



# Denver Regional Council of Governments

*Presented by:*

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Executive Director

November 28, 2023

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**City and County of Denver**

Land Use Transportation & Infrastructure  
Committee

# The Denver Regional Council of Governments ...

## functions as a regional planning commission

- per Colorado state statute
- prepares the plan for the physical development of the region

is the federally designated  
**Area Agency on Aging**

serves as the region's  
**metropolitan planning organization**



A large, stylized white outline of a lightbulb is positioned on the right side of the slide. Inside the bulb, the word "idea" is written in a cursive script. Several short lines radiate from the top of the bulb, suggesting it is glowing. In the background, several smaller, faint lightbulb outlines are hanging from thin vertical lines. A large, white, right-pointing arrow is also visible behind the text.

DRCOG is a planning organization where **local governments** collaborate to **establish guidelines, set policy** and **allocate funding** in the areas of transportation, growth and development, and aging and disability resources.

# 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.**

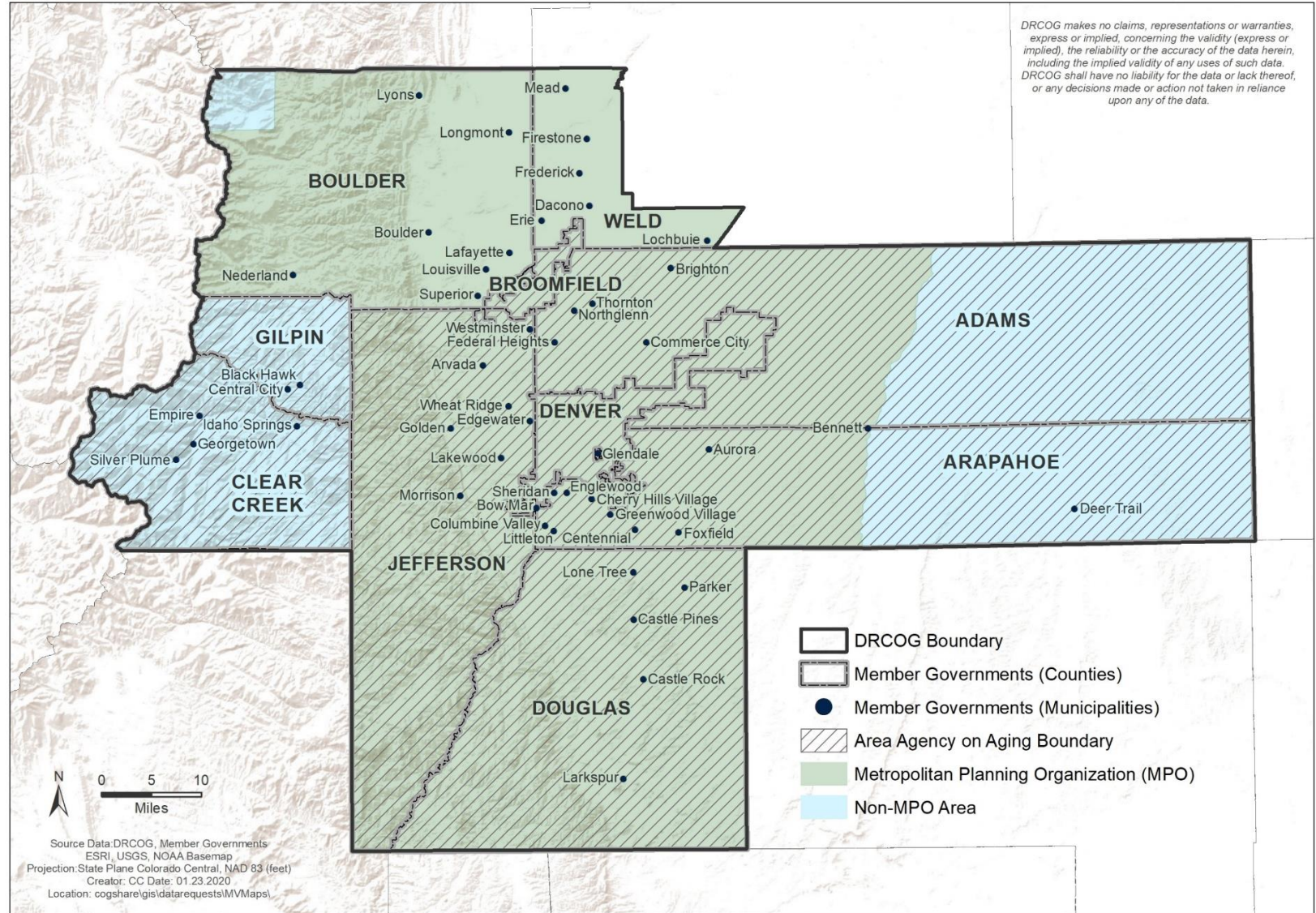


We identify  
**best practices.**



# The region

<b>Area</b>	<b>~10 counties</b> (58 member governments)
	<b>5,288 square miles</b> (comparable to Connecticut)
	<b>3.4 million people</b> (comparable to Utah)
	<b>Ute, Cheyenne, and Arapaho peoples</b> (traditional territory)
<b>Elevation</b>	<b>From Grays Peak</b> (14,278 feet)
	<b>To Badger Creek</b> (4,505 feet)
<b>Roles</b>	<b>Regional planning commission</b> (state statute)
	<b>Area Agency on Aging</b> (federal)
	<b>Metropolitan planning organization</b> (federal)





# 2040

The **region's plan** to ensure **a high quality of life** for all **ages, incomes** and **abilities**.

Five overarching **Themes** in the areas of development, transportation, natural and built environment, livable communities, and economy.



“ [I]ndividual communities will contribute to Metro Vision outcomes and objectives through **different pathways** and at **different speeds** for collective impact.





# Regional housing assessment

**Shiela Lynch, Director, Regional Planning & Development**





healthy, inclusive and  
livable communities



# Desired outcome

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

## Objectives

**Diversify** the region's housing stock

Increase the regional supply of housing **attainable** for a variety of households.

Increase opportunities for diverse housing **accessible** by multimodal transportation





# Learnings from other regions



- Puget Sound
- Central Ohio
- Dane County, Wisconsin
- Kansas City
- Houston
- Chicago
- Southwestern LA County

# Takeaways from other regions

- Be responsive to your region's needs and unique context
- Action without strategy makes prioritizing resources and measuring progress difficult
- Clarity and alignment in regional actions and local actions
- Leveraging partnerships is essential
- Sustaining programming and implementation after the plan is complete





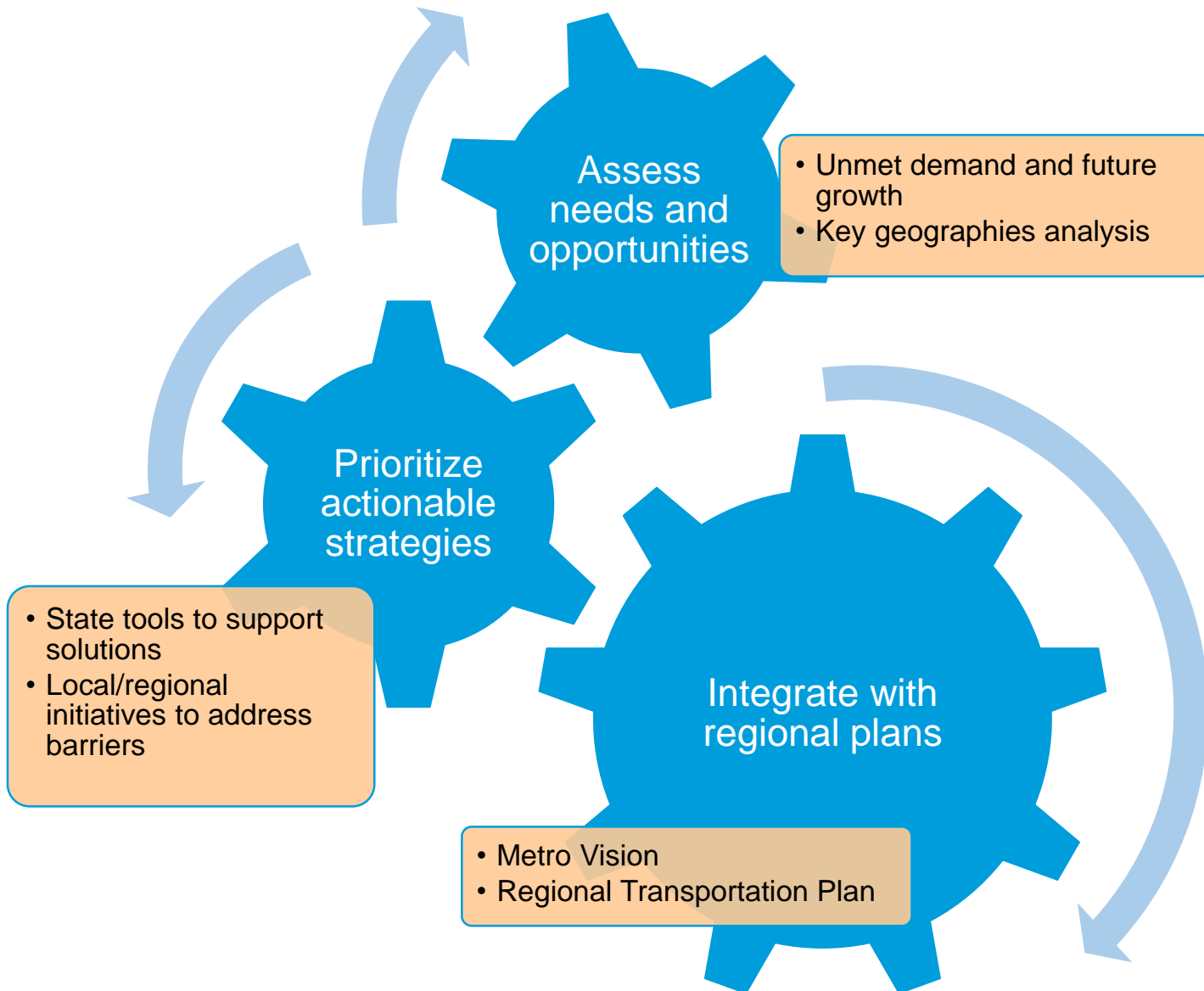
“The metropolitan planning process... **shall** provide for consideration of projects and strategies that will—

...

(E) ...promote **consistency** between **transportation improvements** and State and local planned **growth, housing, and economic development** patterns

*23 United States Code § 134(h)*

# Timeline and deliverables



## Regional Housing Needs Assessment

- Oct 2023 – June 2024
  - Inform state policy development

## Regional Housing Strategy

- July 2024-June 2025
  - Regional implementation structure

## Regional Plans Updates

- 2025-2026
  - Guide Metro Vision and RTP updates



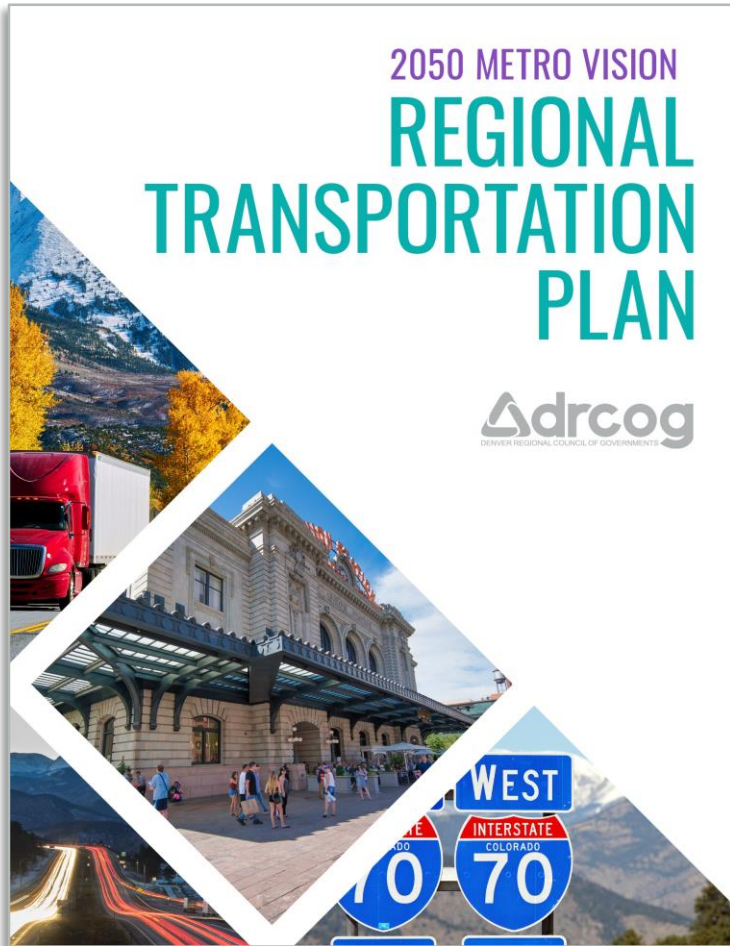


# Regional transportation planning

**Ron Papsdorf, Director, Transportation Planning & Operations**

- Continuing, cooperative and comprehensive performance-based transportation planning process
- Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)
- Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)
- Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)
- Consolidated Transit Plan
- Congestion Management Process (CMP)
- Air Quality conformity
- Federal law/regulatory compliance-maintain eligibility for federal funding

# Regional Transportation Plan



**Implements  
Metro Vision**



**Region's  
multimodal vision**



**Fiscally constrained  
(what's feasible)**



**Funding Priorities**



**Developed with  
partners**



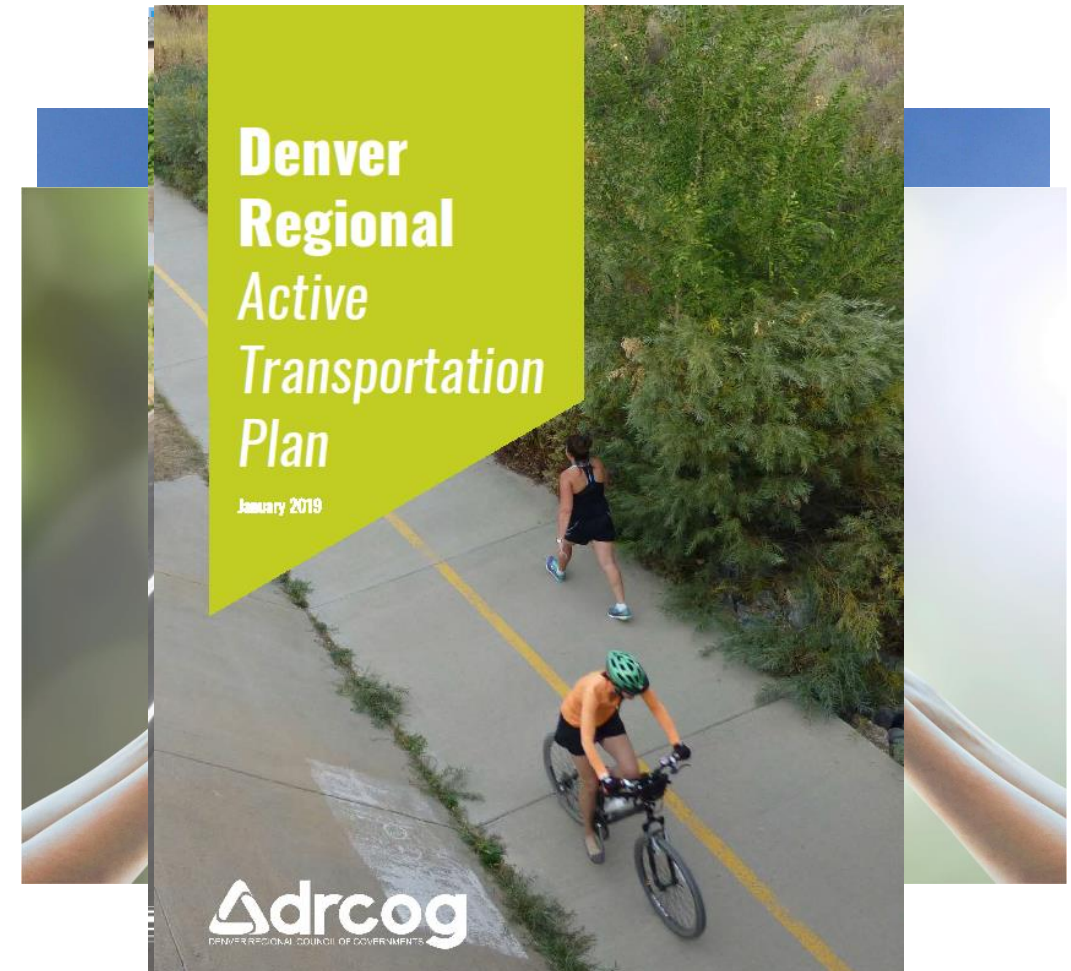
**Updated every 4  
years**





# Key transportation planning priorities

- Safety
- Air Quality and GHG emissions
- Regional Bus Rapid Transit
- Complete Streets
- Active Transportation
- Equity
- Housing and Transportation Coordination

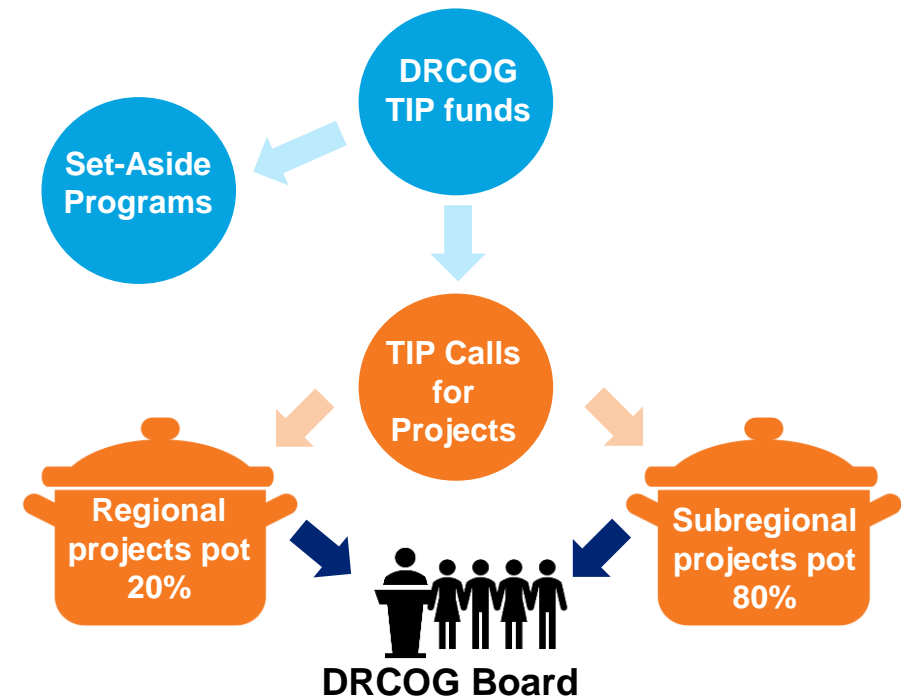


## Regional Share – up to three applications from each subregion

- Compete regionally
- Applications reviewed by DRCOG and a Review Panel to develop recommendation to the DRCOG Board

## Subregional Share – local applications within each subregion

- Compete at the subregion level
- Subregions review, discuss, prioritize, and recommend projects to the DRCOG Board



**Denver Subregional Funding Target: 24.22%**

# TIP set aside programs ~ \$63M (4 years)

<b>TDM Services (TDM)</b>	\$15.4m	Marketing, outreach and research projects that reduce single-occupant vehicle (SOV) travel and and improve regional air quality. Funds Way to Go.
<b>Regional Transportation Operations &amp; Technology (RTO&amp;T)</b>	\$20m	20% to DRCOG Traffic Signal Program Remaining for project solicitation-signal operations and technology projects
<b>Air Quality Improvements (to RAQC)</b>	\$7.9m	Direct allocation to Regional Air Quality Council for outreach, education, marketing, modeling, and AQ improvement programs.
<b>Human Service Transportation (HST)</b>	\$8m	Projects and programs to improve service and mobility options for vulnerable populations.
<b>Community Mobility Planning &amp; Innovation (CMPI)</b>	\$12m	Corridor planning, community mobility planning, innovative mobility.



# TIP Process – 2022 through 2027 allocations

1. **FY 2022-2025 Regional Call (~ \$44m)**
  2. **FY 2022-2025 Subregional Call (~ \$174m)**
  3. **FY 2024-2027 Regional Call (~ \$54m)**
  4. **FY 2024-2027 Subregional Call (~ \$215m)**
- **Air Quality/Multimodal Track only**
  - **All unprogrammed FY22-25 funding, except STBG**
  - **January to September 2022, amend FY 2022-2025 TIP**
  - **AQ/MM and STBG Tracks**
  - **All unprogrammed FY 2026-2027 funding, plus FY 2022-2025 STBG**
  - **September 2022 to April 2023, adopt FY 2024-2027 TIP in August 2023**

<b>Project</b>	<b>Project Type</b>	<b>DRCOG</b>	<b>Total Cost</b>
South Platte River Trail Improvements: West Virginia to W. Bayaud	Active Transportation	\$6,405	\$10,000
East Colfax Bus Rapid Transit	Rapid Transit	\$19,729	\$47,000
Buchtel Complete Street/Evans Intersection Improvements	Roadway Operational Improvements	\$21,800	\$24,240
Bike/Ped Bridge over Santa Fe: Jewell to Evans Station	Active Transportation	\$12,000	\$15,002
South Platte River Trail Improvements: Mississippi to City Limits - Preconstruction	Active Transportation	\$4,000	\$5,000
South Platte River Trail Improvements: Bayaud to Phil Milstein Park	Active Transportation	\$8,500	\$11,600
Alameda Underpass Improvements - Preconstruction	Roadway Reconstruction	\$7,800	\$9,750
High Line Canal Trail Underpass at Yale	Active Transportation	\$11,000	\$15,700
North Central Denver Community Multimodal Improvements	Active Transportation	\$4,537	\$5,671
Peña Capacity Improvements: I70 to E470 - Preconstruction	Roadway Capacity	\$5,000	\$18,500
South Platte River Trail Improvements: Mississippi to Florida	Active Transportation	\$4,800	\$6,000
Denver V2X Communications Devices	Traffic Signals/ITS	\$1,700	\$1,700





# Area Agency on Aging

Jayla Sanchez-Warren, Director, Area Agency on Aging

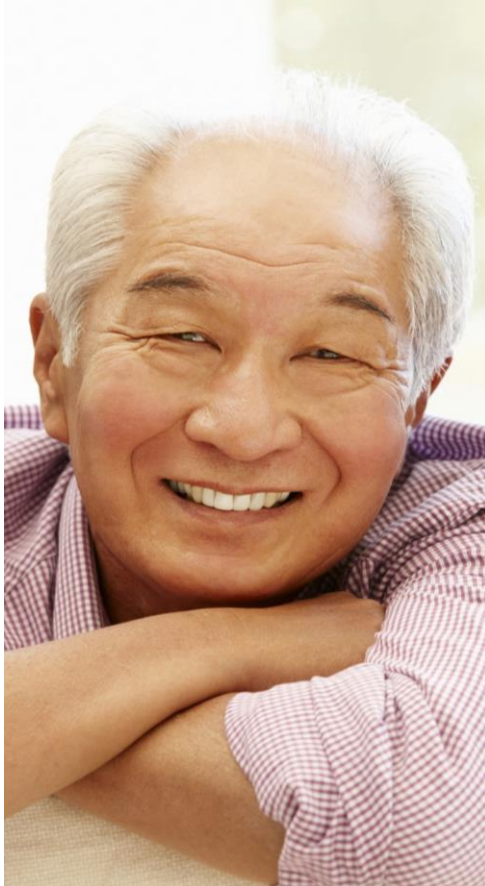
# Purpose of Area Agencies on Aging

- Fund and provide services to help people
- age with dignity and in the least restrictive environment.
- Support family caregivers
- Advocate for older adults
- Plan for current and future needs





# Part of a national network



- 620 Area Agencies on Aging nationwide
- 16 area Agencies on Aging in Colorado
- Colorado has 516,000 older adults in the state - about **half** live in the DRCOG region
- DRCOG's AAA prioritizes services for individuals who:
  - Are 75-plus
  - Have lower incomes
  - Are more socially isolated
  - Are more geographically isolated
  - Are part of the low-income minority

# Providing and funding services

## Provide Services

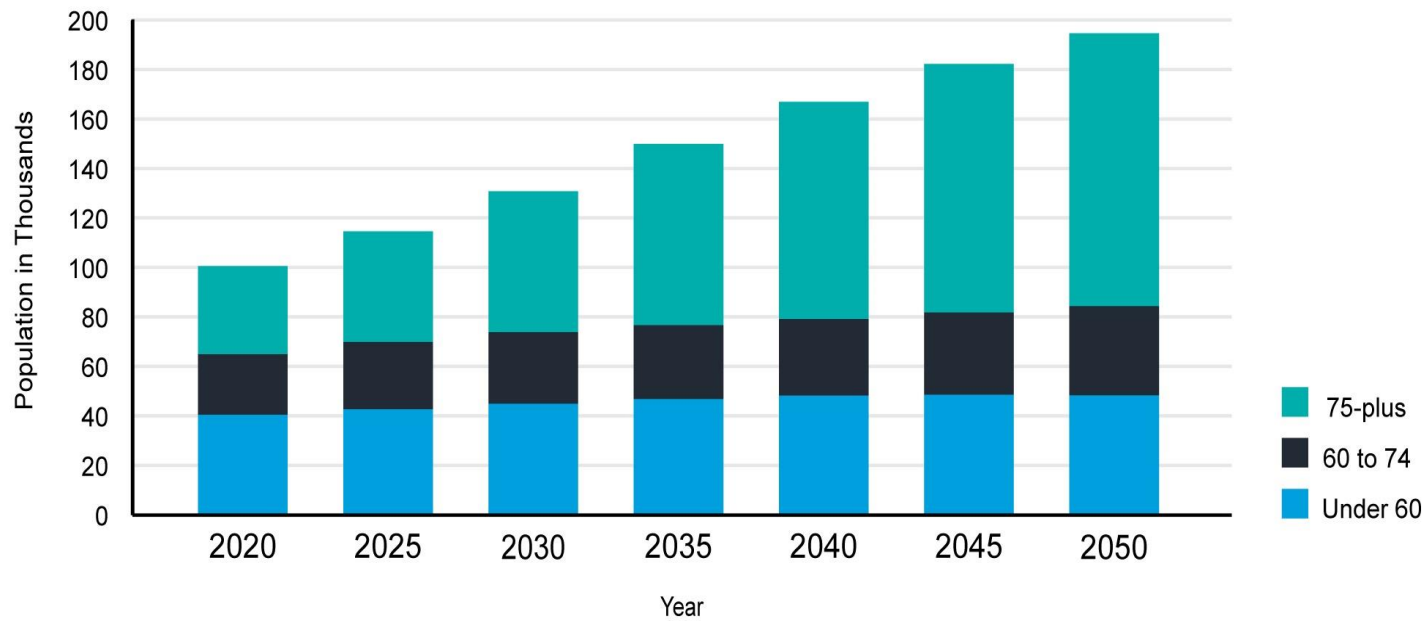
- Information and assistance
- Options counseling
- Case management
- Ombudsman program
- State Health Insurance program
- Community transitions
- Older Adult Refugee and Friends program
- Veterans Directed Care
- Denver Health Navigation
- Network of Care
- Administration
- AAA business and contract management

## Fund 33 Service Organizations

- Transportation
- Nutrition
- In-home services
- Chore services
- Counseling
- Caregiver support
- Material aide
- Legal services
- Fall prevention/balance
- Education and training
- And more...



# Colorado's population is growing older



Region	1990-2020	2020-2050
0 to 17	47% growth	2% growth
18 to 64	75% growth	17% growth
65 plus	166% growth	99% growth
Total population	76% growth	25% growth

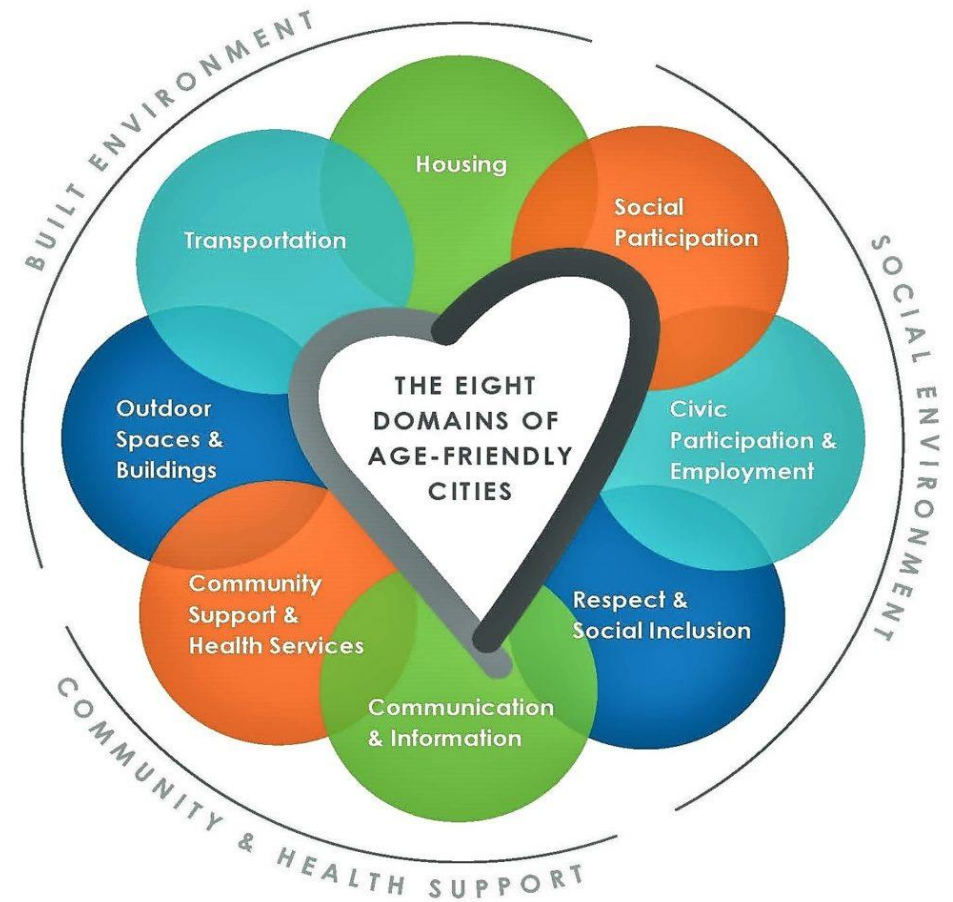
# An Aging Population Impacts Everything

## Infrastructure

- Transportation
- Housing
- Workforce
- Service needs
- Safety
- Communication

## Business

- Opportunities
- Partners
- Accessibility
- Education
- Employee/Caregiving







Thank you!  
Questions?