

Board of Directors Meeting Summary

Wednesday, September 16, 2026

Members/Alternates Present

Colleen Whitlow, Chair	Town of Mead
Julie Duran Mullica*	Adams County
Rhonda Fields, Alternate	Arapahoe County
Claire Levy*	Boulder County
Austin Ward	City and County of Broomfield
Rebecca Lloyd	Clear Creek County
Susan Berumen	Gilpin County
Andy Kerr	Jefferson County
Alison Coombs	City of Aurora
Chris Clemens, Alternate	Town of Bennett
Nicole Speer	City of Boulder
Greg Mills	City of Brighton
Deborah Mulvey	City of Castle Pines
Christine Sweetland	City of Centennial
Charles Dukes	City of Commerce City
Josie Cockrell	Town of Foxfield
Rachel Binkley	City of Glendale
George Lantz	City of Greenwood Village
Saul Tapia Vega	City of Lafayette
Jeslin Shahrezaei	City of Lakewood
Robert Reichardt	City of Littleton
Alecia Brown	City of Lone Tree
Susie Hidalgo-Fahring, Alternate	City of Longmont
Judi Kern	City of Louisville
Jen Wingard	Town of Lyons
Kathleen Bailey	Town of Mountain View
Jay Whittaker	City of Sheridan
Justin Martinez	City of Thornton
Sarah Nurmela	City of Westminster
Susan Wood, Alternate	City of Wheat Ridge
Darius Pakbaz	Colorado Department of Transportation

Others Present: Douglas W. Rex, Executive Director, Melinda Stevens, Executive Assistant, DRCOG; DJ Beckwith*, Douglas County; Ashish Vaidya, Centennial; Ed Bowditch, Jennifer Cassell, Bowditch & Cassell; Jordan Rudel*, Bradyn Nicholson*, Colorado Department of Transportation; Rachel Garrett, Kearns & West; Doug Monroe, Regional Transportation District; and staff.

*Participated via Zoom

Chair Colleen Whitlow called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. with a quorum present.

Move to approve agenda

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

Report of the Chair

Chair Whitlow wanted to congratulate and thank DRCOG staff for a successful awards celebration that took place on August 26.

- The Denver Regional Council of Governments has scheduled a public hearing for October 7th of 2026 at 4 p.m. to receive comments on the update to the 2050 Metro Vision Regional Transportation Plan and associated air quality conformity determinations and Greenhouse Gas Transportation Report documents.
- Director Kern reported that the Finance and Budget Committee accepted funds for DRCOG's nutrition program and approved two contracts associated with EcoPass' Guaranteed Ride Home program administered by DRCOG..
- Director Shahrezaei reported the committee did met before the Board meeting and received a debrief on the 2026 awards ceremony, which met their sponsorship goal and looked ahead to planning the 2027 event.

Report of the Executive Director

- Awards Celebration: The 2026 awards celebration welcomed 450 attendees, raised \$93,000 (exceeding the \$90,000 goal), and presented 18 awards across three categories, recognizing 14 member jurisdictions. Former RTD Board Chair Angie Rivera-Malpiedi received the prestigious John V. Christensen Award.
- Starter Home Initiative: Board members were encouraged to register for the September 23 Starter Home Initiative event, co-sponsored by Common Sense Institute and Civic Results, featuring a panel discussion on starter housing.
- Intermountain West Ozone Exchange: The October 26–28 event, coordinated by North Front Range MPO and Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments, will explore ozone research, regional air quality challenges, and the impacts of transported pollution on ozone management in the Intermountain West.

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 August 19, 2026, meeting
- 2027-2028 Regional Transportation Operations and Technology Set-Aside Project Funding Recommendations

Discussion of the Power Ahead Colorado Community Engagement Grant Program Policy

Chris Selk introduced Rachel Garrett of Kearns & West to provide a detailed overview of the policy to the Board. Power Ahead Colorado's program has made significant efforts to advance building electrification, affordable energy solutions, workforce development, and community engagement throughout the region. \$2.2 million has been allocated for community-based organization (CBO) grants, with \$500,000 available in the first funding cycle to support outreach to historically underserved communities. Grants ranging from

\$15,000 to \$100,000 are expected to support approximately 10 to 15 organizations. The program has collaborated with a Community Advisory Group to develop an equitable, transparent, and accessible application process, including multilingual resources, simplified requirements, technical assistance, and opportunities for partnerships. The grant program is scheduled to launch September 21, with continued support provided to awardees throughout implementation to strengthen community participation and advance the goals of Metro Vision.

Director Speer **moved** to approve the Power Ahead Colorado Community Engagement Grant Program Policy. The motion was **seconded** and **passed** unanimously.

2029-2032 TIP Development Process to Date

Todd Cottrell presented this update to the Directors. Recommended changes to the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) include requiring pedestrian walk audits, implementing a regional emissions calculator, transitioning to an online application system, and introducing shorter, web-based training videos. Additional updates address expanded project eligibility, revised scoring criteria, active transportation data collection, transit project requirements, and adjustments to regional and subregional funding processes. Staff noted that state budget reductions have eliminated or significantly reduced Multimodal Options Fund allocations, resulting in the exclusion of those funds from the upcoming TIP call for projects. Approximately \$405 million in total funding is currently projected, subject to federal funding uncertainties. The proposed policy amendments are expected to advance for consideration in November and December, followed by the regional call for projects in January 2027, with additional project selection, public engagement, and TIP adoption activities continuing into 2028.

RTD Comprehensive Operations and Network Needs Evaluation for Community Transit (CONNECT) Study

Doug Monroe of the Regional Transportation District (RTD) provided an overview of the study to the Board. RTD Connect, formerly known as the Comprehensive Operational Analysis (COA), an initiative launched in March to evaluate and improve the region's transit network in response to changing travel patterns, population growth, and community needs. The project will develop a five-year service plan and a 30-year vision to establish a more efficient, equitable, and financially sustainable transit system. A primary focus is determining the appropriate balance between providing frequent service to maximize ridership and expanding geographic coverage to serve more communities. The RTD Board of Directors will consider community feedback when establishing these priorities, which will guide the development of future service plans anticipated for implementation in early 2028. Public engagement is scheduled to begin September 30 and continue through November, featuring stakeholder workshops, community meetings, online surveys, and a community ambassador program with 30 representatives across RTD's 15 board districts. Feedback gathered throughout the process will inform draft and final network recommendations for RTD Board consideration and adoption.

Go-Tober 2026 challenge

Mikayla Bravo provided an overview of the annual event to the Board. The Gotober Challenge is a month-long initiative beginning October 1 that encourages individuals and employers to explore alternatives to driving alone, including carpooling, walking, biking,

transit, and teleworking. Participating organizations compete on a public leaderboard by tracking non-solo driving trips, with opportunities to win weekly prizes, gift cards, and recognition. The presentation highlighted Castle Rock's success in the previous year, with 774 alternative trips, more than 7,000 miles traveled, over 4,000 pounds of carbon dioxide emissions avoided, and approximately \$4,000 in employee savings. Member governments were encouraged to register their organizations and commit to replacing at least one solo driving trip during October. Way to Go provides marketing materials, workshops, and customized support to participating employers, while the top-performing member government will receive a trophy, a staff celebration, and a year of bragging rights.

Committee Reports

State Transportation Advisory Committee

There was no report.

Metro Mayors Caucus

There was no report.

Metro Area County Commissioners

Executive Director Rex reported the Commissioners met on August 21 to discuss regional wildfire coordination, resiliency, and potential state approaches with gubernatorial candidate Phil Weiser and lieutenant governor candidate Leslie Dahlkemper.

Advisory Committee on Aging

Jayla Sanchez-Warren reported the committee reviewed regional aging needs, Community Care Hub partnerships and funding opportunities, and Arapahoe County's older adult services, emphasizing expanded access to resources that support safe, independent aging.

Regional Air Quality Council

Executive Director Rex reported the council reviewed the preliminary 2026 Control Strategy Blueprint, identifying potential measures to address regional ozone challenges and achieve air quality attainment.

E-470 Authority

Director Mulvey reported the Board announced plans for four new service areas, beginning with Parker in late September, and held a retreat focused on finances, toll revenues, and long-term planning.

Report from CDOT

Director Pakbaz reported transportation updates, which included the opening of a new I-25/Colorado 7 mobility hub, environmental approvals for I-270 improvements, additional federal spending authorization for CDOT projects, and ongoing I-25 bridge construction.

Report from RTD

Doug Monroe reported RTD welcomed Candace Smith as its new Chief Communications Officer and announced the September 27 launch of the first phase of East Colfax Bus Rapid Transit, featuring dedicated bus lanes and center stations..

Next meeting – October 21, 2026

Other matters by members

There were no other matters by members.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:51 p.m.

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

ATTEST:

Douglas W. Rex, Executive Director