

Youth Advisory Panel

June 11, 2025: 10-11:30 A.M.

Welcome and introductions

Youth Members

Milo
Violet
Jake
Lucy

DRCOG Staff

Carolyn Klamm, cklamm@drcog.org
Alvan-Bidal Sanchez
Steve Erickson
Angie Shelbourn

(Last names removed for privacy)

Youth advisory panel role

DRCOG will use your feedback to:

- Gain a community perspective on key milestones.
- Find missing priorities.
- Inform the plan's vision.

We asked: What does your ideal Denver region feel like?

We heard:

The ideal Denver region is **accessible to all**.

- Access to nature.
- Access to jobs and education.
- Available to everyone.

The ideal Denver region incorporates **technology**.

The ideal Denver region is **efficient and organized**.

- Clear structure.
- Building smart.

We asked: What's missing in our region? How would it look to include that missing thing?

We heard:

Forward-thinking is missing in our region.

- Anticipating a “tipping point” of population growth.
- Building infrastructure before the problems come.
- Environmental sustainability.

Connection to opportunities are missing.

- Can't get to most places.

Efficiency is missing.

- Direct routes to many places.
- Better transit.

We asked: What do you want your neighborhood to look like in 25 years?

We heard:

Access to **activity**.

- Recreation space.
- Shops nearby.
- Open space.
- “Third place” spaces to hang out.
- Access to schools and education opportunities.

Thriving **community**:

- Art/murals.
- Schools.
- Connected.
- Friendly neighborhood experience.

Organized well:

- Connected.
- Non-car access.
- Personal space.
- Neighborhood structure, “small town feel”.

Presentation/discussion

Regional transit:

- Far-away stops combined with low frequency makes it hard to take the bus.
- How do we make the most of our funding limits?

- Need more reliable transit.
- Need to promote non-car modes more.

Beyond the DRCOG region:

- Passenger rail along the front range mountains.
- Connect regions together.
- Collaborate with other states.

Neighborhood comfort and transit:

- Central bus stop for a neighborhood, easy for neighbors to get to.
- One or two routes in suburban-style neighborhoods.

Education access:

- Some schools use RTD busses.
- Students often use RTD to get to extracurriculars, when school busses don't run.
- More bike friendly schools are needed.

Funding:

- Use money efficiently.
- Pay attention to where the demand for bus/rail service is.

Additional resources

As promised, here are the links to relevant information for this plan.

[DRCOG's boundary.](#)

[The Metro Vision Plan.](#)

[The existing Regional Transportation Plan.](#)

[The engagement webpage for this project.](#)

Next steps

- In a few weeks, Carolyn will reach back out to begin scheduling the next meeting.
- At our next meeting (July 30), we will discuss investment priorities.

Please email cklamm@drcog.org if you need clarification, or if DRCOG staff have documented anything incorrectly.

Thank you for participating!