG. Ashley can be reached at 303-480-6746 or asummers@drcog.org.

After almost a year of planning, the 2018 Regional Planimetric Data Project is set to begin officially on Feb. 1. DRCOG has successfully facilitated two prior projects to collect features like building footprints, sidewalk centerlines, parking lots and more for the Denver metro area. The project will expand foundational data and use DRCOG's latest high-resolution 2018 aerial imagery to delineate any changes.

Kucera International Inc. performed the data capture in 2014 and 2016. It has been selected again to perform the data update. Building footprints, edges of pavement, parking lots, ramps and trails will be captured at the same extent (1,184 square miles) that covers most of the urbanized metro area:



Other features like driveways, impervious surface, poles and signs, and pavement markings will be captured at smaller extents where additional funding was available.

The project is being funded by 28 partners:

- Arapahoe County
- Centennial
- Longmont
- City and County of Denver
- Commerce City
- Louisville
- Douglas County
- Erie
- Morrison
- Firestone
- Thornton

Jefferson County

- Arvada
- Aurora
- Bennett
- Boulder
- Castle Rock

Frederick

- Golden
- Greenwood Village
- Lakewood
- Littleton
- Lone Tree

Wheat Ridge

- E-470 Public Highway Authority
- Urban Drainage and Flood Control District
- Denver Water
- DRCOG

Additionally, two private sector partners – [BuildingFootprintsUSA](#) and [Felsburg, Holt & Ullevig](#) – are donating their time to create value-added products for the funding partners.

DRCOG thanks these partners whose contributions allow us to maintain high-quality, public domain data for the region.

Final deliverables will be available on [DRCOG's Regional Data Catalog](#) in the first quarter of 2020. If you'd like earlier access (and some other perks including extra attribution), you can still become a project partner by contributing funds. [Reach out to Ashley Summers](#) or visit DRCOG's [website](#) for more information.

2018 land use land cover pilot project begins

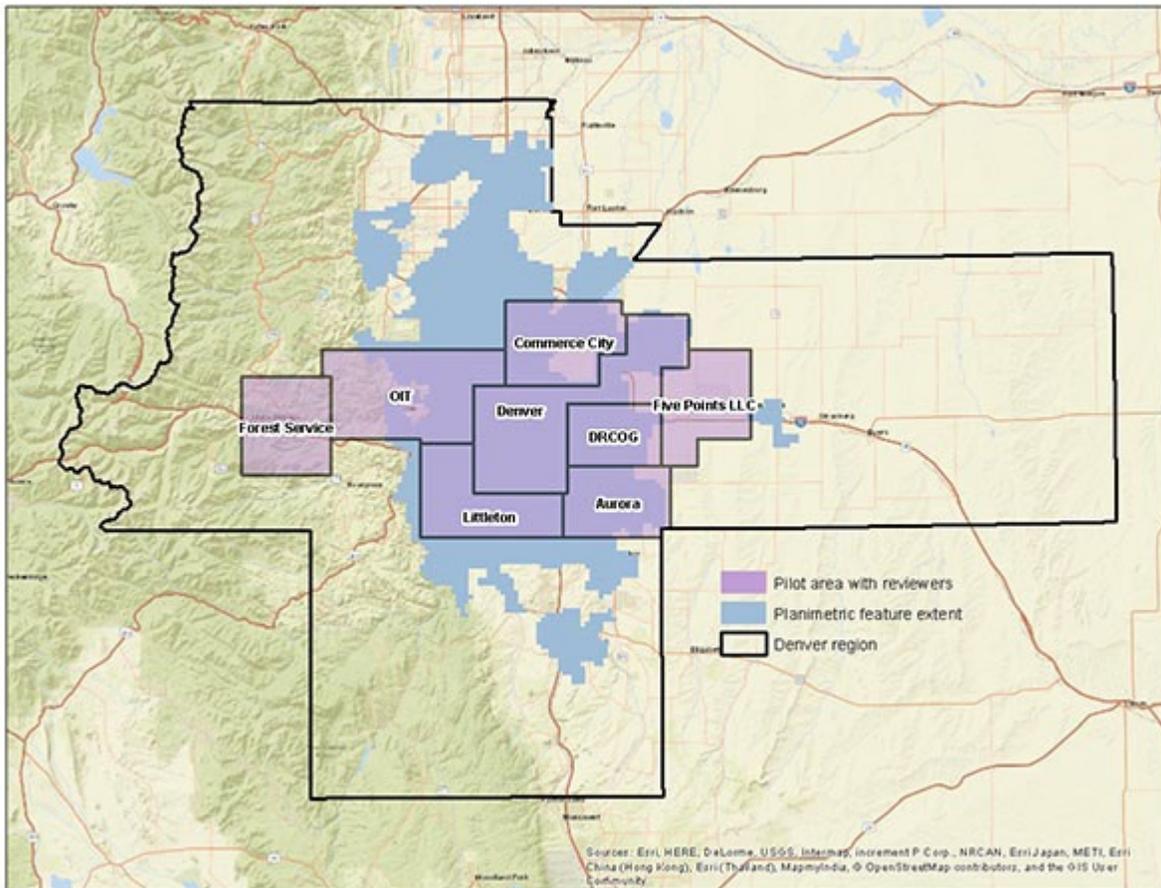
Article submitted by Ashley Summers, GISP, PMP, information systems manager at DRCOG. Ashley can be reached at 303-480-6746 or asummers@drcog.org.

In the summer of 2018, the [Babbitt Center for Land and Water Policy](#) reached out to DRCOG to discuss a potential land use land cover project in the Denver region. In partnership with the [Conservation Innovation Center](#), the Babbitt Center has been testing innovative methods for [classifying the landscape using high-resolution \(1-meter\) imagery](#). It has previously completed projects in the Chesapeake Bay area and in Pima County, Arizona.

The Denver region is an ideal place for it to continue developing its methods for several reasons:

1. The Denver region has varied terrain; offering mountains, plains and urban area to evaluate.
2. DRCOG has recent high-resolution imagery courtesy of the [Denver Regional Aerial Photography Project](#) and [detailed planimetric data](#) to help refine the results.
3. The Denver region has a history of developing data through successful partnerships.

The pilot project area will cover 1,000 square miles of the region:



The project will classify the pilot area into seven classes: structures, impervious surface, water, grassland/prairie, tree canopy, irrigated lands/turf and barren/rock. Results are expected in the summer.

The data will be provided free to DRCOG and will be a public domain product. DRCOG's contribution is to provide guidance, feedback and quality control on the deliverable.

Thanks to the United States Forest Service, the Governor's Office of Information Technology, Commerce City, Denver, Littleton, Aurora and Five Points Geoplanning LLC for volunteering their time to review the product.

For more information, [check out the website](#).

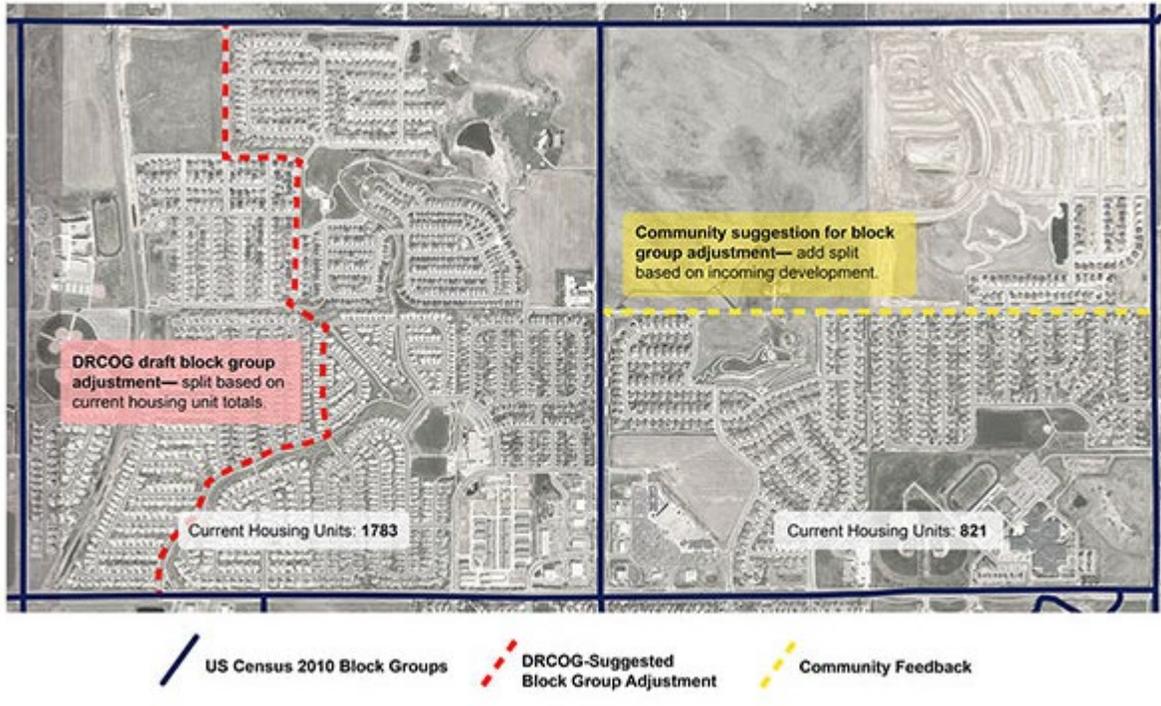
The Denver region's Participant Statistical Areas Program (PSAP) plan

Article submitted by Dorothy Friday, GIS specialist at DRCOG. Dorothy can be reached at 303-480-6797 or dfriday@drcog.org.

The U.S. Census Bureau's Participant Statistical Areas Program (PSAP) is a once-a-decade opportunity to adjust block group and tract boundaries based on growing populations. Nationwide, councils of governments are coordinating regional efforts to gather local knowledge and submit a final plan to the U.S. Census Bureau. In fall 2018,

DRCOG created a draft plan for our region and compiled feedback and suggestions from regional stakeholders and member governments. Feedback was incorporated into the draft, and DRCOG has a final plan based on this information. The adjustments will be submitted to the U.S. Census Bureau through its customized Geographic Update Partnership Software (GUPS) ahead of the 2020 Census.

[Review the Denver region PSAP plan here.](#)



Check out the new feature data set

DRCOG acquires crash data from the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) annually. CDOT geocodes crashes on roadways they own, operate and maintain and DRCOG geocodes the remaining crashes on roadways that are locally owned and maintained by cities and counties. DRCOG recently updated crash data sets by standardizing field names and data types.

Data sets for 2004 to 2015 are [now available on the Regional Data Catalog.](#)

Nominate a project, program, plan or person for DRCOG's annual awards

Metro Vision Awards

This year's Metro Vision Awards will recognize projects and programs that help further our shared aspirational vision of the future of the Denver metro area. DRCOG welcomes

nominations of projects, programs and plans that support Metro Vision's themes. Past successful nominations have highlighted innovation, public and stakeholder engagement and coordination among local governments, state and federal partners, the business community, philanthropic and not-for-profit organizations. For more information on nomination criteria, [click here](#).

Metro Vision Awards

What kinds of projects will our judges be looking for? [Check out last year's winners](#).

Way to Go Champion Awards

The Way to Go Champion Awards recognize innovative outreach efforts or programs that reduce single-occupant vehicle (SOV) commuting while increasing the use of sustainable transportation modes, as well as individuals who champion smart commuting. For more information and to submit a nomination, [click here](#).

Way to Go Champion Awards

The deadline for submissions is Friday, Jan. 25.

Upcoming events

The [Denver Data Storytellers](#) group has invited field leader [Alberto Cairo](#) to speak in Denver as part of [his lecture tour](#) about citizen data literacy. The event will be free and held at General Assembly on Thursday, Jan. 24 from 6:30 to 9 p.m. [Register here](#).

The [GIS Colorado winter quarterly meeting](#) will be held on Jan. 25 in Castle Rock. A [special training on ArcGIS Pro](#) will be held the day prior.

The Colorado OpenStreetMap community continues to import DRCOG building footprints into the map. Join for its [next Importathon event](#) on Jan. 16.

Engage with us

- The new version of our [Regional Data Catalog](#) launched in January. We invite you to visit the site and give us some feedback in [this brief survey](#).
- This quarterly newsletter reaches more than 300 people, has a higher-than-average open rate and is written by professionals like you. It's the perfect place to show off your projects, highlight your great work and contribute ideas to the GIS community in the Denver region. Newsletter release dates are the 15th of January, April, July and

October (or the next business day afterward). Please contact Ashley Summers at 303-480-6746 or asummers@drcog.org to contribute.

- Did you miss a newsletter or a meeting? [Visit our website](#) for past newsletter issues and DRDC meeting materials.



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