

**Attachment A**  
**Meeting Summary**  
**Regional Transportation Committee**  
**Tuesday, July 7, 2026**

**\*In-person meeting with Virtual Option for Public (Via Zoom)**

**Members (or Voting Alternates) Present:**

|                         |                                        |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| Debra Johnson           | Regional Transportation District       |
| Karen Benker            | Regional Transportation District       |
| Kiernan Maletsky        | Regional Transportation District       |
| Michael Guzman          | Regional Transportation District       |
| Matt Larsen             | Regional Transportation District       |
| Darius Pakbaz           | Colorado Department of Transportation  |
| Shelley Cook            | Colorado Department of Transportation  |
| Colleen Whitlow (Chair) | Denver Regional Council of Governments |
| Doug Rex                | Denver Regional Council of Governments |
| Nicole Speer            | Denver Regional Council of Governments |
| Richard Kondo           | Denver Regional Council of Governments |
| Steve Conklin           | Denver Regional Council of Governments |
| Erin Clark              | Denver Housing Authority               |
| Mike Silverstein        | Regional Air Quality Council           |
| Skyler McKinley         | Auto Club Group                        |
| Jeff Kullman            | Michael Baker International            |

**Additional Alternates Present:**

|              |                                        |
|--------------|----------------------------------------|
| Jacob Riger  | Denver Regional Council of Governments |
| Sharon Davis | Denver Regional Council of Governments |

**Public:** None

**DRCOG staff:** Erik Bratten, Josh Schwenk, Jhas Cooper-Moore, Lauren Kirgis, Brittney Compton, Nora Kern, Brad Williams, Todd Cottrell, Travis Noon

**Call to Order**

Chair Colleen Whitlow called the meeting to order at 12:02 pm.

**Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**May 19, 2026 Regional Transportation Committee Meeting Summary**

The summary was accepted without changes.

### **Action Items**

#### ***Human Services Transportation Set-Aside and Section 5310 Supplementary Project Recommendations***

Travis Noon, Manager of AAA Business Operations, presented recommendations for supplemental funding for Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5310 and Human Services Transportation Set-Aside projects for the July 1, 2026–June 30, 2027 funding period. The original funding recommendations were based on estimated FTA apportionments; however, final allocations provided approximately \$200,000 more than anticipated. As a result, staff returned to the review panel to determine how the additional funds should be distributed among eligible projects.

The review panel recommended using the supplemental funding to fully fund mobility management, operating, and capital projects to the extent allowed under Section 5310 regulations. Due to federal limits on operating assistance, Laradon's project could not be fully funded. Remaining funds, approximately \$64,000, were recommended for VIA Mobility Services' parking lot paving project.

The committee did not have any further questions or comments. Director Speer moved to recommend to the Board of Directors the supplemental Section 5310 and Human Services Transportation Set-Aside project funding as recommended by the review panel. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

### **Informational Briefings**

#### ***Regional Transportation Committee Orientation***

Jacob Riger, Transportation Planning and Operations Director, provided an orientation on the Regional Transportation Committee (RTC), DRCOG's transportation planning responsibilities, and the committee's role within the regional transportation planning process. He reviewed DRCOG's functions as the Metropolitan Planning Organization, Regional Planning Commission, and Area Agency on Aging, emphasizing the agency's role as a convener that brings jurisdictions and partner agencies together to address regional issues. Riger outlined key planning documents, including Metro Vision, the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), and the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), and described federal and state requirements that guide transportation planning, funding, air quality conformity, and regional coordination. He also highlighted DRCOG's partnerships with CDOT, RTD, local governments, and other stakeholders, as well as ongoing initiatives such as the 2050 RTP update, MPO boundary expansion, Vision Zero, housing strategy efforts, and transit planning programs.

Riger also reviewed the RTC's role in the metropolitan transportation planning process, noting that the committee serves as a critical body that reviews recommendations from the Transportation Advisory Committee and forwards transportation-related recommendations to the DRCOG Board of Directors. He emphasized the importance of collaboration among RTC member agencies and the committee's role in shaping regional transportation priorities and policies, noting that RTC and the Board must take identical actions for MPO-related items.

Director Benker asked about DRCOG's total budget and revenue sources. Staff explained that the agency's budget is approximately \$100 million annually, with most funding coming from federal and state sources. Member dues account for a small but important portion of the agency's operating funds because they are used to match federal and state funds. No further questions were raised.

### *Community Based Transportation Planning Updates*

Lauren Kirgis and Brittany Compton, Multimodal Planners with DRCOG's Transportation Planning and Operations Division, provided an update on the Community-Based Transportation Planning Program, a Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) set-aside that provides technical assistance to member governments and community partners. The program focuses on improving transportation access and mobility for low-income and historically underserved communities through extensive community engagement and implementation-oriented planning. Staff explained that the program funds short-term, actionable transportation improvements and pilot projects rather than long-range planning efforts. Since its inception, the program has completed several projects, including corridor and circulation studies in Federal Heights, Northeast Denver, Brighton, and Adams County, all of which addressed community-identified concerns related to safety, multimodal connectivity, accessibility, and neighborhood mobility. Recommendations from these studies included near-term safety improvements, enhanced pedestrian and bicycle facilities, corridor redesign concepts, and implementation strategies to help local agencies advance future projects.

Committee members praised the program's success in engaging underserved communities and supporting locally identified transportation needs. Jacob Riger noted that the program was created to help communities raise transportation concerns and opportunities that may not be tied to an existing project or plan, while allowing DRCOG to provide funding, project management, and technical support in partnership with local governments, nonprofits, and community groups with no local match required. Committee members encouraged RTD, CDOT, and local government representatives to help promote the program and identify potential future projects. Darius Pakbaz asked how communities can advance recommendations that require significant funding, citing the Pecos Corridor Study as an example. Staff explained that each study includes both short-term and long-term recommendations, allowing communities to pursue immediate improvements while positioning larger projects for future funding opportunities. Director Clark shared her experience working on the 303 Artway project and expressed appreciation for the program's ability to elevate community voices, coordinate partners, and move community-generated ideas closer to implementation.

*Advancing Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Implementation Study Update*

Nora Kern, Manager of DRCOG's Subarea and Project Planning Team, provided an update on the Advancing Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Implementation Study, an initiative focused on advancing the implementation of the 11-corridor regional BRT network identified in the 2050 Regional Transportation Plan. The study stems from the Regional BRT Partnership, a collaboration among DRCOG, RTD, CDOT, Denver, Aurora, the State Highway 119 Coalition, Littleton, and other regional partners established to coordinate delivery of a connected regional BRT system rather than a series of independent corridor projects. Through an almost \$1 million U.S. Department of Transportation Innovative Finance and Asset Concession Grant (IFAC), DRCOG launched a study to develop funding, financing, and implementation strategies for five priority corridors: Colfax Extension (Colfax BRT Next), Speer/Leetsdale/Parker, Alameda, Broadway/Lincoln, and the State Highway 119 extension to the I-25 Mobility Hub. The study will establish a regional definition of BRT, develop cost-estimation tools and regional design guidelines, identify capital, operating, and maintenance funding opportunities, evaluate financing mechanisms, clarify agency roles and responsibilities, and create an implementation framework to support future corridor development while promoting regional consistency, collaboration, and long-term system sustainability.

Director Larsen asked whether the study would establish standards to ensure future BRT projects maintain a high level of service and meet a consistent definition of Bus Rapid Transit. Kern explained that the study seeks to create a shared regional understanding of BRT and establish common expectations while recognizing that each corridor will require context-specific solutions. Jacob Riger added that the goal is to provide a consistent rider experience across the regional network, including elements such as branding, fare payment, and service quality, while allowing flexibility in corridor design and operations. Committee members also discussed maintenance challenges, including infrastructure upkeep and copper wire theft, and staff noted that the Regional BRT Partnership provides a forum for agencies to share lessons learned and coordinate solutions. Additional discussion focused on funding and financing opportunities, including potential partnerships with major employers and the business community. Staff indicated that the study will explore potential private-sector participation and develop tools and strategies that agencies can use to engage stakeholders and identify funding opportunities as individual BRT corridors advance.

**Administrative Items**

CDOT: Commissioner Cook and Darius Pakbaz provided an update. The primary focus has been responding to wildfires across the state, particularly the Aspen Acres Fire and other active incidents. CDOT has been coordinating emergency response efforts and supporting first responders. Darius also reported that he submitted a letter to the Governor's Office in support of DRCOG's Metropolitan Planning Organization boundary expansion, which would include Clear Creek and Gilpin counties, and noted that a decision is anticipated in the coming weeks. In addition, CDOT recently received

approval of the FY 2027–2030 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) from both the Transportation Commission and the Federal Highway Administration.

Commissioner Cook highlighted CDOT's rapid response following the wildfire-related loss of a bridge on Colorado Highway 165 south of Beulah, noting that CDOT crews reconstructed a temporary bridge within approximately 11 hours to restore access for emergency responders and evacuees. It was also reported that CDOT has submitted several grant applications, including Federal Railroad Administration funding requests for grade separation and railroad safety improvements in the Burnham area.

Additionally, the Division of Transit and Rail has submitted letters of support for transportation-related funding applications in Arvada and Longmont.

RTD: Debra Johnson, RTD General Manager and Chief Executive Officer, provided an update on agency initiatives and operations. RTD continues to advance its Downtown Rail Reconstruction Project, a major state-of-good-repair investment focused on rehabilitating infrastructure that has reached the end of its 30-year useful life.

Construction began on June 7 and is progressing on key segments, including portions of the Stout Street alignment and the Colfax Avenue corridor. Johnson also highlighted RTD's partnership with Historic Denver, the Denver Public Library, and the Downtown Denver Partnership to launch a QR-code-enabled mobile history tour along the 16th Street corridor in recognition of the nation's 250th anniversary and Colorado's 150th anniversary. She further reported that RTD Police joined the national Active Bystander for Law Enforcement (ABLE) program, which provides training to help officers appropriately intervene when witnessing misconduct, and noted that RTD supported the Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority (MARTA) by providing law enforcement assistance during World Cup events hosted in Atlanta.

RTD Director Benker thanked the committee for moving meetings to the afternoon and reported that RTD is preparing to launch a new SkyRide service connecting Longmont, Lafayette, and Louisville to Denver International Airport beginning with the September service change, pending board approval. The service would provide a direct airport connection for communities that currently lack convenient access to the A Line and has generated significant public interest. Director Benker also noted that RTD continues to work through its budget development process and remains focused on addressing ongoing financial challenges.

RAQC: RAQC staff reported that wildfire smoke continues to be a significant air quality concern across Colorado, particularly as the region enters the peak summer ozone season. While wildfires draw public attention, staff emphasized that elevated ozone levels remain an ongoing regional challenge and that wildfire smoke can worsen already poor air quality conditions. RAQC encouraged partner agencies and local governments

to continue supporting public outreach efforts that promote actions individuals can take to reduce emissions and protect themselves during periods of poor air quality. Staff also noted that RAQC has expanded some of its outreach and engagement efforts into the northern portion of the nonattainment area, including Fort Collins and Greeley, with support from CDOT and the Nonattainment Area Air Pollution Mitigation Enterprise.

RAQC staff informed the committee that a new health effects study examining the impacts of poor air quality would be presented to the RAQC Board later in the week. The study evaluates the public health and economic impacts associated with elevated pollution levels and ozone concentrations. Staff noted that the findings are expected to underscore the significant consequences of continued air quality challenges in the region.

#### *Adjournment*

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:33 pm.