

Board update

Board meeting: September 16, 2026



Consent agenda item

- [2027-2028 Regional Transportation Operations and Technology Set-Aside project funding recommendations.](#)

Action item



[Power Ahead Colorado Community Engagement Grant Program Policy](#)

Presenters: Chris Selk, program manager, Power

Ahead Colorado, and Angela Woolcott, principal, Kearns & West

Background: The Community Engagement Grant Program is a \$2.2 million initiative, administered by Kearns & West, that supports meaningful community engagement for Power Ahead Colorado. Over the next three years, the program will award grants ranging from \$15,000 to \$100,000 to support community-driven engagement, as the team recognizes

that community-based organizations are best positioned to conduct responsive engagement with the populations they serve. A Community Advisory Group offered guidance on [the program policy](#) and will continue to provide feedback on the program.

A total of \$500,000 is available for the first round of grants and will be awarded to projects that cover one or more of the following areas:

- **Education and outreach:** Sharing clear, accessible information about heat pumps, home and building electrification, and energy efficiency.
- **Incentives and advising:** Motivating eligible residents and contractors to take advantage of available rebates, financial incentives and free energy advising.
- **Workforce development:** Creating pathways to careers in the clean energy sector, with an emphasis on engaging multilingual communities, youth and justice-impacted individuals.

The team will evaluate applications using six weighted criteria: community reach and relationships, project feasibility and budget, outreach and engagement approach, organizational capacity and qualifications, community context and opportunity, and partnerships. The team may invite finalists to a brief interview to learn more about their proposal. All awardees in the first round of grants will have access to technical assistance and voluntary informational sessions throughout the 13-month grant cycle.

The application portal will launch on September 21 and will be open until October 26. The team will provide multiple resources to help potential applicants complete their applications, including a webinar, a question-and-answer session and an application tutorial.

Result: The Board approved the Power Ahead Colorado Community Engagement Grant Program Policy.

Informational briefings



[2029-2032 Transportation Improvement Program development process update](#)

Presenter: Todd Cottrell, program manager, Transportation Planning and Operations

Background: Since January, Denver Regional Council of Governments staff have been working with stakeholders to determine potential adjustments to the policy that governs the

Transportation Improvement Program, or TIP. Amending the current TIP Policy is the first step before calls for projects can be issued. The potential policy adjustments fall into five categories: the call for projects process, regional share, subregional share, specific project types and funding.

For the call for projects process, recommendations include:

- Require project sponsors to conduct a walk audit and submit a simple diagram illustrating pedestrian issues identified during the audit.
- Develop a spreadsheet-based emissions calculator that integrates proposed project elements so calculations reflect local and regional data.
- Replace the Microsoft Word-based application with a web-based Formstack application.
- Update application questions; draft updates will be presented to the Transportation Advisory Committee in September.
- Provide training through eight to 10 short video modules rather than two half-day sessions.
- Adjust various processes to reflect the updated metropolitan planning organization boundary.

For the regional share, recommendations include:

- Shift regionally significant air quality staging period timelines to correspond with adjustments in the current Regional Transportation Plan.
- Update study eligibility so that transportation-focused studies anywhere in the region can receive funding.
- Potentially update the current funding minimum and maximum amounts of \$100,000 and \$20 million; will be discussed at the September Transportation Advisory Committee meeting.

For the subregional share, recommendations include:

- Shift regionally significant air quality staging period timelines to correspond with adjustments in the current Regional Transportation Plan.
- Remove the limit on the maximum number of applications staff will assist in scoring.
- Adjust how subregional funds are targeted to reflect the expanded MPO boundary; will be discussed at the September Transportation Advisory Committee meeting.

For specific project types, recommendations include:

- Require project sponsors with an active transportation component to conduct user counts after the project opens to the public.
- Prohibit sponsors from including both a transit study and a pilot project in the same application; both remain eligible as separate items.

For funding, recommendations include:

- Remove the Multimodal Transportation and Mitigation Options Fund as a funding source due to state budget reductions.
- Reallocate federal fiscal year 2028 funding to cover the one-time shift in TIP cycle dates from 2028-2031 to 2029-2032.
- Set overall funding at \$405 million.

Staff will finalize the proposed amendments to the TIP Policy and present them to the Transportation Advisory Committee at its October meeting. The amended policy will come back to the Board for consideration in December, in anticipation of the regional call for projects opening in January.



[Regional Transportation District Comprehensive Operations and Network Needs Evaluation for Community Transit Study](#)

Presenter: Doug Monroe, corridor planning manager, RTD

Background: Earlier this year, RTD launched the Comprehensive Operations and Network

Needs Evaluation for Community Transit, or CONNECT, Study to evaluate the existing transit network and build short- and long-term service roadmaps that are aligned with current travel patterns, land use and customer needs. To develop the short- and long-term plans, staff will present two competing baseline scenarios during community engagement: one with greater transit frequency in areas where people are most likely to use transit, and one with greater coverage that reaches as much of the RTD service area as possible.

The CONNECT Study will encompass four phases. In Phase 1, the study team evaluated current conditions to develop a full picture of the existing network, market and industry. In Phase 2, which will begin in late September, the team will present the frequency and coverage alternatives to the public, stakeholders and the RTD board to refine priorities for the future network. Community engagement will run through mid-November and include three stakeholder workshops, three in-person community meetings, two virtual stakeholder meetings, an online survey and community ambassador activities.

In Phase 3, the team will share the draft short-range service and long-range vision plans for further input from the public, stakeholders and the RTD board. In Phase 4, the short- and long-range plans will be finalized and presented to the RTD board for consideration.



[Go-Tober Challenge 2026 update](#)

Presenter: Mikayla Bravo, senior outreach specialist, Way to Go

Background: Beginning on October 1, employers, commuters and member governments can participate in Way to Go's 12th annual Go-Tober Challenge. The Go-Tober Challenge rewards commuters who travel to work by modes other than driving alone, including transit, biking, walking, carpool, vanpool and telework. Employers and member governments that [register for Go-Tober](#) will be added to a public-facing leaderboard and earn points each time an employee tracks a non-solo-driving trip. Employees who track trips will also be entered to win prizes.

Last year, 11 member governments participated in the Go-Tober Challenge, and the Town of Castle Rock was the winner in the large employer category. This year, the Way to Go team will recognize the top member government with a trophy and a celebration for staff who participate.

Spread the word about Go-Tober and encourage your jurisdiction to join the challenge by visiting bit.ly/GT26board to download promotional images and sample messaging.

