

Board update

Board meeting: March 19, 2025

Public hearing



[Draft 2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program and Air Quality Conformity documents](#)

Presenter: Todd Cottrell,
manager, Transportation
Planning and Operations

Background: Every two years, Denver Regional Council of Governments staff update the Transportation Improvement Program document, also known as the TIP, which outlines all federal- and state-funded transportation projects to be completed in the Denver region during a four-year period. DRCOG staff issue a call for projects for the TIP every four years; the last one was held during development of the 2024-2027 TIP, so there was no call for projects for the 2026-2029 document. Most projects in the 2026-2029 TIP were carried over from the 2024-2027 version. The draft documents also reflect previous air quality and greenhouse gas conformity results.

As part of the process to develop a new TIP document, DRCOG staff must make the draft available for a 30-day public review period and hold a public hearing to give the region's residents the opportunity to give feedback. Staff posted the [2026-2029 TIP draft and Air Quality Conformity document](#) online in mid-February.

Staff received one online comment and made it available to Board directors during the public hearing. No members of the public offered in-person or Zoom comments during the hearing.

Action item



[Discussion of state legislative issues: new bills for consideration and action](#)

Presenter: Rich Mauro,
director of legislative affairs

Background: The 2025 Colorado General Assembly convened on January 8. DRCOG staff and lobbyists compiled bills of interest with comments and recommended positions (relative to the Board-adopted [Policy Statement on State Legislative Issues](#)) for Board consideration. Throughout the legislative session, Mauro offers opportunities for the Board to take new positions on bills and provide feedback on established positions.

Result: The Board took positions on the following bills:

House Bill 25-1272 | Construction Defects and Middle-Market Housing
Position: Support as amended
Current status: House Floor

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Bills on which the Board previously took positions:

House Bill 25-1007 | Paratransit Services

Position: Amend

Current status: Senate Floor

House Bill 25-1044 | Local Funding for Vulnerable Road User Protection

Position: Support

Current status: Postponed indefinitely

House Bill 25-1046 | Increase Maximum Number of Transportation Planning Regions

Position: Oppose

Current status: Postponed indefinitely

Senate Bill 25-030 | Increase Transportation Mode Choice Reduce Emissions

Position: Amend

Current status: Senate Appropriations

Senate Bill 25-161 | Transit Reform

Position: Amend

Current status: Senate Appropriations

House Bill 25-1022 | Qualified Medication Administration Personnel

Position: Support

Current status: Governor signed

House Bill 25-1156 | Make Senior Home Tax Valuation Reduction Permanent

Position: Support

Current status: House Appropriations

House Bill 25-1162 | Eligibility Redetermination for Medicaid Members

Position: Support

Current status: Senate Health and Human Services

Senate Bill 25-013 | Senior Housing Income Tax Credit Extension

Position: Support

Current status: Senate Appropriations

House Bill 25-1198 | Regional Planning Roundtable Commission

Position: Oppose

Current status: House Transportation, Housing and Local Government

Informational briefings



[Regional Housing Needs Assessment and state compliance public review](#)

Presenter: Zachary Feldman, program manager, Regional Planning and Development

Background: In February, the Department of Local Affairs conditionally approved DRCOG's Regional Housing Needs Assessment for substantial compliance under the Sustainable Housing Assistance Act (formerly Senate Bill 24-174). To complete the compliance process, DRCOG staff must augment the assessment with additional data (which staff plan to do by updating the [Denver Region Housing Needs Profiles interactive dashboard](#)) and facilitate a public review by local governments that want to use it to fulfill the state requirement.

If local governments choose to use DRCOG's Regional Housing Needs Assessment, they are required to hold a review at a public meeting of their governing body and submit comments to DRCOG staff, who will then submit them to the Department of Local Affairs. In advance of the start of the 60-day public review window in July, DRCOG staff will hold a webinar in April and office hours in May and June to give member government staff more information about the process so they can decide how best to proceed.



Unified Planning Work Program 2026-2027 kickoff

Presenters: Ron Papsdorf, director, and Josh Schwenk, senior planner, Transportation Planning and Operations

Background: The Unified Planning Work Program describes all transportation planning work to be carried out by DRCOG in its role as a metropolitan planning organization. It outlines the planning priorities for the region, identifies work proposed for the next one- to two-year period and details who will perform the work, the schedule for completing it, the resulting products and proposed funding.

DRCOG staff have begun to identify the major activities that will be conducted from October 1, 2025, through September 30, 2027, for the 2026-2027 Unified Planning Work Program. Many of these activities will be carried over from the current 2024-2025 program. The total budget for the 2026-2027 program will likely be comparable to the 2024-2025 budget, as DRCOG staff are currently drawing down reserve balances to meet new state constraints on carryover funds.

Schwenk presented the results of previous engagement activities that solicited feedback on elements staff should prioritize when developing the 2026-2027 Unified Planning Work Program. He used an interactive mobile application to gather input from the Board on their priorities for the 2026-2027 program. Directors provided written suggestions related to challenges and opportunities the planning process should address, and one thing DRCOG should do (or increase doing). During ranking exercises, directors favored prioritizing effort and resources for transit planning and operations, safety and innovative mobility. They indicated addressing funding limitations and changing demographics are among the most important considerations.

