

Regional Transportation Committee

Meeting date: April 15, 2025

Agenda Item #: 5 (Attachment C)

Fiscal Year 2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program

Agenda item type: Action

Summary

The Draft Fiscal Year 2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program, or TIP, adds two years to the previously adopted FY 2024-2027 TIP to align with the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). No new projects have been added. Because this involves adopting a “new” TIP, a new Air Quality Conformity determination is included that refers to the previous analysis.

Background

The 2026-2029 TIP is a short-term document listing all transportation projects in the Denver region funded with federal or state funding during the next four years. The document includes projects managed by the Colorado Department of Transportation, or CDOT, the Regional Transportation District, or RTD, DRCOG, and local governments throughout the region, and is how these important projects are funded and implemented. The TIP is a crucial step in realizing the vision established in Metro Vision and the Regional Transportation Plan, or RTP. The document lists 265 projects with roughly \$5.4 billion in total funding, representing a substantial investment in the Denver region’s transportation network.

DRCOG selects some of the projects for inclusion in the document. The last call for projects was part of the development of the current 2024-2027 TIP. DRCOG develops and adopts a new program listing every two years to keep funding aligned with the annual State Transportation Improvement Program developed by CDOT. The projects listed in the current 2024-2027 TIP have been carried forward, as appropriate, to the new 2026-2029 TIP. No new DRCOG-selected projects have been added to the draft 2026-2029 TIP document.

Each TIP for an area that is a nonattainment area under the Clean Air Act must demonstrate it will not cause a violation of federal air quality conformity standards. Accordingly, the 2050 Metro Vision RTP roadway and transit networks, which include all projects classified as regionally significant for air quality contained in the 2026-2029 TIP, were previously modeled for air quality conformity for the 2024-2027 TIP. Since the regionally significant projects remain the same as they did for the 2024-2027 TIP, no new model runs were conducted for the 2026-2029 TIP. The previous results carry forward and were used by the state Air Pollution Control Division to calculate pollutant emissions. All pollutant emission tests were passed, as shown in the air quality conformity document.

Under the state Greenhouse Gas Transportation Planning Standard adopted in December 2021, the TIP is considered an “applicable planning document” and therefore must meet the DRCOG region’s greenhouse gas emissions reduction requirements for all staging periods



defined by the rule. Similar to the air quality conformity document previously mentioned, since all of the projects in the TIP defined as regionally significant for air quality are required to be in the current RTP before they are eligible for TIP funding, and the RTP was previously found to be in compliance with the rule, and no new regionally significant projects are being added to this new TIP, the 2026-2029 TIP is in compliance with the greenhouse gas planning rule and document previously approved.

The documents were released for public comment on February 12. Included within the attachments are the public comments received and an outline of proposed changes to the TIP document since it was released for public comment in February.

Action by others

[March 24, 2025](#) – Transportation Advisory Committee recommended approval.

Previous discussion/action

None

Recommendation

Move to recommend to the Board of Directors the 2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program, including those adjustments contained within the errata sheet, and the associated air quality conformity document.

Attachment

1. Staff presentation.
2. [Draft 2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program and air quality conformity documents.](#)
3. Public comments received.
4. Errata sheet, containing changes to the draft document since being released for public comment.

For more information

If you need additional information, please contact Ron Papsdorf, Director, Transportation Planning and Operations, at 303-480-6747 or rpapsdorf@drcog.org; or Todd Cottrell, Project and Program Delivery Manager, Transportation Planning and Operations, at 303-480-6737 or tcottrell@drcog.org.





2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program Recommendation

Regional Transportation Committee – April 15, 2025

Documents for recommendation

- 2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program, or TIP, including Appendix F.
 - Includes errata sheet adjustments.
- Ozone conformity determination.

Programming context

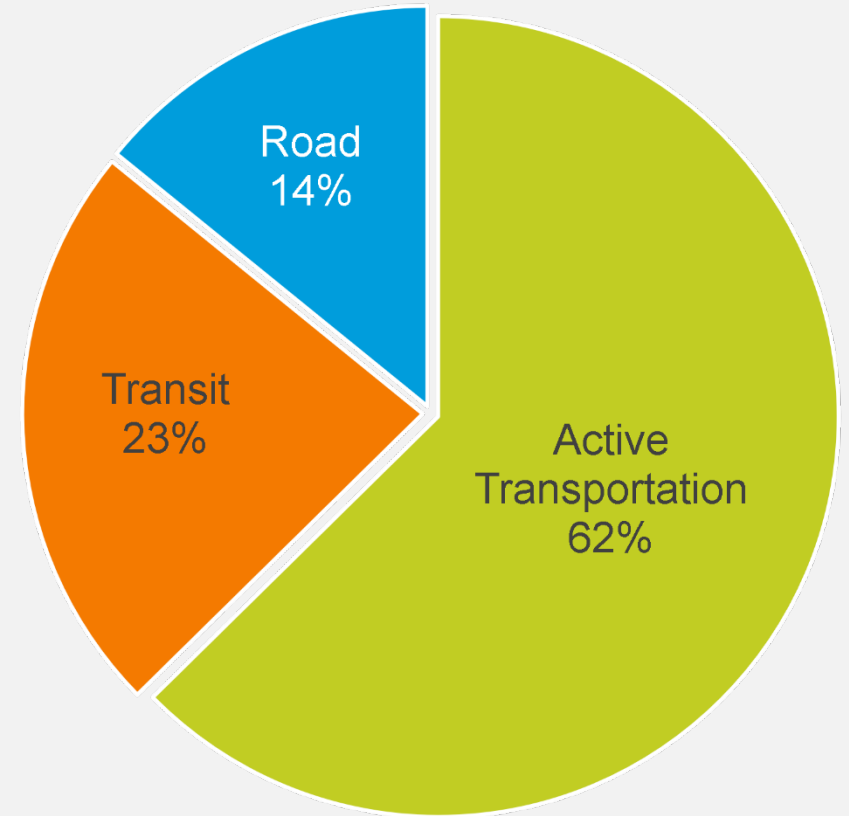
- **Metro Vision:** sets overall regional vision, and outlines this with themes, outcomes, and objectives.
- **Regional Transportation Plan, or RTP:** 20+ year guide for regional transportation investments. Outlined by:
 - Vision projects: outlines the regional needs without funding restraint.
 - Fiscally-constrained projects: 1) regionally significant for air quality conformity projects, 2) “regionally important” projects, and 3) programmatic investment categories.
 - Programmatic investment categories include multimodal mobility, freight, active transportation, safety, air quality, and regional transit.
- **Transportation Improvement Program, or TIP:** implements the RTP.

Transportation Improvement Program

- Short-term 4-year planning program: specific and dedicated funding.
- Contains all federally and state-funded transportation projects within the region, not just those awarded through DRCOG.
 - Locally funded if regionally significant for air quality.
- New document every 2 years, major calls every 4 years.
- No new calls to develop this TIP.
- Adopted TIP adjusted almost monthly through amendments and administrative modifications.

Previous DRCOG calls for projects

- Four calls for projects in 2022-2023.
- **Five** funding sources (4 federal, 1 state), **six** years (federal fiscal years 2022-2027), **two** TIPs (2022-2025, 2024-2027).
- \$495 million in DRCOG investments.



By Funding

Air quality conformity

- Based on regional non-attainment status, pollutants must be reduced.
- Conformity is regional (entire RTP and TIP); not based on individual projects.
- Current 2024-2027 TIP and 2050 RTP passed both ozone emission tests (federal) and greenhouse gas reduction analysis (state) for regional air quality conformity.
- No new tests or analysis due to no new regionally significant projects being added to 2026-2029 TIP.

Public process

- Public comment process began on February 12.
- DRCOG website notices:
 - DRCOG.org homepage.
 - Transportation Improvement Program webpage.
 - Separate engagement webpage.
- Eblasts.
- Denver Post.
- DRCOG social media campaign (X, Instagram, Facebook, LinkedIn).
- March 19 public hearing.

Proposed motion

Move to recommend to the Board of Directors the 2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program, including those adjustments contained within the errata sheet, and the associated air quality conformity document.



Thank you! Any questions?

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Public Comments for the 2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program

A public comment period for the draft TIP was held from February 12 to March 19, 2025. Additionally, a public hearing was held on March 19, 2025. In all, one comment was received, noted in the following table.

Table 1: Public comments

Name	Comment
Ericka Amador	Widening of roads and capacity improvement projects are incompatible with DRCOG and member municipality ozone reduction and other climate, sustainability and quality of life goals. Please do not move forward with 85 widening project and any other roadway widening projects. Invest in proven solutions like improved transit, bike and pedestrian access to provide alternatives to driving.

Errata Sheet

Changes to the final 2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program since the release of the public comment draft.

Project number	Project name	Change from draft to final	Origin of change
2007-095	Region 4 Surface Treatment Pool	Adjust one pool project and add \$2,200,000 in fiscal year 2027.	March administrative modification submitted by the Colorado Department of Transportation Region 4.
2008-077	Region 4 FASTER Pool	Add \$1,035,000 in state FASTER Safety funding in fiscal year 2006 and add one pool project on CO52.	Requested by the Colorado Department of Transportation Region 4.
2016-057	Region 1 RPP Pool	Correct fiscal year 2026 amount from \$17,955,000 to \$17,966,000.	Review by the Colorado Department of Transportation Region 1.
2018-011	Region 1 Permanent Water Quality Pool	Reduce prior funding by \$1,995,000 and remove one pool project.	March administrative modification submitted by the Colorado Department of Transportation Region 1.
2020-045	Micro Transit Service & Mobility Options: North I-25 Area	Carry project forward to 2026-2029 TIP.	Review by the Federal Transit Administration.
2020-049	Federal Blvd Transit Improvements: Floyd to 54th	Reduce prior funding by \$2,843,000. Transfer unspent funds to project 2024-008.	Requested by City and County fo Denver.
2020-072	Broomfield Transit Needs Assessment & Pilot Project	Correct prior funding from \$350,000 to \$800,000 to reflect unobligated balance and reflect that the portion for pilot project operations was funded with Congestion Mitigation/Air Quality funds.	Review by the Federal Transit Administration.
2020-076	Broomfield FlexRide	Correct prior funding from \$450,000 to \$900,000 to reflect unobligated balance.	Review by the Federal Transit Administration.
2022-055	Arapahoe County Transit and Micromobility Study	Reduce prior funding from \$1,455,000 to \$537,000 (remainder transferred to new project - 2026-001). Change funding type of federal MMOF-ARPA funds to state MMOF funds.	Requested by Arapahoe County and the Colorado Department of Transportation Division of Transit and Rail.
2022-080	I25 Segment 5: CO66 to WCR38	Add \$1,605,000 in state FASTER-Safety funds in fiscal year 2026.	Requested by the Colorado Department of Transportation Region 4.
2024-008	Federal Blvd Bus Rapid Transit: Englewood Station to Wagon Road Park-n-Ride - Precon	Add \$2,354,000 in federal Surface Transportation Block Grant funds and \$490,000 in local match to fiscal year 2025. Funding is being transferred from project 2020-049.	Requested by City and County fo Denver.
2026-001	Arapahoe County Transit and Micromobility Pilot	Add new project for pilot portion of the study in project 2022-055. \$918,000 total transferred from 2022-055. Change funding types from federal Surface Transportation Block Grant funds to federal Congestion Mitigation/Air Quality funds and from federal MMOF-ARPA funds to state MMOF funds.	Requested by Arapahoe County and the Colorado Department of Transportation Division of Transit and Rail.
None	Main Narrative Document	Revised Table of Contents to add tables of figures and tables.	DRCOG Staff.
None	Main Narrative Document	Revise language to comply with federal guidance associated with recent executive orders.	USDOT Guidance Memo.
None	Main Narrative Document	Minor updates to table values to reflect the changes included in this table.	DRCOG Staff.
None	Main Narrative Document	Additional minor text updates.	DRCOG Staff.