

AGENDA
DRCOG Board Work Session
WEDNESDAY, February 1, 2023
4 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.
VIDEO/WEB CONFERENCE
Denver, CO

1. Call to Order
2. Public Comment
3. Summary of the December 7, 2022 Board Work Session
(Attachment A)
4. FY 2024- 2025 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Development Update
(Attachment B) Ron Papsdorf, Director, Transportation Planning and Operations
5. Continued discussion on the potential role for DRCOG in regional housing conversations
(Attachment C) Sheila Lynch, Director, Regional Planning and Development
6. Adjourn

Persons in need of auxiliary aids or services, such as interpretation services or assisted listening devices, are asked to contact DRCOG at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting by calling (303) 455-1000.

We make life better!



ATTACH A

BOARD WORK SESSION SUMMARY

December 7, 2022

Note: Meeting held virtually via Zoom

Directors present:

Steve Conklin, Chair	Edgewater
Steve O’Dorisio	Adams County
Jeff Baker	Arapahoe County
Austin Ward	City and County of Broomfield
Kevin Flynn	City and County of Denver
Nicholas Williams	City and County of Denver
Tracy Kraft-Tharp	Jefferson County
Lisa Smith	Arvada
Nicole Speer	Boulder
Jan Pawlowski	Brighton
Deborah Mulvey	Castle Pines
Tammy Maurer	Centennial
Randy Weil	Cherry Hills Village
Steve Conklin	Edgewater
Othaniel Sierra	Englewood
Ari Harrison	Erie
Lynette Kelsey	Georgetown
George Lantz	Greenwood Village
Paul Haseman	Golden
Chuck Harmon	Idaho Springs
Stephanie Walton	Lafayette
Jeslin Shahrezaei	Lakewood
Rich Olver	Lakewood
Stephen Barr	Littleton
Joan Peck	Longmont
Wynne Shaw	Lone Tree
Colleen Whitlow	Mead
John Diak	Parker
Sarah Nurmela	Westminster
Bud Starker	Wheat Ridge

Others present: Doug Rex, Executive Director; Chris Chovan, Adams County; Bryan Weimer, Arapahoe County; Mac Callison, Mindy Parnes, Jeannine Rustad, Aurora; Shawn Poe, Commerce City; Kent Moorman, Thornton; Debra Baskett, Westminster; Danny Herrmann, Nathan Lindquist, CDOT; and DRCOG staff.

Chair Steve Conklin called the session to order at 4:01 p.m.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Potential role for DRCOG in regional housing conversations

Executive Director Rex introduced potential options to the members to begin this discussion. The DRCOG Board of Directors convened its annual retreat to discuss strategic direction of DRCOG regarding housing. Through a facilitated “question-storming” and role identification exercise, attendees believed DRCOG’s involvement is most appropriate as a data resource, regional planner, and convener. Since the retreat, staff has had conversations with other groups regarding DRCOG as a potential convener on this topic, since there are few forums that brings together elected officials from the region’s municipalities and counties. DRCOG staff has a strong desire to relate housing back to its core missions: transportation planning, growth and development and older adults. Staff would like the conversations to be more “future” focused to differentiate it from the important collaborations that are presently happening to manage the immediate housing crisis.

A potential direction DRCOG could go is to create a Housing Ad Hoc Committee. DRCOG’s Articles of Association provide guidance for how to structure forums for exploring important regional issues such as housing. The board-adopted “Committee Policy, Guidelines and Descriptions” refers to these as Ad Hoc Committees. The potential charge for an Ad Hoc Committee focused on a regional housing strategy could be to identify deliverables and develop a scope of work for DRCOG (or a consortium including DRCOG) while also helping identify additional funding and resources to pursue this housing-related work plan. DRCOG staff sought feedback and guidance about this potential direction before drafting an action item for Board consideration. Members of the board had a robust conversation. Directors expressed support for a DRCOG housing role, but didn't want to limit it to just planning as proposed by staff. Some directors indicated the need for a regional repository of initiatives currently being implemented and the need for more coordination.

The work session ended at 5:03 p.m.

ATTACH B

To: Chair and Members of the Board of Directors

From: Douglas W. Rex, Executive Director
303-480-6701 or drex@drcoq.org

Meeting Date	Agenda Category	Agenda Item #
February 1, 2023	Discussion	4

SUBJECT

FY 2024- 2025 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Development Update

PROPOSED ACTION/RECOMMENDATIONS

N/A

ACTION BY OTHERS

N/A

SUMMARY

DRCOG, as the metropolitan planning organization (MPO) for the Denver region, must adopt a *Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)* that outlines and serves as the tool for scheduling, budgeting, and monitoring the metropolitan transportation planning tasks and activities conducted by the MPO and participating entities with federal transportation planning funds. The document also lists other major planning activities performed by local governments.

DRCOG staff has begun discussions around major activities to be conducted from October 1, 2023 through September 30, 2025 for the FY 2024-FY 2025 UPWP. Many activities will continue from the current [FY 2022-FY 2023 UPWP](#). Staff will discuss the federal context for the UPWP and required planning activities. Staff seeks Board Work Session input on ideas and regional priorities that could be considered for 2024 and 2025.

PREVIOUS DISCUSSIONS/ACTIONS

N/A

PROPOSED MOTION

N/A

ATTACHMENT

Staff presentation

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

If you need additional information, please contact Douglas W. Rex, Executive Director, at 303-480-4701 or drex@drcoq.org; or Ron Papsdorf, Division Director, Transportation Planning and Operations, at 303-480-6747 or rpapsdorf@drcoq.org; or Todd Cottrell, Project and Program Delivery Manager, Transportation Planning and Operations at 303-480-6737 or tcottrell@drcoq.org.

FY 2024 & 2025 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PLAN DEVELOPMENT

Board Work Session

February 1, 2023

Ron Papsdorf, Director, Transportation Planning & Operations

Todd Cottrell, Manager, Project & Program Delivery

Josh Schwenk, Transportation Planner

- MPO/Metropolitan Transportation Planning Overview
- UPWP Overview
- Menti Exercise
- Process/Next Steps for FY 2024 - FY 2025 UPWP Development

- **Unified Planning Work Program** – shall develop a UPWP that includes a discussion of the planning priorities facing the metropolitan planning area.
 - Identify work proposed for the next 1- or 2-year period **with federal planning funds** 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

- **Purpose** – carry out a **continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive** performance-based **multimodal** transportation planning process, including the development of a **metropolitan transportation plan** and a **TIP**.
- **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.

- **Scope** – consider and implement projects, strategies, and services that address the following factors:
 - Economic vitality
 - Safety
 - Security
 - Accessibility and Mobility
 - Environment, energy conservation, quality of life, and consistency between transportation improvements and planned growth and E.D.
 - System and modal integration and connectivity
 - System management and operation
 - System preservation
 - Resiliency and reliability and reduce or mitigate stormwater impacts
 - Enhance travel and tourism
- provide for performance-based approach and support national goals
- be consistent with the development of regional ITS architectures
- prepare coordinated public transit-human services transportation plan

- **Scope** – identify and develop tasks addressing the current federal emphasis areas:
 - Help achieve national **GHG goals** and achieve climate resilience
 - Advance **racial equity** and support for **underserved and disadvantaged communities**
 - Plan for safe **Complete Streets**
 - Utilize meaningful, early, effective, and continuous **public involvement**
 - Coordinate with Dept. of Defense on the **Strategic Highway Network**
 - Coordinate with **Federal Land Management Agencies** on transportation on federal lands
 - Use **Planning and Environmental Linkages (PELs) studies** as part of the transportation planning process
 - Incorporate **data sharing principles and data management** into the transportation planning process

THE STUFF 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 (UPWP)
- Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)
- Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)
- Transportation Performance Measures
- Congestion Management Process
- Air Quality conformity

- Regional Data
- Land use modeling
- Transportation modeling/local area planning/project support
- Technical assistance
- Scenario planning
- Local transportation plan support
- Traffic Operations Program: signal coordination
- Transportation Demand Management Program
- Regional Traffic Count Program Database

- Corridor planning
- Community-based transportation plans
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions and RTP Review
- Housing coordination process/plan
- Local agency TIP project support and monitoring
- Vision Zero/Safety initiatives
- IIJA Programs
 - Congestion Relief
 - Healthy Streets – AQ/heat islands
 - Reconnecting Communities
 - Safe Streets & Roads for All
 - SMART - technology
- Local transportation/land use best practices
 - Transit-Oriented Development
 - Transit design standards

- Growing population and employment
- Aging population
- Equity and inclusion
- 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 & multimodal safety
- Micromobility
- Future of TDM and telework
- 2020 census and TMA/UZA boundaries
- Funding limitations

Seven Objectives:

1. Program Administration and Coordination
2. Planning Coordination and Outreach
3. Long Range and Multimodal Planning
4. Project Programming
5. Transportation Systems Operations
6. Public Transportation Planning
7. Planning Data and Modeling

1.0 - Program Administration and Coordination

Administer the core Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) transportation planning program.

- Facilitate staff development and training
- Maintain and update the UPWP
- Ensure compliance with state and federal laws and regulations

2.0 - Planning Coordination and Outreach

Increase participation and support of the public in the planning process and engage with the transportation planning activities of partner agencies to address the transportation and development issues of the region and ensure outcomes that are consistent with Metro Vision goals and policies.

- Implement the Public Engagement Plan to engage the public
- Coordinate with federal, state, and local partners

3.0 - Long Range and Multimodal Planning

Develop, refine, and implement the region's long-range plans – Metro Vision and the Metro Vision Regional Transportation Plan – as well as the various modal plans which help to implement their principles, to enhance and improve the quality of life in the DRCOG region

- Maintain, update, and implement Metro Vision
- Maintain, update and implement the MVRTP
- Conduct active transportation and TDM planning
- Conduct freight planning
- Conduct corridor and community-based transportation planning
- Conduct Complete Streets planning

4.0 - Project Programming

Identify and implement priorities within the metropolitan area by effectively developing and managing the Transportation Improvement Program.

- Maintain and update the TIP, including holding calls for projects for the TIP and set-asides

5.0 - Transportation Systems Operations

Implement regional priorities through strategies to improve the safety and effectiveness of the existing transportation system, explore innovative solutions, and protect air quality.

- Administer the Congestion Management Process
- Conduct ITS planning and deployment
- Conduct security planning
- Conduct safety planning
- Conduct innovative mobility planning

6.0 - Public Transportation Planning

Plan and operate rapid transit corridors, the regional bus network, and transit facilities.

- Conduct RTD-led transit facility and service planning
- Conduct DRCOG-led transit-related planning (Coordinated Transit Plan, FTA Section 5310 Program)

7.0 – Planning Data and Modeling

Acquire and maintain critical data and forecasting tools to support the region's transportation and land use planning activities.

- Conduct travel and land use modeling
- Maintain and update the Regional Data Catalog
- Collect traffic counts
- Develop data products for partners

- Menti exercise

- Staff is currently undergoing internal exercises to develop lists of tasks and deliverables that meet the region’s needs. They will be provided with today’s feedback to assist in those discussions.
- June 14-July 14: Public comment period on draft 2024-2025 UPWP
- July 24: TAC recommendation
- August 15: RTC recommendation
- August 16: Board action



THANK YOU!
QUESTIONS?

Ron Papsdorf

**Director, Transportation Planning &
Operations**

rpapsdorf@drcog.org

303-480-6747

ATTACH C

To: Chair and Members of the Board of Directors

From: Douglas W. Rex, Executive Director
303 480-6701 or drex@drcog.org

Meeting Date	Agenda Category	Agenda Item #
February 1, 2023	Discussion	5

SUBJECT

Continued discussion on the potential role for DRCOG in regional housing conversations

PROPOSED ACTION/RECOMMENDATIONS

N/A

ACTION BY OTHERS

N/A

SUMMARY

Background – What have we heard so far?

At the DRCOG Board Work Session on December 7, 2022, Board Directors discussed options for pursuing regional collaboration to address housing. The discussion was a follow up to a strategic planning session at the DRCOG Board Retreat in April 2022. The themes that emerged out of DRCOG Board Directors' comments in December are summarized below.

The urgency for action balanced with sound data analysis and planning will be essential moving forward. Our intention for this Board Work Session is to build on the last discussion, share new information about how other regions have approached their collaborative work and hear from DRCOG Board Directors on the specific areas that they believe regional housing work will be most impactful.

Themes from the December 7, 2022 Board Work Session:

- Convening, coordination, and project management are needed to strengthen local housing strategies and efforts.
- Data analysis and technical assistance that focuses on areas that local governments cannot address alone are essential.
- Policies and programs that are accessible across communities are critical.
- Broad and impactful communication strategies are needed.
- Development of shared goals and desired outcomes will have a greater impact to move regional housing efforts forward.

Metro Vision as a foundation for housing work

Metro Vision, which was unanimously adopted by the Board of Directors in 2017, offers the clearest guidance to-date on housing, with a vision that **diverse housing options meet the needs of residents of all ages, incomes and abilities**, which recognizes that housing needs may differ by age, life stage, changes in familial status, household size, income or ability.

Such desired locations may be in a variety of communities – urban, suburban or rural; growing or mature; large, medium or small. Metro Vision recognizes “that individual communities will contribute to Metro Vision outcomes and objectives through different

pathways and at different speeds for collective impact.” Leveraging these considerations along with the work DRCOG has already done in developing programs, convening and data will lead to a successful plan.

Learnings from other regions

An initial survey of housing efforts across the United States finds that there is no predetermined structure for regional housing strategies, and they are not universal in purpose or outcome. The Denver region has diverse needs and goals and a history of strong partnerships between local governments and other stakeholders. Examination of other regions’ approaches can provide transferable elements to the Denver regional context though likely won’t result in one model to follow. Below are a few examples of work in other regions.

- **Seattle:** Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) finished their Regional Housing Strategy in 2021 to address population growth, sustainability and affordability. To address different needs, contents and goals throughout their region, they used submarkets and local typologies to which they applied different recommendations. Submarkets represented geographic groupings while typologies were constructed by municipality and grouped. Additionally, DRCOG’s urban center work can serve as a starting point for this analysis.
- **Houston:** Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC) completed their Regional Housing Plan in 2020 to address differing growth patterns throughout the region. A key approach included providing outreach materials for the public, convening local governments with each other and with stakeholders and technical assistance to encourage implementation and coordination. DRCOG can build on existing work with technical assistance, cohorts and Idea Exchanges to encourage collaboration and implementation.

These approaches are quite recent, so the impacts are still forthcoming. What is known is that regional housing strategies are adaptable and that DRCOG has the foundation to build on previous work to ensure a successful planning process and implementation.

Work underway

Since the Board of Directors’ discussion in December, DRCOG staff have been pursuing multiple pathways to scoping the development of a potential regional housing strategy:

- **Peer organization interviews** – staff have had or scheduled discussions with the following regions to learn more about the choices they made in designing the process to develop a regional housing strategy or initiative: Gateway Cities Council of Governments (GCCOG, Southeastern Los Angeles County), Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP), Dane County (Madison, WI.), Mid-America Regional Council (MARC, Kansas City), Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC, Seattle), Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC), and Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC, Columbus, OH).
- **Affordable Housing Development Incentives grant recipients** – staff have been monitoring the 18 governments throughout the region that have been pursuing housing needs assessments or other policy and regulatory changes to reduce barriers to affordable housing development funded by the Department of

Local Affairs (DOLA) through Colo. House Bill 21-1271. With these grant projects funded over 7 rounds in the past year, DRCOG staff is planning to convene staff working on these projects in the next 1-2 months.

- **Regional partnership development** – staff have been advancing conversations with potential partners on this work, such as the Colorado District Council of the Urban Land Institute and Metro Denver EDC. The intent is to identify alignment with potential shared work and funding opportunities.
- **State program monitoring and advising** – staff have been working with the state departments developing the Infrastructure and Strong Communities program funded through Colo. House Bill 22-1304 and are tracking the early efforts to shape the programs to be funded through last November’s Proposition 123.
- **Monitoring the current legislative session**– staff are actively tracking developments at the State Legislature to understand how potential legislation related to housing may adjust and shape regional housing work.

Discussion – What would success look like?

As we formulate opportunities for pursuing a regional housing strategy, a discussion to illuminate what a successful process could achieve will guide the scope and scale of our collaborative work. We plan to engage in a facilitated discussion focused on the following questions.

- What’s out of reach for your local government to accomplish alone that you would want to see addressed by a regional housing strategy?
- What successes of a regional housing strategy would make you proudest?

PREVIOUS DISCUSSIONS/ACTIONS

- [December 7, 2022 Board Work Session](#)
- [April 2, 2022 Board Retreat](#)
- [May 4, 2022 Board Work Session: Housing and the regional transportation planning process](#)

PROPOSED MOTION

N/A

ATTACHMENT

Staff presentation

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

If you need additional information please contact Douglas W. Rex, Executive Director, at (303) 480-6701 or drex@drcog.org; or Sheila Lynch, Division Director, Regional Planning and Development at (303) 480-6839 or slynch@drcog.org.

SCOPING A REGIONAL HOUSING STRATEGY

Board Work Session | Feb. 1, 2023

Sheila Lynch
Division Director

Andy Taylor
Manager

Emily Daucher
Planner

OUTLINE



- Background - What have we heard so far?
- Metro Vision as a foundation
- Learnings from other regions
- Work underway
- Board discussion



BACKGROUND: WHAT HAVE WE HEARD SO FAR?



THEMES FROM BOARD WORK SESSION - DEC. 7, 2022



- Convening, coordination, and project management are needed
- Data analysis and technical assistance that focuses on areas that local governments cannot address alone
- Policies and programs that are accessible across communities
- Broad and impactful communication strategies
- Development of shared goals and desired outcomes





METRO VISION AS A FOUNDATION

OUR SHARED VISION: METRO VISION



Desired outcome

Diverse **housing options** meet the needs of residents of all ages, incomes and abilities.

Objectives

Diversify the region's **housing stock**

Increase the regional supply of **housing attainable** for a **variety of households**.

Increase opportunities for **diverse housing accessible by multimodal transportation**

Metro Vision on desirable locations for housing, including:

- urban centers
- traditional downtowns
- transit station areas
- access to employment centers
- compact, mixed-use development in suburban settings
- multimodal corridors
- access to active transportation options



EXAMPLE: DIVERSITY OF URBAN CENTERS

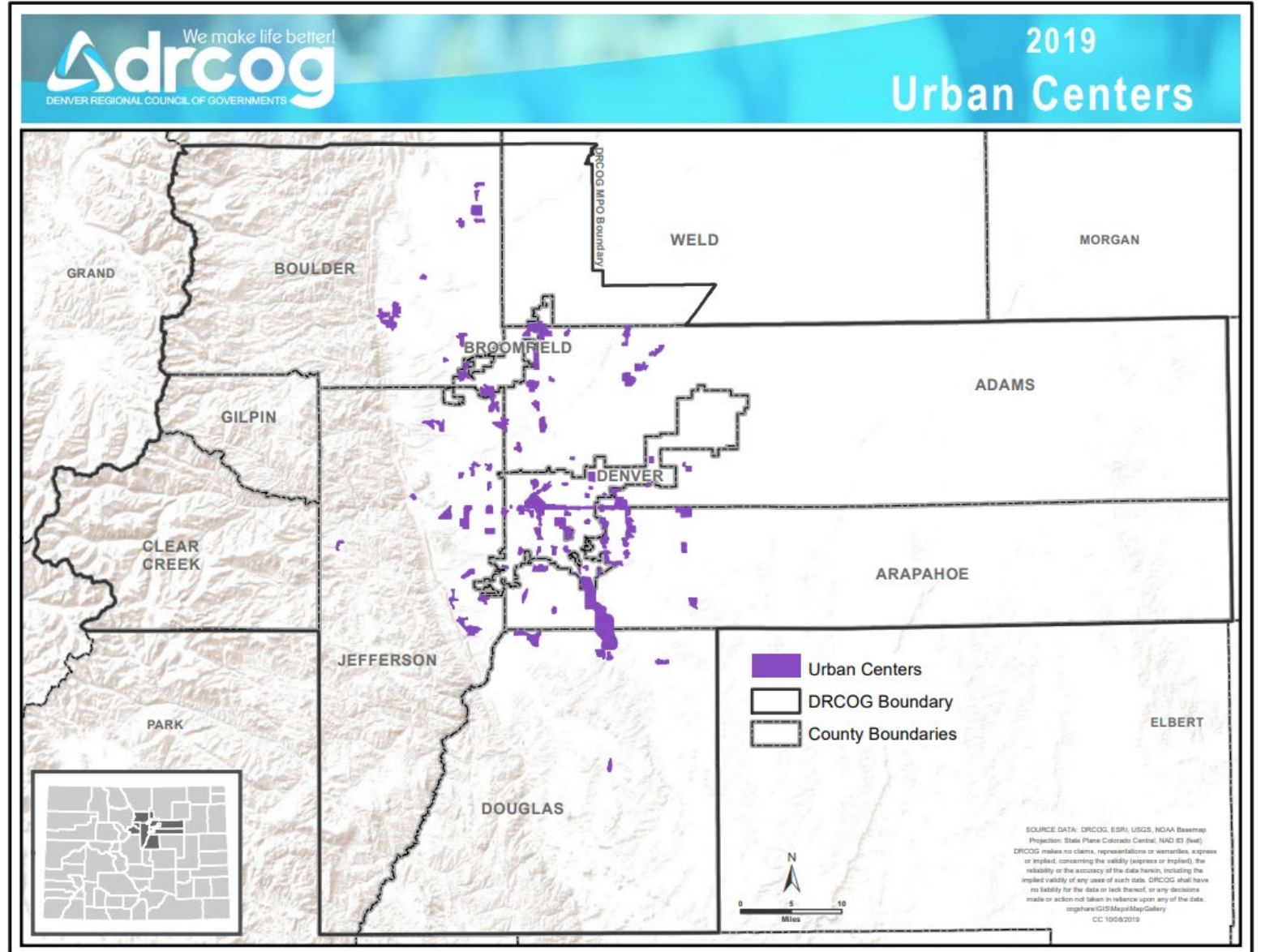
105

Urban Centers

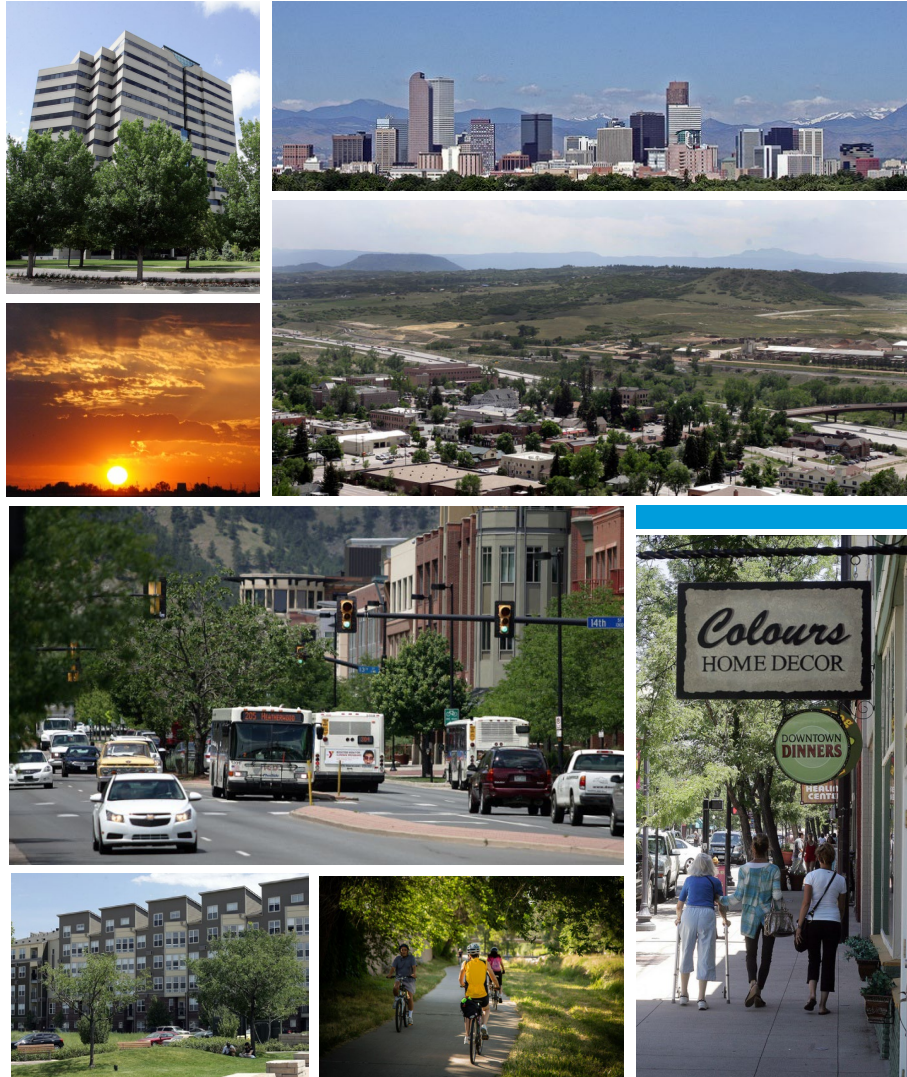
Identified By

26

Local Governments



URBAN CENTERS ARE PLANNED TO



- Be active, pedestrian-, bicycle-, and transit-friendly
- Be denser and mixed in use than surrounding areas
- Allow people of all ages, incomes and abilities to access a range of housing, employment, and service opportunities
- Promote regional sustainability
- Respect and support existing neighborhoods

NO ONE-SIZE-FITS-ALL LOCAL APPROACH



“ [I]ndividual communities will contribute to Metro Vision outcomes and objectives through **different pathways** and at **different speeds** for collective impact.





LEARNINGS FROM OTHER REGIONS



NO ONE-SIZE-FITS-ALL REGIONAL APPROACH



- No two are alike – can be adapted to regional and local needs
- Able to build on existing DRCOG work: urban centers, cohorts, technical assistance, Idea Exchanges



EXAMPLES: SEATTLE AND HOUSTON



- Seattle: used jurisdiction typologies and submarkets to shape recommendations
- Houston: focused heavily on convening between local governments, developers and the public
- Variety of approaches and recommendations available



**WELCOME HOME:
A HOUSING PLAN FOR
THE H-GAC REGION**

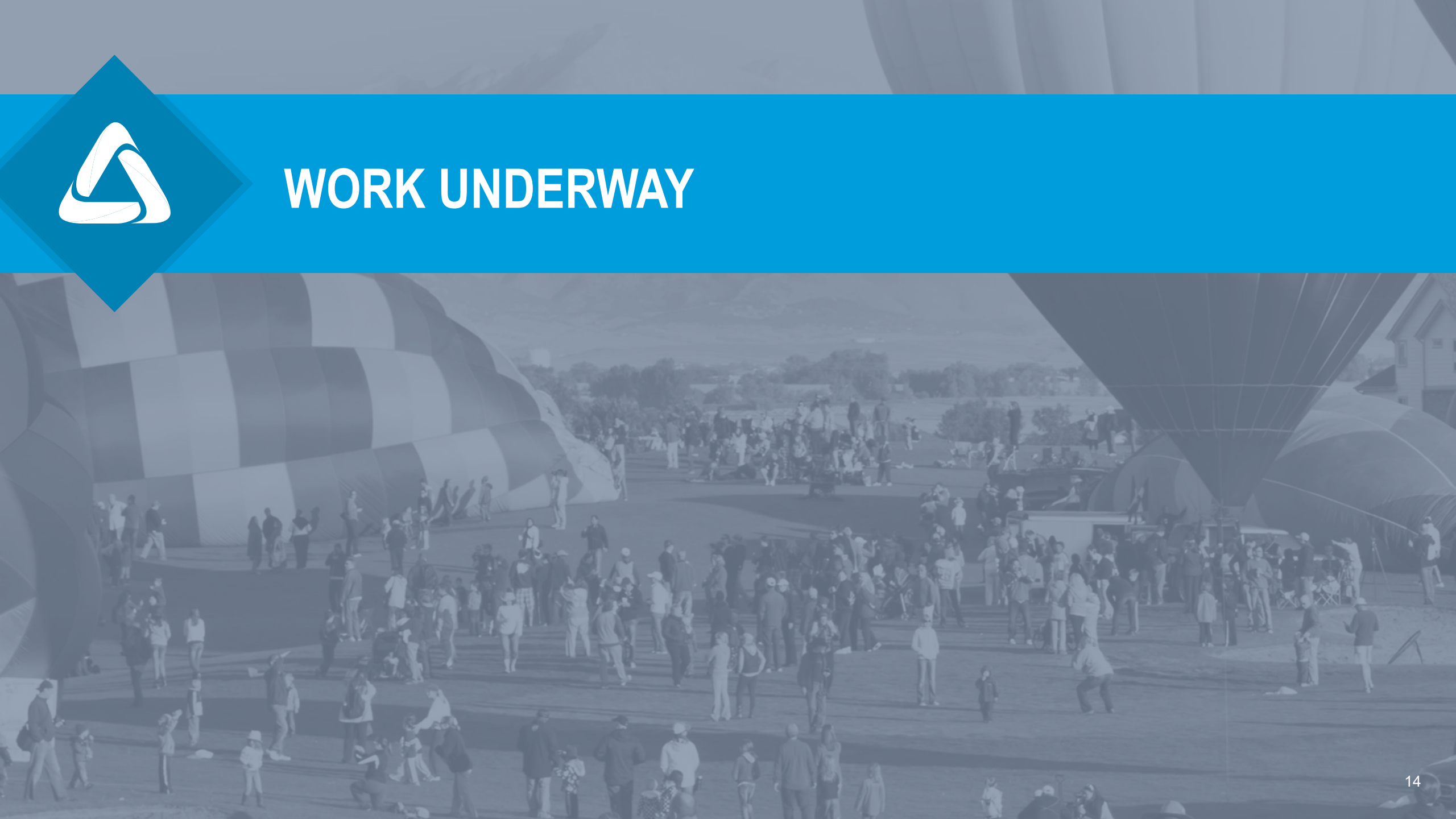
Across the Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC) service region, local leaders face housing challenges. Prices for land and construction are rising faster than household incomes. Some communities are feeling a strain on their resources from booming growth, while others are having trouble attracting any new housing development. The current mix of housing in the region doesn't always meet the varied needs of community members, such as teachers, police officers, and others who care for our communities. In addition, the current mix of housing may not meet future needs based on forecasted growth and changing demographics for the aging population, young families, and those of limited means or with special needs.

H-GAC developed this high-level plan as the first step in identifying shared challenges and exploring ways we can support the efforts of the region's local governments in achieving a range of housing choices that will sustain their future needs.

The first phase of this plan focuses on local governments within and including Austin, Brazoria, Chambers, Colorado, Fort Bend, Galveston, Liberty, Matagorda, Montgomery, Walker, Waller, and Wharton counties. H-GAC will incorporate the housing initiatives of the City of Houston, Harris County, and the cities contained therein beginning in 2020.



WORK UNDERWAY



WORK UNDERWAY



- Peer organization interviews
- Affordable Housing Development Incentives grant recipients (Colo. House Bill 21-1271)
- Regional partnership development
- State program monitoring and advising
 - Colo. House Bill 22-1304 – Infrastructure and Strong Communities
 - Proposition 123 funding program development
- Monitoring current legislative session

DISCUSSION



Please open a new browser window on the device of your choice to provide answers online for viewing during discussion



What's out of reach for your local government to accomplish alone that you would want to see addressed by a regional housing strategy?



What successes of a regional housing strategy would make you proudest?





THANK YOU!
QUESTIONS?

Sheila Lynch
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