

## FY 16-17 Urban Center Studies and Station Area Master Plans Evaluation Criteria

*Metro Vision 2035* establishes the importance of urban centers and transit stations areas in the region's efforts to reach our goals for healthy, livable communities connected by a robust multi-modal transportation network. These communities have high levels of internal connectivity and are well-connected to the region at large. DRCOG staff will identify eligible urban center study or station area master plan submittals. All eligible submittals will be evaluated using the criteria below. The FY16-17 Urban Center Studies and Station Area Master Plans review committee will include representatives from DRCOG, RTD and jurisdictions that previously received funds, but are not seeking funding during the current call for studies.

All funding recommendations will be forwarded to the DRCOG Board of Directors for their consideration in determining final funding commitments. In addition to the evaluation criteria the funding recommendation provided to the Board will be informed by the regional priorities listed below.

### **Study Evaluation Criteria**

#### **Project Impact Evaluation Study Need (20%)**

- Application will include an issue statement that clearly identifies the local /regional need of the study along with the desired outcomes.

#### **Potential to contribute to the vision, goals and policies embodied in Metro Vision (60%)**

- Application will identify how the project contributes to the following:
  - Be active, pedestrian-, bicycle-, and transit-friendly places that experience a higher density than surrounding areas and a mix of uses;
  - Promote regional sustainability by reducing per capita VMT, air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions; and
  - Provide reliable mobility choices to all users: residents and visitors of all ages, incomes and abilities, as well as businesses that provide services and produce or sell goods.

#### **Local commitment and ability to implement (10%)**

- Application will describe prior activities in support of quality growth projects in the study area.
- Applicant will demonstrate their ability to successfully complete the project in a timely fashion.

#### **Innovation and feasibility (10%)**

- Application will demonstrate:
  - Innovation in project scope; Practicality/feasibility of scope of work;
  - Coordination with other local governments, organizations, and non-profits; and
  - Transferability of project outcomes locally and regionally.

### **Regional Prioritization**

- Priority will be given to existing and planned transit corridors included in RTD's FasTracks program or DRCOG's 2040 Fiscally Constrained Regional Transportation Plan (2040 RTP) as shown in:
  - 2040 RTP, Figure 11 (Fiscally Constrained Rapid Transit, Park-n-Ride, & Station Locations)
  - 2035 Metro Vision Regional Transportation Plan, Figure 16, Tier 1 only (2035 Metro Vision Rapid Transit System).
- Priority will be given to urban centers currently designated as "existing" or "emerging".
- Priority will be given to proposed studies or plans that directly advance Metro Vision 2035 policies through regional planning and implementation.
- Priority will be given to proposed study areas including a rapid transit station and an urban center designated in Metro Vision.