



MEDIA Release

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For Immediate Release:

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DRCOG HONORS LAKEWOOD AND DENVER FOR SHERIDAN STATION 20-MINUTE NEIGHBORHOOD

April 24, 2015 (Denver, Colorado) – Lakewood and Denver were honored by the Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG) for the Sheridan Station 20-Minute Neighborhood Implementation Strategy and Mountair Park Community Farm. The Local Government Award was presented to representatives of both jurisdictions, along with partner The West Line Collaborative, at the regional council's 2015 Awards Celebration and 60th Anniversary, held April 22 at the Seawell Grand Ballroom in the Denver Center for the Performing Arts Complex.

The project earned Gold recognition in the awards program's Planning for Economic Development category. That category recognizes exceptional contributions to regional economic development through innovative municipal and county efforts to create vibrant and vital places where people live, work and play. The awards program recognizes follow-through on multiple goals of the region's long-range plan, known as Metro Vision.

In presenting the award, DRCOG Vice Chair Elise Jones said the 20-Minute Neighborhood Strategy built upon adopted station area plans and looked at ways to improve multimodal connections to destinations meeting daily needs of residents within 20 minutes or a half-mile walking distance from the station. The project included significant stakeholder engagement, including community and task force meetings, stakeholder interviews, and project steering committee meetings. The outcome was priority recommendations focused around connectivity and mobility, jobs, housing, healthy living, marketing and branding, and destinations and community events.

Several priority recommendations are already being implemented, including the creation of the Mountair Community Farm just blocks from the Sheridan station. The farm, operated by nonprofit Sprout City Farms, provides residents access to and education about fresh, locally grown produce, serves as a gathering place for the community, provides opportunities for collaboration with neighborhood schools, Head Start and other community partners, and promotes economic wealth building for residents through a Denver Foundation grant.

DRCOG's Local Government Awards program has recognized local governments for regional leadership and service since 1982.

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The council of governments is a nonprofit collaborative association governed by a Board of Directors representing 56 county and municipal governments. Board members work together to achieve a better future for the Denver region. Through Metro Vision, the plan to manage growth over the next 25 years, the region's local governments work cooperatively to address development, land use, transportation, environmental quality and older adult issues.