



1/29/2024

**Transportation Commission of Colorado  
Rules Governing Statewide Transportation Planning Process and Transportation Planning Regions  
2 CCR 601-22**

**Updated Proposed Statement of Basis and Purpose, Statutory Authority**

**Statement of Basis and Purpose**

**Overview**

The purpose of the Rules Governing the Statewide Transportation Planning Process and Transportation Planning Regions (Rules) is to prescribe the statewide transportation planning process through which a long-range multimodal, comprehensive Statewide Transportation Plan will be developed, integrated, updated, and amended by the Colorado Department of Transportation (Department or CDOT), in cooperation with local governments, Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs), Regional Planning Commissions, Indian tribal governments, relevant state and federal agencies, the private sector, transit and freight operators, and the general public. This cooperative process is designed to coordinate regional transportation planning, guided by the statewide transportation policy set by the Department and the Transportation Commission of Colorado (“Commission”), as a basis for developing the Statewide Transportation Plan. The result of the statewide transportation planning process shall be a long-range, financially feasible, environmentally sound, multimodal transportation system plan for Colorado that will reduce traffic and smog.

Further, the purpose of the Rules is to define the state's Transportation Planning Regions for which long-range Regional Transportation Plans are developed, prescribe the process for conducting and initiating transportation planning in the non-MPO Transportation Planning Regions and coordinating with the MPOs for planning in the metropolitan areas. Memoranda of Agreement (MOA) that serve as the Metropolitan Planning Agreements (MPAs) pursuant to 23 C.F.R. § 450 between the Department, each MPO, and applicable transit provider(s) further prescribe the transportation planning process in the MPO Transportation Planning Regions. In addition, the purpose of the Rules is to describe the organization and function of the Statewide Transportation Advisory Committee (STAC) as established by § 43-1-1104, Colorado Revised Statutes (C.R.S.).

The Rules are promulgated to meet the intent of both the U.S. Congress and the Colorado General Assembly for conducting a continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive statewide performance-based multimodal transportation planning process for producing a Statewide Transportation Plan and Regional Transportation Plans that address the transportation needs of the State. This planning process, through comprehensive input, results in systematic project prioritization and resource allocation.

The Rules, governing the statewide planning process, emphasize Colorado’s continually greater integration of multimodal, cost-effective, and environmentally sound means of transportation which leads to cleaner air and reduced traffic. The Rules reflect the Commission’s and the Department’s focus on multimodal



transportation projects including highways, transit, rail, bicycles and pedestrians. Section 8 of these Rules establishes an ongoing administrative process for identifying, measuring, confirming, and verifying those best practices and their impacts, so that CDOT and MPOs can easily apply them to their plans in order to achieve the pollution reduction levels required by these Rules.

The specific purpose of this rulemaking is to consider changes to Section 2 (Transportation Planning Regions) and Section 3 (Statewide Transportation Advisory Committee) of the Rules as recommended by CDOT staff and published in the [“HB 23-1101: Transportation Planning Region Study \(TPR Study\).”](#) The proposed changes include the addition of minimum requirements in a TPR’s governing documents, changes to the boundaries of several TPRs, and requirements related to the process for how the Statewide Transportation Advisory Committee (STAC) selects its officers. Additionally, The Commission is also considering changes to Rule 1.11, the definition of Disproportionately Impacted Communities, to conform the Rule’s definition to recent changes in state statute.

### Why the Commission is Taking This Action

HB 23-1101, signed into law by the Governor on April 28, 2023, includes a requirement that, following the completion of the TPR Study and with considerations of the findings of the study, the Commission shall initiate updates to the Rules before June 1, 2024. Because CDOT and the TPRs will begin updates to the statewide and regional transportation plans during Summer, 2024, the Commission is authorizing the opening of the Rules in January so that any changes to the TPRs will be completed at the start of the state and regional planning processes.

### Statutory Authority

The statutory authority is as follows:

- § 43-1-131(3), C.R.S., which requires the Commission to initiate updates to the Rules before June 1, 2024.
- § 43-1-1101, C.R.S., which authorizes CDOT to develop and maintain the state transportation planning process and the State Transportation Plan in cooperation with Regional Planning Commissions and local government.
- § 43-1-1103(5), C.R.S., which authorizes the Commission to promulgate rules to establish the formation of the Statewide Transportation Plan and the statewide planning process.
- § 43-1-106(8)(k), C.R.S., which authorizes the Commission to make all necessary and reasonable order, rules and regulations.

