

# Colorado's Greenhouse Gas Reduction Transportation Planning Standard

Joint Interim Committee On Transportation Oversight  
State of Oregon  
February 10, 2026



**COLORADO**  
Department of Transportation



# Presentation Agenda



- **Overview of Legislation in Colorado**
- **Colorado's GHG Pollution Reduction Roadmap**
- **Colorado's Transportation Planning Standard**
  - Overview of the Process
  - Public Outreach Efforts
  - Required Reduction Levels
  - Compliance Determination
  - GHG Mitigation Measures
- **CDOT's 10-Year Plan and Regional Transportation Plans**
  - CDOT's GHG Transportation Report for its Proposed 10-Year Plan
  - CDOT's Statewide Plan Goals and Performance Objectives
  - Overview of Projects in non-MPO Areas of Colorado
  - Overall Compliance with Standard
  - Overview of Efforts with MPO Partners
- **On-going Reporting and Compliance Efforts**



# Colorado's Requirements and Actions

## Development of the GHG Planning Standard

In statute, Colorado has ambitious Climate Action Goals to help achieve net zero emissions from all sectors by 2050. The Polis Administration has developed a vision and Roadmap to help to achieve these goals and targets.

### Colorado's Statutory Requirements

#### [House Bill 19-1261 - Climate Action Plan to Reduce Pollution](#)

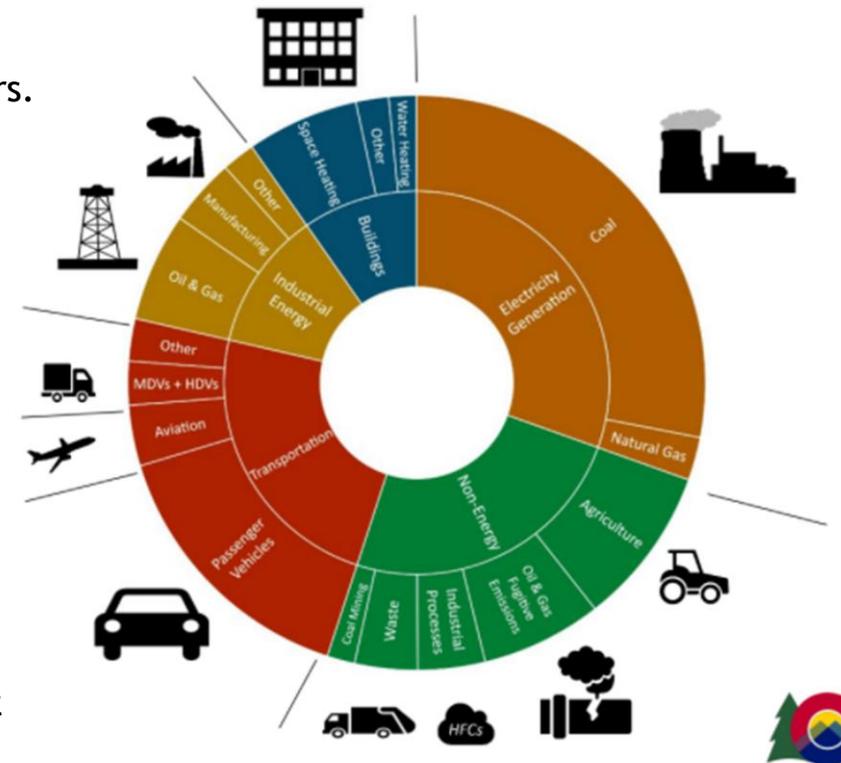
- Reduce GHG emissions 26% by 2025, 50% by 2030, and 90% by 2050 across all sectors.

#### [Senate Bill 23-016 - Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction Measures](#)

- updated and added additional GHG reduction targets across all sectors.
  - Reduce 2035 GHG emissions by at least 65% of 2005 levels
  - Reduce 2040 GHG emissions by at least 75% of 2005 levels
  - Reduce 2045 GHG emissions by at least 90% of 2005 levels
  - Reduce 2050 GHG emissions by 100% of 2005 levels

### Administration Actions

- GHG Pollution Reduction Roadmaps
  - [Roadmap 1.0](#) published in January 2021
  - [Roadmap 2.0](#) published in February 2024
- [Colorado Transportation Vision 2035](#)
  - Established a systematic framework for expanded transportation choices that outlines goals and strategies that expand transportation options to meet Colorado's climate, affordability, safety, and equity goals.





# Colorado's GHG Pollution Reduction Roadmap

## Transportation Near Term Actions

### Reduce pollution from transportation sector ~12.7 million tons by 2030

6 MMT  
Reduction

Low and Zero Emission Vehicle Rules

2 MMT  
Reduction

Utility and public investment in fleet turnover and infrastructure for light-duty zero emission vehicles (SB19-077, electrification investments from SB21-260)

1.5 MMT  
Reduction

GHG Transportation Planning Standard



3.2 MMT  
Reduction

Collectively, the other strategies will target remaining 3.2 million metric tons:

- Incentivize land use to increase housing near jobs and reduce VMT and pollution
- Clean trucking strategy - infrastructure, fleet incentives, consider regulatory tools such as advanced clean trucks and fleet rules
- Participate in developing post 2025 vehicle standards (state and federal)
- Air Quality Control Commission evaluation of indirect source rules
- Expansion of public transit, including setting the stage for Front Range Rail



# Colorado's GHG Planning Standard

## Laying the Groundwork for Improved Transportation Plans

Planning Standard Goal: Reduce GHG emissions from the transportation sector through the development of long range transportation plans that support more travel choices.

THE LATEST ON  
TRANSPORTATION  
PLANNING

YOUR  
TRANSPORTATION  
PRIORITIES  
POWERED  
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# VISION FOR COLORADO'S TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM

10-YEAR STRATEGIC PROJECT PIPELINE

“ In May 2019, I directed the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) to embark on an effort to refresh our transportation plan and priorities based on firsthand input from residents across the state. Our goals were simple: to hear directly from Coloradans about what they need from our transportation system; to ensure that we are prioritizing precious taxpayer dollars in ways that best deliver on those needs; and to energize an ongoing statewide conversation about the vitality of transportation in connecting our daily lives. Now, with that input gathered from across the state, we're ready to present our 10-year vision for Colorado's transportation system.”

*Shoshana Lev*  
-Shoshana Lev, CDOT Executive Director

## Establishment of the GHG Pollution Reduction Planning Standard

- Senate Bill 21-260 established the foundation and requirement (Colo. Rev. Stat. § 43-1-128), building on the framework that House Bill 19-1261 set.
- The Transportation Commission then implemented the requirement with 1st of their kind rules that involved major stakeholder engagement.
- Three options were considered for reduction levels from modified transportation planning: Travel Choices (active transportation, etc.), Transit, and Land Use.
- Of the three options that were considered, Colorado set the most aggressive target at recommendation of many people including, but not limited to, legislators, advocates, and community members.
- These rules set up a framework of shared responsibility between CDOT and MPOs which requires continued collaboration and complementary action.



# Colorado's GHG Planning Standard

## Process Overview



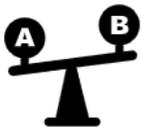
### Development of Long Range Plans

- CDOT: 10-Year Plan & Four-Year Prioritized Plan
- MPOs: Regional Transportation Plans (RTPs) & Transportation Improvement Plans (TIPs)



### GHG Pollution Reduction Impacts

Using a combination of transportation demand models and EPA MOVES, model the GHG impact of the existing transportation network and the projects in the applicable planning documents.



### Assessment of Reduction Levels

Does the agency meet the reduction levels in each year as required by the Planning Standard?

- **YES** - standard met
- **NO** - can rely on GHG Mitigation Measures (measures that can't be addressed with today's travel models)



# Colorado's GHG Planning Standard

## Stakeholder Engagement/Rulemaking

CDOT conducted a comprehensive stakeholder, public and rule making process to develop the standard within the State's Planning Rules.

- **January 2021: Advisory Board Convened and Regional Stakeholder Engagement**
  - Advisory Board met regularly - as frequently as 2x a week - to discuss rule concepts
  - CDOT held 11 regional public meetings during this time; focused on transportation stakeholders
- **August 2021: Draft rule issued for 60 day public review**
  - Nine public hearings across the State during the comment period
  - Each meeting held in a hybrid (in person/virtual) format and offered Spanish interpretation
- **October 2021: Comment period extended another 30+ days and updated draft rule issued**
  - 10<sup>th</sup> public hearing on November 10
  - In total, over 300 comments received in writing or via hearings
  - Vast majority of comments strongly supported the rule
- **November/December 2021: Final Rule Development**
  - Approved by the Colorado Transportation Commission on December 16, 2021





# Colorado's GHG Planning Standard

## Required Reduction Levels

GHG Planning Standard Sets GHG Reduction Levels for CDOT (non-MPO Areas) and each MPO through its Regional Transportation Plans and the 10-Year Plan.

### What are the Required Reduction Levels?

- **Table 1 of the Planning Standard** - Table 1 under Section 8 of 2 CCR 601-22 lays out the required GHG reduction levels for each of the MPOs and CDOT in the non-MPO areas as part of their transportation plans.
- **Achieving Reduction Levels** - Compliance may be achieved through a combination of modeling the project mix included in the 10-Year plan and GHG Mitigation measures as guided by Policy Directive (PD) 1610 - "GHG Mitigation Measures".

"Table 1" (Section 8; 2 CCR-601-22)

Regional Areas	2030 Reduction Level (MMT)	2040 Reduction Level (MMT)	2050 Reduction Level (MMT)
DRCOG	0.82	0.63	0.37
NFRMPO	0.12	0.11	0.07
PPACG	0.15	0.12	0.07
PACOG	0.03	0.02	0.01
GVMPO	0.02	0.02	0.01
<b>CDOT/Non-MPO</b>	<b>0.36</b>	<b>0.30</b>	<b>0.17</b>
<b>Total Reduction Levels</b>	<b>1.50</b>	<b>1.20</b>	<b>0.70</b>

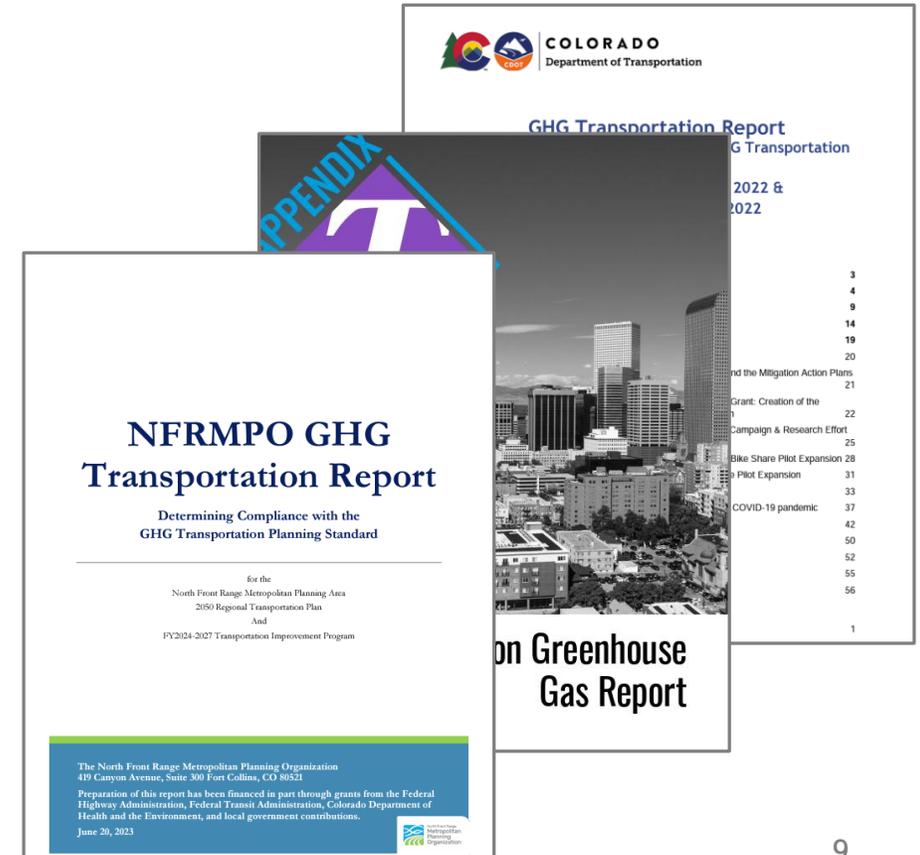


# Colorado's GHG Planning Standard Compliance Determination

Compliance with the standard is determined by the Colorado Transportation Commission through a GHG Transportation Report submitted for acceptance by the Commission from each agency.

## The GHG Transportation Report

- Reports will have the following components:
  - GHG Emissions Analysis
  - GHG Mitigation Action Plan demonstrating compliance with the Planning Standard (if required)
  - Documentation of Modeling
- **CDPHE Air Pollution Control Division Confirmation (APCD) and Verification**
  - APCD provides review and verification of technical data contained within the draft GHG Transportation Report.
- **Colorado Transportation Commission Acceptance**
  - Transportation Commission, through resolution, accepts the GHG Transportation Report as meeting the reduction levels required within the planning standard, within 30 days of receipt of the report.





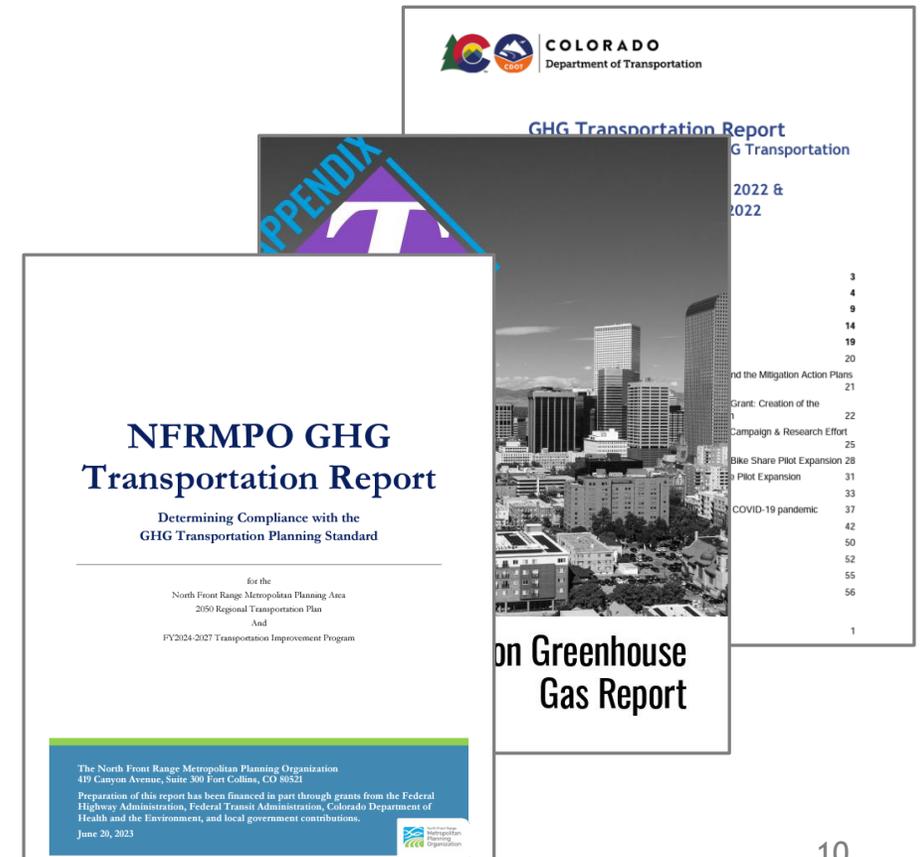
# Colorado's GHG Planning Standard GHG Mitigation Action Plans

GHG Mitigation Action Plans provide an avenue for agencies to comply with the standard through projects that provide benefits not modeled in Transportation Demand Modeling efforts.

If a **GHG Mitigation Action Plan** is submitted by CDOT or an MPO, they must provide a status report of each GHG Mitigation Measure used for compliance with the planning standard by April 1st each year.

If a applicable planning document is not accepted/report does not meet the requirements of the planning standard:

- The Transportation Commission will restrict the use of certain funds to projects and approved GHG Mitigation measures that reduce GHG Emissions.
- Waivers can be requested for specific projects as long as the project does not increase GHG emissions, based on agency priority and need.





# Colorado's GHG Planning Standard

## GHG Mitigation Measures

GHG Mitigation Measures are projects and strategies whose GHG and travel benefits cannot be accurately or easily captured and quantified in travel demand models.



If agencies do not meet their individual Reduction Levels as required by the Planning Standard, they can change the mix of projects in their transportation plans and/or use GHG Mitigation Measures:

- Transit
- Bicycle Infrastructure
- Transit-Oriented Development
- Heavy Duty Charging
- Travel Demand Management
- Walking Infrastructure
- Residential Density
- Parking Supply Reduction
- Micromobility E-Shares



# CDOT's 10-Year Plan GHG Transportation Report Compliance Results

CDOT achieves compliance with the Planning Standard through a combination of the updated 2027-2036 10-Year Plan project mix and GHG Mitigation Measures in the non-MPO areas of the State

## CDOT's FY2027-2036 10-Year Plan meets the Standard:

- The updated 2027-2036 10-Year Plan will sustainably increase transportation choice through targeted investments in transit and active transportation projects.
- CDOT is committed to supporting GHG reductions through mitigation measures to achieve compliance and in some cases go above and beyond what is required by the Standard to provide assurance necessary GHG reductions are achieved.

Compliance Year	2030	2040	2050
GHG Reductions Achieved through Modeling (MMT)	0.391	0.254	0.188
Required GHG Reductions Achieved through Mitigations (MMT)	-	0.046	-
Voluntary GHG Reductions Achieved through Mitigations (MMT)	0.038	0.002	0.031
<b>Total GHG Reductions Achieved (MMT)</b>	<b>0.429</b>	<b>0.302</b>	<b>0.219</b>
Table 1 Required GHG Reduction Amount (MMT)	0.360	0.300	0.170
<b>Compliance Achieved?</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Yes</b>



# CDOT's 10-Year Plan

## Statewide Plan Goals and Performance Objectives



### Fix Our Roads

Prioritize strategic investments in Colorado's highways to improve infrastructure conditions.

#### Performance Measures

- Bridge Condition
- Pavement Condition



### Advancing Transportation Safety

No matter where you're going or how you're getting there, Colorado is committed to providing you a safe and efficient transportation network, so you arrive at your destination safely.

#### Performance Measures

- Traffic-Related Fatalities and Serious Injuries
- Vulnerable Road Users



### Sustainably Increase Transportation Choice

Provide alternatives to single occupancy vehicle travel that increase choices and reduce air pollution from transportation.

#### Performance Measures

- GHG Reduction
- VMT Per Capita
- Statewide Transit



# CDOT's 10-Year Plan

## Overview of Projects in Non-MPO Areas

CDOT's Next 10-Year Plan includes a mix of strategic projects that focus on sustainably increasing transportation choice in addition to safety and fixing our roads goals

### Of the 164 projects in non-MPO areas of the state:

- 71 projects will have elements to improve active transportation and/or transit, aligning with Sustainably Increase Transportation Choice goal.

### Project Highlights:

- Mountain Rail - Will connect the mountain towns and regions with urban centers and recreational locations.
- Regional Bustang - \$60 million to support bus fleet replacement which supports maintaining service and 16 projects which invest in Outrider stops, mobility hubs, maintenance facilities and previous deployment of new "Pegasus" micro-transit service to complement reconstruction of the "Floyd Hill" segment of I-70.
- Local Transit - 25 projects in non-MPO areas which support development of transit centers, transfer stations, fleet expansions, stop improvements or support new or expanded local agency service.
- Active Transportation - 28 projects will include active transportation elements including adding, repaving and improving sidewalks and intersections along with other multimodal improvements.

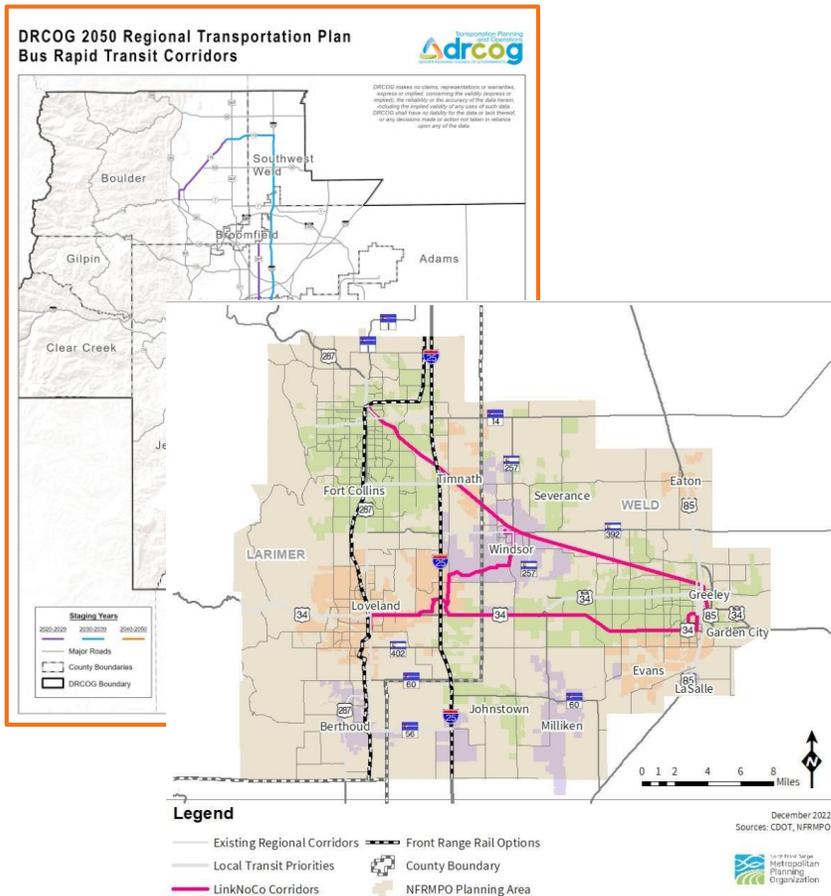




# MPO Regional Transportation Plans

## Overview of Efforts from Colorado's MPOs

CDOT's Next 10-Year Plan includes a mix of strategic projects that focus on sustainably increasing transportation choice in addition to safety and fixing our roads goals



### Examples from Metropolitan Planning Organizations:

- **Denver Regional Council of Government's (DRCOG)** most recently adopted Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) allocates 85 percent the total \$2.2 billion in total investments to active transportation and transit projects, including:
  - East Colfax, CO 119, & Federal Blvd. Bus Rapid Transit Projects
  - Complete Streets, Bike and Pedestrian, and other multimodal projects throughout the Denver Region
- **North Front Range MPO's (NFRMPO)** latest regional transportation plan is providing \$470 million in additional investments towards multimodal projects including:
  - US 34 Transit Service between Loveland and Greeley
  - Expansion of Transportation Demand Management Programs in the Region
  - Expansion of local bike and pedestrian networks



# Fix Our Roads

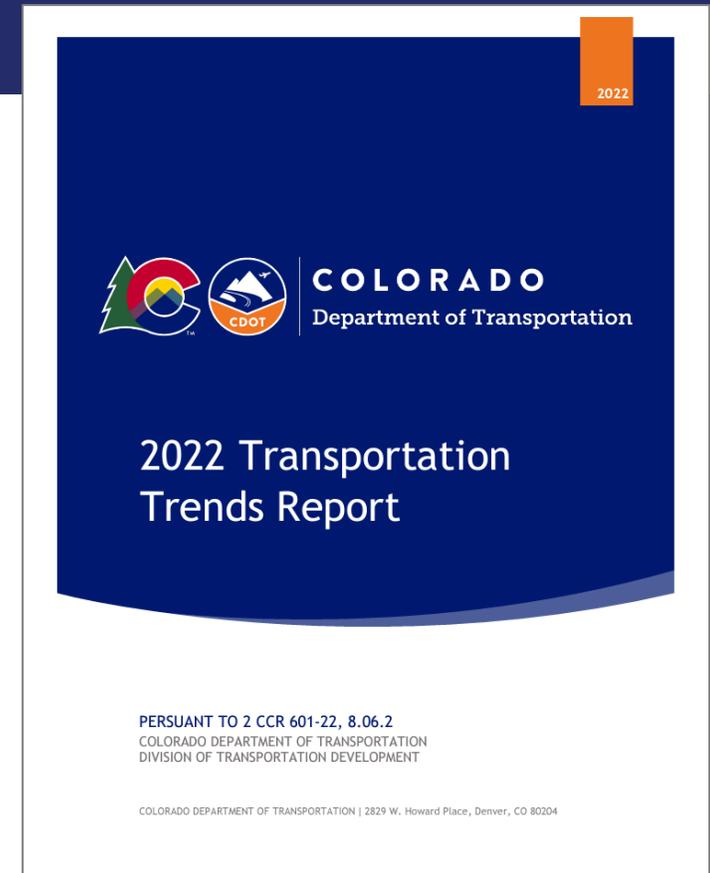
## Addressing Bridges and Structures in Regions 1, 2 & 4

CDOT also prepares regular reports regarding the process to help inform progress on the GHG Planning Standard as a whole and inform future updates.

CDOT Produces the **Transportation Trends Report** annually in October and submits to the Transportation Commission. Includes relevant factors that could help the Commission determine if a policy change is needed.

### Accomplishments Report to the Transportation Commission and CDPHE Air Pollution Control Division (every three years)

- 1st Statewide Transportation GHG Reduction Accomplishments Report - July 1, 2025.
- Elements of the report will include:
  - Noted compliance with reduction levels from CDOT and each of the five MPOs.
  - Acceptance of GHG Transportation Reports for each required planning document from 2022 to 2025.
  - Application and effectiveness of GHG Mitigation Measures used by CDOT/MPOs during the reporting period.
  - Updates to the Planning Standard, if applicable.





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For follow-up questions or comments please contact:

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