



2026-2027 Unified Planning Work Program

Board of Directors – March 19, 2025

Agenda

- Metropolitan transportation planning overview.
- Unified Planning Work Program overview.
- Menti exercise.
- Next steps for 2026-2027 UPWP Development.



Metropolitan transportation planning

DRCOG as metropolitan planning organization

- **Purpose** – carry out a **continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive** performance-based **multimodal** transportation planning process, including the development of a **metropolitan transportation plan** and a **Transportation Improvement Program**.
- **Interested parties, participation, and consultation** – shall develop and use a documented participation plan that defines a process for providing interested parties with reasonable opportunities to be involved in the metropolitan transportation planning process.



Metropolitan transportation planning

- Provide for performance-based approach and support national goals.
- Be consistent with the development of regional Intelligent Transportation System architectures.
- Prepare coordinated public transit-human services transportation plan.

Metropolitan transportation planning (continued)

- **Congestion management process** – shall address congestion management that provides for safe and effective integrated management and operation of the multimodal system.
- **Metropolitan transportation plan** – shall develop a 20-year transportation plan that considers the planning factors.
 - Long-range and short-range strategies and actions.
 - Review and update at least every 4 years.
 - Coordinate with the process for developing transportation control measures in a State Implementation Plan.
- **Transportation Improvement Program.**
- **Annual listing of obligated projects.**

Federal planning factors

- Consider and implement projects, strategies, and services that address the following factors.
 - Support the **economic vitality** of the metropolitan area, especially by enabling global competitiveness, productivity and efficiency.
 - Increase the **safety** of the transportation system for motorized and non-motorized users.
 - Increase the **security** of the transportation system for motorized and non-motorized users.
 - Increase **accessibility and mobility** of people and freight.
 - Enhance **travel and tourism**.
- Protect and enhance the **environment**, promote energy conservation, improve the quality of life and promote consistency between transportation improvements and state and local planned growth and economic development patterns.
- Enhance the **integration and connectivity** of the transportation system, across and between modes, for people and freight.
- Promote efficient **system management and operation**.
- Emphasize the **preservation** of the existing transportation system.
- Improve the **resiliency and reliability** of the transportation system and reduce or mitigate stormwater impacts of surface transportation.

Unified Planning Work Program

- Includes a discussion of the planning priorities facing the metropolitan planning area.
 - Identify work proposed for the next 1- or 2-year period by major activity and task, including activities that address the federal planning factors.
 - Who will perform work.
 - Schedule for completing the work.
 - Resulting products.
 - Proposed funding by activity/task.
 - Summary of total amounts and sources of federal and matching funds.

The work we have to do

- Operate and maintain the continuing **transportation planning process** within the metropolitan planning area.
- Federal **law/regulatory compliance** – maintain eligibility for federal funding.
- Unified Planning Work Program.
- Regional Transportation Plan.
- Transportation Improvement Program.
- Transportation performance measures.
- Congestion Management Process.
- Air quality conformity.





The work that facilitates required efforts

- Regional data.
- Land use/travel model.
- Technical assistance.
- Local transportation plan support.
- Transportation operations.
- Transportation demand management.

Continuing and upcoming efforts

- Regional Transportation Plan update.
- 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.
- Transit design standards.





Continuing, emerging, and future issues

- Future population and employment changes.
- Aging population.
- Leveraging transportation and land use for better outcomes.
- Transportation technology.
- Transit system optimization/future of mobility.
- Mobility as a service.
- Greenhouse gas emissions/air quality.
- Complete Streets and multimodal safety.
- Micromobility.
- Future of transportation demand management and telework.
- Funding limitations.



Overview of the current Unified Planning Work Program

Nine Objectives

1. Program administration and coordination
2. Planning coordination and outreach
3. Land use and development planning
4. Multimodal planning
5. Air quality
6. Project programming
7. Transportation systems operations and safety
8. Public transportation planning
9. Planning data and modeling



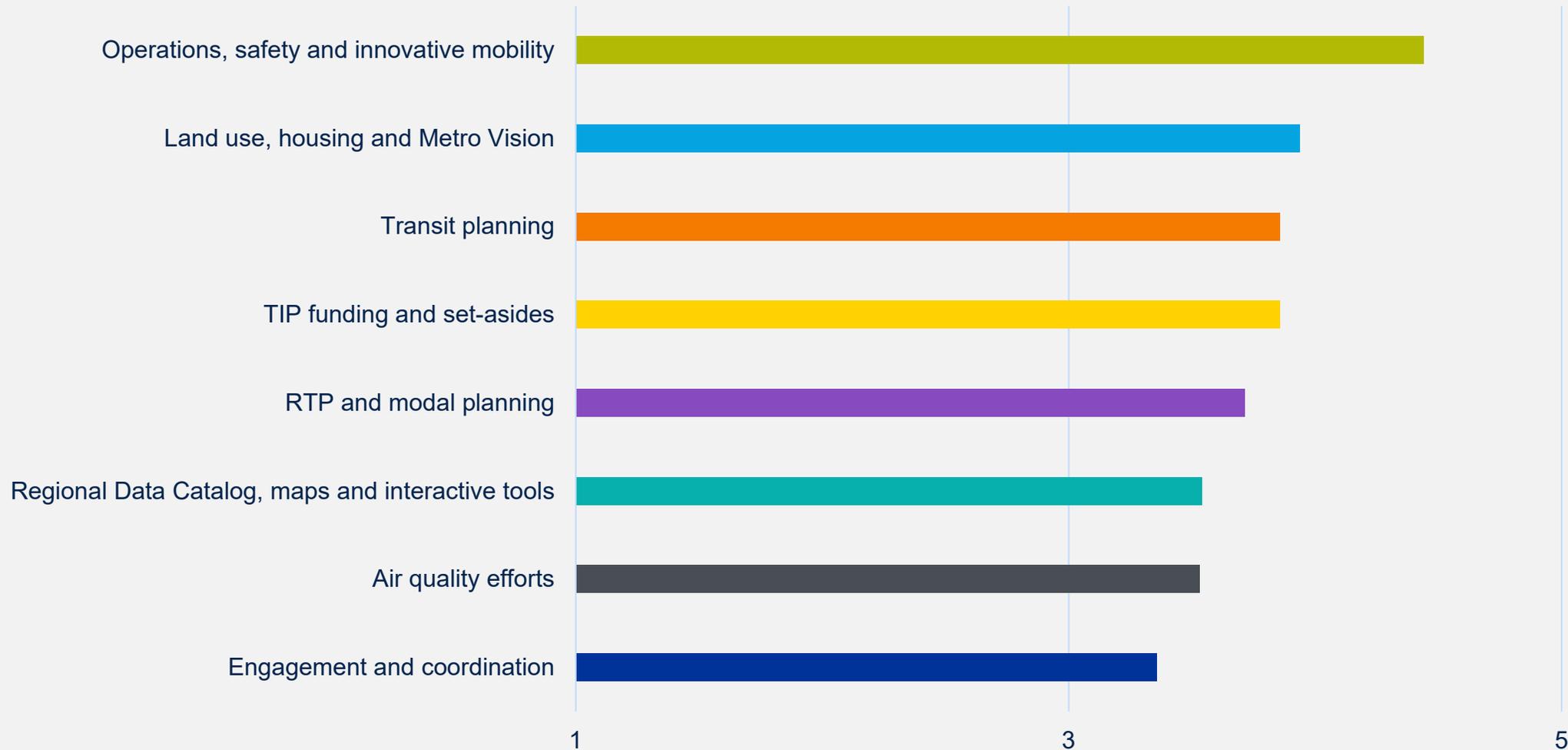


Prior Engagement

What are some regional challenges or opportunities you feel the metropolitan planning process should focus on over the next couple years?



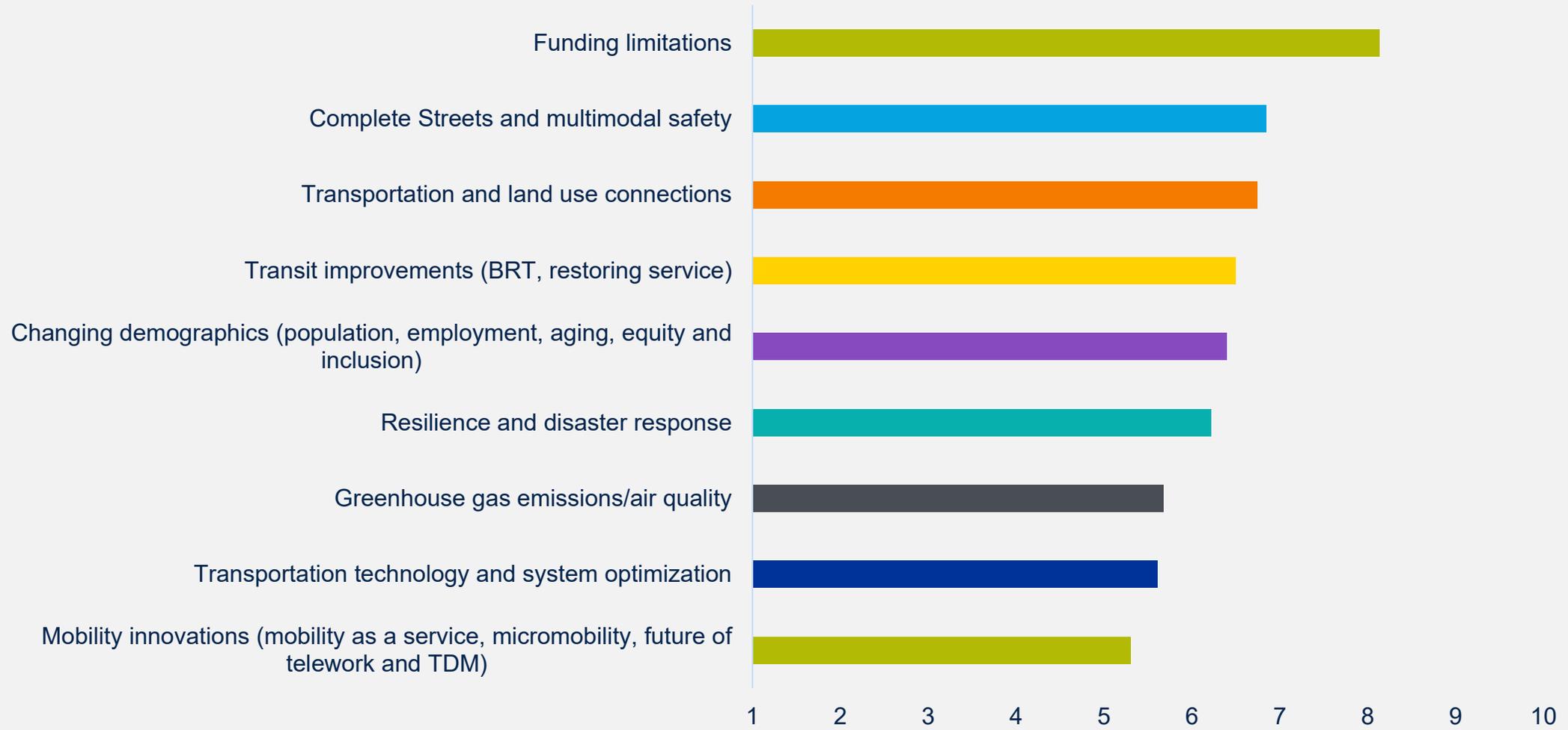
Where could more effort/resources be used in the future?



What one thing should DRCOG do (or do more of) in 2026 and 2027?

active transportation
emergency management
safety land use funding
coordination
communication congestion
preservation innovation
data collection

What do you think is important/urgent for the region to address?





Menti exercise



Next steps

Anticipated upcoming schedule

- Ongoing – coordination with federal, state, and local partners and internal cross-divisional staff.
- June 13-July 3: Public comment period on draft 2026-2027 UPWP
- July 28: TAC recommendation
- August 18: RTC recommendation
- August 20: Board action



Thank you! Any questions?

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