

Board Work Session

Meeting date: March 5, 2025

Agenda Item #: 5

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 a 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 1 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



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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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