Way to Go can help you get around the region, whether it's work, school or the other places you need to go





Go-Tober closes out its sixth competition

The sixth annual Go-Tober Challenge wrapped up on the last day of October. More than two dozen Denver-area employers accepted the challenge to encourage their employees to forgo driving to work alone and try out biking,

walking and teleworking in an effort to decrease the Denver region's traffic congestion and improve the air quality.

Way to Go is extra proud of the Go-Tober participants this year who showed that even during a pandemic, you can try a new commute. Congratulations to this year's Go-Tober Champions!

- Mighty Minis Urban Trans
- Superheroes Rocky Mountain Institute
- Musketeers Native Roots
- Troopers Denver Water
- Crusaders National Renewable Energy Laboratory

Want to find ways you can practice sustainable commute methods? Contact us at waytogo@drcog.org and learn more!





Bike to Wherever Week was a success!

This year Way to Go launched its first virtual event, <u>Bike to Wherever Week</u>, to replace the COVID-19-cancelled Bike to Work Day. People from all over the region pledged to ditch their cars for a day and take their bikes out for a spin – whether it was to ride to a workplace, the store, the park or the coffee shop.

Way to Go posted stretching videos and smoothie recipes to help prepare bikers before they hit the road and ended the week with a fun #FlashbackFriday video to celebrate 30 years of encouraging biking.

Thank you to all of our partners for helping make this event a success! To keep up with Way to Go's events, visit us at <u>waytogo.org</u>.



Transportation photo contest

Do you love photography and transportation? Then the Denver Regional Council of Governments transportation photo contest is perfect for you! The contest is an opportunity to share your talent and your transportation-related snapshots of our region. Winning photos will be featured in our upcoming

2050 Metro Vision Regional Transportation Plan, and the grand prize winner will receive a gift basket of locally sourced items and goodies from businesses in the Denver region.

Photo contest rules:

- The photo contest will run from Dec. 14, 2020, through Jan. 20, 2021.
- Photos must have been taken within the past four years.
- Photos should not contain identifiable people.
- By posting a photo, you certify you are the sole owner of original work.
- By posting a photo, you agree that submissions may be used by DRCOG in future print and digital publications and communications, with proper credit to the photographer.
- Photos must be taken within the nine-plus county DRCOG region (Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Broomfield, Clear Creek, Denver, Douglas, Gilpin, Jefferson and southwest Weld counties).

Subjects might include:

- active transportation (walking or biking)
- roads
- multimodal (multiple modes of travel)
- bridges
- transit
- traffic
- railroads
- aviation
- freight

DRCOG staff will choose five finalists to have their photos featured in the 2050 Metro Vision Regional Transportation Plan to be released in early 2021. DRCOG staff will contact you via social media if your photo has been chosen, and the finalists will also be announced on DRCOG social media accounts. The general public will be asked to vote for the grand prize winner through social media. The grand prize winner will receive a box of goodies made by Denverregion small businesses.

How to submit photos:

It's simple. Starting on Dec. 14, post your photo on Instagram, Twitter or Facebook with the hashtag #LetsGo2050 or send your photo by email to photocontest@drcog.org.

For questions and more details, contact Lisa Houde at Ihoude@drcog.org.



Bicycle Colorado brings e-bikes to lowincome Coloradans

This fall, Bicycle Colorado partnered with the Colorado Energy Office and Northeast Transportation Connections to create the Can Do Colorado eBike Program, providing e-bikes to low-income Coloradans at no cost. The program shifts residents' transportation habits and demonstrates that electric bikes are a safe, healthy and convenient way for them to take essential trips around town. In September, Bicycle Colorado distributed 13 e-bikes along with essentials including helmets, locks and lights to the first participants of the program, and so far its had tremendous feedback. "The bike is a blast to ride and such a better economical and environmentally conscious choice," one participant told Bicycle Colorado.

The fall program rollout will also inform a statewide pilot in 2021. Learn more on the <u>Bicycle Colorado website</u>.



Boulder Transportation Connectionsquarterly meeting

Boulder Transportation Connections holds its final quarterly meeting of 2020 on Dec. 10 at 11:30 a.m. Join to hear the City of Boulder's report on progress for its transportation master plan.

Boulder Transportation Connections will present the wide range of work it has accomplished in 2020. Boulder Mental Health Partners will facilitate an interactive session on tips for remaining happy and engaged over the holidays despite the challenges of COVID-19. There will be time for interaction and break out sessions during the event. RSVP for the meeting.



REGIONAL AIR QUALITY COUNCIL

Regional Air Quality Council Clean Air Champions recognition program

Aligning with its mission to "improve air quality and protect Colorado's health, environment and economy," the Regional Air Quality Council is looking to recognize entities (such as public, private and nonprofit organizations, local governments and municipalities) that demonstrate a commitment to improving air quality in the Denver region. The Regional Air Quality Council has identified the following categories as being of interest:

- Diesel: recognizing entities that are working toward reducing emissions from medium- and heavy-duty diesel engines both on- and off-road
- Electrification: recognizing entities that are working toward reducing emissions through supporting electrification efforts
- Transit and outreach options: recognizing entities that are promoting programs and projects that encourage low- and no-emission transit options

If you know of any entity you believe should be recognized for its efforts and awarded in the Regional Air Quality Council's first round of Clean Air Champions, or if you would like more information, please contact Matt Mines at mmines@raqc.org and Jessica Ferko at jferko@raqc.org.



Local government resource library

The Regional Air Quality Council is committed to helping local governments design and implement programs and policies that help communities improve air quality. To aid in the effort, it has compiled a reference library with example

ordinances, toolkits and other materials. For more information or assistance, or to provide feedback on additional resources to include in the library, please contact Jessica Ferko at jferko@raqc.org.



Smart Commute's 144th FlexRide shuttle celebrates a year of service!

Smart Commute Metro North's 144th FlexRide service turned a year old on Nov. 11. The shuttle service, started in 2019, primarily serves shift work employees between the Wagon Road Park-n-Ride and multiple businesses located at 144th Avenue and I-25. By the end of October, the shuttle has served over 12,000 passengers — not bad for a 15-passenger bus that has been limited to five riders per vehicle under the Regional Transportation District's COVID-19 service plan!

The continued success of the shuttle service during the COVID-19 pandemic stems from the increased need for workforce transit for many employees of essential businesses located in the quadrant. Employers, including Saint Anthony North Health Campus, grocery stores, pharmacies, restaurants and a very large Amazon fulfillment center, have a significant number of transit-

dependent employees. While the Denver metro area generally experienced a decrease in transit use, the 144th FlexRide has experienced steady ridership throughout the COVID-19 stay-at-home and safer-at-home phases and continues to see an increase in essential workforce passengers heading into December.

With such positive results in this challenging year, Smart Commute Metro North remains optimistic about the success of the 144th FlexRide. It's exploring the possibility of introducing more mobility options to employers at 144th Avenue and I-25 in 2021.

For questions or to learn more, contact <u>Catherine</u> <u>Sanders at catherine@smartcommutemetronorth.org.</u>





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