

# Board of Directors Meeting Summary

Wednesday, April 16, 2025

Held via Zoom

## Members/Alternates Present

Colleen Whitlow, Chair	Town of Mead
Austin Ward	City and County of Broomfield
Jodie Hartman-Ball, Alternate	Clear Creek County
Adam Paul	City and County of Denver
Kevin Flynn	City and County of Denver
Andy Kerr	Jefferson County
Alison Coombs	City of Aurora
Royce Pindell, Alternate	Town of Bennett
Nicole Speer	City of Boulder
Tammy Maurer	City of Centennial
Zane Plsek	City of Central
Steve Conklin	City of Edgewater
Emily Baer	Town of Erie
Josie Cockrell	Town of Foxfield
Windi Padia	Town of Frederick
Lynette Kelsey	Town of Georgetown
Lisa Vitry	City of Golden
George Lantz	City of Greenwood Village
Brian Wong	City of Lafayette
Jeslin Shahrezaei	City of Lakewood
Stephen Barr	City of Littleton
Larry Strock, Alternate	Town of Lochbuie
Marissa Harmon	City of Lone Tree
Joan Peck	City of Longmont
Judi Kern	City of Louisville
Hollie Rogin	Town of Lyons
Kathleen Bailey	Town of Mountain View
Nichole Sterling	Town of Nederland
Richard Kondo	City of Northglenn
Erik Frandsen, Alternate	Town of Parker
Terrence Kelly	City of Sheridan
Mike Foster, Alternate	Town of Superior
Justin Martinez	City of Thornton
Sarah Nurmella	City of Westminster
Bud Starker	City of Wheat Ridge
Bill Sirois	Regional Transportation District

Others Present: Douglas W. Rex, Executive Director, Melinda Stevens, Executive Assistant, DRCOG; Michele Riccio, Adams County; Bryan Weimer, Arapahoe County; DJ Beckwith, Mac Callison, Aurora; Kent Moorman, Thornton; Jennifer Cassell, Bowditch & Cassell; John Gardocki, Colorado Department of Transportation; Matt Gibbs, Amy Fredregill, Paul Jesaitis, WSB; George Lux, Steve Cook, Citizens; and DRCOG staff

Chair Colleen Whitlow called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m. with a quorum present.

The Chair noted new members and alternates: Kathleen Bailey, new member for the Town of Mountain View; Jason Gray, new member for the Town of Castle Rock; Tim Dietz, new alternate for the Town of Castle Rock; and Erik Frandsen, new alternate for the Town of Parker.

### **Move to approve agenda**

Director Kern **moved** to approve the agenda. The motion was **seconded** and **passed** unanimously.

### **Report of the Chair**

- Director Kondo reported that the Performance and Engagement Committee did not meet.
- Director Shahrezaei reported the Finance and Budget Committee met and approved seven contracts, many tied to the decarbonization program, and they received a budget preview. An additional meeting will be scheduled in early May, requiring quorum from committee members in order to make a recommendation on the 2025/2026 budget.

### **Report of the Executive Director**

- 2025 Board Retreat: The recent retreat was both enjoyable and educational, featuring engaging activities like a reverse scavenger hunt and discussions that highlighted impactful community projects. Alicia Brown from Lone Tree won the board's college basketball bracket challenge.
- 2026 Peer Exchange: Plans are underway for next year's peer exchange with another U.S. region, with Austin, Seattle, and Phoenix as current finalists. A final decision is expected by the end of the summer.
- 2025 Awards Celebration: The annual awards celebration will take place on August 27. Nomination deadlines have been extended to April 30, and members are encouraged to submit and sponsor awards recognizing regional excellence.
- Proposed Legislative Committee: Leadership is exploring the formation of a legislative committee to help the board proactively engage with state legislation and define a clearer legislative identity, with a proposed structure expected this summer.
- Executive Director Rex wanted to acknowledge Lynette Kelsey of Georgetown for her long-standing service and consistent dedication to DRCOG, as she prepares to step down.

### **Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

### **Move to approve consent agenda**

Director Foster **moved** to approve the consent agenda. The motion was **seconded** and **passed** unanimously.

Items on the consent agenda included:

- Summary of the meeting March 19, 2025
- Federal Transit Administration Section 5310 and Human Services Transportation Set-aside Recommended Projects

### **Discussion of the Fiscal Year 2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program.**

Todd Cottrell provided an overview of the new fiscal year program to the Board. The 2026–2029 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) outlines all federally and state-funded transportation projects in the Denver region over the next four years, totaling 265 projects and approximately \$5.4 billion in investment. It supports the long-term Metro Vision and Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and includes projects managed by CDOT, RTD, DRCOG, and local governments. No new DRCOG-selected projects were added, as existing ones from the 2024–2027 TIP were carried forward. The TIP meets federal air quality and state greenhouse gas emissions standards, with conformity based on previous modeling since no new regionally significant projects were added. The draft TIP was released for public comment on February 12, with a public hearing held on March 19, and proposed updates are included based on community feedback.

Director Shahrezaei **moved** to adopt **Resolution No. 3, 2025**, adopting the Fiscal Year 2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program, including those adjustments contained within the errata sheet, and the associated air quality conformity document. The motion was **seconded** and **passed** unanimously.

### **Discussion of legislative issues: Bills on which positions have previously been taken.**

Rich Mauro, along with Jennifer Cassell, provided a status update on bills previously acted upon by the Board to the directors. Senate Bill 25-030 and Senate Bill 25- 161 are advancing, with many DRCOG-requested amendments included, however an amendment related to the Guaranteed Ride Home Program is still pending. Additionally, House Bill 25-1198 was amended based on feedback from DRCOG, and others, and will only move forward if funding through grants or donations is secured and if a local government requests engagement. There was no additional action requested from the Board.

### **Discussion of legislative issues: New Bills for consideration and action.**

Rich Mauro, along with Jennifer Cassell, provided an overview of new bills for consideration to the Board. There were originally three new bills regarding transportation for discussion and action, but Mr. Mauro reported that these were in the agenda for informational reasons because House Bill 25-257 and House Bill 25-264 were regarded as “orbital bills” to the long bill, and so they've already passed. The following bill was voted on by the Board:

- Transportation bill
  - House Bill 25-1303 – Funding for Motor Vehicle Collision Prevention
    - Director Kerr **moved** a position of support. The motion was **seconded** and **failed** with 13 in favor, 12 abstentions, and 10 opposed.
    - Director Kerr **moved** a position of monitor. The motion was **seconded** and **passed** with 21 in favor, 8 abstentions, and 6 opposed.

### **Corridor Planning Program Update.**

Nora Kern provided an update on the program to the Board. The Corridor Planning Program is a relatively new initiative supporting priority transportation projects listed in the 2050 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). The program emphasizes regional collaboration by allowing DRCOG to manage project funding, procurement, and consultant coordination, especially for complex or multi-jurisdictional efforts. It formally became a TIP set-aside in 2024 with a \$3 million allocation and currently funds two projects: the Colfax BRT Next

project (from I-225 to E-470) and the Sheridan Boulevard Safety Study (from I-76 to US 285), both aimed at advancing multimodal infrastructure and improving safety.

Directors were presented with a preview of an upcoming call for letters of interest for the second half of the program's \$3 million allocation, which will fund planning projects (not design or construction) in 2026–2027. Eligible projects must be included in the 2050 RTP, and proposals must come from local or regional agencies. Applications are due mid-June, and selections will be reviewed by a panel, with final recommendations expected by August. Notably, no local match is required thanks to CDOT toll credits, making participation more accessible to partner agencies.

### **Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) Regional Grant Navigator**

#### **2025 update.**

Flo Raitano introduced Paul Jesaitis and Amy Fredregill of WSB to provide an update to the Board. WSB, under contract with DRCOG and funded through the Governor's Office, has been providing regional grant navigator services focused on maximizing federal funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (IIJA) and Inflation Reduction Act (IRA). Their team supports communities across the region by helping identify suitable grant opportunities, offering technical expertise, and guiding them through project planning and application strategy, especially for complex or multi-jurisdictional projects. While they typically don't write the grants directly, they help prepare municipalities to pursue them and can assist if state-provided grant writing support is unavailable.

Over the past year, WSB has helped secure millions in grant funding for various communities, including Golden, Gilpin and Boulder Counties, Thornton, Westminster, and others, while also advising on positioning for future funding opportunities amid shifting program availability. With some grant programs now frozen or discontinued, WSB is focused on improving communication around active opportunities, helping jurisdictions stay prepared, and refining their Year 3 work plan to deliver the most current and actionable grant information. They remain open to feedback and encourage continued engagement to ensure communities can access and navigate complex federal funding landscapes.

### **Committee Reports**

#### **State Transportation Advisory Committee**

Ron Papsdorf stated at the April 3 meeting, two action items were approved: a \$10,000 allocation of federal planning funds to support DRCOG's work in rural areas like Clear Creek and Gilpin Counties, and the recommendation of four federally funded Safe Routes to School projects within the DRCOG region for Transportation Commission approval.

#### **Metro Mayors Caucus**

Director Starker stated at the April 6th meeting, attendees received presentations on corporate security features from the Colorado Secretary of State's office, upcoming programs for Colorado's 150th anniversary, and had a discussion on local legislative issues, making it a well-attended and productive session.

#### **Metro Area County Commissioners**

There was no report.

**Advisory Committee on Aging**

Jayla Sanchez-Warren reported the committee reviewed 2026 service contract funding recommendations and discussed significant state budget cuts, with the AAA losing \$400,000, as well as uncertainty due to the delayed 2025 federal budget. To adapt, the division is reorganizing, cross-training staff, and exploring cost-saving measures while continuing to meet high demand; they also heard updates on federal and state policy priorities from AARP and received a presentation on the Ride Alliance program, which aims to improve coordination and reporting for senior transportation services using a \$900,000 SMART grant.

**Regional Air Quality Council**

Executive Director Rex stated that at its April 4 meeting, the RAQC discussed the state’s decision to request reclassification to “severe” ozone nonattainment to avoid sanctions and gain more time for emission reduction efforts, as current models show the region won’t meet 2026 standards.

**E-470 Authority**

There was no report.

**Report from CDOT**

There was no report.

**Report from RTD**

Bill Sirois reported that the call for partnerships program has launched with increased funding from \$2 million to \$3 million annually to address local service gaps, the updated Title VI program is out for public review, and recent efforts to improve safety have led to a 60% decrease in police calls since 2022.

**Next meeting – April May 21, 2025**

**Other matters by members**

There were no other matters by members.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

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Jeff Baker, Chair  
Board of Directors  
Denver Regional Council of Governments

ATTEST:

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Douglas W. Rex, Executive Director