

# **DRCOG's Role in Air Quality Planning**

**April 1, 2010 - RAQC**

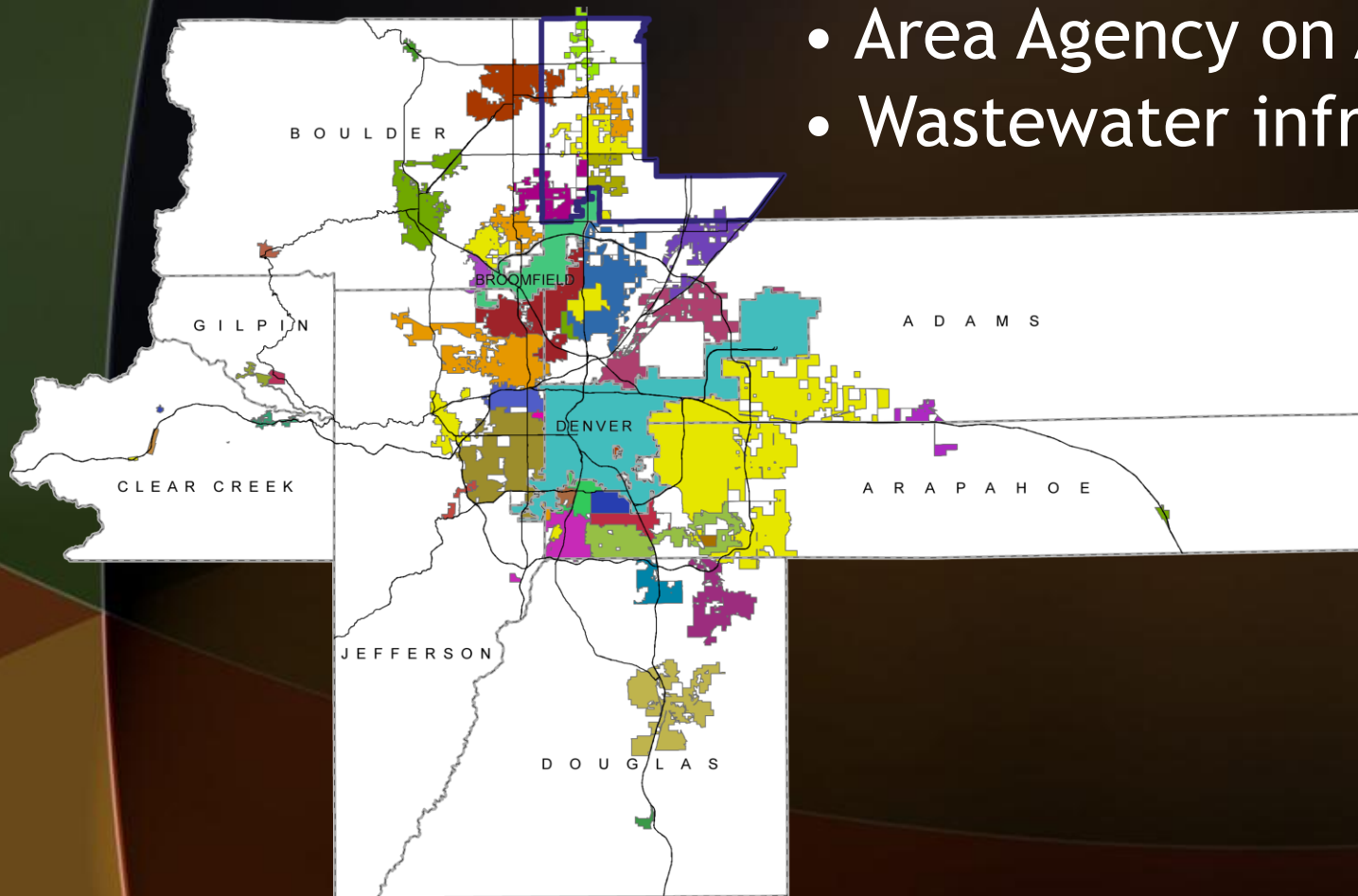
**Jennifer Schaufele**

**Executive Director**

**Denver Regional Council of Governments**

# What is DRCOG?

- 56 cities & counties
- Council of Governments
- Metropolitan Planning Org.
- Area Agency on Aging
- Wastewater infrastructure

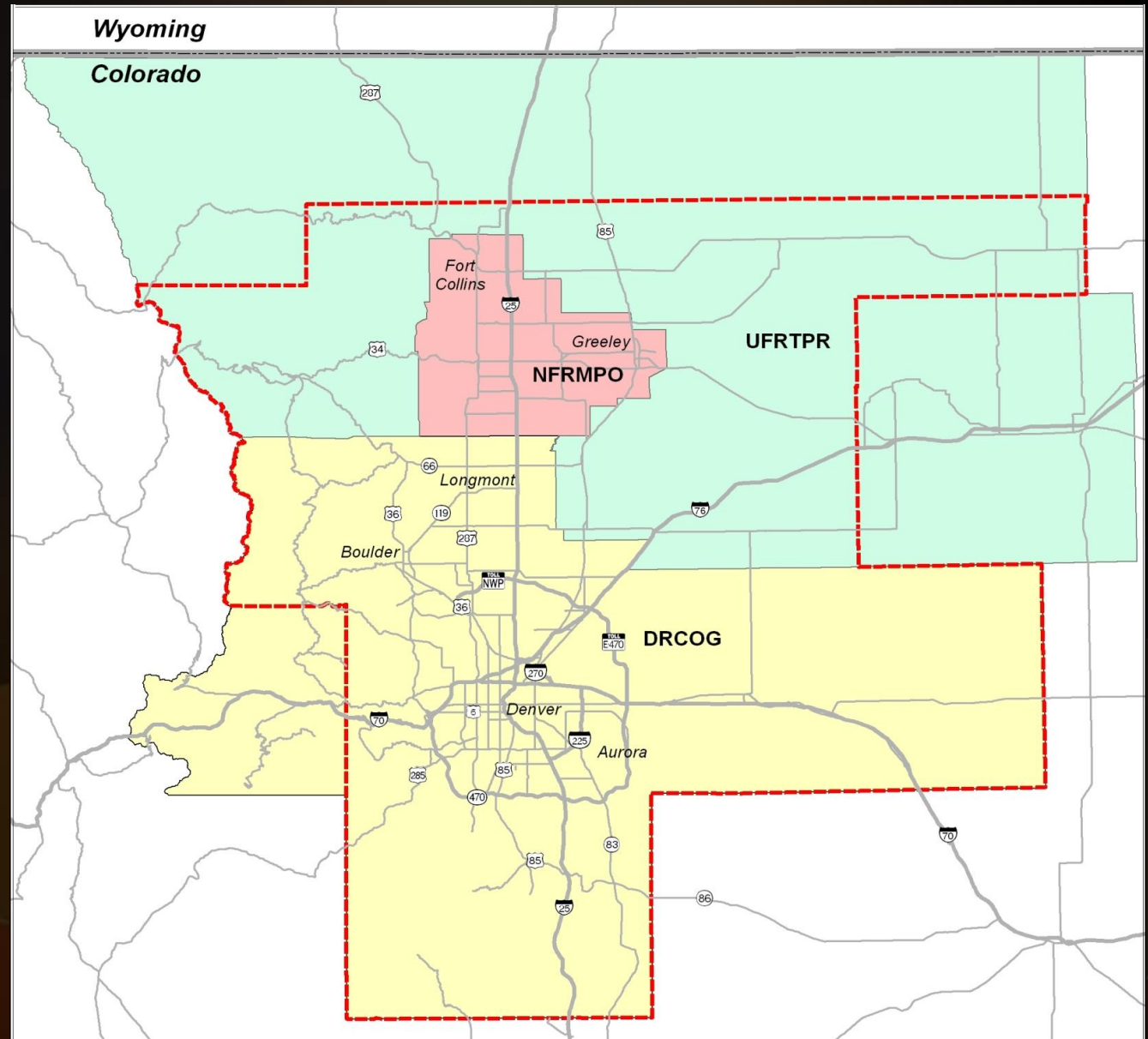


# What's DRCOG's position on Sustainability?

1. Urban center growth
2. Water use reduction
3. Transit, bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure
4. Mode share
5. Vehicle miles traveled (VMT)
6. Transportation-related GHG emissions

# What's the Immediate Air Quality Problem?

## Ozone



# Air Quality Conformity Collaboration

- **Air Pollution Control Division**
  - Models pollutant inventories & mobile source emissions
- **State Air Quality Control Commission (AQCC)**
  - Defines the role and responsibility of agencies involved with conformity determination (AQCC, APCD, CDOT, RAQC, MPOs)
  - Provides for requirements related to street sanding and sweeping for PM10 emissions reduction
- **RAQC**
  - Identifies control measures, prepares SIPs

# **Air Quality Conformity Collaboration**

- **MOA between CDPHE, RAQC, CDOT, DRCOG, UFRTPR, and NFRMPO**
  - Guides joint cooperative process associated conformity with the 8-hour ozone SIP
- **MOU between RAQC and DRCOG (upcoming)**
  - Specifies the relationship and responsibilities for the coordinated air quality planning process in the Denver region
  - Required by USDOT
- **All planning agencies plus CDOT, RTD and others fund and/or implement control measures, strategies, and programs intended to attain and maintain good air quality**

# Air Quality Conformity Collaboration

## Interagency Consultation Group

- Review team defined by AQCC regulations
- DRCOG hosts EPA, FHWA, APCD, CDOT, RAQC, RTD, NFRMPO
  - Consultation on conformity and planning assumptions
  - Determine regionally significant and exempted projects
  - Consultation on the development and implementation of SIP TCMs
  - Sharing of news and schedules pertaining to air quality



# **Air Quality Conformity Collaboration: DRCOG Roles and Responsibilities**

- **Preparing transportation conformity determination documents (details to follow)**
- **Facilitating the interagency consultation process**
- **Defining when regionally significant project changes trigger conformity determination**
- **Conducting land use and transportation modeling**

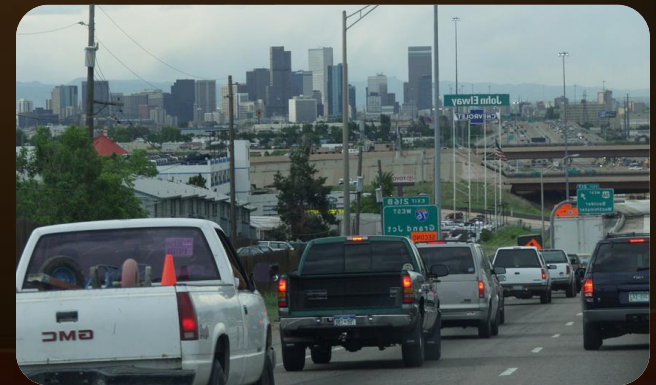


# **Air Quality Conformity Collaboration: DRCOG Roles and Responsibilities**

- Obtaining commitments from local governments and others for future sand reduction and sweeping
- Funding projects that implement SIP transportation control measures (TREX light rail transit)
- Funding and/or operates programs that directly improve air quality
  - RAQC: Ozone Aware, Diesel Retrofit, Idle Reduction
  - RideArrangers, Traffic Signal System Coordination

# What Triggers Conformity Determinations?

- Plan and program updates and amendments
  - Fiscally-constrained Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)
  - TIP (Transportation Improvement Program)
  - Any regionally significant amendment to RTP
    - Road widening or new road of 1-mile +
    - New interchange (or new movement)
    - Transit (new station, new rail line)
    - Change to project staging year (e.g., 2030 to 2035)
- RTP and TIP must also conform to SIPs
  - Emissions with RTP or TIP must be less than SIP emission budgets



# **DRCOG Conformity Process**



# Air Quality Conformity Collaboration

- Air Quality Control Commission
- Colorado Department of Transportation
- Denver Regional Council of Governments
- Environmental Protection Agency
- Federal Highway Administration
- Interagency Coordination Group
- Regional Air Quality Council
- Regional Transportation District
- 56 member governments throughout the region