

Regional Transportation Committee

Meeting date: April 15, 2025

Agenda Item #: 7 (Attachment E)

Corridor Planning Program Update

Agenda item type: Discussion

Summary

Update on the 2024-2027 Corridor Planning Set Aside program, and an overview of the upcoming call for projects for the 2026-2027 funding.

Background

The Transportation Corridor Planning Set Aside is a Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG)-led planning program in the 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The goal of this program is for DRCOG to take a more direct role to advance planning for projects and priorities contained in the 2050 Regional Transportation Plan (2050 RTP) and move them towards implementation. As part of this program, DRCOG is funding and leading planning studies to advance infrastructure investment priorities along regional arterial corridors identified in the 2050 RTP. \$3,000,000 is available for the full four-year set-aside program, with \$1.5 million expected to be allocated each two-year cycle.

The DRCOG Board selected two projects for the Corridor Planning Set Aside for fiscal year 2024 and 2025 funds: the East Colfax Extension Bus Rapid Transit Alternatives Analysis Study (now called Colfax BRT Next), and the Sheridan Corridor Safety Study.

DRCOG is co-managing [Colfax BRT Next](#) with the City of Aurora, and in close partnership with Adams and Arapahoe Counties, the Colorado Department of Transportation, and the Regional Transportation District. The project team selected a consultant team led by Nelson\Nygaard for the study, which officially kicked off in fall 2024. The study has developed a draft existing conditions analysis and is initiating the first phase of community engagement. The project team anticipates the study will wrap up in December 2025 and result in a locally preferred alternative and a funding and implementation framework to advance the project.

DRCOG is leading the [Sheridan Corridor Safety Study](#) in partnership with CDOT, Denver, Lakewood, Wheat Ridge, Edgewater, Mountain View and Lakeside. Through the study, the team seeks to identify infrastructure improvements to reduce serious and fatal crashes along Sheridan, between I-76 and US-285. The project team selected a consultant team led by Consor for the project, which is also currently slated to wrap up in December 2025.



Upcoming Call for Projects

DRCOG is hosting a call for letters of interest this summer to identify projects for the 2026-2027 program funding. An estimated \$1.5 million will be available. Letters of interest must be submitted by a local jurisdiction or regional transportation agency between April 28 and June 13, 2025. Eligible projects must be included in the 2050 RTP, with priority given to projects in early staging periods. Trails and limited access highways are not eligible. This program only covers planning activities on these corridors, it cannot be used for advanced design or construction.

Once selected, all studies funded through the Corridor Planning Set Aside will be led by DRCOG in close collaboration with the nominating agency and other stakeholders. Additional information about the call for projects, including a list of eligible corridors and the Letter of Interest form are available on the DRCOG [Corridor Planning website](#).

Action by others

None

Previous discussion/action

None

Recommendation

None

Attachment

Staff presentation

For more information

If you need additional information, please contact Nora Kern, Subarea and Project Planning Program Manager, Transportation Planning and Operations, 303-480-5622 or nkern@drcog.org.





Corridor Planning Program Update and Call for Letters of Interest

Regional Transportation Committee, April 15, 2025

Corridor planning program

- Advancing projects identified 2050 Regional Transportation Plan.
 - Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) corridors.
 - Corridor transit projects.
 - Arterial safety/regional vision zero projects.
 - Multimodal corridor projects.
- Pilot started in 2022.
- Projects selected in 2024:
 - Colfax BRT Next Alternatives Analysis.
 - Sheridan Corridor Safety Study.



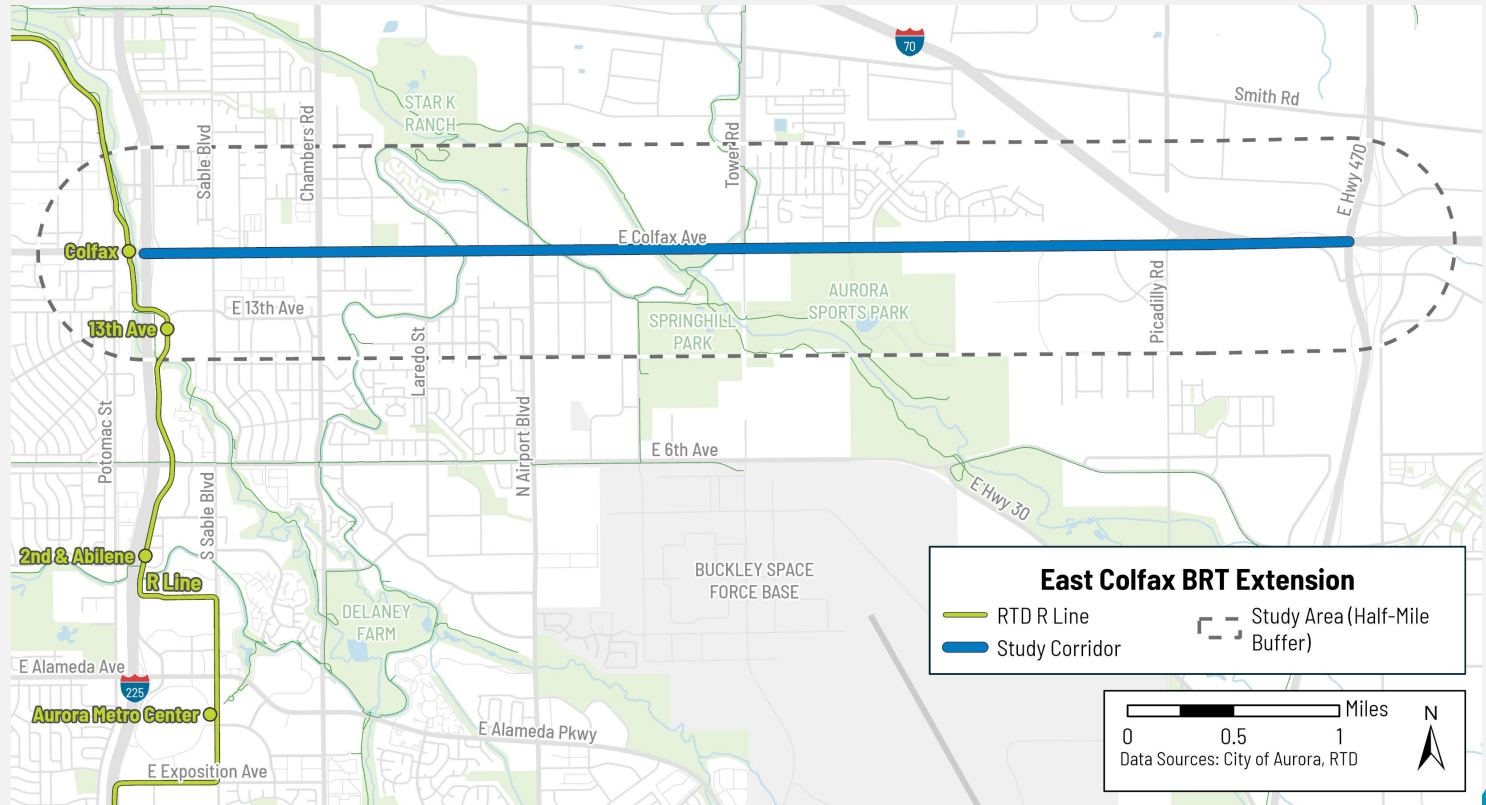


Program Structure

- Funding in 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program.
 - \$3,000,000 allocated.
- Projects nominated by local or regional agencies.
- Projects, funds, and procurement managed by DRCOG.
- Close partnerships with local jurisdictions, RTD and CDOT.

Colfax Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Next

- Alternatives analysis for extension of Colfax BRT.
- East Colfax Ave.
 - West end: **I-225**.
 - East end: **E-470** (exact point TBD).
- Goal of developing locally preferred alternative.



Colfax BRT Next
Connecting Aurora: I-225 to Picadilly

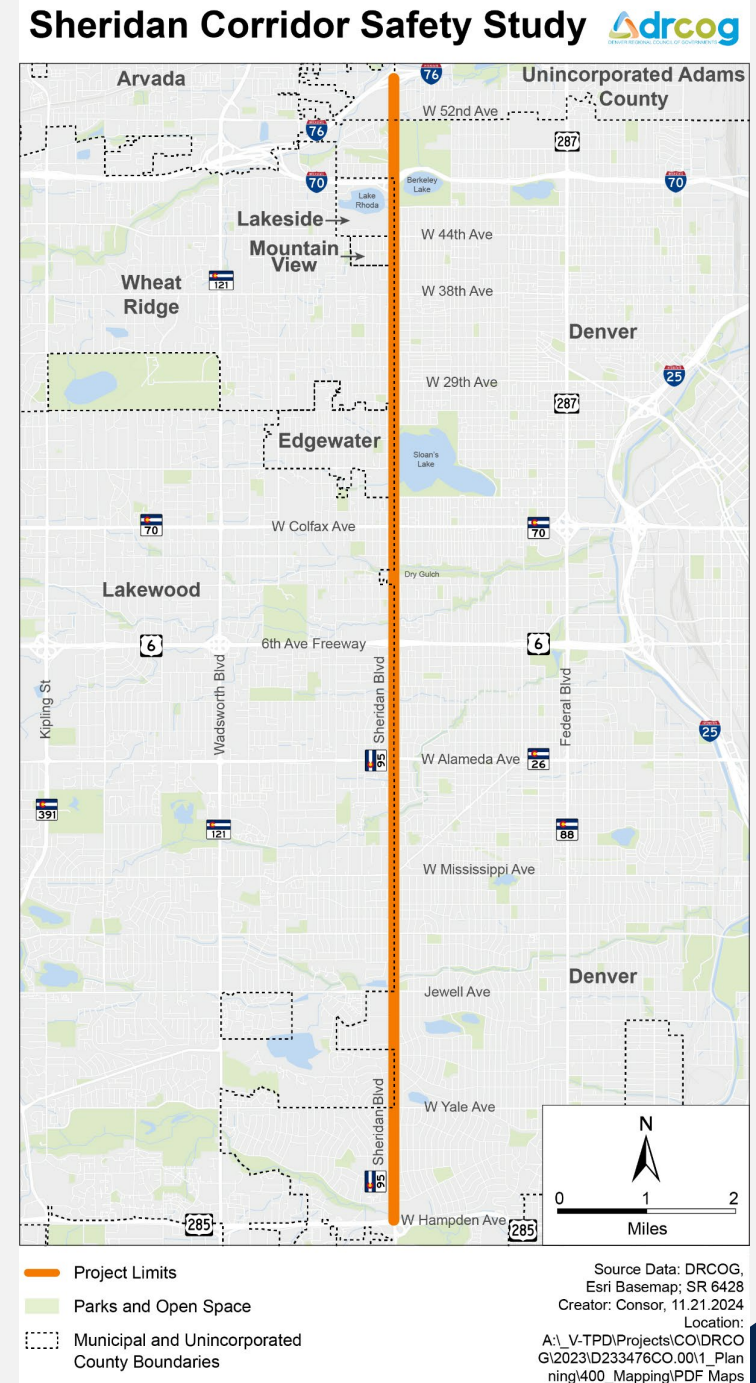


Colfax BRT Next: Study Timeline

- ✓ **Fall and winter 2024:** Kick off study, develop purpose and need, and goals and objectives.
- **Spring 2025:** Engagement phase one, develop existing conditions.
- **Summer 2025:** Alternatives analysis, engagement phase two.
- **Fall 2025:** Develop locally preferred alternative and implementation roadmap, engagement phase three.
- **December 2025:** Wrap up study.

Sheridan Corridor Safety Study

- Sheridan Boulevard, I-76 to US-285.
- On DRCOG and local High Injury Network.
- **Goals:**
 - Reduce serious and fatal crashes.
 - Coordinate between jurisdictions to develop implementable projects.
- **Project team:** DRCOG, CDOT, Denver, Lakewood, Edgewater, Wheat Ridge, Mountain View, Lakeside.



Sheridan Study Timeline:

✓ October 2024

- Kick off study.

➤ Winter/Spring 2025

- Analyze previous plans and existing transportation conditions.
- Collect feedback on existing safety challenges.
- Finalize corridor vision.

• Summer 2025

- Develop recommendations and alternatives.

• Fall 2025

- Prioritize recommendations and develop feasibility assessment.

• Fall/Winter 2025

- Complete final implementation plan.



2026-2027 Call for Projects

2026 – 2027 Corridor Planning Program

- **Available funds:** \$1.5 million.
- **Call for letters of interest:** April 28 – June 13, 2025
 - Letters must be submitted by local jurisdiction or regional agency.
 - Projects must be identified in 2050 Regional Transportation Plan.
 - Limited access roadways, trails and projects that have advanced to preconstruction or construction are ineligible.
- **Selection:**
 - Letters of interest evaluated by committee including DRCOG, CDOT and RTD.
 - Approval by Technical Advisory Committee, Regional Transportation Committee and DRCOG Board of Directors in July and August.

Questions?

Nora Kern

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