

DRCOG 2050 Metro Vision Regional Transportation Plan (2050 MVRTP) Subregional Forum Candidate Project Solicitation & Evaluation Process

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Introduction

This information packet is designed to assist county transportation forums to identify candidate major project investment priorities to evaluate for inclusion in the 2050 Fiscally Constrained Regional Transportation Plan (part of the overall 2050 MVRTP). It contains information and resources addressing:

- The overall planning framework for this process, including links to relevant plans and studies from DRCOG, CDOT, and RTD
- Eligible candidate projects to submit through this solicitation
- How major projects contained in the 2040 MVRTP will be transitioned to the 2050 MVRTP
- The process to solicit and submit major candidate projects by county transportation forums
- A candidate project solicitation content form
- How candidate projects will be evaluated

2050 MVRTP Planning Framework

One of the most important concepts in developing the 2050 MVRTP is the “[Policy Framework and Desired Outcomes](#).” This framework is comprised of the various major plans, priorities and studies identified by DRCOG, CDOT, RTD, and local governments. Together, this framework represents the region’s major multimodal transportation vision, needs, and priorities. This framework informed the development of the 2050 transportation and land use scenarios and the identification of regional investment priorities to develop the 2050 MVRTP. The Framework also contains links to relevant plans and studies from DRCOG, CDOT, and RTD.

Eligible Major Candidate Projects to Submit

Regional investment priorities are expressed in the RTP in several ways: as specific projects, project categories, financial plan investment allocations, narrative content, etc.

For this solicitation, DRCOG staff is seeking specific projects to evaluate for inclusion in the 2050 Fiscally Constrained RTP to be funded with non-local revenues (i.e., federal, state, or regional revenues). The specific eligible projects/project types are:

- [Air quality regionally significant](#) roadway capacity, interchange, and fixed guideway transit projects that are federally required to be identified in the 2050 MVRTP.
- Other major multimodal investment priority projects consistent with the local, regional, and state plans and studies contained in the Policy Framework and Desired Outcomes. These should be submitted if they are large scale, high cost defined projects that are priorities of the county transportation forum or submitting agency.
- Please do not submit the following: maintenance, traffic operations, local bus service, smaller-scale priorities, and other investments that do not lend themselves to identification as specific “projects.” They will be included in the

2050 MVRTP in the other ways described above (project categories, financial plan investment allocations, narrative content, etc.). Also, please do not submit projects of any type on local streets, collectors, or minor arterial roadways.

Determining What Candidate Projects to Submit

		New roads or road widenings (Capacity Changes)
YES		New Light Rail or Bus Rapid Transit (Capacity Changes)
		Large-scale safety, freight, traffic operations project, or other high-cost project
SHOULD		Large-scale, high cost bicycle/pedestrian project (e.g., regional trail, major grade separation, or similar project)
		Maintenance projects
NO		Intersection signal improvements

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Status of 2040 MVRTP projects for 2050 MVRTP

Regionally funded (DRCOG- and CDOT-controlled funded) regionally significant capacity projects contained in Appendix 3/Appendix 4 of the [2040 MVRTP](#) will be transitioned to the 2050 MVRTP as follows:

- Projects that have been completed or will be completed by the end of 2020 are no longer by definition part of the MVRTP.
- Projects currently under construction but with completion after 2020 will be automatically included in the 2050 MVRTP.
- Projects that have completed (within the past five years) or are in the federal project development (NEPA) process will be automatically included in the 2050 MVRTP.
 - Projects with a completed NEPA older than 5 years and subsequent meaningful action has occurred to implement the project (and a NEPA re-evaluation is not the next federally required project development step) will also be automatically included in the 2050 MVRTP.
- Projects funded for NEPA and/or construction in the 2020-2023 TIP will be automatically included in the 2050 MVRTP.
- Projects that have or are planning to conduct PEL, corridor planning, or other pre-NEPA activities are eligible to be submitted through this solicitation.
- Projects for which no activities have yet occurred are also eligible to be submitted.
- Locally funded projects in Appendix 3/Appendix 4 of the 2040 MVRTP are also eligible to be submitted.

The [2040 Fiscally Constrained RTP Projects Status for 2050 MVRTP](#) table shows the “2050 MVRTP status” of every regionally funded roadway capacity project in the 2040 MVRTP.

Process to Solicit Major Candidate Projects

Each county transportation forum may submit up to the number of candidate projects shown below, which is based on each county’s share of regional population, employment, and VMT as calculated for the 2020-23 TIP. **Please use the [2050 MVRTP Candidate Project Solicitation Form](#) to submit candidate projects.**

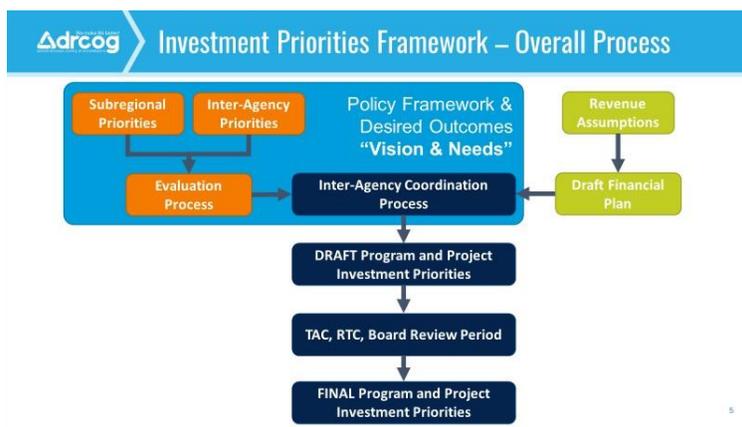
Note that the Inter-Agency Coordination Process (DRCOG, CDOT and RTD) will develop additional draft regional investment priorities.



Evaluation of Major Candidate Projects

Candidate projects will be qualitatively evaluated using DRCOG’s Metro Vision Plan transportation-related primary objectives and federally required FAST Act performance measures (as described in the candidate project solicitation form).

Candidate projects will be evaluated via a committee comprised of DRCOG, CDOT, RTD, and a staff representative from each county transportation forum. The Inter-Agency Coordination Process will review those outcomes, along with the Draft Financial Plan and the broader Policy Framework and Desired Outcomes to develop draft program and project investment priorities. The draft will be reviewed through DRCOG’s committees and Board to develop final draft investment priorities for the 2050 Fiscally Constrained RTP.



Schedule

Candidate projects must be submitted by **COB on Wednesday, August 19th 2020.**



Contact/Questions

Please submit candidate projects and direct questions to:

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