

Agenda

Advisory Committee on Aging (ACA)

Friday, March 27, 2026

11:00 a.m. – 1:25 p.m.

Virtual Meeting

If you have difficulty using this document's content, please email mmpatton@drcog.org or call 303-480-6723. Please expect a response within 72 hours (three business days). Times listed with each agenda item are approximate. It is requested that all cell phones be silenced during the Advisory Committee on Aging meeting. Persons in need of auxiliary aids or services, such as interpretation services or assisted listening devices, are asked to contact the Denver Regional Council of Governments at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting.

- 1 11:00 a.m. Call to Order and Introductions
- 2 11:05 a.m. Public comment
Up to 45 minutes is allocated now for public comment and each speaker will be limited to 3 minutes. If there are additional requests from the public to address the Committee, time will be allocated at the end of the meeting to complete public comment.
- 3 11:10 a.m. Report of the Chair – Bob Brocker
- 4 11:20 a.m. Report of the AAA Director – Jayla Sanchez-Warren

Consent agenda

- 5 11:35 a.m. Move to Approve Consent Agenda
Minutes from February 27, 2026, meeting. (Attachment A)

Informational briefings

- 6 11:40 a.m. Legislative Preview – Rich Mauro (Attachment B)



March 27, 2026

Page 2

- 7 12:00 p.m. Ride Alliance and Coordinated Transit Plan Project Update – Malorie Miller (Attachment C)
- 8 12:30 p.m. Via Mobility Services Update – Frank Bruno (Attachment D)
- 9 1:00 p.m. DRCOG Board Report
- 10 1:10 p.m. County Reports

Administrative items

Next meeting March 27, 2026.

- 11 1:20 p.m. Other Matters by Members
- 12 1:25 p.m. Adjourn

Calander of future meetings

April 24, 2026 – **In person**

May 22, 2026 – Virtual

June 26, 2026 – **In person**

July 24, 2026 – Virtual

August 28, 2026 – **In person**

September 25, 2026 – Virtual

October 23, 2026 – **In person**

November 2026 – To be determined

December 2026 – To be determined

January 22, 2027 – Virtual

February 26, 2026 – Virtual

March 26, 2026 – Virtual

ATTACH A

Advisory Committee on Aging (ACA)
Meeting Summary

Friday, February 27, 2026

If you have difficulty using this document's content, please email mmpatton@drcog.org or call 303-480-6723. Please expect a response within 72 hours (three business days).

Members Present

Ada Anderson	Douglas County
Andrea Suhaka	Arapahoe County
Barbara Boyer	Arapahoe County
Bob Brocker	Denver
Chris Lynn	Jefferson County
Connie Ward	Jefferson County
David Appel	Jefferson County
Dawn Perez	Adams County
Donna Mullins	Jefferson County
Edward Moss	Broomfield County
Greg Kahler	Adams County
Jim Dale	Jefferson County
Judi Kern	DRCOG Board Louisville
Karie Erickson	Douglas County
Kathy Hensen	DRCOG Board Adams County
Paula Hillman	Arapahoe County
Phil Cernanec	Arapahoe County
Shari Haidvogl	Clear Creek County
Sharon Tessier	Broomfield County
Steve Conklin	DRCOG Board Edgewater
Val Robson	Jefferson County
Wynne Shaw	DRCOG Board-Lone Tree

Guests Present

Anna Cool, City and County of Denver, Hilary Simmons, A Little Help.

DRCOG Staff Present

AJ Diamontopoulos, Senior Management Analyst, Esra Sonmez, Program Manager Quality and Operations, Jayla Sanchez- Warren, AAA Division Director, Jennifer Reeves, Veterans & Community Options Manager, Juliana Malchman, Integrated Health Navigator, Kelly Roberts, Community Resource Specialist, Kendra Carmickle, Service Coordinator Transportation Services, Liv Bergman, Sr. Community Resource

Specialist, Mindy Patton, Division Assistant, Sara De Iraola Cuebas, Ombudsman, Rich Mauro, Director Legislative Affairs, Shannon Gimbel, Ombudsman Manager, Travis Noon, Manager AAA Business Operations, Yvette Del Conte, Intake Specialist.

Call to Order

Bob Brocker Committee Chair called the meeting to order at 11:02 a.m.

Public Comment Period (Non-ACA Members)

There was no public comment.

Introductions

Anna Cool was introduced as a guest and the anticipated replacement for Perla Geiler on the Advisory Committee on Aging, pending DRCOG Board Chair approval. Anna works for the City and County of Denver in the Human Rights and Community Partnerships Agency. She originally joined the Office on Aging three years ago to work with Perla and now supports projects across the agency with a continued focus on aging. She also serves as staff liaison for the Denver Commission on Aging.

Anna's background is in gerontology, and she previously worked as a social service coordinator in senior living communities in Boulder and Rochester, NY. She expressed enthusiasm about joining the committee and collaborating with the group.

Report of the Chair – Bob Brocker

There was no report given.

Report of the AAA Director – Jayla Sanchez-Warren

Staff completed required food-safety training this month, and Jayla participated in several legislative meetings. DRCOG is tracking five bills, including some affecting nursing homes. During the Joint Budget Committee review, a proposal that could have shifted AAA operating funds was stopped after Jayla raised concerns. Instead, about \$1 million from an overlooked State Unit on Aging cash fund was redirected, preventing cuts but not increasing services.

DRCOG purchased \$75,000 in grocery cards for low-income and Medicaid communities, with distribution wrapping up this month. Jayla joined staff in Gilpin County, where residents were very appreciative.

Jayla spoke on a national panel on older-adult homelessness, highlighting DRCOG's leadership and partnerships. The panel emphasized prevention of eviction, severe housing shortages, and the ongoing need for an older-adult shelter. More than 1,000 people attended.

Jayla also presented AAA accomplishments and challenges at multiple DRCOG board and committee meetings and continues regular engagement with state and local partners.

Work has begun on the 2027–2030 area plan. Jayla has set initial goals and a timeline to meet the February 1st deadline, with the full plan needing completion by December to allow for required public review and approvals.

Move to approve consent agenda

Items on the consent agenda included: January 23, 2026, meeting summary.

Phil Cernanec motioned for approval. Wynne Shaw seconded the motion; the consent agenda was unanimously approved.

Agendas and summaries are posted on the [DRCOG website](#) from the link choose the month and date of the meeting, click on the event. Once clicked, you will find the link to the meeting for that month.

Informational Briefings

Ombudsman Program Update – Shannon Gimbel

Shannon Gimbel summarized key findings from the 2025 National Consumer Voice report on long-term care residents. The survey of 450 residents highlighted severe staffing shortages, 76% said they don't consistently receive needed care, leading to long waits and safety concerns. Nearly one third reported not being treated with dignity, and 43% said they lack autonomy over daily routines, schedules, and food choices.

Small meal budgets, pre-prepared food, and limited transportation contribute to dissatisfaction and isolation.

Visitation has improved since the pandemic, but many residents still lack social support and volunteer involvement remains low. Overall, the report shows that major gaps in dignity, autonomy, and quality of life persist nearly forty years after the Nursing Home Reform Act, with high turnover and temporary staff continuing to undermine consistent, person-centered care.

Review of the 2024–2027 Area Plan on Aging – Jayla Sanchez-Warren

Jayla has begun work on the next four-year area plan, required under the Older Americans Act and included in Colorado’s State Plan on Aging. She explained that a Community Assessment Survey of Older Adults would not be conducted as a part of the plan due to lack of funding.

Jayla reviewed the goals of the 2024-2027 Area Plan on Aging and explained goals that were completed, in progress or eliminated due to lack of funding. The AAA worked to diversify funding and received over \$1 million in grants. The family caregiver program was rebuilt and now focuses on respite, support groups, and information and assistance. Partnerships addressing social determinants of health strengthened, and outreach to underserved communities expanded. Transportation improved through the Go Lite program, and nutrition services grew through Project Angel Heart, though some goals, such as restaurant vouchers and revitalizing congregate meals, were not achieved due to lack of resources.

Core services continue, though some at reduced levels, and key programs such as the Ombudsman Program, PACE Ombudsman Program, case management, elder abuse prevention, and legal assistance remain priorities. The AAA increased public presentations, strengthened relationships with community partners, and continued work with healthcare systems and insurers. Data systems improved through technology grants, new dashboards, and a dedicated data manager. Oversight of contractors also strengthened. The Veterans Directed Care and Transitions Programs continue, and services for adults under sixty with disabilities expanded through a grant-funded position.

Presentation: A Little Help – Hilary Simmons

Hilary Simmons, Executive Director of A Little Help, described the organization's neighbor-to-neighbor model that helps older adults stay connected and supported at home. The group provides transportation, chores, tech help, friendly visits, and social programs, with large volunteer events like Service Saturday. Membership is pay-what-you-can, and most participants report reduced loneliness.

In the DRCOG region, A Little Help receives Older Americans Act funding for chore services, transportation, mobility management, and volunteer-coordination technology. Their volunteer model generates significant in-kind value, and they collaborate with the Community Care Hub, Ride Alliance, and will join the Trip Exchange. They are also developing tools to measure quality of life and plan to partner with Rutgers on loneliness research.

Hilary noted they avoid overlapping with similar organizations and operate with a small staff, two in Northern Colorado and the rest in Metro Denver

DRCOG Board Report – DRCOG Board Chair Steve Conklin

Steve Conklin announced that Judy was elected to the DRCOG Executive Committee and noted the board is preparing for a peer-exchange trip to Seattle. Judi added that DRCOG is monitoring two aging-related House bills, one improving transitions from nursing facilities and another on dementia-care regulations. A removed provision would have allowed LPNs and CNAs to administer medications, and the remaining bill may still struggle due to its fiscal note.

Rich Mauro expanded on the legislative updates. The memory-care transparency bill still faces a \$100,000 CDPHE fiscal note that could stall it in Appropriations, despite removing the medication-administration section. Another bill strengthens protections against financial exploitation by requiring banks and credit unions to place temporary holds on suspicious transactions; it has passed committee.

Rich also summarized a Joint Budget Committee discussion where more than \$1 million in the Older Coloradans Cash Fund was swept into the General Fund instead of being

moved to the AAA contingency reserve. While AAA funding remains flat, the decision raised concerns about unused funds.

Judi also noted a leadership change at DRCOG: former Administration and Finance Director Jenny Hunnings, is now Chief Operating Officer, a move expected to strengthen internal operations.

County Reports

Adams County

Greg Kaler from Adams County shared that their upcoming resource fair will take place on April 11th in partnership with the City of Northglenn, using the Northglenn Senior Center as the venue. The goal is to reach seniors in different parts of the county. They are currently signing up presenters and participants for the event.

Douglas County

Karie Erickson shared that ARDC is exploring the possibility of adding a new end-of-life support program. To prepare for this, she has begun an interfaith seminary program in Berkeley. She explained that many long-time clients have expressed a desire for continued guidance and companionship as they approach the final stage of life. While the intention is not to replace hospice care, ARDC hopes to eventually offer an interfaith, end-of-life support component for clients who want it. Karie noted that the seminary program will take about three years to complete, and more details will emerge as the idea develops.

Jefferson County

Chris Lynn reported on recent activities within the Jefferson County Council on Aging (JCCOA). Commissioner Zenzinger provided an advocacy training session a few weeks earlier, which was well received and offered participants a strong foundation for effectively advocating on older-adult issues, particularly in relation to the Joint Budget Committee. JCCOA is also continuing its collaboration with Kristine Burrows and her team, focusing on the caregiver component of their current planning efforts. Finally, preparations are underway for the annual Senior Heroes event in May, which celebrates older adult volunteers throughout the county.

Other Matters by Members

There were no other matters to discuss.

Next meeting – March 27, 2026.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:22 p.m.

ATTACH B

Advisory Committee on Aging Meeting

Name of Committee: Advisory Committee on Aging

Meeting date: March 27, 2026

Agenda Item #: 6

If you have difficulty using this document's content, please email mmpatton@drcog.org or call 303-480-6723. Please expect a response within 72 hours (three business days).

Legislative Preview

Agenda item type: Informational briefing

Summary

Rich Mauro will provide an update on older adult related legislation and funding issues of interest to the Area Agency on Aging (AAA). This will include a report on the state budget.

Background

The DRCOG Board has taken positions on two bills: HB 26-1018 and HB 26-1107. DRCOG staff also has been following Joint Budget Committee deliberations on State Funding for Senior Services.

Any bills of interest introduced since this agenda was sent out also will be presented to the committee. Note that the DRCOG Board meets on March 18th, so, any Board action of interest to the advisory committee also will be reviewed.

Action by others

None



Page 2

Previous discussions/actions

None

Recommendation

None

Attachment

None

For more information

If you need additional information, please contact Rich Mauro, Director of Legislative Affairs, at (303) 480-6778 or rjmauro@drcog.org.



ATTACH C

Advisory Committee on Aging Meeting

Name of Committee: Advisory Committee on Aging

Meeting date: March 27, 2026

Agenda Item #: 7

If you have difficulty using this document's content, please email mmpatton@drcog.org or call 303-480-6723. Please expect a response within 72 hours (three business days).

Ride Alliance and Coordinated Transit Plan Project Updates

Agenda item type: Informational briefing

Summary

Ride Alliance SMART grant Stage 1 project report out and 2026 Coordinated Transit Plan updates.

Background

DRCOG received a grant award through the Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation (SMART) program in July 2024. The grant award of \$975,486 provides funding to upgrade and pilot the Ride Alliance Trip Exchange Hub. This project builds off work from previous funding opportunities used to develop the initial Trip Exchange.

The purpose of the Trip Exchange is to coordinate human service transportation trip requests across the region, reduce trip denials, create a no-wrong door approach for clients seeking services, and streamline reporting processes across human service transportation providers.

The project successfully enhanced the Trip Exchange platform and integrated transportation providers through a variety of methods including direct application programming interface, middleware, and CSV export-import processes. Ride Alliance completed the first ever 6-week pilot to test Trip Exchange functionality with actual clients and trips. Over 50 one-way trips were tested. Transportation providers who participated in the pilot included the DRCOG Area

Agency on Aging transportation voucher program, Via Mobility Services, RTD FlexRide, and the North Front Range Metropolitan Planning Organization RideNoCo project.

The project has received approval from the Department of Transportation to extend the SMART Stage 1 project through June 30, 2026 to develop a public-facing interface for direct trip booking in the Trip Exchange.

The Coordinated Transit Plan (CTP) is a federal requirement. DRCOG is undergoing an update to the CTP last completed in 2020. The CTP creates a catalog of existing transit services in the region. Additionally, the CTP engages agencies, local residents, and various committees to identify the top transportation needs and gaps for older adults, individuals with disabilities, and people with low income. The CTP uses the information gathered to set strategies to address mobility needs for these populations. The 2026 update to the CTP will encompass new features including an executive summary, table of contents, defined goals, and a strategy implementation matrix.

Action by others

None.

Previous discussions/actions

None.

Recommendation

None.

Attachment

Presentation on Ride Alliance and Coordinated Transit Plan Update.

For more information

If you need additional information, please contact Malorie Miller, Senior Planner, Transportation Planning and Operations, 720-278-2334, mmiller@drcog.org.



Ride Alliance and CTP Project Updates

Advisory Committee on Aging: March 27, 2026

Project Refresh

- **Project Round 3**
 - Mobility Services for All Americans.
 - Veterans Transportation and Community Living Initiative.
 - Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation, Stage 1.
- **By 2030**, 1 in 5 persons over the age of 60.
- **11,966** trip denials in 2024.

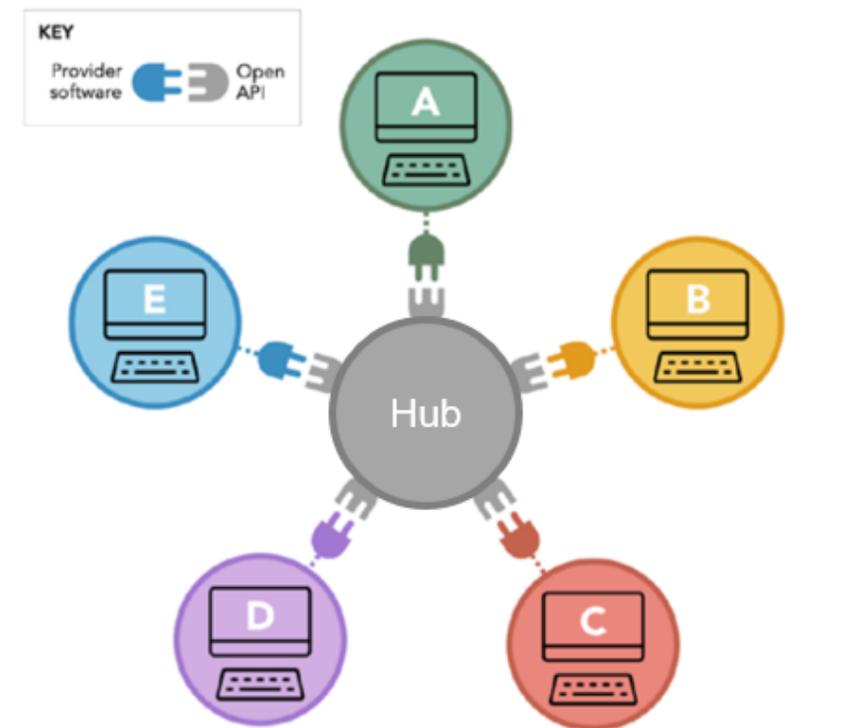


Stage 1 Goals

- Enhance Trip Exchange Hub.
 - Direct trip booking clients + providers.
- Test 1 trip type.
- Integrate 1 provider.
- Streamline reporting requirements.



Trip Exchange (Hub) Interoperability



Trip Exchange Platform

Trip Tickets
Admin
Reports
Malorie Miller

Filter Trip Tickets

Timezone: Mountain Time

Feb 11, 2026, 09:36 AM

Saved Filters

[Save Current Filters](#)

Basic Filters

Show Trips Outside Service Area

Geographic

Completed

Claiming provider

Originating requestor

Medical Centers

Funding Source

Eligibility

Operating Hours

From: To:

[Clear Filters](#) [Search](#)

Trip Tickets

[Upload Trip Tickets](#)
[Quick summary](#)
[Show my tickets](#)

<input type="checkbox"/>	CUST NAME	ORGN REQUESTOR	PICKUP	DROPOFF	MOBILITY FACTORS	ATTENDANT(S)	STATUS	CLAIMANT(S)	ACTIONS
<input type="checkbox"/>	[REDACTED]	DRCOG	2025-12-17 12:30:00		Ambulatory	0	Completed	Via Mobility Services	✕
<input type="checkbox"/>	[REDACTED]	DRCOG		2025-12-16 10:30:00	Ambulatory	0	Completed	Via Mobility Services	✕
<input type="checkbox"/>	[REDACTED]	DRCOG	2025-12-16 12:45:00		Ambulatory	0	Completed	Via Mobility Services	✕
<input type="checkbox"/>	[REDACTED]	DRCOG		2025-11-21 19:15:00	N/A	0	Completed	Uber	✕
<input type="checkbox"/>	[REDACTED]	Via Mobility Services	2025-12-15 12:30:00		Walker	0	Completed	DRCOG	✕
<input type="checkbox"/>	[REDACTED]	Via Mobility Services	2025-12-16 12:30:00		Walker	0	Completed	DRCOG	✕
<input type="checkbox"/>	[REDACTED]	Via Mobility Services	2025-12-15 08:30:00		Walker	0	Completed	DRCOG	✕

Pilot Goals 11/10-12/23/2025

Goal	Outcome
4 counties served.	6 counties served.
1 provider integrated with full functionality.	AAA (CSV upload + Uber API). Via Mobility (CSV upload + middleware) RTD FlexRide (API) RideNoCo (CSV upload)
1 trip type.	3 trip types tested.
99% Trip Exchange availability.	100% availability, no down-time.
100 one-way trips completed.	56 trips requested, 36 trips completed.

Pilot Outcomes Continued

Clients

- 19 unique clients.
- 79% female.

Trip Types

- 40 medical trips.
- 8 nutrition trips.
- 8 personal trips.

Cross County Trips

- 42 cross-county trips.
- 14 in-county trips.



Challenges and Lessons Learned



Limited period of performance.



Software vendors opposed to coordination.



50% of trip-testing goals.



Regional changes since last project iteration.

Project Extension Goals

Coordinate 1 trip
between
NFRMPO +
DRCOG.

Trip Exchange
enhancements.

ASPIRE-Trip
Exchange bi-
directional API.

Foundation for
direct-trip
booking
interface.

Stakeholder
workgroup
continuation.

Explore
alternative
funding
opportunities.

Stakeholder workgroup continuation

Contract and business rules modification and execution.

Inter-regional trip demands and opportunities for Ride Alliance support.

- Split weekly trips to popular medical destinations.
- Pre-determined meet-up points.
- Reciprocity between communities.
- Set reimbursement rates based off mileage and trip type.

Explore alternative funding opportunities



HST Set-Aside.



Congressionally Directed Spending.



Private funding and other options.

Integrating Ride Alliance into other plans

CTP.

5310 PMP.

RTP/TIP.

Others.

Coordinated Transit Plan

- Federal requirement, last updated 2020.
- Creates inventory of existing transit services.
- Identifies top regional needs and gaps for specific communities.
- Sets strategies to address mobility needs.



2026 CTP Changes

Executive Summary.

Table of Contents.

Goals identified.

Strategy Implementation Matrix.

Thank you

Malorie Miller

Senior Planner

mmiller@drcog.org

If you need digital accessibility assistance, submit a request at drcog.org/access or call 303-455-1000. Please expect a response within 72 hours (three business days).

ATTACH D

Advisory Committee on Aging Meeting

Name of Committee: Advisory Committee on Aging

Meeting date: March 27, 2026

Agenda Item #: 8

If you have difficulty using this document's content, please email mmpatton@drcog.org or call 303-480-6723. Please expect a response within 72 hours (three business days).

Via Mobility Services Update

Agenda item type: Informational briefing

Summary

Via will provide the Committee with an update on their ongoing work and the challenges they are currently encountering.

Background

Via Mobility Services is a nonprofit organization dedicated to expanding transportation access for individuals with limited mobility. Through a range of supportive, customer-centered services, Via helps older adults and people with disabilities maintain their independence and remain connected to their communities. The organization's mission emphasizes dignity, accessibility, and enhancing quality of life for those who rely on specialized mobility options.

Action by others

None

Previous discussions/actions

None

Recommendation

None



Page 2

Attachment

None

For more information

If you need additional information, please contact Frank Bruno, Chief Executive Officer, 303-444-3043 or fbruno@viacolorado.org.

