

## Description

Every two years, the Denver Regional Council of Governments facilitates the acquisition of high-resolution aerial imagery for the region. Since 2002, the project has been providing a common base map for DRAPP members and partners to use for mapping, planning and analysis.

The 2020 project encompassed approximately 6,000 square miles and included 3-inch, 6-inch and 12-inch imagery.

DRCOG’s level of participation keeps partner costs low, providing valuable data at a fraction of the cost. Program costs include imagery acquisition, post-processing, custom order delivery and DRCOG project management.

## Challenges

The 2020 project was challenging for many reasons. The COVID-19 pandemic’s effect on local revenue threatened the project budget, airspace closures and bad weather delayed acquisition flights, and simultaneously processing imagery and lidar – while ultimately better than previous projects when we relied on outdated elevation data – slowed down production time. DRCOG staff are proud to say that the partners and vendors persevered and delivered the product with only minimal delay.

## By the numbers

<b>Value of data provided to members</b>	<b>\$994,000</b>
<b>Average cost paid by DRCOG members</b>	<b>\$18,000</b>
<b>Total number of partners</b>	<b>49</b>
<b>Number of participating member counties</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Number of participating member cities/towns</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>Number of regional partners</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Amount of 3-inch imagery acquired</b>	<b>1,368 square miles</b>
<b>Amount of 6-inch imagery acquired</b>	<b>1,304 square miles</b>
<b>Amount of 12-inch imagery acquired</b>	<b>3,364 square miles</b>

## What’s new in 2020?

During the 2020 project, DRCOG responded to a partner need for more **frequently updated** imagery with faster turnaround times by offering a Nearmap subscription in addition to the custom flight imagery. Close to half of the project partners took advantage of the new offering, which included a streaming service of 3-inch imagery captured approximately every six months, oblique imagery and an annual tile delivery.

The custom flight imagery is highly valued by partners because of its positional accuracy and aesthetic quality. DRCOG invested in both components to ensure the product continued to meet partner needs. For example, DRCOG aligned the 2020 imagery and lidar projects so that the **elevation data** from the latter could be used to place the imagery in its correct location.

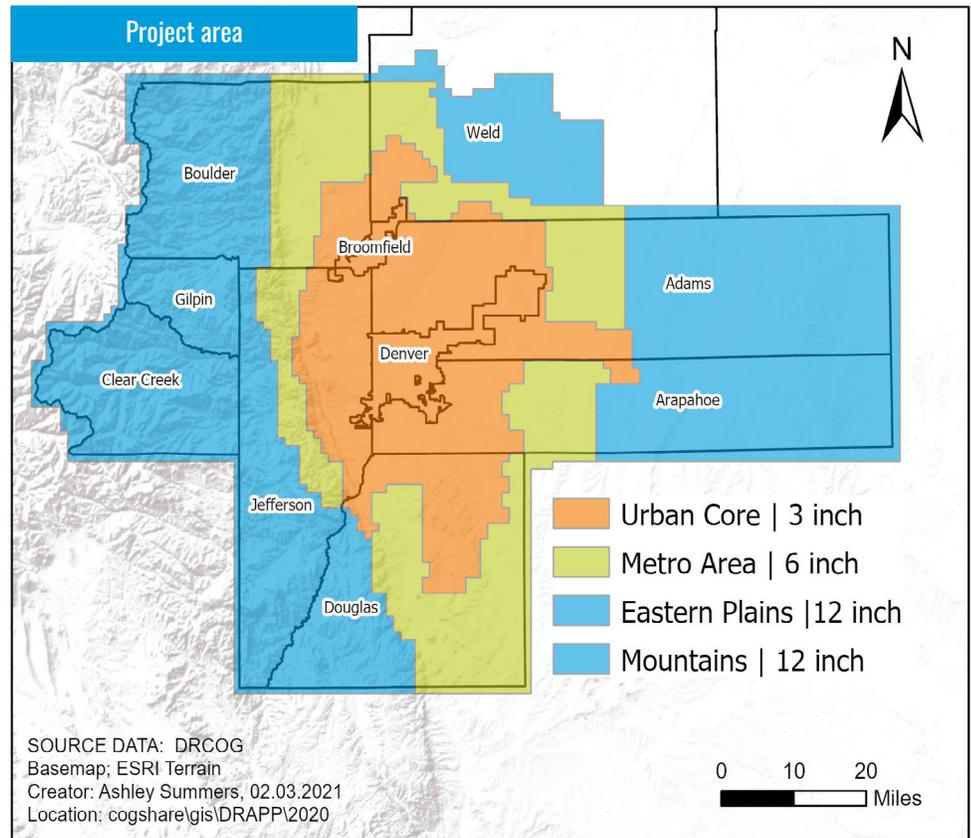
Regarding aesthetic quality, DRCOG partnered with the GeoEx Center at Front Range Community College to train **student volunteers** to review imagery on behalf of the partners. The partnership was a win-win situation that gave students valuable hands-on experience, ensured imagery tiles met specifications and took the burden off many of the partners that encountered resource limitations during the review phase.

## Vendors

Custom imagery was acquired, processed and delivered as tiles and services by the [Sanborn Map Company](#). [Nearmap](#) provided a subscription to their ortho and oblique imagery.

## Accessing data

Current DRAPP imagery is available for purchase from Sanborn Map Company. Historical imagery is available for free download from the [Regional Data Catalog](#).



## Funding partners

- Colorado Department of Transportation
- Regional Transportation District
- Denver Water
- Adams County
- City and County of Broomfield
- Clear Creek County
- City and County of Denver
- Douglas County
- Gilpin County
- Jefferson County
- City of Arvada
- City of Aurora
- Town of Bennett
- City of Brighton
- City of Castle Pines
- City of Castle Rock
- City of Centennial
- City of Cherry Hills Village
- City of Commerce City
- City of Dacono
- City of Englewood
- Town of Erie
- City of Federal Heights
- Town of Firestone
- Town of Frederick
- City of Glendale
- City of Golden
- City of Greenwood Village
- City of Lafayette
- City of Lakewood
- City of Littleton
- City of Lone Tree
- City of Longmont
- City of Louisville
- Town of Nederland
- City of Northglenn
- Town of Parker
- Town of Superior
- City of Thornton
- City of Westminster
- City of Wheat Ridge
- Arapahoe County Water and Wastewater Authority
- United Power
- Metro Wastewater Reclamation District
- Jefferson County Communications Center Authority
- South Suburban Parks and Recreation
- South Metro Fire Rescue
- E-470 Public Highway Authority
- Pinery Water and Wastewater District

## Questions?

Contact Ashley Summers, DRCOG information systems manager, at 303-480-6746 or [asummers@drcog.org](mailto:asummers@drcog.org).

Visit the [website](#).

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