



DRCOG– We Make Life Better

February 4, 2025

Today's discussion:

- Brief history of regionalism in the US
- Who/What is DRCOG
 - Governance
 - Programs
- New Initiatives





History of Regional Councils

1930s





1950s



1960s – 1970's

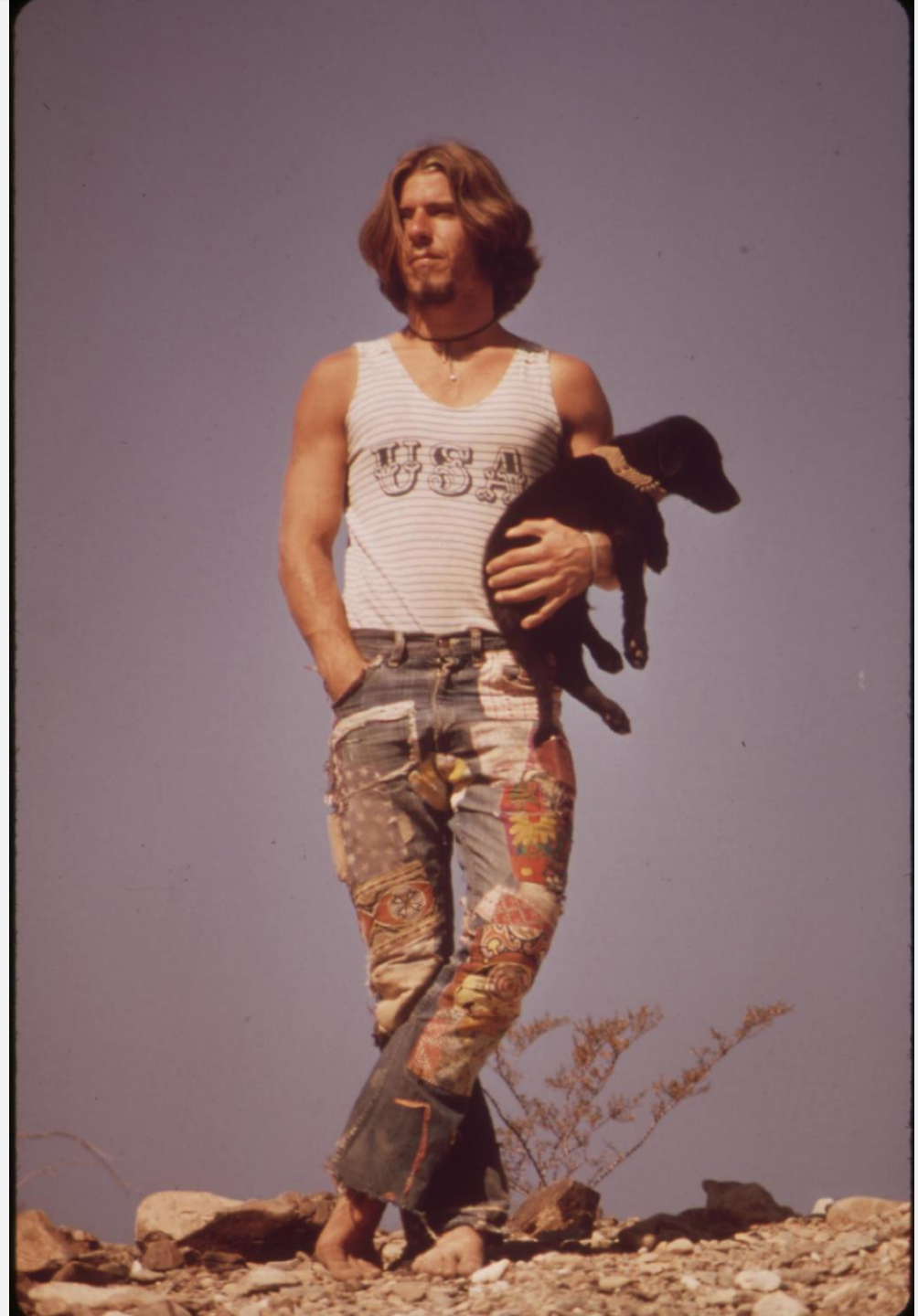
- **1962 Federal Aid Highway Act**

- Created metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs)
- Building interstate system
- Requirements
 - Long Range Transportation Plan
 - Short Range Transportation Plan

- **1965 Older Americans Act**

- **1970 Clean Air Act**

- **1972 Clean Water Act**



The ISTEA Revolution, 1991

- **Intermodal Surface Transportation and Efficiency Act**
 - **Fiscally constrained** long range plan: 20-year horizon
 - **Fiscally constrained** short range plan: 4-year horizon
 - Public participation plan
 - Suballocation of federal funds to MPOs
- **Legitimized the role of regional councils/MPOs**

A few of our peers...

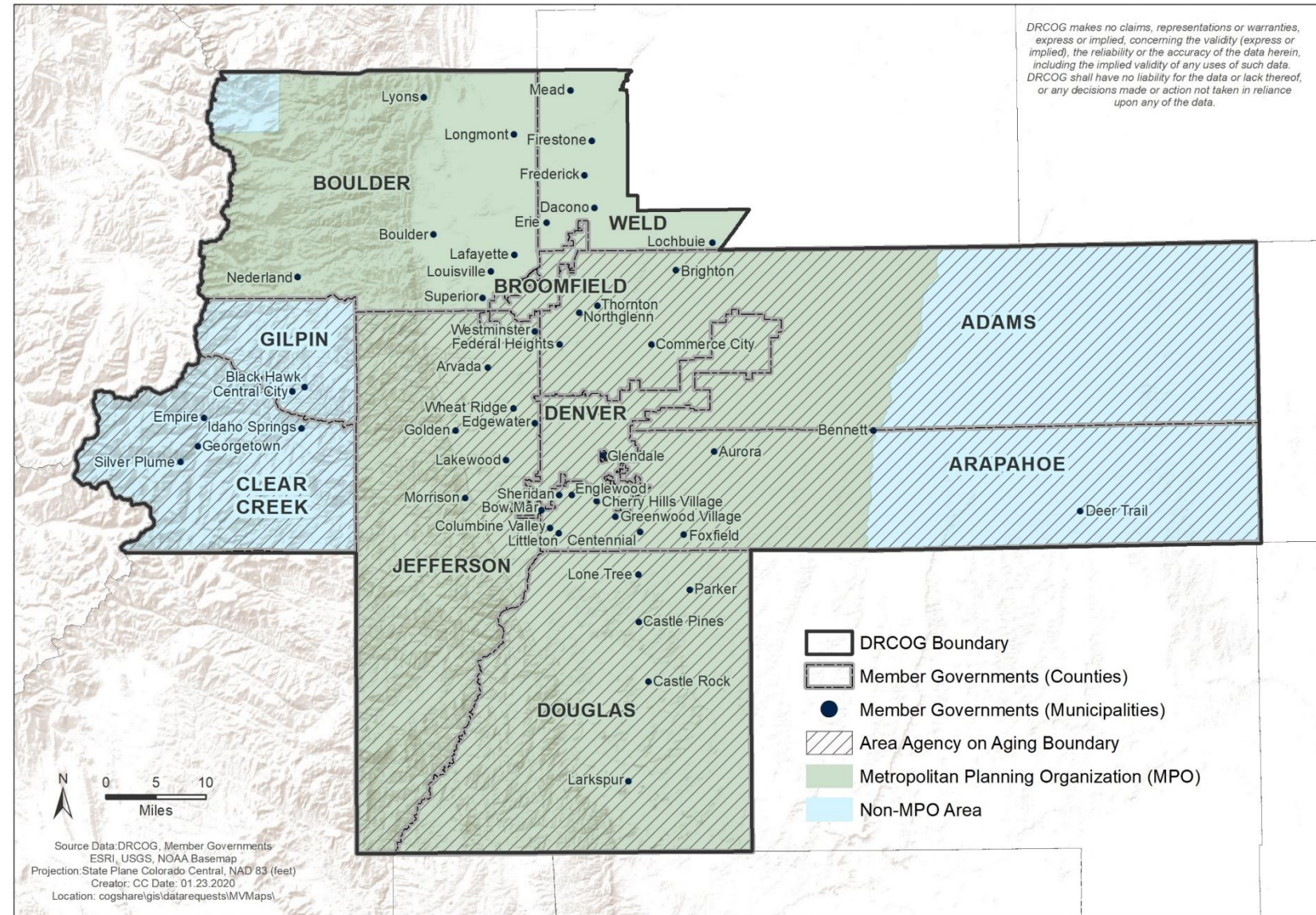




DRCOG

The region

Area	10 counties (59 member governments)
	5,288 square miles (comparable to Connecticut)
	3.5 million people (comparable to Utah)
	Ute, Cheyenne, and Arapaho peoples (traditional territory)
Elevation	From Grays Peak (14,278 feet)
	To Badger Creek (4,505 feet)
Roles	Regional planning commission (state statute)
	Area Agency on Aging (federal)
	Metropolitan planning organization (federal)



A legacy of leadership



**regional collaboration among 59
cities, counties, towns and partner
agencies**

Regional success depends on partnerships



DRCOG **is not** a
regulator.



We are a
convener.



We provide **policy**
guidance.



We are a **bridge** between
partner jurisdictions and
agencies.



We identify
best practices.

Governance – Board of Directors

- Members
 - 59 participating member governments and each has an elected official as its representative
 - The governor appoints three non-voting representatives to the Board
 - The Regional Transportation District (transit agency) has a non-voting representative
- Meets monthly
 - Board Work Session (1st Wednesday)
 - Business meeting (3rd Wednesday)
- Functions
 - Appoints Executive Director
 - Adopts the agency budget
 - Approves or adopts plans, policies, funding allocations
 - May serve on one of two Board committees (F&B or P&E)



DRCOG's roles

- **Regional planning commission** (by state statute).
- **Metropolitan planning organization** (federal designation).
- **Area Agency on Aging** (federal designation).



Regional Planning Commission

Metro Vision



METRO VISION

Our place, our plan.

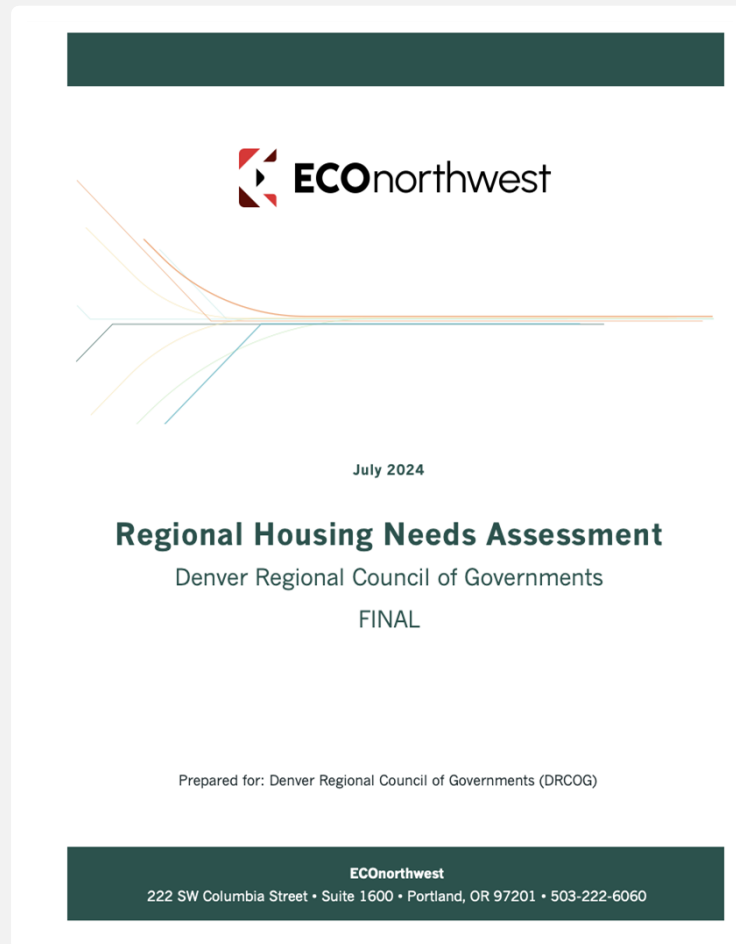
Through Metro Vision, cities and counties throughout the region work to preserve what's great about our past, protect what we love about the Denver we live in today, and come together to create a better future.



Diverse housing
options meet the
needs of residents
of all ages, incomes
and abilities.



Regional Housing Needs Assessment report



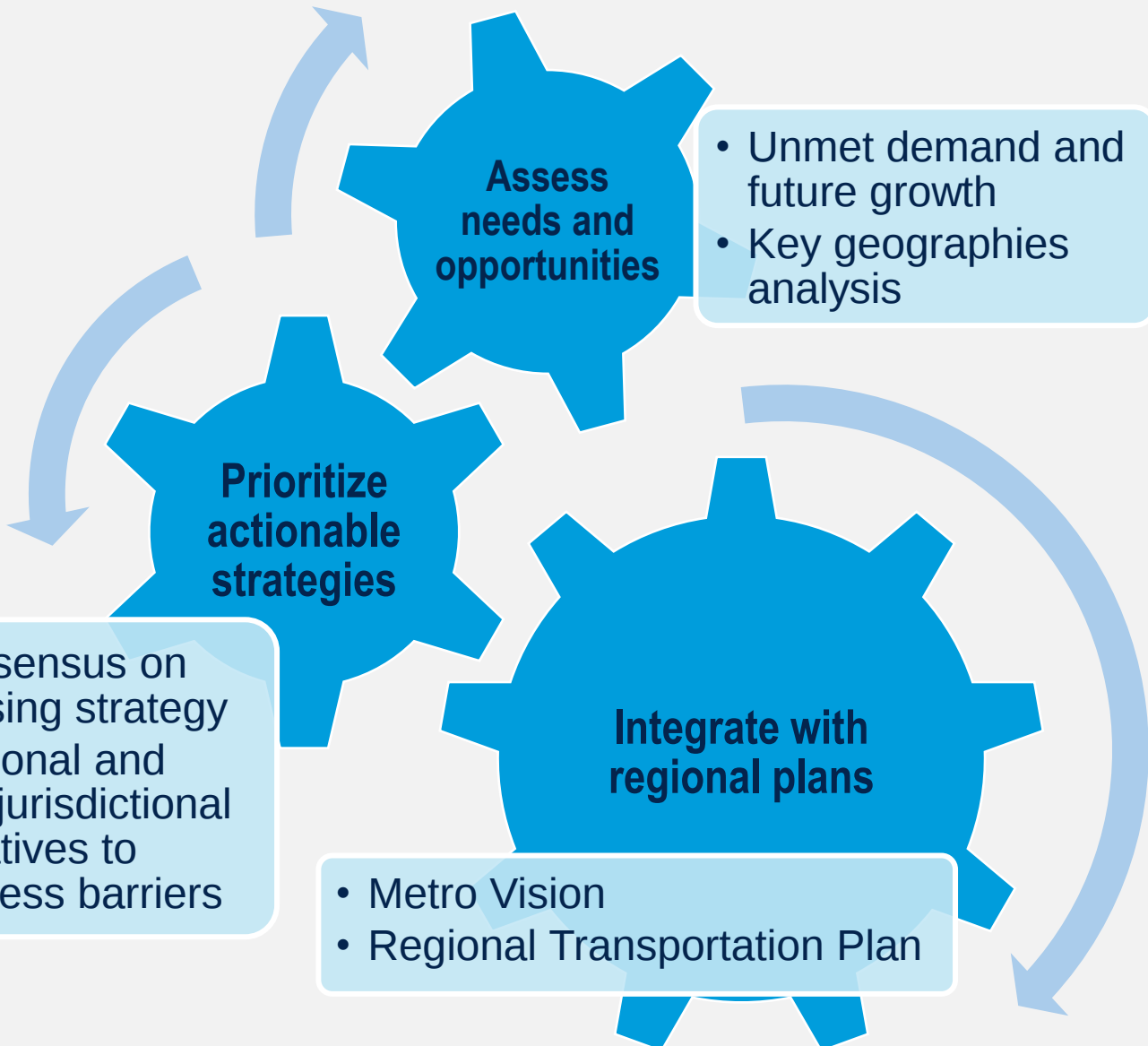
- Introduction and context.
- **Regional housing needs.**
- **Submarket housing needs.**
- Systemic barriers to meeting housing needs.
- Moving toward a regional strategy.



Legislative context

- Senate Bill 24-174 requires local housing needs assessments.
 - An **exception**: participation in a **regional housing needs assessment**.
- Provides a **path for state acceptance** of assessments completed after January 1, 2022.
 - Submitted by December 31, 2024.
 - Conforming to state methodology.

DRCOG's path to a regional housing strategy



Regional Housing Needs Assessment

October 2023–July 2024

- Data analysis.
- Understand barriers.
- Framework for strategy.

Regional Housing Strategy

December 2024–January 2026

- Regional implementation structure.

Regional plan updates

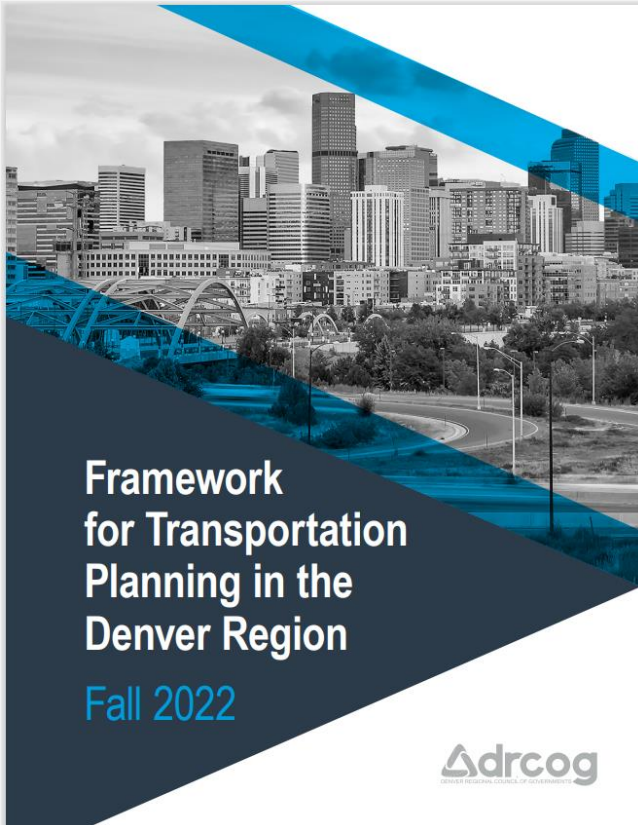
2025–2026

- Guide Metro Vision and regional transportation plan updates.

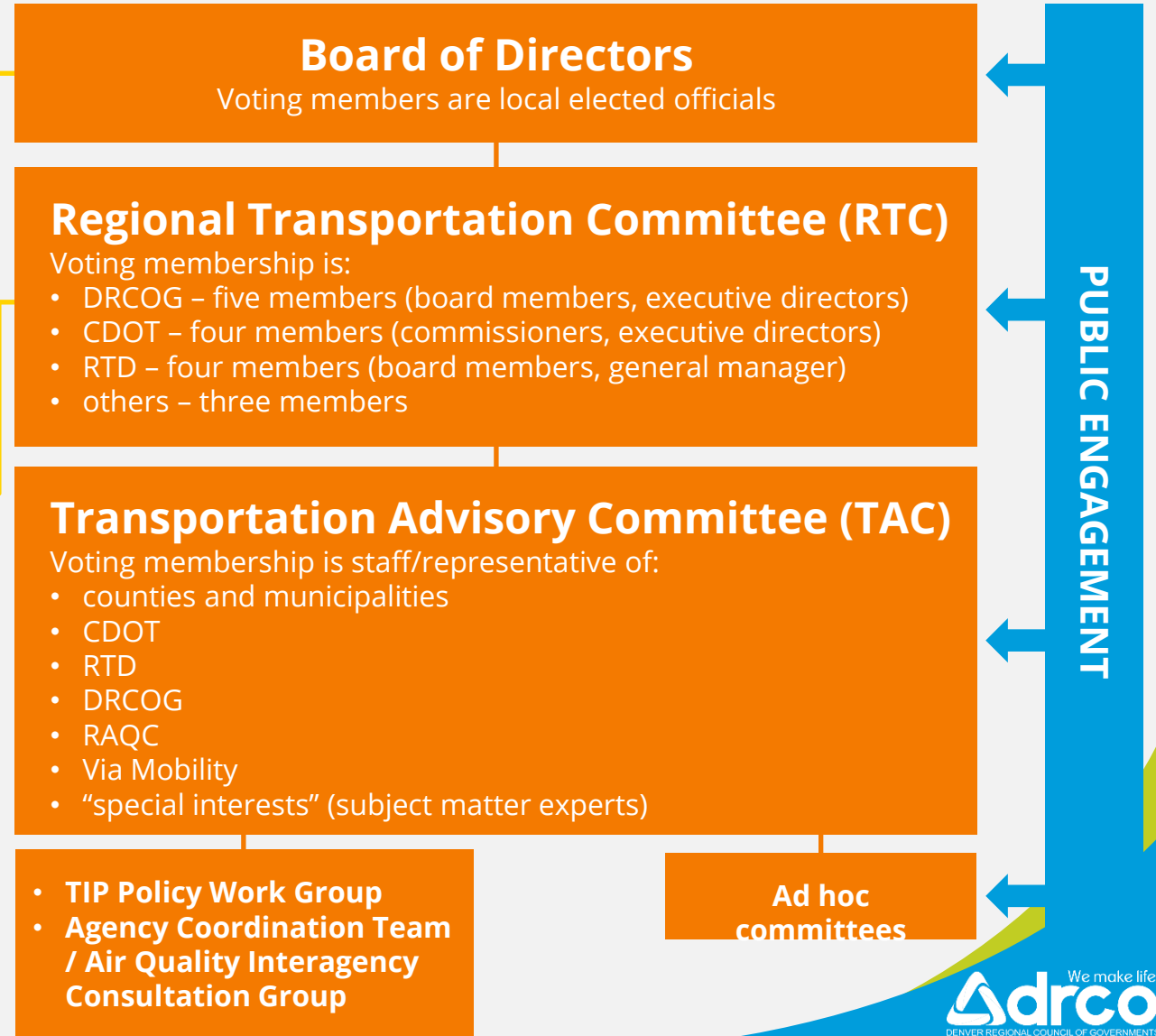


Metropolitan Planning Organization

MPO decision-making structure



**Metropolitan
planning agreement
requires that the
Board and Regional
Transportation
Committee concur**



From a regional vision to an achievable reality



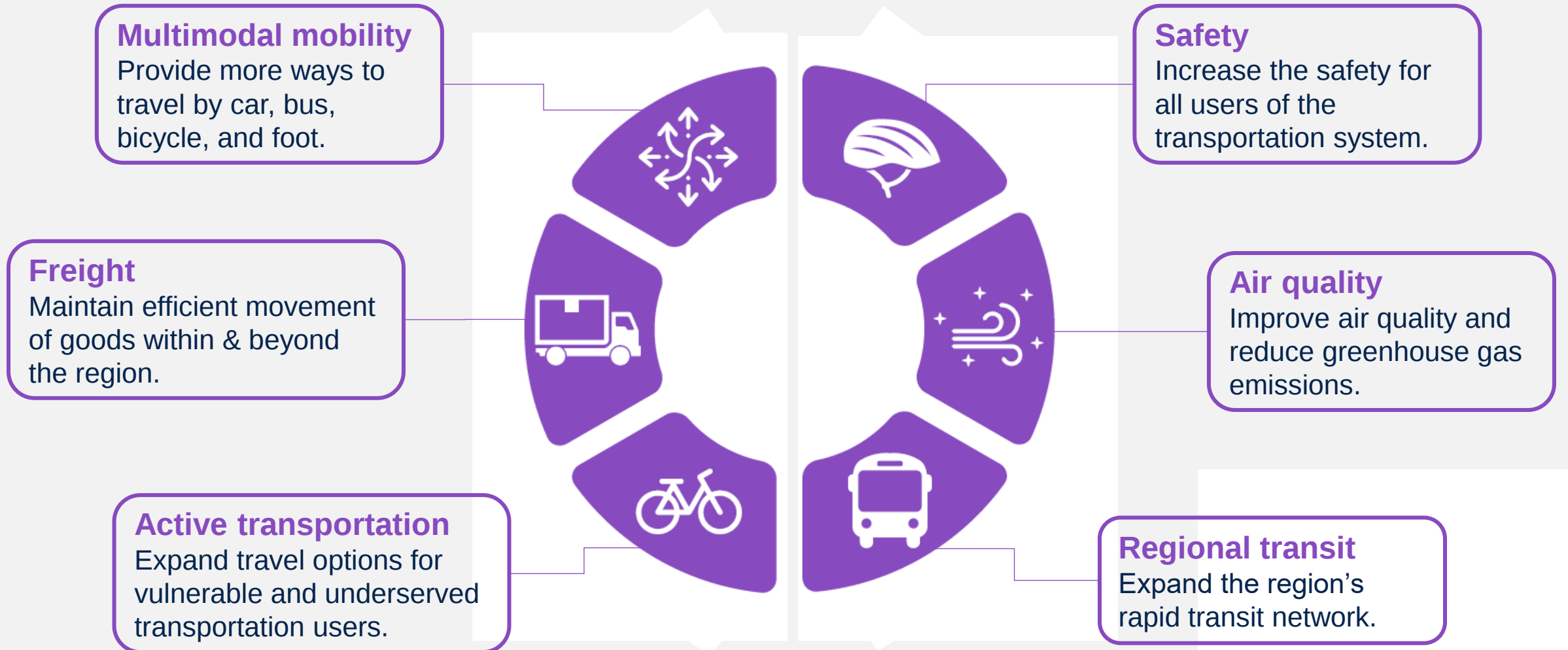
2050 congestion projections



- Vehicle miles traveled per capita is projected to grow to **27 miles per day** (compared to our MetroVision goal of 23 miles per day)
- The cost of congestion in the region is expected to increase by **67%** between 2022 and 2050



Project and program investment priorities



Projects and programs



Multimodal mobility

Multimodal capital projects

\$8.2 billion



Air quality

Transportation Improvement Program set-asides

\$373 million



Regional transit

Regional bus rapid transit projects
Corridor transit planning projects and program

\$1.2 billion
\$725 million



Safety

Arterial safety and Regional Vision Zero projects and program

\$465 million



Active transportation

Active transportation program

\$180 million



Freight

Freight program

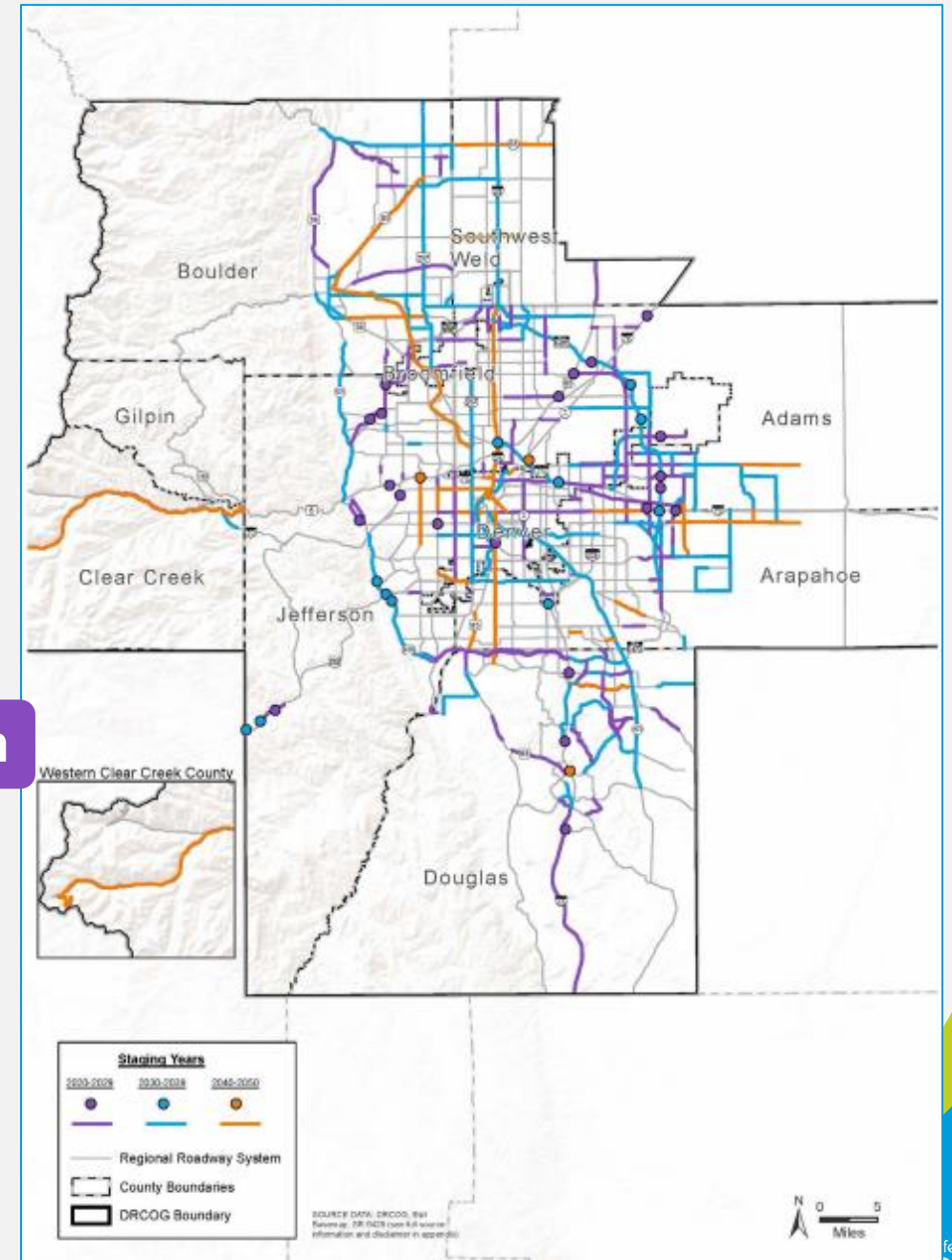
\$220 million



Local projects

Locally funded projects

\$4.0 billion



DRCOG makes no claim, express or implied, concerning the reliability or validity of the information, including the implied validity of the information, or any decisions made or actions taken upon any of the information.

Regional Transportation Plan BRT network

2020-2030 (5 corridors).

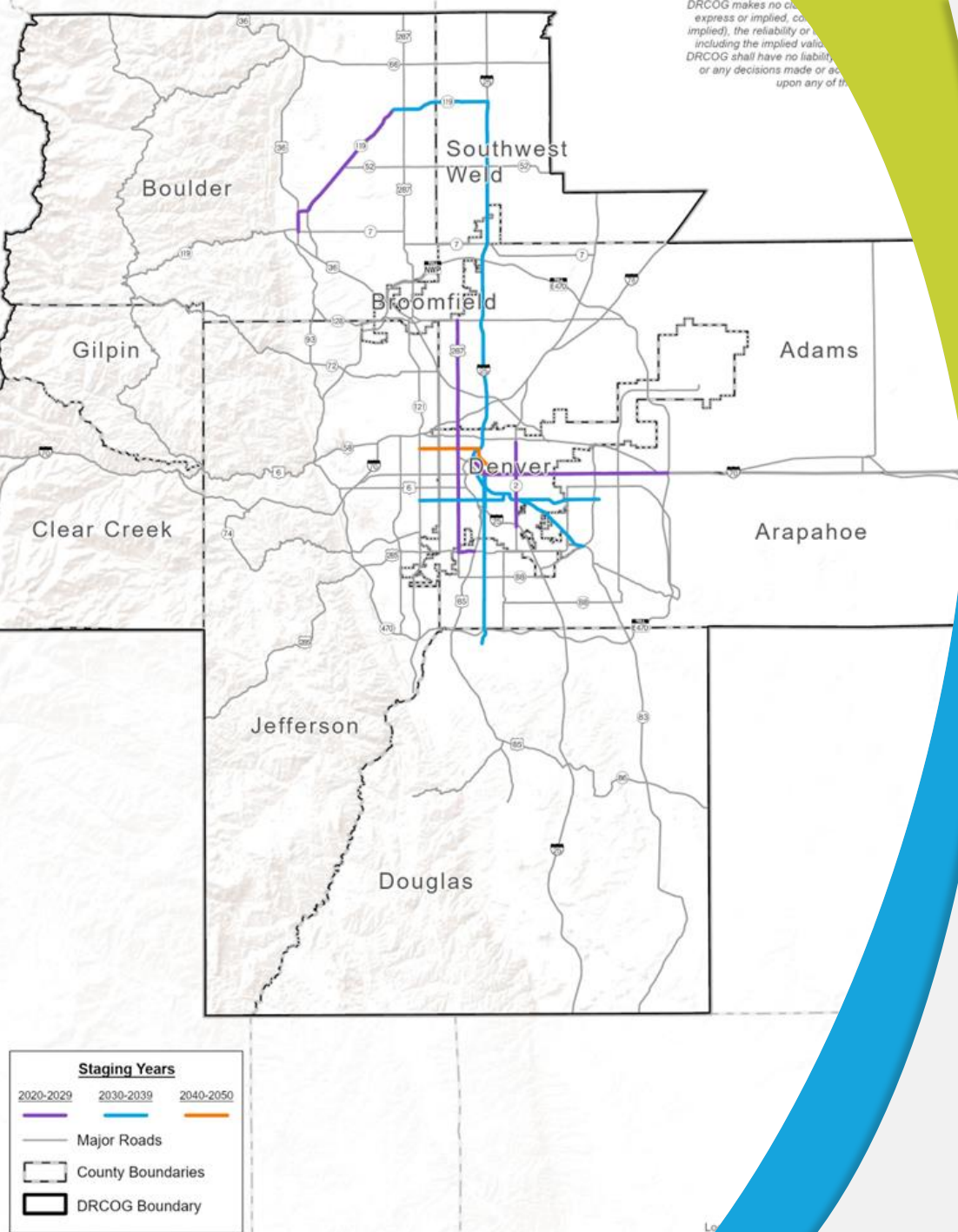
- Colorado Boulevard.
- East Colfax & Extension.
- Federal Boulevard.
- Colorado State Highway 119.

2030-2040 (5 corridors).

- Alameda Avenue.
- Broadway/Lincoln.
- I-25 North.
- Speer Boulevard/Leetsdale Drive/Parker Road.
- Colorado State Highway 119 Extension.

2040-2050.

- 38th Avenue/Park Avenue.
- Bus Maintenance Facility.



Active Denver Projects

TIP Project Name	DRCOG Funding	Total TIP funding	TIP Project Scope
16th St. Mall Rehabilitation: Market to Civic Center Station	\$ 24,799,000	\$ 113,000,000	Project will reconstruct 16th St. Mall with a new granite pavement system, install bulb-outs, landscaping, and realign transitway and sidewalks.
Adaptive Signal Control & ATSPM System (FY22)	\$ 891,000	\$ 891,000	Adaptive Signal Control & ATSPM System
Alameda Underpass Improvements: Kalamath to Cherokee - Precon	\$ 7,800,000	\$ 9,750,000	Design and environmental for the reconstruction of the Alameda Ave. underpass, including new sidewalks, a multi-use path, and expanded capacity for rail transit.
Bike/Ped Bridge over Santa Fe: Jewell to Evans Station	\$ 12,000,000	\$ 15,002,000	Construct new bike/ped bridge from Jewell Ave. to Evans LRT Station over Santa Fe Dr.
Bluetooth Expansion (FY23)	\$ 977,000	\$ 1,221,000	Bluetooth Expansion
Buchtel Complete Street/Evans Intersection Improvements: University to Colorado	\$ 21,800,000	\$ 24,240,000	Construct high-comfort bike facility, ped crossing improvements, and safety enhancements along Buchtel from University Blvd. to Colorado Blvd. Intersection improvements including bike signal phase, bulbouts, and safety improvements at 5 intersections along Buchtel Blvd. and Evans Ave.
Denver V2X Communications Devices	\$ 1,700,000	\$ 1,700,000	Construction project to expand deployment of connected vehicle roadside units along Colfax and Sheridan. Additionally, data collected by these devices will be used for automated traffic signal performance measure-related (ATSPM) capabilities. Development of a concept of operations will precede design and construction.
East Colfax Bus Rapid Transit: Civic Center Station to Yosemite	\$ 28,447,000	\$ 280,479,000	Design and construct a fixed-guideway center-running bus rapid transit line along Colfax Ave between Civic Center Station and Yosemite St.

Active Denver Projects

TIP Project Name	DRCOG Funding	Total TIP funding	TIP Project Scope
Federal Blvd Transit Improvements: Floyd to 54th	\$ 3,000,000	\$ 4,000,000	Utilize operational improvements and treatments to improve transit speed, reliability, and amenities on Federal Blvd from Floyd to 54th Ave..
High Line Canal Trail Underpass at Yale	\$ 11,000,000	\$ 15,700,000	Construct an underpass of the High Line Canal Trail under Yale Ave just west of Holly St.
I25/Broadway Station Interchange Improvements	\$ 39,440,000	\$ 89,922,000	This project modifies S. Broadway around the I-25 interchange.
North Central Denver Community Multimodal Improvements	\$ 4,537,000	\$ 5,671,000	Construct multimodal improvements in the Globeville and Elyria-Swansea neighborhoods including high-comfort bike facilities and crosswalk safety enhancements.
Pedestrian Detection (FY21)	\$ 927,000	\$ 1,159,000	Pedestrian Detection
Peña Capacity Improvements: I70 to E470 - Precon	\$ 5,000,000	\$ 18,500,000	Design and environmental for the addition of one managed lane in each direction between I70 and E470 and the addition of multi-use trails. Also partially funds implementation of a TDM plan.
South Platte River Trail Improvements: Bayaud to Phil Milstein Park	\$ 8,500,000	\$ 11,600,000	Widen existing 8' trail to 12' concrete trail with 4' crusher fine shoulder, and relocate 2500' feet of trail across the South Platte River to separate it from interstate traffic. Project also includes a pedestrian plaza and trail amenities.
South Platte River Trail Improvements: Mississippi to Dartmouth - Precon	\$ 4,000,000	\$ 5,000,000	Design a segment of upgraded trail to include a widened 12' path with shoulders, lighting, wayfinding, and new connection to Ruby Hill Park.
South Platte River Trail Improvements: Mississippi to Florida	\$ 4,800,000	\$ 6,000,000	Replace existing 8' trail with 12' wide trail with 4' crusher fines and 3' shoulders on both sides and reconstructed 16' wide bike/ped bridge in Overland Park.
South Platte River Trail Improvements: West Virginia to W Bayaud	\$ 6,405,000	\$ 10,467,000	Trail improvements and realignment from West Virginia Ave. to the pedestrian bridge at W. Bayaud Ave.



Area Agency on Aging

AAA's Purpose

- Help people age better
- Support older adults to stay in their homes
- Reduce health care costs
- Reduce taxpayer burden



Services offered to Denver Residents

- **Benefits Counseling**
 - Benefits in Action, DRCOG
- **Case management**
 - DRCOG
- **Chore**
 - A Little Help, Brothers Redevelopment
- **Elder Refugee Services**
 - DRCOG
- **Health Promotion**
 - Colorado Visiting Nurses
- **Hoarding**
 - Senior Resource Center
- **Home delivered meals and Congregate meals**
 - VOA, Project Angel Heart, Denver Inner City Parish, Jewish Family Services
- **Homeless Support**
 - Senior Support Services
- **Homemaker**
 - Jewish Family Services, Senior Resource Center
- **Information and assistance**
 - Denver Office on Aging
- **Legal assistance**
 - Colorado Legal Services
- **Mental Health**
 - Aurora Mental Health, Senior Resource Center
- **Navigation Services**
 - DRCOG in partnership with Denver Health
- **Ombudsman**
 - DRCOG
- **Transitions Services**
 - DRCOG
- **Transportation**
 - VIA, HopSkipDrive, Med Ride, Uber, Are Pool, Denver Inner City Parish
- **Veterans Directed Program**
 - DRCOG



New Initiatives

Way to Go tactics

- **Monthly challenges.**
- **Events** and focused campaigns:
 - Bike to Work Day.
 - Go-Tober.
- Commuter **trip planning.**
- **Marketing, advertising** and promotional campaigns.
- **Incentives.**
- **Sponsorships.**

Winter **Bike to Work Day**

Friday, February 14, 2025

Pledge to ride!

BikeToWorkDay.co



Presented by the Colorado Department of Transportation's Bicycle and Pedestrian Program, the Federal Highway Administration and the Denver Regional Council of Governments.

If you need digital accessibility assistance, submit a request at drcog.org/access or call 303-455-1000. Please expect a response within 72 hours (three business days).

waytogo

Program of DRCOG

Regional Transportation Plan Update

- Updated every four years
- Must be financially constrained
- Next up: Scenario planning exercise.



Scenario Planning: DRCOG's approach



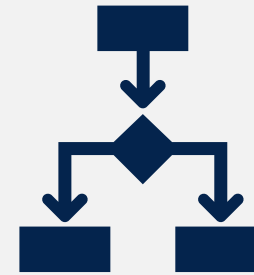
Explores “**what if**” alternative futures



Relative comparisons between scenarios and baseline



Not rigorous evaluation of scenarios, nor choosing/ judging scenarios



Choices & tradeoffs from individual scenarios



Provide **guidance and direction** for plan development

Scenario Planning: Themes heard

- Growing older adult population and associated changes in needs and priorities (housing, healthcare, transportation).
- Increasing disruptions and environmental impacts from climate change on the region's infrastructure (transportation, housing, power)
- Continued proliferation of new technologies (artificial intelligence, automation, autonomous/connected/electric vehicles).
- Staying power of post-COVID trends (work from home, home delivery, e-commerce).



DRCOG was awarded \$199.7 million from the Environmental Protection Agency's Climate Pollution Reduction Program

The program will:

- **Cut 148,200,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide** by 2050.
 - The equivalent of taking 35 million gas-powered cars off the road for an entire year.
- **Train 4,800-plus workers** for the electrification workforce, including 1,000 upskilled workers.
- **Engage 1.6 million Coloradans** in the benefits of building efficiency and electrification through a public awareness campaign.



Proposed budget

Program administration, communications and marketing	\$32,478,705	16%	Over 1.6 million people engaged
Low-income and disadvantaged communities decarbonization	\$48,106,435	24%	1,600 residences retrofit
Energy advising services	\$17,463,443	9%	Over 50,000 clients advised
Rebates and Incentives	\$43,063,443	22%	Over 40,000 rebates issued
Building policy collaborative	\$39,209,385	20%	58 jurisdictions supported
Workforce and industry development	\$19,384,385	10%	4,800 workers trained
Total CPRG Funds	\$199,705,797	100%	
<i>In-kind local staff time</i>	<i>\$3,008,343</i>		<i>5.1 full-time equivalent</i>
<i>Leveraged funds</i>	<i>\$70,250,000</i>		<i>Committed by Denver, Boulder and Boulder County</i>

Thank you!

Douglas W. Rex
Executive Director

drex@drcog.org

(303) 480-6721