

Board of Directors Meeting Summary

Wednesday, May 20, 2026

Members/Alternates Present

Colleen Whitlow, Chair	Town of Mead
Julie Duran Mullica	Adams County
Jeff Baker*	Arapahoe County
Ashley Stolzmann, Alternate	Boulder County
Austin Ward	City and County of Broomfield
Rebecca Lloyd	Clear Creek County
Adam Paul	City and County of Denver
Kevin Flynn	City and County of Denver
Susan Berumen	Gilpin County
Sharon Davis	City of Arvada
Royce Pindell, Alternate	Town of Bennett
Nicole Speer	City of Boulder
Ann Taddeo, Alternate	City of Brighton
Deborah Mulvey	City of Castle Pines
Ashish Vaidya, Alternate	City of Centennial
Robert Eber	City Cherry Hills Village
Steve Conklin	City of Edgewater
Jack Bethel	City of Englewood
Emily Baer	Town of Erie
Georgia Kofoed	Town of Georgetown
Rachel Binkley	City of Glendale
Gerchard Pfau	City of Golden
Chuck Harmon	City of Idaho Springs
Jeslin Shahrezaei	City of Lakewood
Robert Reichardt	City of Littleton
Kat Bristow*	Town of Lochbuie
Marissa Harmon	City of Lone Tree
Susie Hidalgo-Fahring, Alternate	City of Longmont
Judi Kern	City of Louisville
Angela Bernhardt	Town of Morrison
Kathleen Bailey	Town of Mountain View
Richard Kondo	City of Northglenn
John Diak	Town of Parker
Jay Whittaker	City of Sheridan
Justin Martinez	City of Thornton
Rachel Hultin	City of Wheat Ridge
Darius Pakbaz	Colorado Department of Transportation
Chris Quinn, Alternate	Regional Transportation District

Others Present: Douglas W. Rex, Executive Director, Jacob Riger, Transportation and Operations Director, DRCOG; Janet Lundquist *, Adams County; Zeke Lynch *, Douglas County; Chris Clemens, Bennett; Kent Moorman*, Thornton; John Gardocki*, Jordan Rudel*, Colorado Department of Transportation; Sean Brog, Metro Denver Economic Development Corporation; Katie Baum, WSB Engineering; and staff.

*Participated via Zoom

Chair Colleen Whitlow called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. with a quorum present.

The Chair noted a new alternate for the Town of Mountain View; Ryan Debner.

Move to approve agenda

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

Report of the Chair

- Director Kern reported that the Finance and Budget Committee met on April 29 and recommended approval of the FY 2026–27 budget, additional funding for PACO community engagement and the DRCOG housing study, and award of the Speer–Leetsdale–Parker Bus Rapid Transit Alternatives Analysis contract to Nelson\Nygaard.
- Director Shahrezai reported that the Performance and Engagement Committee met prior to the Board and finalized decisions for the John V. Christensen Award, which will be presented at the August DRCOG Awards Celebration.

Report of the Executive Director

- Seattle Peer Exchange: Executive Director Rex thanked participants for the successful peer exchange, encouraged everyone to complete the feedback survey, and noted plans to hold similar events in the future.
- Annual Awards Celebration: DRCOG has finalized this year's award recipients, will begin notifying winners, and reminded members that the reception will start at 5:30 p.m. with dinner at 7:00 p.m., while encouraging table sponsorships.
- Bike to Work Day: Members were invited to register for the event and order complimentary promotional T-shirt or hat, using the QR code provided.
- Utah MPO Peer Exchange: DRCOG staff participated in a peer exchange with transportation officials from Utah to showcase multimodal projects in Boulder County, with positive feedback highlighting the value of the regional collaboration.
- Finance and Budget Committee: Members were asked to complete a Doodle poll to schedule a virtual meeting next week, which will replace the June 3 Finance and Budget Committee meeting.
- Art Griffith of Douglas County: Executive Director Rex wanted to honor the late Art Griffith for his leadership, mentorship, and lasting contributions to regional collaboration, encouraging members to recognize the important work of local government staff.

Public Comment

There were no comments.

Move to approve consent agenda

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

Items on the consent agenda included:

- Summary of the meeting April 15, 2026, meeting
- Amendments to the 2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program
- Economic Development District Map

Discussion on approval of the DRCOG Fiscal Year 2026/2027 Budget

Jenny Hunnings provided a detailed overview of anticipated funding and its intended allocations for the upcoming year to the Board. The proposed FY 2026/27 budget totals approximately \$110 million in balanced revenues and expenditures, reflecting growth from the prior year while maintaining flat member dues and a strong financial position. The budget development process began early in the year with division requests, executive and Finance and Budget Committee review, and culminates with Board approval. Revenue is primarily supported by federal, state, and local funding, with Power Ahead Colorado accounting for nearly half of the budget, while expenditures increase modestly due to employee merit and health insurance costs, expanded program funding, and completion of office improvements. The budget includes a recommended 3.5% merit pool to maintain competitive compensation, supported by market analyses and a recent compensation study. To manage increasing grant complexity, DRCOG has reorganized administrative functions, added a Grant Administration Manager, strengthened business operations teams, improved grant tracking and reimbursement practices, and expanded staff training. The organization also continues to prioritize sound fiscal stewardship by maintaining three months of operating reserves, ensuring investment liquidity, and closely monitoring expenditures to remain prepared for funding disruptions and future growth.

Director Kofoed **moved** to adopt **Resolution No. 9, 2026**, approving the DRCOG Fiscal Year 2026/2027 Budget. The motion was **seconded** and **passed** unanimously.

Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) Regional Grants Navigation program Final Report

Flo Raitano introduced Katie Baum, WSB Engineering, to present this report to the Directors. Over the three-year IIJA Regional Grants Navigation (RGN) Program (April 2023 - April 2026), WSB contracted with DRCOG to provide federal grant navigation and technical assistance to more than 50 local governments and partner organizations, with a particular focus on smaller, under-resourced communities. The program supported extensive outreach, grant strategy, project scoping, regional collaboration, and grant-writing assistance, helping communities secure nearly \$80 million in federal funding from an initial \$300,000 investment while fostering stronger partnerships across jurisdictions and developing resources such as a widely used regional Grants Digest. The presentation also highlighted significant challenges, including evolving federal funding priorities, complex compliance requirements, limited local grant-writing capacity, staffing turnover, and compressed application timelines, but concluded that the program delivered a substantial return on investment, strengthened regional collaboration, and provided valuable grant expertise that positioned communities to pursue future funding opportunities.

Interstate 70 Mountain Corridor Impact Study

Jacob Riger introduced Sean Brog, Metro Denver Economic Development Corporation, provided an overview of the study to the Board. The updated report on the economic impacts of congestion along the I-70 Mountain Corridor concludes that congestion now costs Colorado an estimated \$2.2 billion annually, which is a 53% increase after inflation since the original 2007 study, through lost tourism revenue, resident time, business productivity, freight delays, and reduced government revenues. The study estimates \$47

million in tourism revenue at risk, \$319 million in annual resident time losses, and \$1.9 billion in reduced economic productivity, while highlighting that the cost of delaying corridor improvements continues to grow. Beyond the economic analysis, the report identifies worsening congestion as a result of population growth, increasing traffic volumes, workforce housing shortages, climate-related road closures, and diverted traffic onto local roads, all of which place additional strain on communities, infrastructure, and emergency services. The report concludes that maintaining reliable, year-round performance on the I-70 corridor is essential to Colorado's long-term economic competitiveness, regional stability, workforce mobility, tourism, and quality of life.

Bike to Work Day 2026 update

Steve Erickson presented the update to the Directors. Bike to Work Day is held annually on the fourth Wednesday in June during Colorado's Bike Month, as one of the nation's largest bicycling events, with the goal of encouraging people to experience biking in a fun, safe, and supportive environment that inspires long-term cycling. Organized by DRCOG for more than 35 years, the 2025 event featured approximately 14,000 registered riders, 239 breakfast and evening stations, and a reduction of more than 622,000 vehicle miles traveled, with nearly one-quarter of participants riding for the first time. This year's "Ride and Shine" theme promotes biking for any purpose (including for those who work from home) and the campaign includes extensive outreach through email, social media, employers, community partners, advertising, and prizes. Board members and local jurisdictions were encouraged to support the event by registering to ride, promoting Bike to Work Day in their communities, hosting stations, participating in the Business Challenge, securing sponsorships, and ordering complimentary event shirts and hats to help increase participation and awareness.

Committee Reports

State Transportation Advisory Committee

Jacob Riger reported the committee re-elected its chair and vice chair, recommended approval of CDOT's 10-year plan, and received presentations on Region 1 safety planning, the Federal Lands Access Program, and CDOT's freight program.

Metro Mayors Caucus

There was no report.

Metro Area County Commissioners

Executive Director Rex stated the commissioners received presentations on wildfire risk and emergency preparedness, legislative updates, and opportunities to strengthen collaboration with Metro Mayors.

Advisory Committee on Aging

There was no report.

Regional Air Quality Council

Executive Director Rex reported that at their May 1 meeting, the council discussed legislative issues, received updates on the Front Range Passenger Rail initiative and the upcoming ozone season, and expressed optimism about meeting the 2015 ozone standard.

E-470 Authority

Director Mulvey reported that their financial reports showed higher projected growth along the E-470 corridor (particularly in Arapahoe, Broomfield, Douglas, and Weld counties) prompting a focus on safety improvements, maintenance and widening projects, and targeted enforcement in identified high-crash areas.

Economic Development District Advisory Committee

Director Martinez reported the committee met and recommended approval of the updated Economic Development District map, discussed regional initiatives related to childcare, zoning, transportation, minority business enterprises, and microtransit, and received a presentation on an intergenerational workforce program that connects older adults with early childhood education roles.

Report from CDOT

Director Pakbaz reported the Transportation Commission welcomed new District 4 Commissioner Carl Castillo, reviewed the proposed 10-year plan ahead of its adoption, and received an update on the interchange approval policy (Policy 1601).

Report from RTD

Director Quinn reported the RTD Board approved \$5.58 million to advance the Northwest Rail Corridor conceptual design and launched an 18-month Comprehensive Operations Analysis to evaluate and better align transit service with changing regional travel patterns.

Next meeting – July 15, 2026

Other matters by members

Director Baer wanted to recognize World Bee Day and highlight the celebration of the first month of Erie's new Bee microtransit service. She thanked DRCOG for its support in expanding local transportation options.

Director Kern highlighted the growing challenges of responding to electric vehicle fires, including costly specialized equipment, lengthy response times, and reduced emergency response capacity, and called for greater support from electric vehicle manufacturers to help protect first responders and communities.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:48 p.m.

Colleen Whitlow, Chair
Board of Directors
Denver Regional Council of Governments

ATTEST:

Douglas W. Rex, Executive Director