



Photo Credit: Regional Transportation District

DRCOG Update

Move Colorado, June 2025



DRCOG overview

DRCOG mission

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.

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.

Regional success depends on partnerships



DRCOG **is not** a
regulator.



We provide **policy**
guidance.



We are a
convener.



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

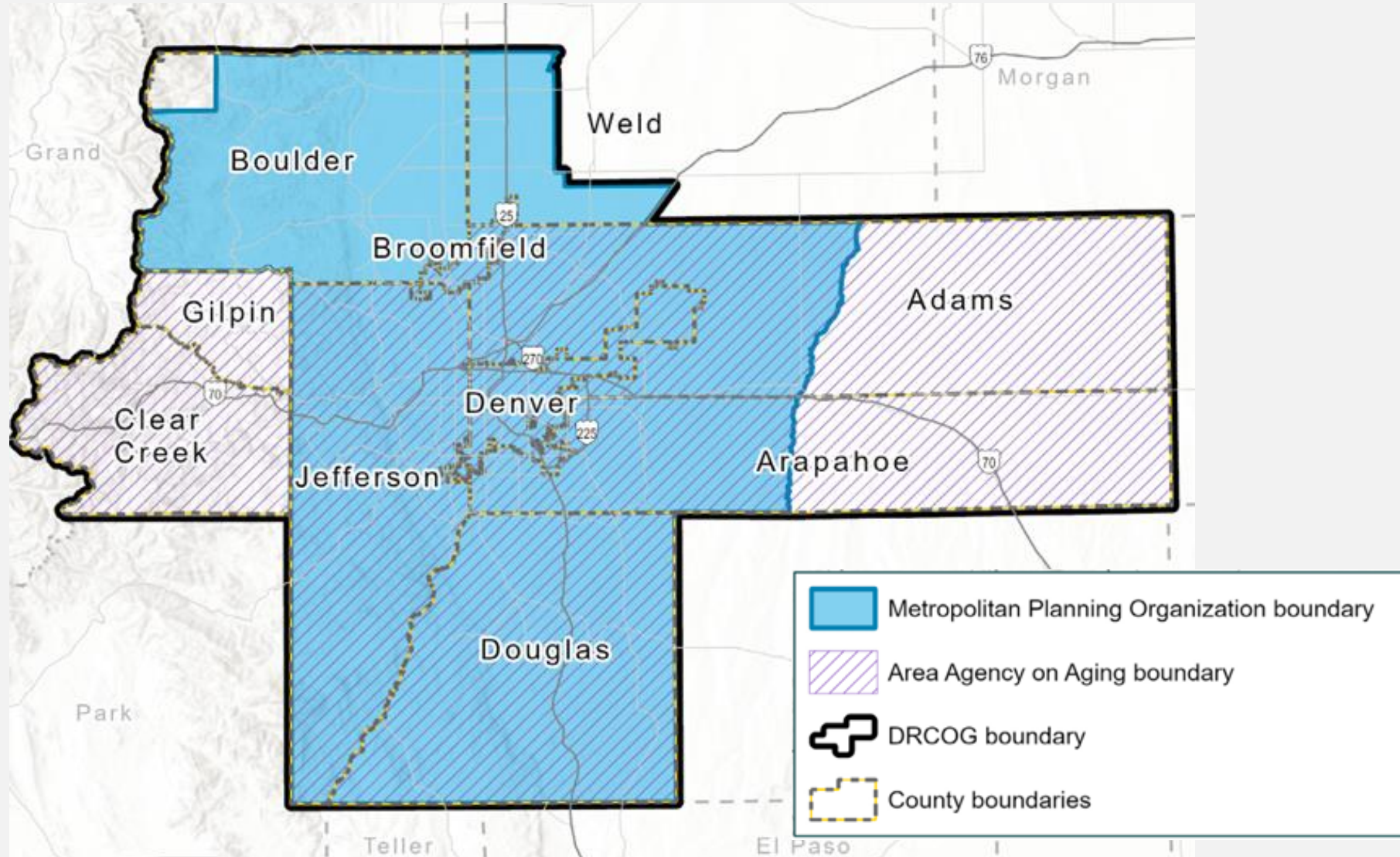


We identify
best practices.



Metropolitan transportation planning

Metropolitan planning organization area



Metropolitan planning organization (MPO)

- Federal transportation authorization acts define all aspects of federal surface transportation policy (**Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act**).
 - The **MPO takes the lead** in regional transportation planning in urbanized areas.
 - Requires **specific products** and **activities**.
 - Must consider **specific projects**, **strategies** and **services** in the planning process.
- Other federal laws and regulations also apply, including **Title VI of the Civil Rights Act**, **National Environmental Policy Act**, the **Clean Air Act**, **Americans with Disabilities Act**.

State directed responsibilities

- Under state law, DRCOG:
 - Serves as the **regional planning commission**.
 - Empowered to **make and adopt regional plans**.
 - Required to develop a **twenty-year transportation plan**.
 - Comply with **greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction rule**.
 - Must **approve any fixed guideway transit system** proposed by RTD before construction can proceed.
 - Reviews **roadway tolling proposals** for inclusion in fiscally constrained Regional Transportation Plan.
 - Has representation on the **Statewide Transportation Advisory Committee**.

Primary transportation functions

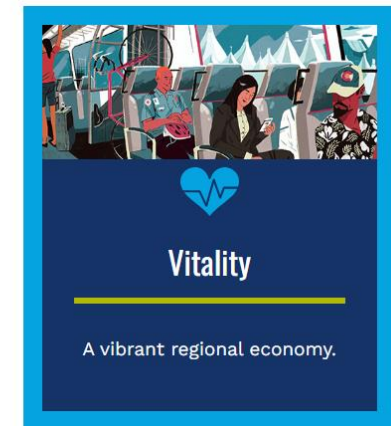
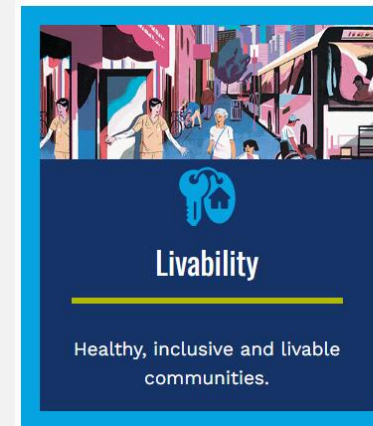
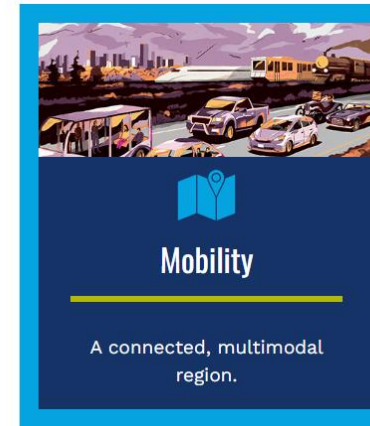
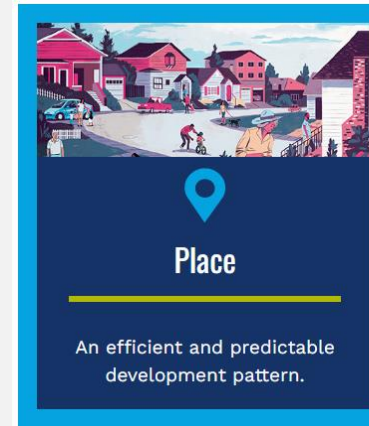
- Operation and maintenance of the **continuing transportation planning process** within the Metropolitan Planning Area.
- Federal law/regulatory compliance – **maintain eligibility for federal funding**.
- Unified Planning Work Program (**UPWP**).
- Regional Transportation Plan (**RTP**).
- Transportation Improvement Program (**TIP**).
- Traffic Operations Program: **signal coordination**.
- **Innovative mobility** and transportation demand management.
- **Air quality conformity** & climate initiatives.

Other Services

- Corridor planning.
- Community based transportation planning.
- Technical assistance.
- Transportation modeling/local area planning/project support.
- Scenario planning.
- Local transportation plan support.
- Regional data catalog.

Metro Vision: A shared vision for our region's future

- Metro Vision is 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.





Metro Vision: Transportation-related outcomes

- **All residents have access** to a range of transportation, employment, commerce, housing, educational, cultural and recreational opportunities.
- Investments in infrastructure and amenities **allow people and businesses to thrive and prosper.**
- The regional transportation system is **well-connected and serves all modes of travel.**
- The built and natural environment supports **healthy and active choices.**
- The transportation system is **safe, reliable and well-maintained.**
- The region has clean water and air, and **lower greenhouse gas emissions.**

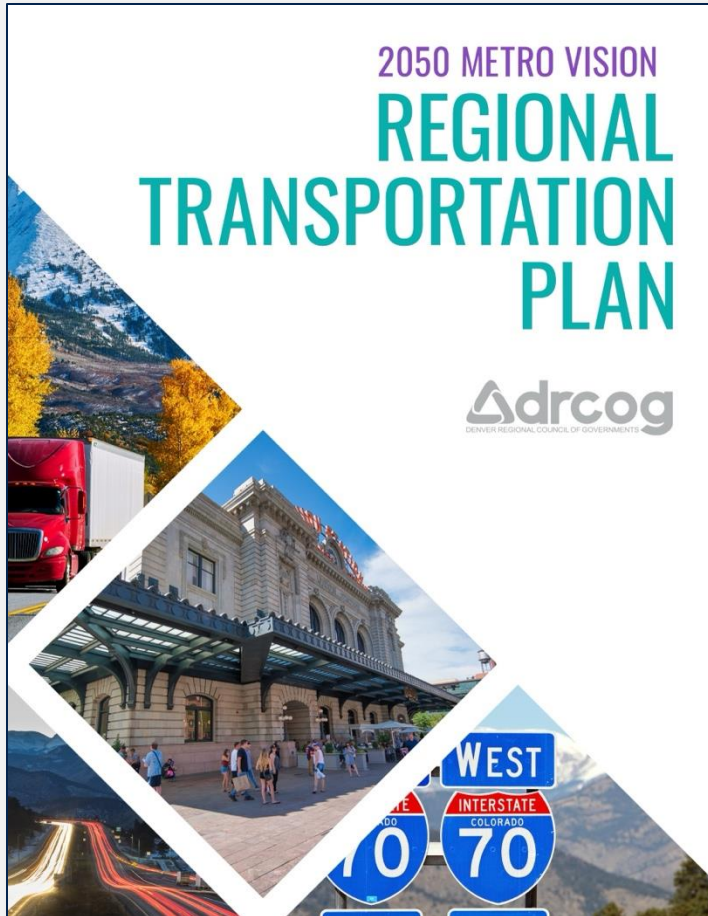
Continuing and upcoming efforts

- Regional Transportation Plan update.
- Active Transportation Plan update.
- Corridor plans.
- Community-based transportation plans.
- 2029-2032 Transportation Improvement Program policy update and calls for projects.
- Vision Zero/Safety initiatives.
- Ongoing federal discretionary awards.
- Local transportation/land use best practices and transportation-land use coordination.
- Transit-oriented development/mobility hub planning.
- Transit/transportation-efficient design standards.



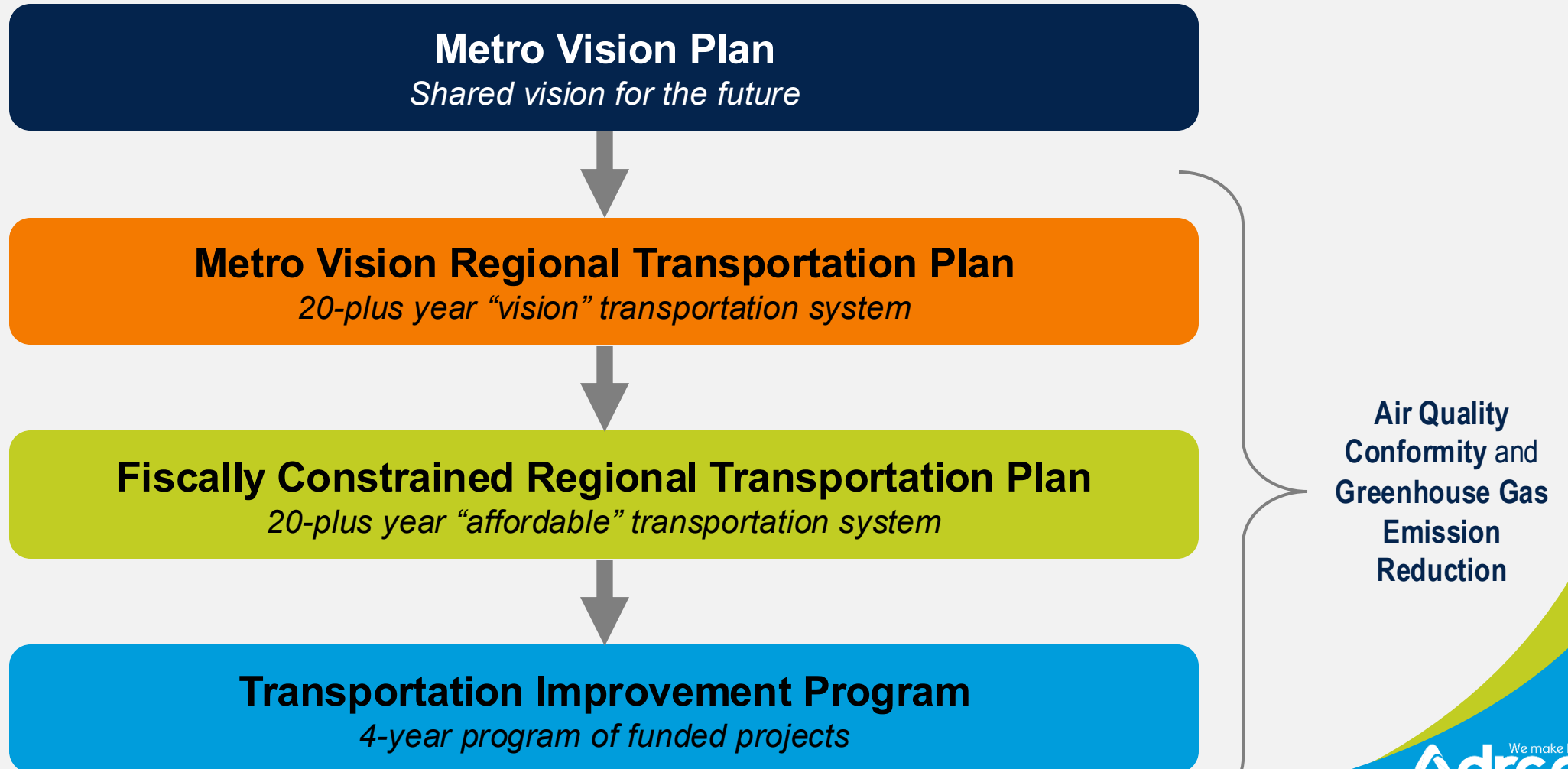
Regional transportation plan

Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)

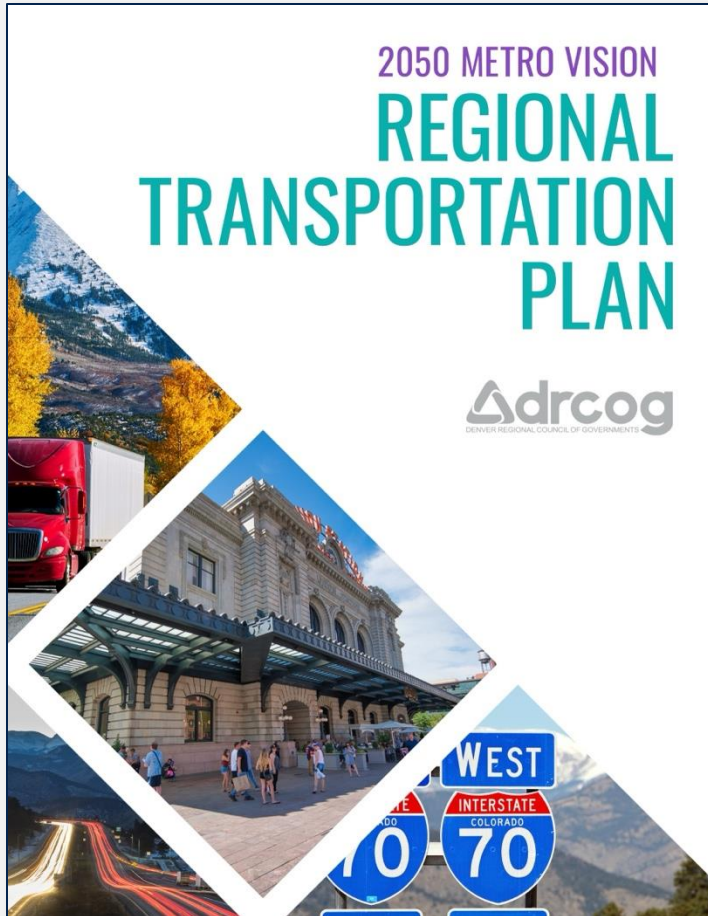


- Integrates with Metro Vision.
- Metro Vision framework.
(themes, outcomes and objectives)
- Forecast population, employment, travel demand and other planning assumptions.
- Multimodal transportation system component profiles and strategies.
- Financial plan. (costs and revenues)
- Community engagement, environment and other topics.

Planning process structure



What is the 2050 RTP?



**Implements
Metro Vision**



**Region's
multimodal
vision**



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



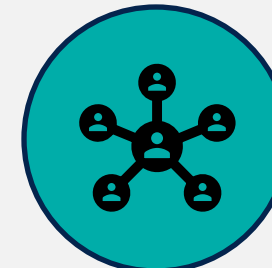
**TIP funding for
road & transit
projects**



**Updated
frequently (every
4 years)**



**Developed with
partners**



**Federally
required (MPO
function)**



Policy framework & desired outcomes

“Vision & Needs”

- Metro Vision Plan
- 2050 MVRTP
- 2024-2027 TIP
- Active Transportation Plan
- Regional Multimodal Freight Plan
- Taking Action on Regional Vision Zero
- Mobility Choice Blueprint
- Coordinated Transit Plan
- Congestion Management Process
- RTO&T Strategic Plan
- Scenarios Analysis

- Transportation plans
- Comprehensive plans
- Subarea/District plans

• HB-1261

Local

DRCOG

State

USDOT

- IIJA/BIL
- Planning Factors
- National Goals
- Performance Measures

Vision
&
Needs

CDOT

- Statewide Plan
- 4P Process
- 10-Year Strategic Plan
- Strategic Transportation Safety Plan
- Express Lanes Master Plan
- Asset Management Plans/Priorities

RTD

- FasTracks
- Regional BRT Study
- Asset Management Plans/ Priorities
- Reimagine RTD
- System Optimization Plan

Project types in the plan



Air quality regionally significant **roadway capacity** projects



Air quality regionally significant **rapid transit capacity** projects



Arterial safety, **Complete Streets** retrofits, and **regional Vision Zero** improvements



Active transportation improvements (bicycle facilities, pedestrian facilities, trails)

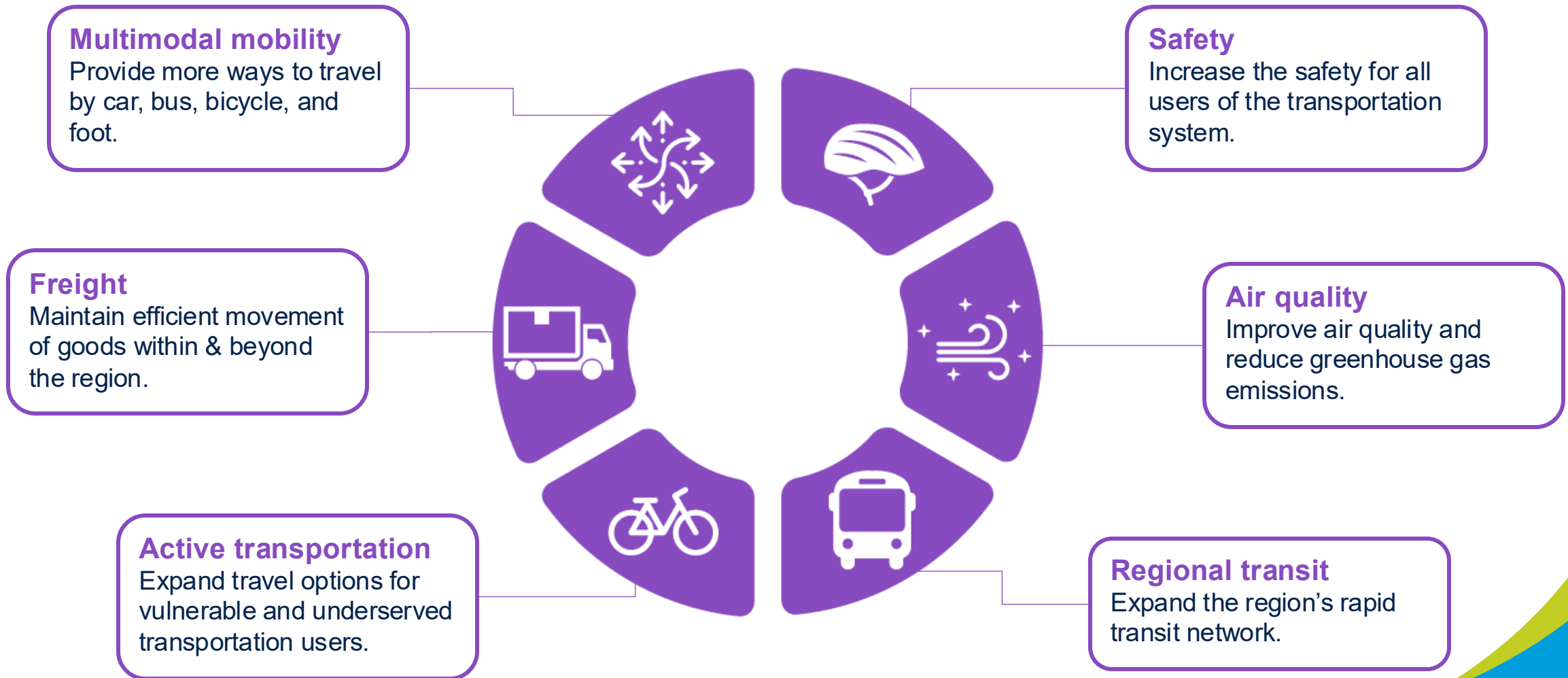


Freight improvements (bridge reconstructions, overpasses/underpasses, new bridges)



Corridor planning – roadway and transit (generalized corridors/concepts)

Project and program investment priorities



Projects and programs



Multimodal mobility

Multimodal capital projects

\$6.9 billion



Air quality

Transportation Improvement Program set-asides

\$375 million



Regional transit

Regional bus rapid transit projects

Corridor transit planning projects and program

\$1.2 billion
\$940 million



Safety

Arterial safety and Regional Vision Zero projects and program

\$548 million



Active transportation

Active transportation program

\$970 million



Freight

Freight program

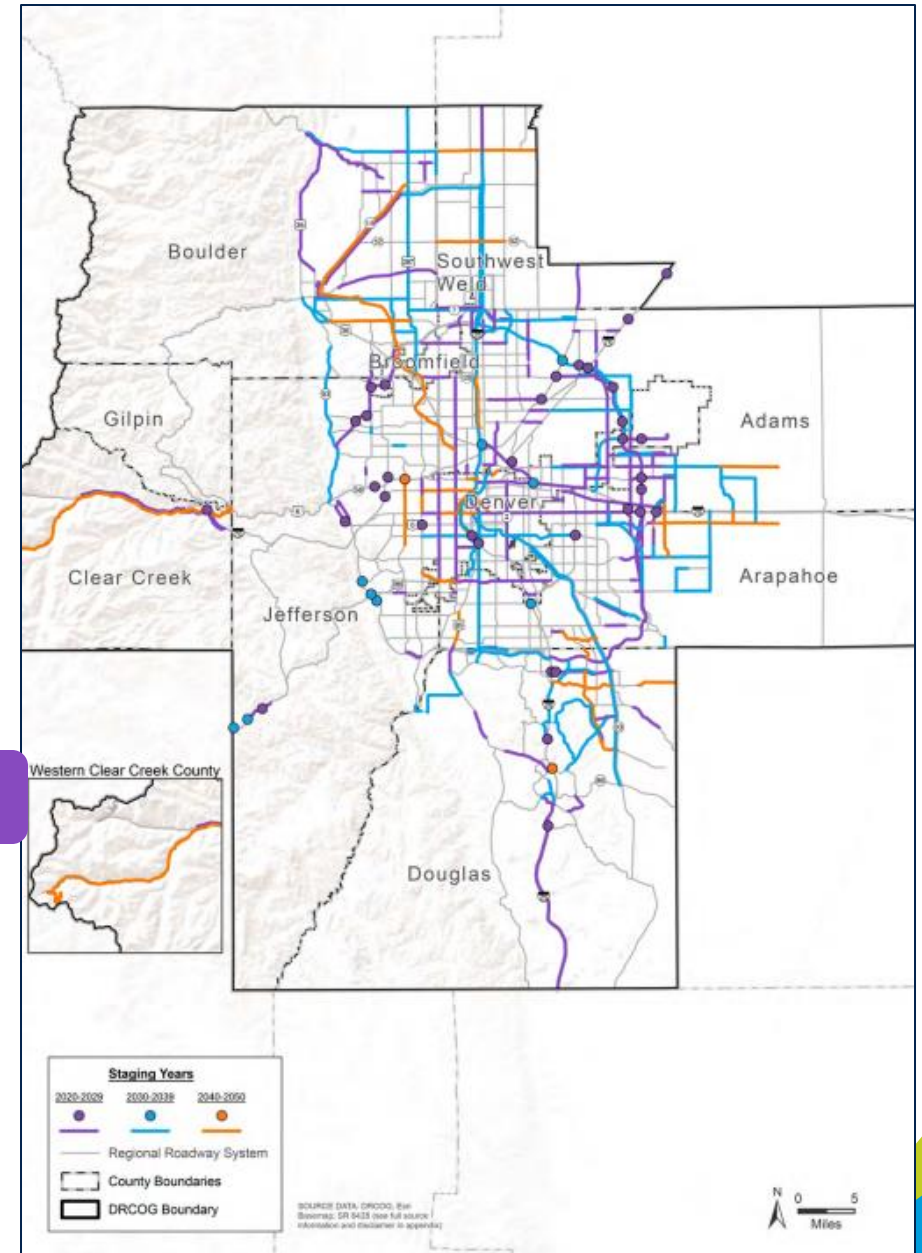
\$220 million



Local projects

Locally funded projects

\$4.0 billion



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Regional Transportation Plan BRT network

2020-2030 (5 corridors).

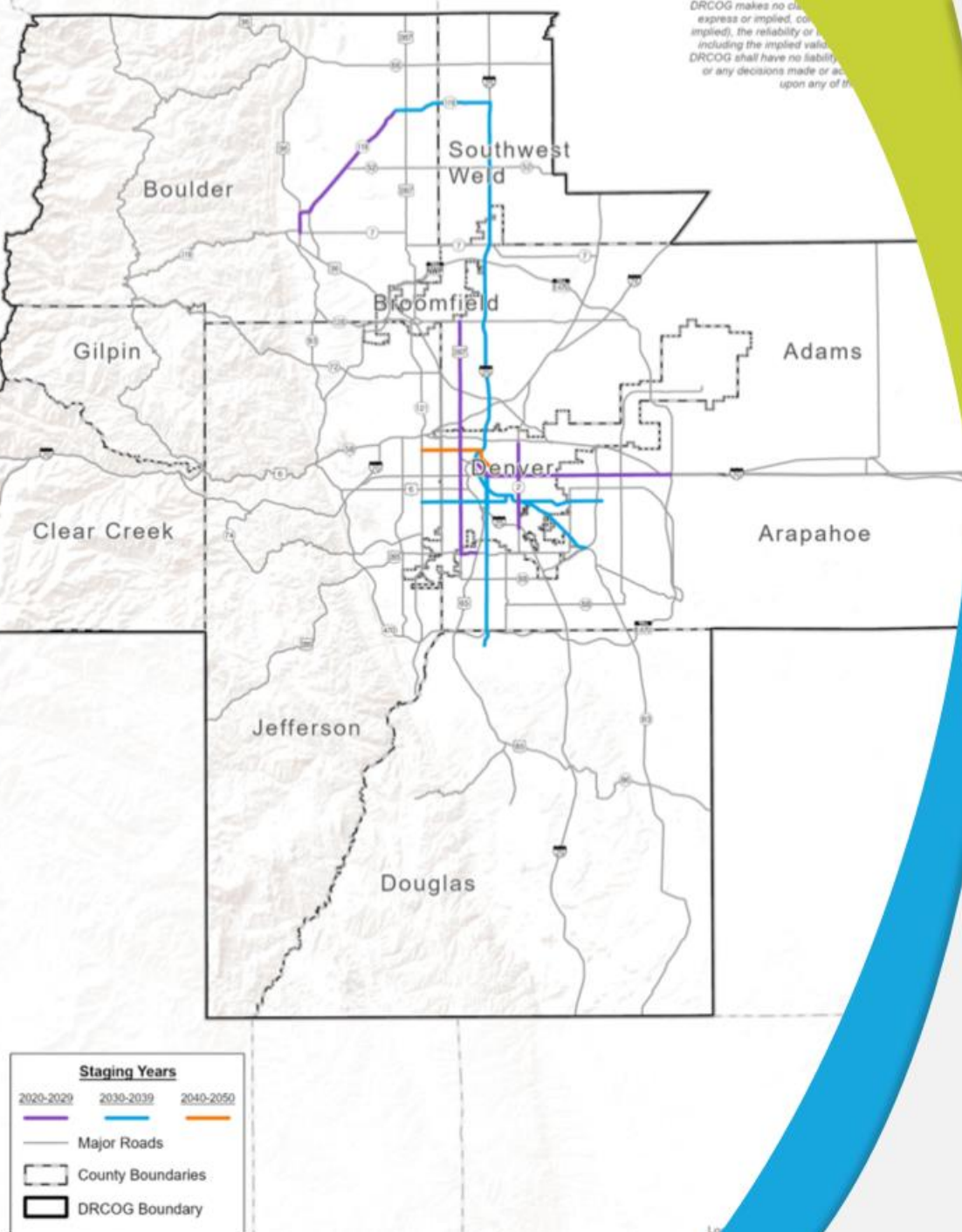
- Colorado Boulevard.
- East Colfax & Extension.
- Federal Boulevard.
- Colorado State Highway 119.

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.



Major activities

	2024				2025				2026			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Scenario planning												
Financial planning												
Candidate projects												
AQ and GHG modeling												
Document development												
Public and stakeholder												
Adoption and finalization												

Issues

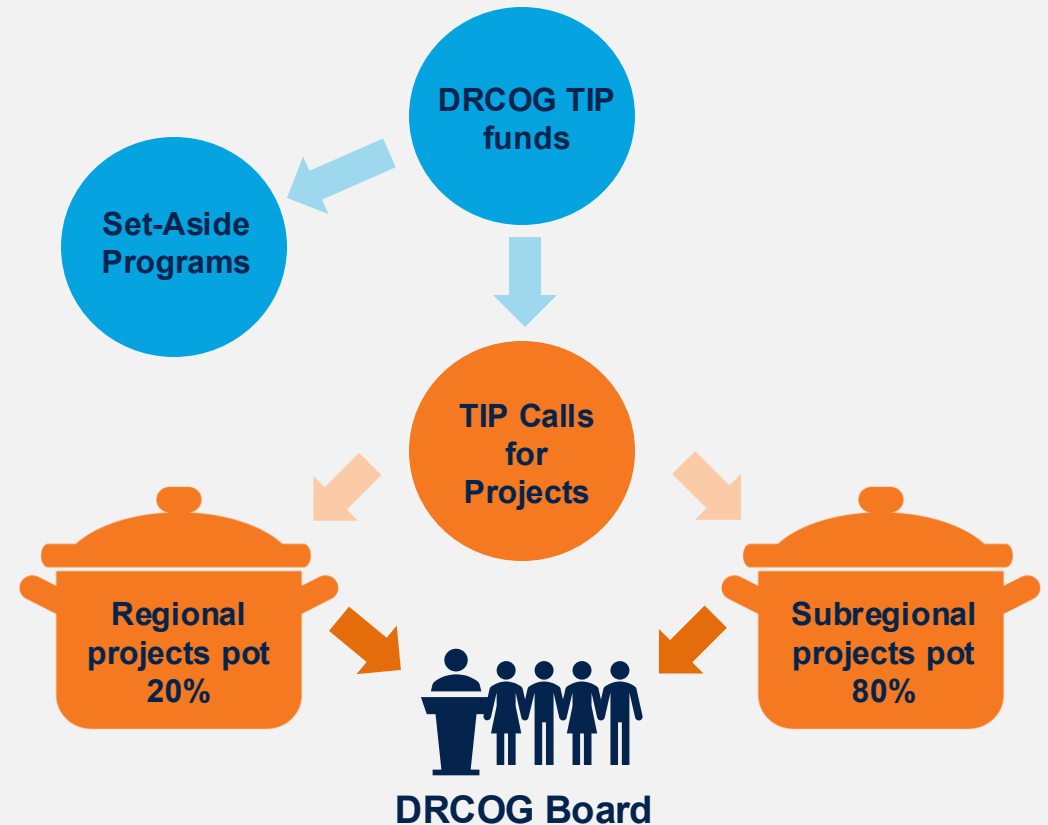
- **Growing older adult** population and associated changes in needs and priorities (housing, healthcare, transportation).
- **Increasing disruptions** and **environmental impacts** from climate change on the region's infrastructure (transportation, housing, power)
- Continued proliferation of **new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



Transportation improvement program

Allocating Funds – Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

- **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.



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

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

FY 2024-2027 TIP

\$2.2 Billion in transportation investments (all sources)

\$495 Million in transportation investments (DRCOG-directed)

64% of projects are in or near an **urban center**

73% of projects are on the DRCOG **High-Injury Network**, projected to result in:

- 51 fewer **fatal** crashes
- 302 fewer **serious injury** crashes

Over 70% of projects will implement **Complete Streets** elements

\$51.3 million to **BRT projects** (Colfax, Federal, CO119)

What will FY 24-27 TIP accomplish?

Over 190 **intersections** will be improved for better operations for all modes

~ 25% of projects – **roadway improvements** (all include bike/ped)

~ 45% of projects – **active transportation** is the main component

~ 95 miles of **bike/ped** facilities will be built

~ 97 miles of transit improvements

34 **studies** will prepare for future improvements

Over 80% of projects will improve **connections to transit**

Thank you!

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