



COMPETITIVE ENERGY:
ACCELERATING AHEAD.
REPORT TO INVESTORS



Metro Denver
Economic Development Corporation

FROM OUR CHAIRS

First and foremost, thank you for your continued commitment to the Metro Denver EDC. Civic leadership is a rare commodity and its burden is often heavy. But if Metro Denver's history is any indication, leadership from the business community has been and continues to be crucial in our major economic achievements.

As we celebrate our second year of the Metro Denver EDC, we can look back with great pride that the strategic plan we forged together has been executed with great precision. In 2004, we set out six strategic goals:

In the area of mobility, we were instrumental in passing the FasTracks initiative in 2004. By 2017, the entire region will be accessible by rail and bus rapid transit. Our achievement has caught the attention of the world.

Our willingness to step in early in the Referenda C & D election was a major factor in the passage of Referendum C. Now, our highly vaunted higher-education system, the major casualty of budget cuts and other constitutional spending requirements, is no longer on life support. According to firsthand reports from site selectors, the TABOR "time out" has renewed their interest in Metro Denver as a place for new jobs and investment.

We have continued our focus on existing business, retaining jobs and aiding expansions. Eighty percent of job growth comes from existing firms. At the Metro Denver EDC, 80 percent of our day-to-day work is with our own, local companies.

Denver International Airport continues to fulfill its promise with record-setting passenger traffic. The exit of United Airlines from bankruptcy retained 5,000 local jobs and millions of dollars of economic impact. The announcement of Southwest Airlines' return to Denver, after a long hiatus, holds the promise of another 2-plus million new passengers. We continue to work with international carriers for routes to Munich and Asia.

Capitalizing on all the "good news" about Metro Denver, our national marketing campaign is in full swing. In October, we issued *Toward a More Competitive Colorado* (sponsored by Qwest), an analysis of Colorado's competitive position in over 160 different measurements and an analysis of our major industry clusters. From this effort, the Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce created the Colorado Competitive Council to focus on improving our competitiveness through legislation and public policy.

We remain ever watchful for new opportunities that can improve the economy in Metro Denver and Northern Colorado. This past year, the U.S. Department of Labor awarded the region a \$15 million WIRED (Workforce Innovation in Regional Economic Development) grant.

This grant will be used to strengthen our workforce training system and create a better alignment with education and economic development.

It has been another year of great achievement for our region. We are proud of the confidence you have demonstrated in the Metro Denver EDC with your continuing investment. And, we look forward to another year of economic success and new jobs through the leadership you provide.



Nancy Tuor
Nancy Tuor
Vice Chair
CH2M HILL



Kirk MacDonald
Kirk MacDonald
President & CEO
Denver Newspaper Agency

ACCELERATING AHEAD

THESE DAYS, YOU CAN FEEL THE ENERGY IN METRO DENVER.

In 2005, thanks to the support of our investors, Metro Denver's economic development efforts moved forward at a rapid pace. Key voter initiatives supporting transportation, tax reform, and the arts were approved. Prospect activity reached an all-time high. And Metro Denver now, more than ever, is on the collective radar of corporate site selectors nationwide.

We invite you to take a look at how the contributions of our investors have created more competitive energy in Metro Denver.

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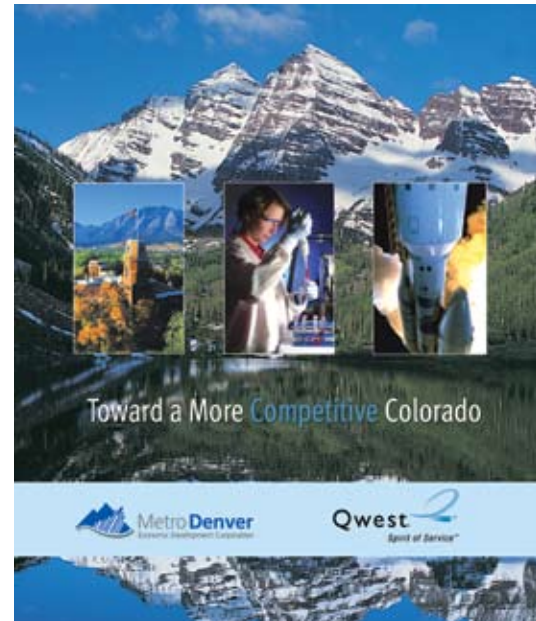
YEAR-IN-REVIEW – COMPETITIVENESS

COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE: METRO DENVER.

As economic development activity in the Metro Denver region accelerates, the Metro Denver EDC has been busy crafting and implementing a strategy to maintain and expand our competitive energy in economic development.

The year 2005 was marked with successful initiatives, from the passage of Referendum C to the launch of Metro Denver's "business brand," to major company relocations in the aerospace and energy industries and the execution of a successful national marketing and public relations campaign.

We also completed and released an exhaustive 18-month study, *Toward a More Competitive Colorado* (sponsored by Qwest), to examine where our state stands nationally for economic and job growth. The report was distributed to our investors, economic development partners, state legislators, area business organizations, and the local media.



ACCELERATING INTO 2006 WITH A \$1.7 MILLION ENDOWMENT.

The Metro Denver EDC received a resounding endorsement from the business community at its Annual Report to Investors and Awards Luncheon on March 22, 2006, in the form of a \$1.7 million check from Denver-based engineering firm CH2M HILL. The donation will fund an endowment to support future job growth and capitalize on special economic development opportunities.

CH2M Hill worked closely with Kaiser-Hill to successfully clean up the Rocky Flats site ahead of schedule on behalf of the U.S. Department of Energy. "The achievement of the Rocky Flats cleanup was made possible through the strong support and engagement of the entire metropolitan Denver community," said Ralph Peterson, chairman, president and chief executive officer of CH2M HILL. "On behalf of the Kaiser-Hill team, this contribution to the Metro Denver Economic Development Corporation reflects our appreciation for the partnership in this success and our mutual commitment to the strong economic future for the region."



WHAT DOES THE FUTURE HOLD FOR COLORADO BUSINESS?

Toward a More Competitive Colorado Report

Toward a More Competitive Colorado garnered considerable local media attention after it was released in the fall of 2005.

Overall, the findings of Colorado's first report on our state's competitiveness are encouraging, optimistic, and positive.

What we learned was compelling. Colorado remains a great place to live and do business. The state is competitive for job growth, and our citizens are remarkably healthy, productive, and innovative. We have made many good decisions to ensure that our state will continue to provide job opportunities, higher than average wages, and diverse employment options for our citizens.

What makes Colorado most competitive?

- >> Ability to recruit and retain scientific and technical talent
- >> An overall highly educated and skilled workforce
- >> Affordable business operating costs
- >> Favorable tax policies and pro-business state and local governments
- >> Proximity to quality colleges and universities
- >> Overall better quality of life

COLORADO, COMPARED TO OUR COMPETITORS.

4TH

most HIGHLY EDUCATED state for college graduates

2ND

Lowest business TAX BURDEN

10TH

most PRODUCTIVE WORKFORCE

4TH

highest in VENTURE CAPITAL investments

9TH

highest in PATENTS per million population

3RD

lowest in HEART DISEASE deaths

LOWEST

OBESITY rate in the nation

THERE ARE SOME CHALLENGES AHEAD.

Toward a More Competitive Colorado

The report also discovered areas where our state is challenged, and a number of trends that, if unchecked, pose potential long-term roadblocks to job creation.

Among the biggest challenges are Colorado's rankings for education and road and bridge conditions. As lower-paying, lower-skilled jobs become obsolete, we must increasingly focus on maintaining our "knowledge-based economy." But a knowledge-based economy cannot flourish without a world-class infrastructure and a public and private education system that consistently produces high-quality graduates.

“A number of trends are headed downward, that, if unchecked, pose potential long-term challenges to Colorado's historically competitive place in job creation and economic vitality.”

– *Toward a More Competitive Colorado, 2005*



TARGETING THE RIGHT INDUSTRY CLUSTERS.

The *Toward a More Competitive Colorado* report identified nine industry clusters that are important to the region's economic base, those in which Metro Denver has a marked competitive advantage. These knowledge-based industries are all primary targets for economic development retention and expansion efforts.

Five industry clusters have been targeted for job recruitment efforts:

- » **Aerospace** – Colorado has the third-largest space economy in the country and ranks second in the nation for private aerospace employment concentration.
- » **Bioscience** – Over 12,000 workers are employed in Metro Denver's bioscience industry. Metro Denver ranks ninth in the nation for companies producing medical devices.
- » **Energy** – Metro Denver is the "Balanced Energy Capital of the West." The region has seen significant growth in nonrenewable and renewable energy employment.
- » **Financial Services** – Metro Denver ranks fifth in the nation in three key market segments: banking and finance, investments, and insurance, making it the "Wall Street of the West."
- » **Information Technology/Software** – For the past seven years, the Boulder-Longmont area ranked first for highest concentration of software employment in the country.

Four industry clusters have been targeted for retention and expansion:

- » **Aviation** – With Denver International Airport and three reliever airports, we have a solid foundation of aviation workers. In addition, airplane manufacturing companies like ATG and Adam Aircraft have expanded their operations in the region.
- » **Beverage Production** – Of the 50-largest metro areas, Metro Denver has the highest employment concentration in the beverage industry with 7,000 workers involved in the production of beer and health and organic beverages.
- » **Broadcasting & Telecommunications** – Telecom faces short-term challenges, but long-term opportunities for this industry of 56,000 workers in Metro Denver are positive.
- » **Information Technology/Hardware** – Metro Denver is a leader in the magnetic and tape storage industry with over 16,000 employees in many pioneering companies.



COMPETITORS VISIT TO LEARN.

You must be doing something right when the competition comes to see how you're doing it. Throughout 2005, economic development groups from across the U.S. visited Metro Denver to learn from the success of our "regional" economic development program, which has become a national model.

Groups visiting Metro Denver included economic development professionals and civic leaders from San Diego, Phoenix, San Jose (Silicon Valley), Albuquerque, Austin, and Madison, WI.

BUSINESS CLIMATE GETS TOP RANKING.

A report conducted by the San Diego Regional Economic Development Corporation, *2005 Indicators of Sustainable Competitiveness*, ranked Denver as the second most competitive place in the U.S. to do business. We scored high for both our business climate and our ability to attract venture capital funding, finishing ahead of Portland, Raleigh, Austin, San Jose, Minneapolis, Boston, and San Diego – cities Metro Denver regularly competes with for company relocations and expansions.



SOLVING THE "COLORADO PARADOX"

The findings of the Metro Denver EDC's Competitiveness Study uniquely illustrated the "Colorado Paradox" of importing highly educated workers from other states rather than developing them in our state. With the WIRED grant, our region will be able to invest in transformational programs to expand our technical workforce.

From research to action: the new Colorado Competitive Council

To proactively address the challenges identified in the *Toward a More Competitive Colorado* report that pose short- and long-term risks to our economic growth and quality of life, the Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce formed a new statewide lobbying affiliate, the Colorado Competitive Council (C3).

Like the Metro Denver EDC, C3 is housed and supported administratively by the Chamber, with corporate sponsors funding the new organization's efforts.

C3's task for its first legislative session was to use the findings of the competitiveness report to focus on proposed bills that educate our future workforce, maintain a strong and stable business climate, and advance sound tax policy needed to support future growth in Metro Denver's targeted industry clusters. As of June 2006, 40 Chambers throughout the state have joined C3.



Expanding our competitive workforce with a \$15 million WIRED grant

In early 2006, Metro Denver received a grant through the U.S. Department of Labor's WIRED (Workforce Innovation in Regional Economic Development) initiative. Selected as one of three applicants from the state of Colorado, Metro Denver competed against a field of 100 applicants from across the country. Thirteen WIRED grants totaling \$195 million were awarded nationwide as part of President Bush's competitiveness agenda.

The Metro Denver EDC and the Denver Office of Economic Development (fiscal agent) will coordinate the WIRED grant to integrate workforce development, economic development, and education on a regional level to meet the needs of our targeted industry clusters: aerospace, bioscience, energy, and information technology.

Industry cluster liaisons will be hired by the Metro Denver EDC to assess private sector workforce development needs and to create transformational changes for key workforce education gaps.



1 TAX REFORM

GREAT COMPETITORS KNOW HOW TO STAY FOCUSED ON THE GOAL.

When the Metro Denver EDC initiated the "BreakThrough" Denver campaign, investors told us that tax reform was their top priority. Since its inception in 2003, the Metro Denver EDC has weighed in on several key pieces of legislation that affect both our state's tax system and business climate.

Tax reform leadership

In 2005, the Metro Denver EDC and the Chamber led the charge to reform Colorado's fiscal condition. Because of budget cuts from the recent recession and impending limitations imposed by the TABOR (Taxpayers Bill of Rights) amendment, the state's competitiveness was eroding following deep cuts in education, roads, and healthcare.

A statewide poll conducted in early 2005 by the Denver Metro Chamber and our organization was crucial in helping forge the compromise in the Colorado statehouse that put Referenda C & D on the November 2005 ballot.

And the \$750,000 in support that the Metro Denver EDC provided to the "Yes on C & D" campaign was crucial to the successful passage of Referendum C.

It was money well spent. Now, Colorado's economic future is brighter. The state will be able to fund higher education and the infrastructure needed to grow our knowledge-based economy. Most importantly, companies considering location or expansion see Colorado as a competitive state, one that proactively invests in its workforce and in its future.

EXISTING BUSINESS

RETENTION & EXPANSION ACTIVITIES TO GROW THE ECONOMY.

Our business climate moved forward in 2005 with significant company relocation/expansion projects coming to fruition in both the aerospace and energy clusters. In addition, prospect activity from existing businesses was a key part of increased prospect activity.

The United Launch Alliance

The Metro Denver EDC works closely with Colorado's growing aerospace industry, one of our key target clusters. In 2005, Boeing and Lockheed Martin announced the United Launch Alliance, a joint venture to increase U.S. competitiveness in the international commercial launch business. The Alliance is expected to employ 1,000 people in Metro Denver. Our organization is working with Boeing to help relocate employees from California to Metro Denver.

Rio Tinto Minerals

The newly formed Rio Tinto Minerals (RTM) selected Metro Denver for its world headquarters in 2006, a decision that will initially bring 200 high-paying jobs here.

Why Metro Denver? Rio Tinto executives cited our close proximity to a major international airport and a highly educated workforce as key factors in their decision. Other cities competing for RTM headquarters included Phoenix and Salt Lake City.

RTM was created when Rio Tinto PLC, London, one of the world's largest mining companies, combined three of its industrial minerals businesses under common management to better serve its markets.

Aviation Technology Group

Another expansion in 2005 was Aviation Technology Group's selection of the Front Range Airport in Adams County for its commercial and military jet manufacturing facilities. The company will lease facilities to manufacture the Javelin, a high-speed, high-performance aircraft. When at capacity, ATG expects to have hired 150 new employees.

BUSINESS RELOCATIONS & EXPANSIONS IN METRO DENVER - 2005

The Metro Denver EDC and its regional economic development partners assisted the following companies that expanded, relocated, or invested in Metro Denver.

Company	Product/Services	Location	Details
ATG*	Aircraft manufacturer	Watkins	Announced 150 new manufacturing jobs; leased 56,000 SF
ATG*	Aircraft manufacturer	Englewood	Doubled HQ employees to 92 employees
Ball Metal Container Corp.	Metal containers manufacturer	Golden	Retained 300 jobs; \$26 million investment
Centex Home Equity*	Mortgage/financial services	Denver	100 new jobs
Circle Graphics	Electronic billboard signs	Longmont	Retained 130 jobs; added 36; new 88,634 SF HQ
Community Power Corporation	Modular biopower systems manufacturer	Littleton	Retained 17 jobs; added 6
Corporate Express	Office supplies and services	Aurora	600 new jobs; \$7.7 million investment
Corporate Express	Office supplies and services	Northglenn	337 new jobs; \$4.8 million investment
Crocs, Inc.	Shoe manufacturer	Longmont	Added 95 new jobs; new 48,952 SF World HQ
DENSPLY Friadent CeraMed	Medical device manufacturer	Lakewood	Retained 45 jobs
Education Sales Management	Educational services	Westminster	175 new jobs
Enerplus*	Energy	Denver	25 new jobs; US HQ
Epilog Corporation	Manufacturing	Golden	Retained 40 jobs; \$4 million investment
Exclusive Resorts	Private residence vacation club	Denver	Retained 144 jobs, added 350; \$80,000 average salary
Flextronics	Electronics	Broomfield	Relocated and consolidated 175 jobs
Gambro	Medical device manufacturer	Lakewood	Announced 230 new jobs; \$16 million investment
Harlan Bakeries	Bagel manufacturer	Golden	75 new jobs; \$3.5 million investment
InsureWorx*	Software	Denver	Expansion, added 55 jobs for total of 156
Intertech Plastics, Inc.*	Manufacturing	Denver	Retained 100 jobs; 120,000 SF
Kennecott Energy*	Energy	TBA	25+ new jobs
Kroger	Groceries	Aurora	Consolidated 185 employees to new \$54 million 615,000 SF warehouse
Marsh	Insurance	Denver	Relocated 80 – 90 jobs
Maxtor Corporation	Hard disk drives	Longmont	Added 104 new jobs for total of 954
McData Corporation	Computer storage device manufacturer	Broomfield	Retained 680 employees; leased 175,000 SF New Corporate HQ; \$30 million investment

*Metro Denver EDC directly involved

Continued on next page

BUSINESS RELOCATIONS & EXPANSIONS (CONTINUED)

Company	Product/Services	Location	Details
Medcare*	Medical device manufacturing	TBA	100 new jobs; World HQ
Mile High Trim Company	Lumber retailer/wholesaler	Aurora	Retained 62 employees; \$2.5 million investment
Molson Coors*	Beverage manufacturer	Denver	120 employees; World HQ
Northrop Grumman	Software and systems integration	Aurora	350 new jobs, \$80,000 average salary; \$13 million new 75,000 SF office building
Ouray Sportswear	Embroidery	Denver	Retained 180 jobs, added 40
PharMerica	Regional billing office	Longmont	Retained 153 jobs, added 62
Pride Marketing Procurement*	Restaurant equipment distributors	Greenwood Village	25 new jobs; HQ
QAD*	Software	Englewood	50 new jobs; new regional office
Rio Tinto Minerals*	Mining	TBA	200 jobs, World HQ for mining division
Seagate Technology	Hard disk drives	Longmont	Retained 1,115 jobs, added 171 new jobs
Signature Offset	Printing	Broomfield	Relocated and consolidated 85 employees
Southwest Airlines*	Airline	Denver	40 new jobs
TransForce*	Transportation staffing	Denver	40 new jobs
TrueLogic	Financial services	Greenwood Village	Doubled workforce, added 115 jobs
Unaxis Optics	Coated optical components manufacturer	Golden	Retained 90 jobs; \$7 million investment
United Power	Utility	Brighton	\$10.5 million investment
Wanco, Inc.	Manufacturer	Arvada	Retained 120 jobs, added 55

*Metro Denver EDC directly involved



McData Corporation

Canadian Energy Trade Mission

As two of North America’s largest energy producers, Colorado and Alberta make natural partners.

In April 2005, the Metro Denver EDC and the Canadian Consulate coordinated a two-day Energy Partnering Mission with Colorado Governor Bill Owens and Denver Mayor John Hickenlooper to Alberta, Canada. The Governor and Mayor, as well as energy companies and organizations from Metro Denver, met with Canadian officials, energy companies, and research institutions to expand direct investment, partnering, and technology transfer opportunities.

The mission resulted in a November 2005 announcement by Enerplus Resources Fund, Canada’s largest conventional oil and natural gas income fund, that it would locate a new U.S. headquarters in Denver.

Another successful site selection conference

The annual fall site selection conference has become one of our most successful strategies in marketing Metro Denver’s business benefits to national site selectors, the key consultants to corporations considering location or expansions. And 2005 was no exception.

Eight facilities managers and site-selection consultants from across the country participated in this “familiarization tour” to see Metro Denver’s business assets firsthand.

The agenda included economic briefings with key business leaders, helicopter tours of the region, and VIP tours of the Fitzsimons Bioscience Campus and Lockheed Martin’s rocket manufacturing facility in Jefferson County. The site selectors also experienced Metro Denver’s culture and superb quality of life with visits to Red Rocks and the Sanctuary Golf Course, and by attending a baseball game at Coors Field.

At the panel discussion that concludes each conference, investors, economic development partners, and the local media were on hand to hear site selectors’ valuable input on site-selection trends and Metro Denver’s national competitive position for job creation.



SITE SELECTORS ARE UPBEAT ABOUT METRO DENVER

“I’m very impressed by Metro Denver’s strides to move into a new, knowledge-based economy. It is clear your economy is driven by smart people doing smart things.”

– Don Schjeldahl
The Austin Company

“Denver has an embarrassment of riches. Your region is truly a well-kept secret; you should broadcast your news to the world.”

– Ron Starnier
Director of Publication’s
Site Selection magazine

NATIONAL MARKETING

BUILD A BRAND AND THEY WILL COME.

With the introduction of the Metro Denver brand, prospect activity grew at a record pace in 2005 – in stark contrast to the beginning of 2003 when there were virtually no active deals in the pipeline.

Prospects, the national media, and our economic development colleagues noticed our effective and award-winning efforts.

Taking our story to the media

Placing positive business stories that generate national interest in Metro Denver was part of our marketing strategy in 2005, as it was in 2004.

Following a successful media trip to the East Coast in late 2004, the Metro Denver EDC led a second successful trip in January 2006. Our region's "ambassadors" this time around were Denver Mayor John Hickenlooper, Western Gas Resources President and CEO Peter Dea, and Tom Clark, executive vice president of the Metro Denver EDC.

The group met with the nation's top-tier broadcast and print media in New York City and Washington, D.C., including energy reporters and business reporters who are interested in the economy and infrastructure projects such as FasTracks and T-REX.

Energetic Bodies. Energetic Minds. ad campaign launched

In June 2005, we launched a new national advertising campaign personifying Metro Denver's healthy, intelligent, and productive workforce. Carrying the theme, "Energetic Bodies. Energetic Minds." Metro Denver's brand is a vibrant core of smart, healthy people who are more proactive because of their balanced lifestyle and Colorado's outstanding quality of life.

Advertising promoted Metro Denver to site selectors, CEOs, and the national media in magazines such as *Forbes*, *Fortune*, *Money*, and *Inc.* The campaign debuted in United Airlines' *Hemispheres* in-flight magazine, along with a 30-page editorial section on Denver.

Initial advertising will be followed by marketing that specifically targets the aerospace, bioscience, energy, information technology/software, and financial services industries.

Prospect activity up over 200%

The creation of the Metro Denver EDC, and its brand, is paying off.

- » After the Metro Denver EDC was formed in 2003, there were 26 new prospects.
- » A remarkable climb in activity began in 2004 after the launch of the metrodenver.org Web site. That year ended with a 73 percent increase in activity.
- » In 2005, after the launch of our national brand-building advertising, prospect activity grew at a record pace, resulting in a 273 percent increase over 2003 activity.
- » The average size requirement of companies considering relocations or expansions was also up, averaging approximately 100,000 square feet per project.

The bottom line is that 10,000 direct jobs, with 22,000 total jobs to support them, have been created since the Metro Denver EDC was formed. Another 16,600 direct jobs from projects initiated in the past year are pending.

Reaching out to target industry clusters

Other advertising and promotions efforts in 2005 included targeted efforts aimed at reaching our key industry clusters:

- » The Metro Denver InSite e-newsletter was developed to update site selectors on company expansions and industry news in Metro Denver.
- » Industry microsites were created on metrodenver.org to highlight Metro Denver's competitive advantages in our top recruitment industries: aerospace, bioscience, energy, financial services, and information technology/software.
- » A comprehensive marketing campaign was developed on behalf of the Colorado Space Coalition, including the spacecolorado.org Web site, an Aerospace Colorado video and magazine, and trade advertising.
- » A new trade show booth was created. Along with our economic development partners, we exhibited at the National Space Symposium, MD&M, BIO, and CoreNet trade shows.

PROSPECTS. ZERO TO 168 IN THREE YEARS.

- Beginning 2003 – 0 active prospects
- End 2003 – 26 new prospects
- 2004 – launch of Metro Denver Web site
- End 2004 – 45 new prospects
- 2005 – national ad campaign launched
- End 2005 – 97 active prospects



ENERGETIC BODIES. ENERGETIC MINDS.

REINVENTING OURSELVES, AND ATTRACTING NATIONAL ATTENTION IN THE PROCESS.

The people of Colorado have a history of being adaptable, resilient, and independent thinkers. In 2005, our ability to move forward in diverse areas received national attention – from arts funding and transit plans to redevelopment of an urban air force base.

Articles about Denver appeared in the *Christian Science Monitor* in April and November 2005. The first, “From transit to sushi to arts funding, Denver reinvents itself,” focused on the changing face of Denver as evidenced by our plans for public transit, support of the arts, and a mayor who works to foster political cooperation. The second, “Denver community proves there’s life after a base closes,” took a look at the redevelopment of Lowry Air Force Base into a thriving community.

As a result of a two-day visit by the West Coast editor and bureau chief of *The Economist*, that publication ran an article entitled “Western Sprawl – the octopus and the tortoise: Denver and Phoenix” in its November 5 issue. The article detailed Denver’s aggressive, far-reaching FasTracks project as the “octopus” and Phoenix’s less extensive plans as the “tortoise.”

Effective and award-winning

Our marketing efforts were not only effective in 2005; they won a few awards as well.

The Metro Denver EDC’s marketing efforts received high recognition by the Business Marketing Association (BMA) of Colorado, which awarded us four Gold Key Awards, breaking a BMA record for the most awards ever presented to any company or organization. Specifically, the BMA recognized the Metro Denver EDC for our national advertising, industry microsites, space video, and the *Aerospace Colorado* magazine.

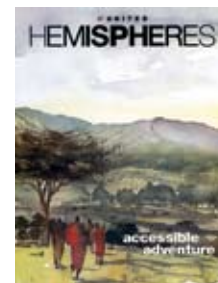
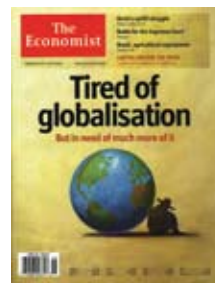
We also received three honorable mention awards from the International Economic Development Council (IEDC) for our Web site, the FasTracks economic impact report, and the FasTracks memento. IEDC’s awards recognize excellence in the economic development profession nationally.

Denver Mayor receives national recognition

Our marketing efforts also contributed to prestigious national recognition for Denver Mayor John Hickenlooper.

Following a visit to *TIME* magazine during our 2004 East Coast media tour, Mayor Hickenlooper was selected as one of *TIME*’s “Top 5 Big City Mayors” in early 2005.

Later in the year, Mayor Hickenlooper was named one of *Governing* magazine’s “Public Officials of the Year for 2005.” Nominated by the Metro Denver EDC, Mayor Hickenlooper was described by *Governing* as a “catalyst for change and unity, fostering cooperation among neighboring suburbs.”



MOBILITY ACCELERATING AHEAD. LITERALLY.

Metro Denver is also on fast-forward when it comes to moving people and solving the region’s transportation challenges. The region’s progressive transportation initiatives are becoming a model for the nation, with the T-REX project on budget and ahead of schedule, and FasTracks becoming a reality.

T-REX: a model transit project

How often do large public transportation projects finish not only on budget, but also ahead of schedule?

In marked contrast to major transportation projects in other cities (think Boston’s “Big Dig”), T-REX is scheduled to be completed in November 2006, two years ahead of schedule.

Begun in 2001, this \$1.67 billion project is the largest multi-modal project under construction in the U.S., combining light rail, highway, bike, pedestrian, and other transportation options to relieve congestion between the region’s two largest employment centers, the Denver Tech Center and downtown.

T-REX is unique not only for being on budget and ahead of schedule. It is a true design-build project and an innovative approach to addressing transportation challenges. In addition, no tax increase for citizens was involved with this joint RTD and CDOT project.

To capitalize on the success of T-REX, the Metro Denver EDC is partnering on a special national public relations effort to position the success of this transit project in the national media.

OPPORTUNITIES ACTING IN THE REGION'S BUSINESS INTERESTS

The Metro Denver EDC leverages its assets to execute focused strategies and take advantage of opportunities as they arise to act in Metro Denver’s business interests.

TRANSIT-ORIENTED DEVELOPMENTS

One year into the FasTracks project, the Metro Denver EDC is focusing on the successful development of transit-oriented developments (TODs), incorporating lessons learned from other cities.

Our commitment to the success of FasTracks includes active involvement and financial support in the efforts of RTD, local government, and development interests to create successful TODs and further our region’s vision for transforming the urban landscape through new and exciting developments along all FasTracks corridors.

FITZSIMONS BIOBUSINESS INCUBATOR

The Metro Denver EDC was one of the stakeholders that came together to fund the Fitzsimons BioBusiness Incubator (FBI) at the Fitzsimons Bioscience Campus in Aurora.

FBI is the only incubation program in Colorado specifically dedicated to moving bioscience companies from concept to commercial venture. The project will further help establish a global position for Colorado’s bioscience industry.



6 INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS

MORE CARRIERS, MORE COMPETITION.

Building on a strategy begun in 2004, the Metro Denver EDC has continued to work to bring more flights, and particularly more international flights, to Denver International Airport.

More carriers, more competition, and better fares are making Denver an even more attractive hub.

Landing Southwest

Southwest Airlines returned to Denver in January and currently operates 32 daily nonstop flights. Our strong economy was a factor cited by the airline in choosing to return, along with lower landing fees, which have dropped by 50 percent since the airport opened.

The Metro Denver EDC helped land Southwest in a number of ways. We provided the business information that the company needed to make its decision, from demographics for their research team, to data on economic growth, to information on major developments planned in the region.

Together with Colorado's own Frontier Airlines and United Airlines (Denver's largest carrier), Southwest will provide greater competition at Denver and help expose Denver to new national markets.

On our radar: more international flights

Increasing international flights is still one of our top priorities due to the economic impact (estimated at \$90 million annually per flight) and company/industry growth opportunities. We will continue our work to make flights to Munich and Asia a reality.

WHAT ELSE IS UP IN THE AIR.

» In 2006, United Airlines emerged from bankruptcy, preserving jobs in the Metro Denver region.

» Frontier Airlines added a nonstop flight in 2006 to Calgary, Canada, reinforcing our ties to the energy industry.

» Denver International Airport recorded its busiest year ever in 2005, with 43.4 million travelers. The airport has the capacity to handle double that amount.



ABOUT THE METRO DENVER EDC

THE NATION'S ONLY TRULY REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ENTITY.

The Metro Denver Economic Development Corporation (Metro Denver EDC) is a public-private not-for-profit economic development organization created by the Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce.

We are the nation's first and only truly regional economic development entity in which many member organizations collaborate to represent, and further the interests of, an entire region.

Our primary funding comes from private-sector investors, as well as participating cities and counties in Metro Denver. Initiatives are developed among member organizations, with final decision-making authority resting with an investor executive committee.

For more information, call 303.620.8092 or visit metrodenver.org.

Metro Denver EDC Staff

From back, left to right:

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METRO DENVER EDC STAFF AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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Evangeline Beaulieu
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Annie Pesusich
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The Metro Denver EDC is comprised of 60 counties, cities, and economic development agencies throughout the seven-county Metro Denver region and the two-county Northern Colorado area.

Adams County Economic Development, Inc.
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World Trade Center Denver
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Our investors represent the best of Colorado’s dynamic business community – companies that are willing to work collectively to better the Metro Denver community.

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Vectra Bank Colorado, NA
Village Homes of Colorado
Wagner Equipment Co.
Wal-Mart
Weitz Company, The
Wells Fargo Bank, NA
Western Development Group
Western Gas Resources, Inc.
Wynkoop Holdings
Xcel Energy

Investors as of May 1, 2006



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