



BENEFITS AND VALUE

**Return on investment
for the City of Golden.**

Prepared June 2020

The Honorable James Dale
Council Member
Golden
911 10th St.
Golden, CO 80401

Dear Council Member Dale:

For more than 60 years, DRCOG and its member governments have successfully built upon a shared vision to make the Denver region an incredible place to live, work and play. During these difficult times, as we face the unprecedented challenges created by a worldwide pandemic, it's more important than ever to work together. Just as in the past, our success will be a direct result of your contributions and the longstanding belief of the DRCOG Board that achieving our vision requires the coordinated efforts of local, state and federal government, the business community and other planning partners.

Our organization continues to plan for a brighter future. Since the unanimous adoption of Metro Vision, we've set our sights on encouraging and facilitating regional and local action to help us achieve desired outcomes. To improve mobility, the region is now implementing transportation projects across the metro area as part of the Board-adopted 2018-2021 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). And building off what we've learned from past experience, we once again demonstrated our innovative nature by adopting the dual-model TIP process for 2020-2023. Through the subregional forum recommendations the Board allocated more than \$208 million to 82 projects, as well as \$32 million to regional projects, along with a previous allocation of \$25 million to the Central 70 project. And to make certain we're fulfilling the vision set forth in the groundbreaking Mobility Choice Blueprint plan, in 2019 we launched the Advanced Mobility Partnership to address both the opportunities and challenges of a rapidly changing technological mobility landscape. Throughout it all we've emphasized the importance of meeting the challenges of a rapidly growing older population, and as we do, we'll improve transportation for everyone.

As a member, your dues are based on population and assessed valuation, and collectively account for approximately 6.5 percent of DRCOG's annual budget. They are critical to the region's success.

Contributions are primarily used to meet matching funds requirements and to advocate for regional priorities, vital aspects of our formula for success.

Once a year, we provide our directors with an overview of the key benefits DRCOG delivers to the region as well as your respective communities. As a member-driven organization, we consider it important to demonstrate return on investment and value, and to effectively communicate the importance of having a representative from the City of Golden at DRCOG. Read on for an overview of specific benefits and services to your community as well as a summary of the regionwide benefits of DRCOG's programs.

Transportation projects – Through DRCOG, member governments select and administer transportation projects that enhance mobility and provide safe, multimodal access in communities throughout the region. Our staff provides expertise and assistance throughout the selection process and beyond to ensure projects progress as planned and follow federal guidelines.

The following DRCOG-funded Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) projects serving the City of Golden were underway or completed in the last year:

- Golden Bus Circulator: West Corridor end of line to Golden Downtown (\$1,237,000)
- Washington Ave Complete Streets (\$3,045,000)
- U.S. Route 6 Shared-Use Path: Colfax Ave to Johnson Rd (\$589,000)

Assisted with the preparation of TIP submittals for the 2020-2023 TIP.

Participated on the Jefferson County 2020-2023 TIP Forum.

As requested by Council Member Casey Brown, DRCOG staff provided information about the operation of, and results produced by, the regional travel model.

Aging Services and Funding – Federal and state dollars flow through DRCOG's Area Agency on Aging to protect the rights of our aging population and to improve quality of life for our older residents through assistance with transportation, meals, housing, care and other necessities provided by nonprofit organizations. In 2019 DRCOG successfully advocated for \$4 million in additional funding statewide to address this growing need. The Area Agency on Aging provided Jefferson County an estimated 191,782 units of services (examples of units of services include: a meal, a ride, an in-home service or an hour of counseling) investing \$3,293,143, provided numerous educational presentations and attended the monthly county council on aging meetings.

To better meet the needs of our region's older adults, in 2019 the Area Agency on Aging continued adapting and innovating with groundbreaking, nationally recognized programs such as:

- **Accountable Health Communities – A Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services grant funds** our collaborative effort with health care providers in the region to identify and navigate the social needs of patients to improve health outcomes. The only Area Agency on Aging to be funded in the country, regionwide we screened nearly 21,000 patients, including 4,460 in Jefferson County, and provided navigation services to 1,742 at-risk people, for a total value of \$325,000 in 2019.
- **Transportation voucher program – A groundbreaking pilot program is demonstrating the need for** on-demand transportation services that fill the gaps in traditional options for older adults, by providing rides through services such as Hop Skip Drive. In 2019 we provided more than 5,000 rides to older adults in the region.
- **Our Veteran-Directed Care program helps veterans of all ages who need nonmedical support and** services, case management and assistance with daily activities. In 2019 we served veterans across the region, providing more than \$2.5 million in services, helping those who are isolated or for whom caregivers might be burdened. In Jefferson County we provided 18,750 hours of care to veterans in need.

Forecasting – Acknowledging that innumerable unknowns can hamper decision-making, innovation and commitment to visionary projects and goals, DRCOG works to minimize uncertainty by using sophisticated land use and travel models to forecast the timing, location and extent of growth and development and the resulting transportation needs in the City of Golden. Long-range regional population forecasts made decades ago by our team have been remarkably accurate, and as we strive to constantly improve results, this past year we've added local development approvals to our modeling work.

Planimetric Data – Planimetric features are elements of the built environment that are drawn from the high-resolution aerial imagery acquired through the Denver Regional Aerial Photography Project. First created in 2014, these datasets, such as building roofprints, parking lots and sidewalks, are useful for many local and regional planning activities. Uses include asset inventories, water runoff modeling, emergency response planning and watershed analysis.

The City of Golden contributed \$4,960 toward the recent update of the region's planimetric dataset, completed in February 2020. Without contributions from our many partners, this important investment would not be possible. The City of Golden's investment covered 1% of the overall project cost and has supported the ongoing maintenance of regional datasets critical to local and regional planning efforts

around the region, including emergency response plans, building inventories and pedestrian routing applications.

Regionwide benefits

- **Metro Vision** – Much of the work we do is guided by the region’s aspirational plan for growth and development. Metro Vision not only identifies our common values and priorities, but also presents local and regional actions to help your community and the metro area move toward our shared vision.
- **Transportation planning** – As the federally designated metropolitan planning organization for our region, DRCOG takes the lead on transportation planning and funding. Working with regional partners Colorado Department of Transportation and Regional Transit District, DRCOG's transportation planning process is continuing, cooperative and comprehensive and supports Metro Vision while incorporating state and federal practices and regulations.
- **State-mandated review of RTD fixed guideway system (SB-208) process** – Only the DRCOG Board has the legal authority to review changes to RTD’s FasTracks program or approve new RTD fixed guideway proposals. The Board also receives an annual update from RTD on the status of the FasTracks program.
- **Way to Go** – This regionwide program promotes commute options and multimodal transportation solutions, reducing traffic congestion and improving air quality. Among notable campaigns and events in 2019, 29,000 commuters participated in Bike to Work Day, and 2,538 commuters from 75 companies participated in Go-Tober. Way to Go’s Schoolpool program worked with 205 schools to help 14,464 families look for school carpools. In 2019 Way to Go programs and campaigns reduced vehicle miles of travel by more than 24 million miles.
- **Denver Regional Data Resources** – DRCOG collects, compiles and distributes data to support our communities and partners in making informed, data-driven decisions. Through DRCOG our member communities have access to cost-effective partnerships to acquire foundational datasets needed in local government business operations and regional planning. Additionally, DRCOG collaborates with our member governments and other partners to share best practices in geospatial activities.

DRCOG provides members a host of other services that make it easier for communities to continue thriving. The Denver Regional Aerial Photography Project saves participating communities significant money by coordinating acquisition of high-resolution imagery. Complimentary access to GrantFinder makes researching new funding opportunities easy. DRCOG also coordinates and facilitates a wide variety of technical and topical meetings such as Metro Vision Idea Exchanges to help communities and

the region prosper. And our Citizens' Academy affords a unique opportunity for people across the region to come together to learn more about key regional issues and to become more civically engaged.

The City of Golden is an essential part of what makes our region great. Continued growth in the coming years will present many new challenges as well as opportunities. By coming together, just as we've done for the past 60 years, we'll chart a course that benefits our individual towns, cities and counties as well as the region as a whole. Thank you and your community for all you do to contribute to our success, and don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'DWR', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Douglas W. Rex
Executive Director



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