

FY 16-17 Urban Centers Studies & Station Area Master Plans

Eligibility Rules

Urban Center Studies and Station Area Master Plans create local visions and action strategies that ultimately assist in the implementation of Metro Vision, the region's long-range plan for growth and development. There are four types of planning studies eligible through this funding opportunity: Urban Center Study/Station Area Master Plan (original); Next Steps Study; Corridor-wide Plan; and Area Planning and Implementation Strategies. Eligible project sponsors include local governments, RTD and non-profits (e.g. TMAs/BIDs). Non-profits must provide letters of support from impacted jurisdictions. Sponsors may submit any number of proposed studies, but are limited to two funded studies per fiscal year.

Urban Center Study or Station Area Master Plan

Eligible projects must include:

Stakeholder Engagement

- Outreach and engagement process that promotes the involvement of regional partners (e.g. DRCOG and RTD), stakeholders in the study area, with efforts and accommodations made to include low to moderate income, minority, and elderly or disabled citizens.

Placemaking

- Identification (map) of type and density of future land uses, including public spaces.
- Internal circulation plan(s) (maps or graphics) for motor vehicles, transit, bicycle and pedestrian and strategies to increase multi-modal connections with the larger region.
- Identifying barriers (e.g. parking, zoning, infrastructure, etc.) to desired station area and/or urban center development.
- Detailed development and investment strategies that allow people of all ages, incomes and abilities the opportunity to access a range of housing, employment, and services.
- A market or fiscal feasibility analysis that assesses plan recommendations and ensures the proposed plan is realistic and/or strategies to market the area to the development community in cases where the market for urban center and transit-oriented development is still emerging.

Action Plan and Implementation Strategies

- A clear and realistic action plan to address key findings, including identification of necessary policy or regulatory changes (e.g. comprehensive plan, zoning, etc.); infrastructure improvements, and housing strategies.
- An implementation strategy that describes the organizational structure and process that will be used to ensure the action plan is implemented, including the roles of community and regional partners.

Assessment and Impacts

- Indicators or metrics related to key strategies (e.g. multi-modal connectivity, leveraging private investment, environmental quality, etc.)
- Identification of the transportation impacts and air quality benefits of the proposed plan
- Current and future population, housing units, and employment estimates to the year 2040 (in five-year increments), including distribution of planned housing units by type and square feet of future non-residential development

Next Step Studies

Eligible projects:

- Planning activities that are related to transportation infrastructure for use by the general public.
- Next step studies should be identified in an existing Urban Center Study/Station Area Master Plan or similar effort. Examples of eligible activities include:
 - Parking assessment and management studies
 - Access management plans
 - Corridor redevelopment strategies

- Design studies and concepts for multi-modal infrastructure projects
- Street design standards/manuals
- Multi-use trail/Bike facilities plan
- Pedestrian facilities plan
- Urban design guidelines
- Comprehensive wayfinding plans and strategies
- Traffic circulation studies
- First/Last-mile mobility implementation, financing, partnership studies
- Transit enhancement feasibility studies
- Transportation demand management studies and implementation activities

Corridor-wide Studies

Eligible projects:

- Studies that aim to maximize multi-modal connectivity within transit corridors (including high frequency bus corridors that serve one or more urban centers – high frequency bus corridors have headways of 15 minutes or less) and at individual urban center/station areas along the corridor.
- Studies that identify barriers to station area development and increased transit use along the corridor – barriers could include current land use, zoning and development standards; parking availability and cost; inadequate bike and pedestrian facilities, first/last mile challenges, etc.
- Efforts to create corridor-wide implementation strategies and/or an action plan identifying such things as needed plan updates, code revisions, marking activities and financial or regulatory incentive.
- Corridor-wide studies must involve all the local jurisdictions and other major stakeholders along the corridor.

Area Planning and Implementation Activities

Eligible Projects:

- Will promote innovative planning activities that can be replicated throughout the Denver region.
- Include multiple jurisdictions, station areas and urban centers aiming to study a common issue while focusing on local context and implementation strategies.
- Potential studies could include:
 - Parking management planning and strategies
 - TOD strategies including zoning and financing for water, sewer, storm water, parks, recreational facilities, parks and open space infrastructure
 - First- and final-mile mobility implementation, financing, feasibility and partnership studies
 - Pedestrian facility assessment and needs plan
 - Bike amenities and share programs
 - Roadway corridor revitalization plans, strategies and design standards
 - Development of Complete Streets policies and ordinances
 - Alternative fuel/Electric vehicle facility planning
 - Regional multi-use trail feasibility and alignment study