



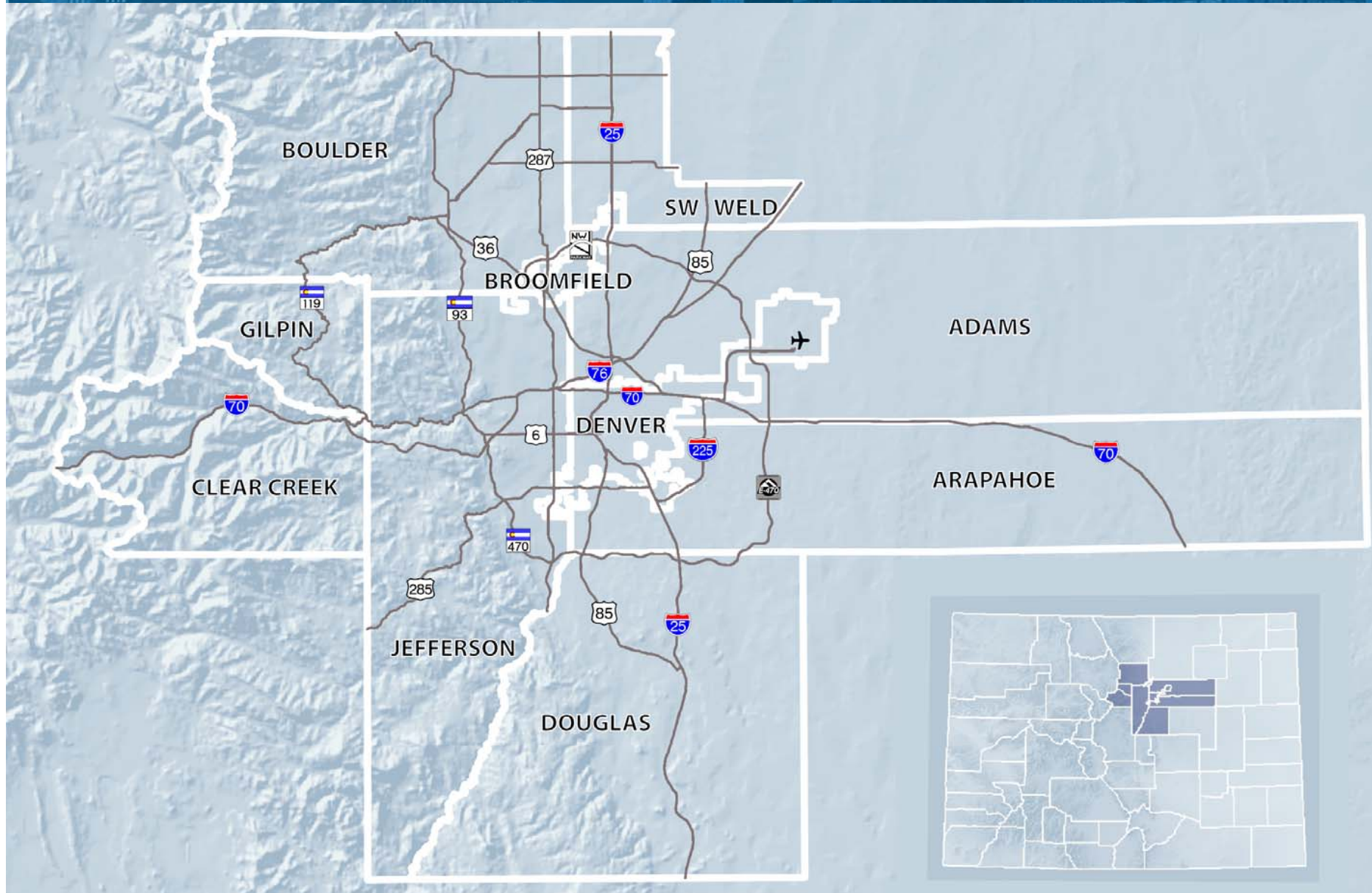
Planning for Regional Sustainability

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RMLUI's 19th Annual Land Use Conference

Who is DRCOG?







InPlaneView.com



Supporting regionalism

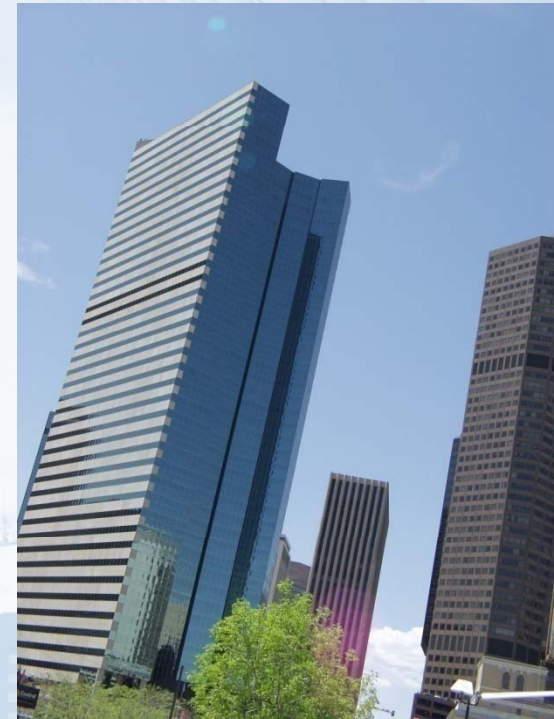
Mission statement

- DRCOG is a place where local officials can work together to solve the region's problems

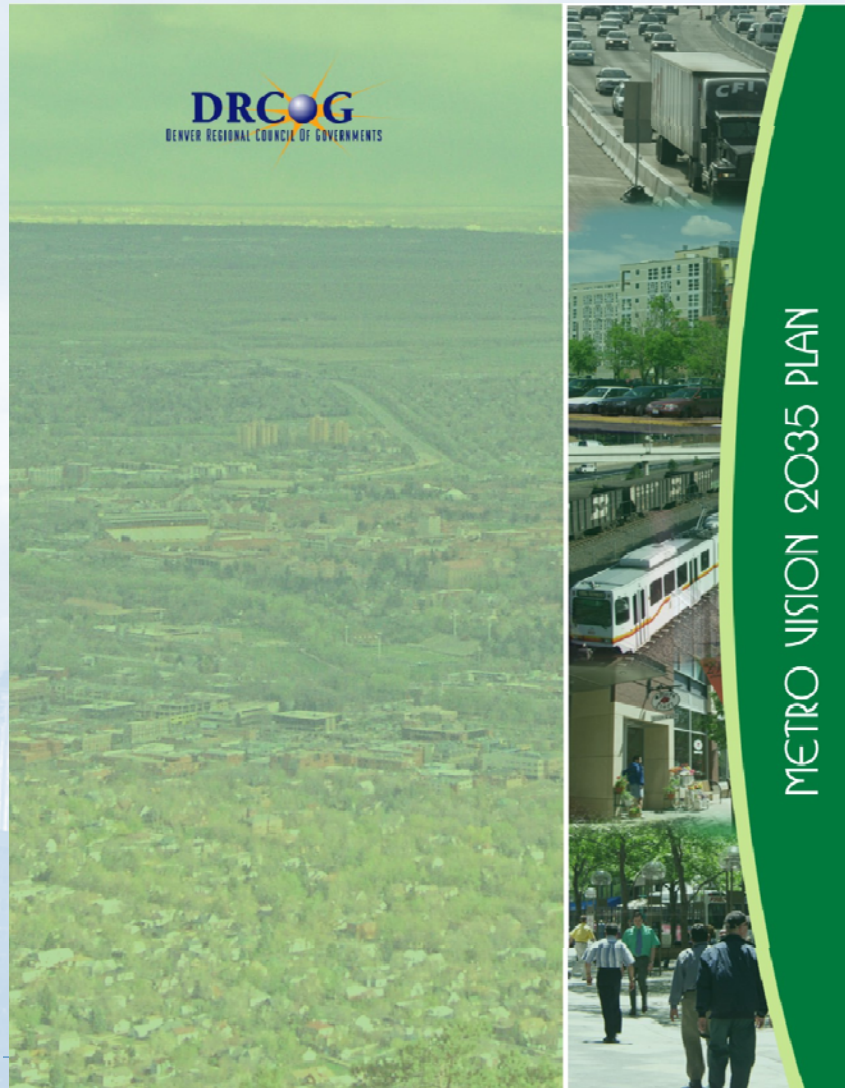


What is Metro Vision?

Goal: Protect the quality of life that makes our region such an attractive place to live, work, play and raise a family



Three key elements



- Growth & Development
- Environment
- Transportation
- Plus chapter on implementation

Metro Vision and sustainability

- Urban growth boundary
 - Increase density 10% between 2000 and 2035
- Limits on large-lot development
 - Maintain at 3% of all households
- Urban centers
 - Compact, mixed-use, pedestrian- and transit-friendly
- Balanced, multi-modal transportation system
 - FasTracks will add 122 new miles of light and commuter rail

Renewed focus on sustainability

- Study sessions
 - Nov 2008: Climate change
 - Jan 2009: Energy sustainability
 - Jul 2009: Best practices from other regions
- DRCOG/ULI public officials workshop (June 2009)
 - Implementing sustainable development locally
- Information and resources on DRCOG Web site
 - www.drcog.org/sustainability
- 2009 DRCOG Board Retreat
 - Incorporate sustainability into next major update of Metro Vision 2035

Sustainability Cafés

- Purpose
 - Obtain stakeholder input on the issue of regional sustainability
 - Ensure that stakeholder concerns and aspirations are understood and considered in the DRCOG Board's decision-making process



Café discussion questions

- What would a sustainable Denver region look like?
- What principles should guide DRCOG policy and funding decisions to promote a more sustainable region?





Common themes



Survey results: Top-ranked potential guiding principles

- Provide a variety of transportation options
- Promote efficient use of energy; water; other natural resources
- Integrate land use and transportation planning
- Reduce fossil fuel consumption and increase renewable energy utilization
- Seek integrated solutions that create multiple economic; social; environmental benefits
- Promote shift from driving to alternative modes

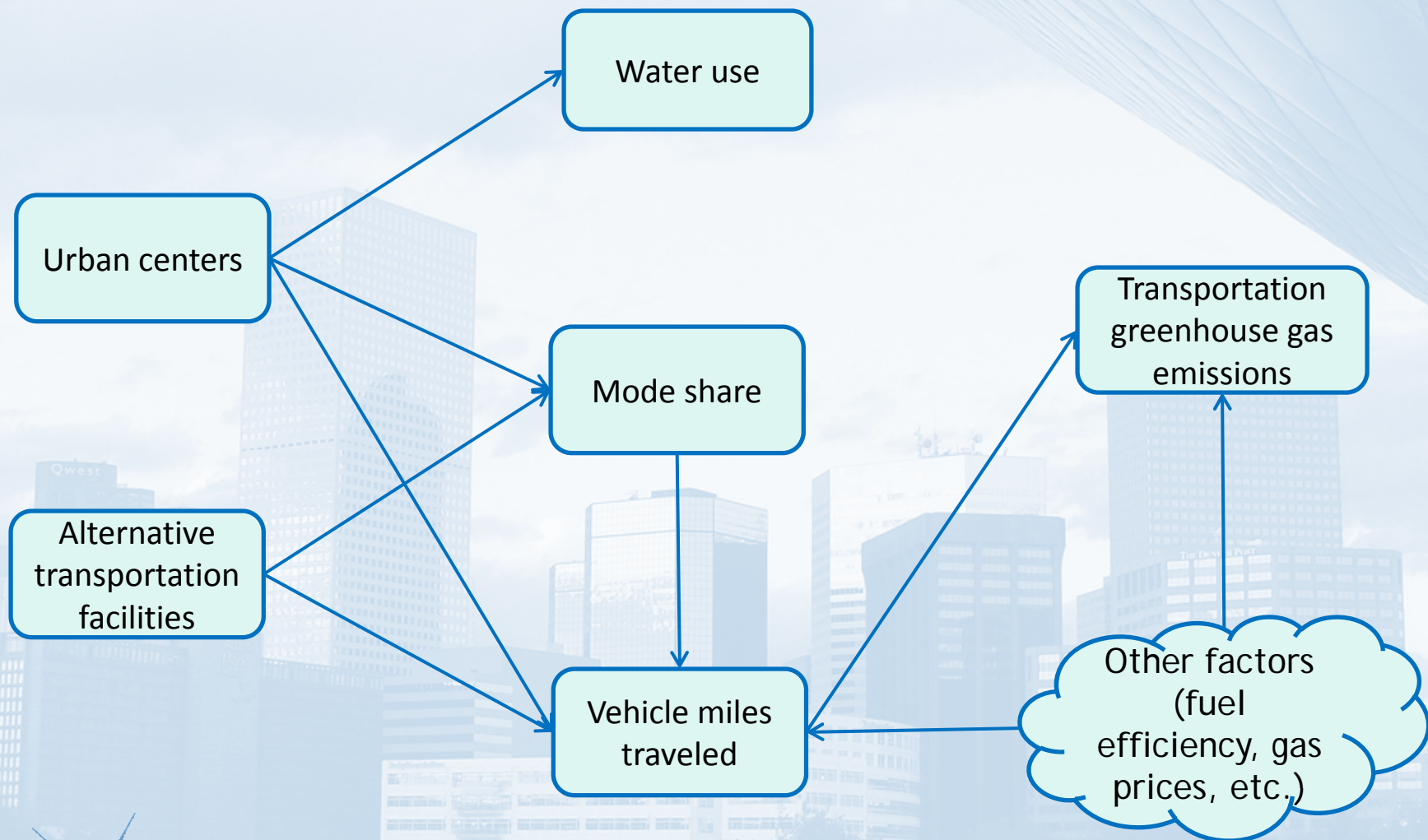
Subsequent Board actions

- Refined the list of 30 sustainability concepts from the Cafés down to 17
 - 11 concepts that current plans and programs already address
 - 6 additional concepts within DRCOG's purview, but not currently addressed
- Identified related goals
 - 3 existing Metro Vision goals
 - 6 new goals

New sustainability goals (draft)

- Increase the rate of construction of **alternative transportation facilities**
- Reduce the percent of trips to work by **single-occupant vehicles** to 65% by 2035
- Locate 50% of new housing and 75% of new employment within **urban centers**
- Reduce per capita **water use** 13.5% by 2030
- Reduce regional per capita **vehicle miles traveled** 10% by 2035
- Reduce per capita transportation **greenhouse gas emissions** 60% by 2035

Goal relationships



Next Steps

- Refine goals and related policy/strategy updates that will . . .
 - Be incorporated into Metro Vision 2035 update
 - Help inform development of TIP policy and RTP category funding allocations
 - One of many factors to be considered
 - Lay the groundwork for continuing discussions about regional sustainability

Lessons learned

- Start with education
- Obtain stakeholder input early
- Recognize current areas of strength
- Focus on measurable goals
- You don't have to do everything in one plan update
 - Planning as an ongoing process



Questions?

www.drcog.org/sustainability