

Regional Transportation Committee

Meeting date: March 18, 2025

Agenda Item #: 6 (Attachment D)

2050 Regional Transportation Plan 2025 Mitigation Action Plan Report

Agenda item type: Discussion

Summary

Overview of the requirements and initial work associated with developing the 2050 Regional Transportation Plan 2025 Mitigation Action Plan Report as required by the state's Greenhouse Gas Transportation Planning Standard.

Background

As part of its review of the [2050 Regional Transportation Plan](#) under the state's [Greenhouse Gas Transportation Planning Standard](#) (known as the Greenhouse Gas Rule), the Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG) adopted Greenhouse Gas Transportation Report that included a [Mitigation Action Plan](#). The Greenhouse Gas Rule requires DRCOG to complete an annual report on the status of the Mitigation Action Plan by April 1st of each year.

According to the Greenhouse Gas Rule and the Colorado Department of Transportation's (CDOT's) companion Policy Directive 1610, the annual report must include the following information for each mitigation measure:

- The implementation timelines;
- The current status
- For measures that are in progress or completed, quantification of the annual benefit of such measures
- For measures that are delayed, canceled, or substituted, an explanation of why that decision was made and, how these measures or the equivalent will be achieved
- For project-based measures located in a Disproportionately Impacted Community that are delayed, canceled, or substituted, an explanation of why that decision was made and, how these measures or the equivalent will still be achieved in Disproportionately Impacted Communities

The Mitigation Action Plan details the region's approach to using mitigation measures to help achieve the greenhouse gas reduction levels required for the DRCOG metropolitan planning organization area for 2030, 2040, and 2050. DRCOG's mitigation measures are policy- (not project-) based, and include local government actions related to:

- increasing residential and employment densities
- mixed-use transit-oriented development
- reducing or eliminating minimum parking requirements
- adopting local complete streets standards



At the local government level, mitigation measures are voluntary, and the Mitigation Action Plan does not require any local jurisdiction to implement a mitigation measure in any specific location or within any specific timeframe. However, the mitigation measures were specifically chosen to build on this region's foundation of integrated transportation-land use planning, particularly around the region's existing and planned rapid transit system and urban centers.

As with the 2024 Report, the 2025 Report will focus on the broader framework of continuing to define the data, methodologies, processes, resources, and other elements of tracking the implementation of the mitigation measures over time. DRCOG staff has also been thinking strategically about how to leverage this work with related projects, such as the Regional Housing Strategy. Additionally, several approved bills from the 2024 state legislative session will influence local government activities related to several of the mitigation measures, which will in turn influence DRCOG's approach to tracking and implementing the measures. The ultimate objective is to continue to advance good planning in the region in addition to meeting the specific requirements of the Greenhouse Gas Rule. Finally, DRCOG staff has also been coordinating with CDOT staff on Mitigation Action Plan reporting, as CDOT also has a Greenhouse Gas Mitigation Action Plan associated with its 10-Year Plan. There are some similarities – but also key differences – between both agencies' Mitigation Action Plans.

Action by others

None

Previous discussion/action

None

Recommendation

None

Attachment

Staff presentation

For more information

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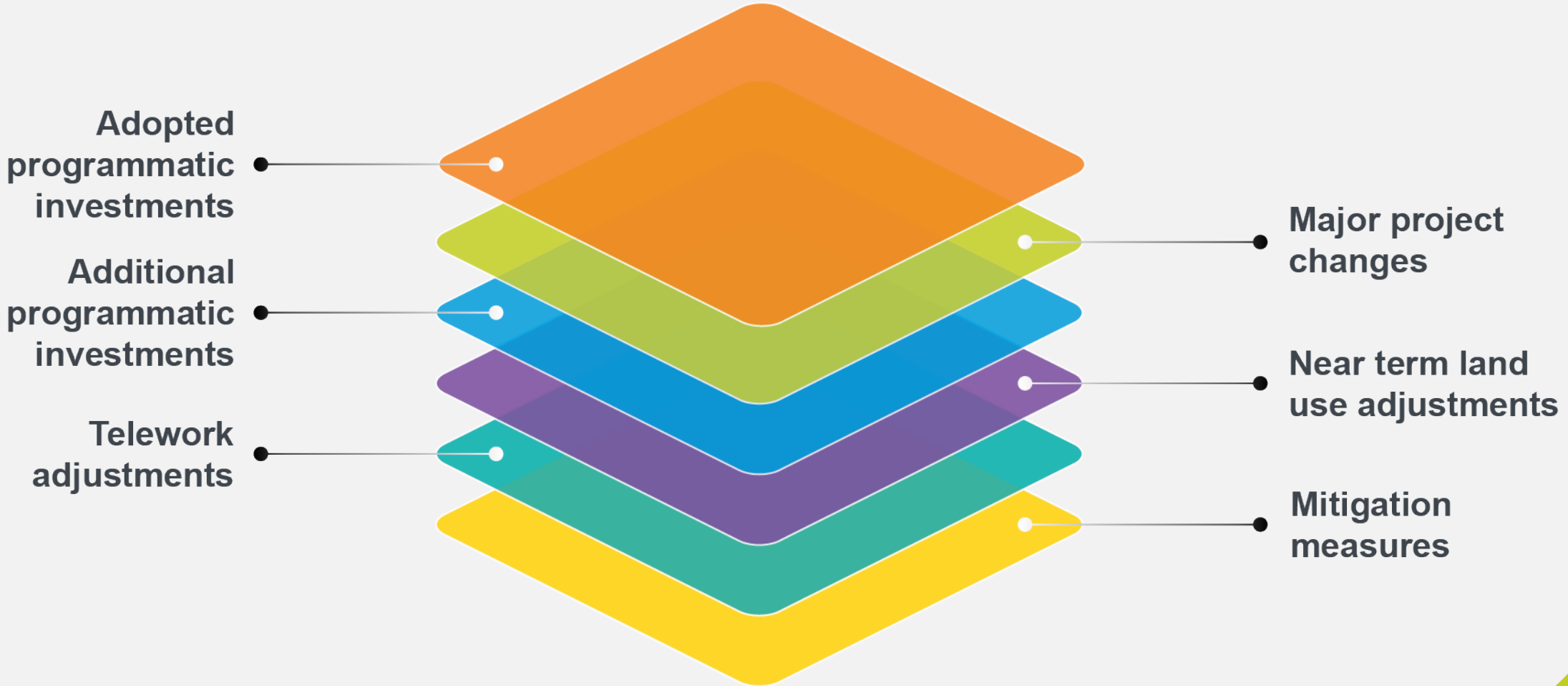


2050 Regional Transportation Plan 2025 Mitigation Action Plan Report Overview

Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Planning Standard overview

- GHG Planning Standard adopted in Dec. 2021 by the Transportation Commission (based on Colorado GHG Pollution Reduction Roadmap).
- Applies to CDOT and metropolitan planning organizations (like DRCOG).
- Compliance is demonstrated at a regional level through DRCOG's 2050 Regional Transportation Plan – not project-specific.
- Initial compliance was by October 1, 2022; subsequent compliance triggered when 2050 RTP is amended/updated.

Framework to meet GHG reduction levels



Components to achieve reduction levels

Greenhouse Gas emission reduction results (million metric tons per year)	2025	2030	2040	2050
2050 Regional Transportation Plan update modeling	0.68	0.68	0.57	0.35
Additional programmatic transportation investments	N/A	0.07	0.05	0.03
Mitigation Action Plan	N/A	0.10	0.12	0.08
Total Greenhouse Gas reductions	0.68	0.85	0.74	0.46
Reduction level requirement from Greenhouse Gas Rule Table 1 (2 CCR 601-22, Section 8.02.6)	0.27	0.82	0.63	0.37
Reduction level achieved	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Mitigation Action Plan background

- Needed as a last step to close the remaining reduction level gap.
- Documents the region's approach to using mitigation measures.
- Reports and analyzes measures at the regional level.
- Implementation is anticipated in a small fraction of the region in strategic and applicable geographies.
- Ample opportunity to implement successfully over time to help achieve compliance, which starts in 2030.

Mitigation measures background

- Measures are policy-based, not project based.
- Measured regionally, implemented locally.
- Measures are voluntary and not required to be implemented in any specific location or timeframe.
- Can be adjusted over time based on implementation status.
- However, annual reporting on implementation progress is required (transmit to Transportation Commission by April 1 each year).

MAP mitigation measures & GHG reduction amounts

Increase residential density



40,116
metric tons

Increase job density



6,964
metric tons

Mixed-use transit-oriented development



78,921
metric tons

Reduce or eliminate minimum parking requirements



176,902
metric tons

Adopt local complete streets standards



656
metric tons

2025 MAP Report required elements

For each mitigation measure:

- Implementation timelines.
- Current status.
- For those in progress or completed, quantification of the annual benefit.
- For those delayed, canceled, or substituted, an explanation of why and how these measures or the equivalent will be achieved.
- For measures located in a Disproportionately Impacted Community that are delayed, canceled, or substituted, an explanation of why and how these measures or the equivalent will still be achieved in Disproportionately Impacted Communities.

Key issues

- How to track mitigation measures?
 - Potentially very data, staff, financial and other resource-intensive.
 - How to define measurement baseline and change over time.
 - Policy changes (e.g., rezonings) ≠ development activity.
 - Proposed changes to Policy Directive 1610?
- State legislation.
 - Several 2024 bills will influence this work (such Transit Oriented Communities, parking and housing).
- Local government outreach & support.
 - Defining strategies to provide resources and supports.
- 2050 Regional Transportation Plan update.
 - How to “re-baseline” Table 1?
 - How will Mitigation Action Plan framework change?

Thank you!

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