We make life better!
DENVER REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

Executive Committee

Colleen Whitlow	Richard Kondo	Jeslin Shahrezaei	Judi Kern	Jeff Baker	Douglas W. Rex
Chair	Vice Chair	Secretary	Treasurer	Immediate Past Chair	Executive Director

Agenda
Board Work Session
Wednesday, November 4, 2026
4 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Video/Web Conference
Denver, CO

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1. Call to order
2. Public Comment
   Up to 15 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 Board, time will be allocated at the end of the meeting for public comment but shall be limited to an additional 15 minutes. The chair requests that there be no public comment on issues for which a prior public hearing has been held before this Board.
3. Summary of October 7, 2026, meeting
   (Attachment A)
4. The Future of Power Ahead Colorado
   (Attachment B) Robert Spotts, Manager, Power Ahead Colorado
5. Proposed Transportation Improvement Program Administrative Fee
   (Attachment C) Douglas W. Rex, Executive Director
6. **Next meeting – December 2, 2026**
7. Other matters by members
8. Adjourn

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ATTACH A

Board Work Session Summary

Wednesday, October 7, 2026
Meeting held via Zoom

Members/Alternates Present

Colleen Whitlow, Chair	Town of Mead
Adam Paul	City and County of Denver
Kevin Flynn	City and County of Denver
Kevin Van Winkle	Douglas County
Andy Kerr	Jefferson County
Sharon Davis	City of Arvada
Rob Andrews	City of Aurora
Christopher Clemens	Town of Bennett
Nicole Speer	City of Boulder
Deborah Mulvey	City of Castle Pines
Christine Sweetland	City of Centennial
Charles Dukes	City of Commerce City
Steve Conklin	City of Edgewater
Emily Baer	Town of Erie
Chuck Harmon	Town of Idaho Springs
Jeslin Shahrezaei	City of Lakewood
Alecia Brown	City on Lone Tree
Judi Kern	City of Louisville
Kathleen Bailey	Town of Mountain View
Rich Kondo	City of Northglenn
Justin Martinez	City of Thornton
Rachel Hultin	City of Wheat Ridge
Susan Wood	City of Wheat Ridge

Others Present: Douglas W. Rex, Executive Director, DRCOG; Zeke Lynch, DJ Beckwith, Douglas County; Southwest Energy Efficiency Project (SWEEP); and DRCOG staff.

Chair Whitlow called the meeting to order around 4:00 p.m.

Public Comment
There was no public comment.

Public Hearing on the Update to the 2050 Metro Vision Regional Transportation Plan
Alvan-Bidal Sanchez presented an overview of the update to the 2050 Metro Vision Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), including its associated federal air quality conformity determination and state transportation greenhouse gas emissions reduction report. The plan, updated every four years, outlines fiscally constrained transportation investments through 2050, emphasizing multimodal improvements, including transit, bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure, roadway safety, and freight movement. Sanchez highlighted the region's collaborative planning efforts, coordination with transportation partners, and extensive public engagement throughout the two-year update process. Regional modeling demonstrated compliance with federal air quality standards for all required planning years, while a combination of modeled investments and additional emissions reduction measures was identified as meeting state greenhouse gas reduction requirements. The 30-day public review period began September 6 and concluded with the public hearing, with additional state agency coordination planned ahead of the December 8 federal approval deadline.

Chair Whitlow opened the public hearing at 4:22 p.m.

Chandler Sanchez of the Southwest Energy Efficiency Project (SWEEP) expressed support for the plan's investments in bus rapid transit, active transportation, and safer streets, while raising concerns about projected increases in driving, reliance on supplemental measures to meet greenhouse gas reduction targets, and the need for greater investment in accessible transit infrastructure and stronger coordination between transportation planning and regional housing development.

With no other participants present, Chair Whitlow closed the public hearing at 4:27 p.m. The Chair also stated that written comments submitted through email, DRCOG's website, or other written channels were included in the public hearing record and provided to the Board.

Regional Housing Strategy Update
Sheila Lynch and Regan Bryson provided an update on the development of DRCOG's Regional Housing Strategy, which builds upon the 2023 Regional Housing Needs Assessment and supports the region's long-term Metro Vision goals. The strategy emphasizes regional collaboration to address housing challenges through five primary goals: increasing and diversifying housing supply, preserving affordable housing, strengthening regional coordination, building support for housing as a regional asset, and expanding aligned funding opportunities. Staff outlined five implementation pathways and 14 supporting strategies focused on housing production, funding, infrastructure coordination, community stability, and regional engagement. The proposed implementation framework includes regional coordination, capacity building, and subregional partnerships, with a potential regional housing advisory committee providing guidance and oversight. Staff anticipate bringing the strategy to the Board for adoption later in October, followed by implementation efforts and technical assistance to support local governments in developing state-required housing action plans. During the discussion, Director Emily Baer encouraged additional outreach and presentations to local elected officials, particularly incoming council members, and staff expressed support for expanding those engagement opportunities.

Adjournment
The meeting adjourned at 4:51 p.m.

ATTACH B

Board Work Session

Meeting date: November 4, 2026

Agenda Item #: 4

The Future of Power Ahead Colorado

Agenda item type: Discussion

Summary
Power Ahead Colorado staff will provide an update on opportunities for future program delivery beyond 2029.

Background
Power Ahead Colorado was established in 2024 through a $200 million U.S. Environmental Protection Agency grant to support regional building energy efficiency and electrification. Although the grant ends in October 2029, the need for affordable, comfortable, and healthy buildings will continue.

Utilities and local governments have expressed interest in partnering with Power Ahead to support their programs. These conversations present opportunities to build on existing investments, coordinate services, and sustain benefits beyond the grant. Additional partnerships would require funding that covers all added costs and protects resources committed to the DRCOG region.

Other states offer examples of coordinated program delivery, and Colorado's recent PUC reauthorization establishes a framework for third-party administration of utility customer programs. Power Ahead's regional relationships and implementation resources could help improve service and increase the value of ratepayer dollars already supporting this work.

This work session seeks Board feedback on potential partnerships and regulatory or legislative pathways, including opportunities beyond the region and current grant.

Action by others
None.

Previous discussion/action
None.

Recommendation
None.

Attachment(s)
Staff presentation

For more information
If you need additional information, please contact Douglas W. Rex, Executive Director, at 303-480-6701; Robert Spotts, Manager, rspotts@drcog.org.

The Future of Power Ahead Colorado

Board Work Session- November 4, 2026

POWER AHEAD COLORADO
A Program of DRCOG

DRCOG's $200 million investment in more comfortable homes, healthier buildings and cleaner air.

Lower upgrade costs

$1,500 heat pump rebates for efficient heating and cooling, plus no-cost home upgrades for eligible households.

Free expert guidance

Home energy advisors help you explore upgrades, find incentives and connect with contractors.

Jobs and business opportunities

Paid training and career support for new workers. Training reimbursements and business support to help contractors grow.

Support for local communities

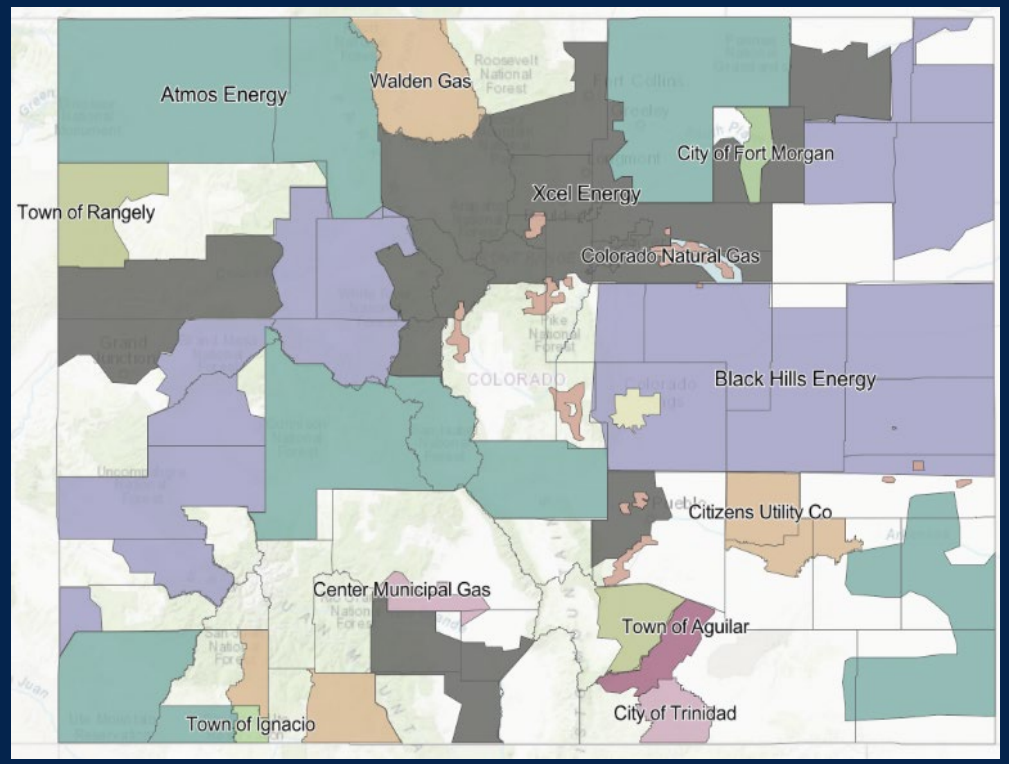
Funding and technical assistance for local governments to improve buildings and reduce pollution.

What we're hearing from our partners

- Utilities have asked for support, including through conversations at the Rocky Mountain Utility Exchange.
- Current partnerships include Xcel's Contractor Hub investment, coordination with state programs, and statewide contractor listings.
- Local governments have asked Power Ahead to administer rebates and other energy programs.

Shared challenges across service territories

- Contractors work across utility boundaries and navigate different incentive requirements.
- Residents face overlapping programs and uncertainty about available support.
- Separate programs can duplicate contractor support, workforce training, and customer education efforts.
- Greater coordination could make participation easier and reduce duplicated effort.



Colorado Gas Utility Service Territories

How other states organize program delivery

TECH CLEAN CALIFORNIA

Structure: Statewide midstream rebates + equity pilots funded through rate-payer dollars.
Success: Exceeded heat pump targets; 40%+ incentives to priority populations.

efficiency MAINE

Structure: Independent authority overseeing full program delivery.
Success: Surpassed goals two-years early; 100K+ heat pumps installed.

mass save®

Structure: Utility-funded, implemented by third parties under state oversight.
Success: Met energy and emissions KPIs through coordinated retrofits.

ASHP
Air Source Heat Pump Collaborative

Structure: Statewide partnership among utilities, nonprofits, and government agencies.
Success: Rapid market growth, strong consumer awareness; contractor training network.

What Power Ahead Colorado can contribute

- Community and partnership oriented.
- Established infrastructure for multiple programs.
- Focused on research and data-driven transformation.
- Public oversight.
- We really, really, really care about this.





Alignment with our EPA workplan

“DRCOG intends to leverage several significant sources of funding beyond the CPRG program to decarbonize buildings.”

“Individual local governments cannot achieve building decarbonization alone and need organized collaboration across geographies, sectors, and industries to succeed.”

“The program pursues innovative, replicable, and scalable policies and actions”






Technology Advancement and Research
National Laboratory of the Rockies
nbi new buildings institute
RMI
Implementation supported by Best Practices
brendle GROUP
Group 14
veic
BUILDING DECARBONIZATION COALITION
Awareness and Engagement informed by Behavioral Science
GBSM
INSTITUTE FOR THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT
KEARNS | WEST
karsh hagan madden
POWER AHEAD COLORADO
drcog
Coordinated Program Design (BDN)
ccef
CEO
REWIRING AMERICA
Xcel Energy
Workforce Development
BREAK THROUGH
BLUE SKY BUILDERS
MI CASA RESOURCE CENTER
LUTHERAN FAMILY SERVICES ROCKY MOUNTAINS
BUILDING DECARBONIZATION COALITION
Intergovernmental Collaboration & Policy Development
drcog
LOTUS
CC4CA
SWEEP

Colorado's consideration of third-party delivery

2026 PUC reauthorization — HB26-1326

- Allows the PUC to require third-party delivery when in ratepayers' best interests.
- Requires proposals to address program performance, administrative costs, and rebate turnaround time.

Potential opportunity: Build on Power Ahead's existing programing to improve service and efficiency with ratepayer dollars.

Potential partnership and policy pathways

Utility and community partnerships

- Offer Power Ahead Colorado's services through funded partnerships with utilities and local governments.
- Sustain shared services beyond 2029.

Regulatory and legislative pathways

- Explore frameworks and pathways for third-party delivery of customer programs.
- Consider roles for Power Ahead that complement utility efforts and improve the value of ratepayer dollars.

Discussion

- Could Power Ahead help existing ratepayer dollars go further through delivery of programs, leveraging existing infrastructure?
- Is DRCOG open to fully-funded partnerships beyond the region and grant period?
- Should staff explore regulatory and legislative options for a broader role?



THANK YOU!

Robert Spotts- rspotts@drcog.org

ATTACH C

Board Work Session

Meeting date: November 4, 2026

Agenda Item #: 5

Proposed Transportation Improvement Program Administrative Fee

Agenda item type: Discussion

Summary

Discussion on a proposed TIP administrative fee to replace a portion of the annual DRCOG member contribution assessment. The TIP administrative fee, if approved, will be included in the 2029-2032 TIP call for projects.

Background

At the Board's 2025 retreat, staff initiated a conversation to explore an alternate member contribution (dues) concept for future implementation. The concept involves reducing DRCOG member contributions and making up any differences by applying a TIP administrative fee to communities successfully receiving a project in a TIP call for projects.

Specifically, a 1.5% fee would be assessed on any DRCOG funded TIP project approved by the Board. The fee would then be invoiced and become part of a project sponsor's DRCOG membership contribution.

DRCOG would then increase the federal share on the project from 80% to 81.5%, ensuring no additional cost to the project sponsor. See the following example for more detail:

TIP Administrative Fee Example

Current project – no fee

- Project cost: $2,000,000
  - 80% Federal: $1,600,000
  - 20% Local: $400,000

- Total Federal: $1,600,000
- Total local: $400,000

Current project – with fee

- Project cost: $2,000,000
  - 81.5% Federal: $1,630,000
  - 18.5% Local: $370,00
  - 1.5% TIP fee: $24,450

- Total Federal: $1,630,000
- Total local: $394,000

DRCOG staff have been working with the Transportation Advisory Committee to finalize a draft amendment to the 2029-2032 TIP Policy document, which is anticipated to be discussed at the next DRCOG Board meeting.

Action by others

None.

Previous discussion/action

April 12, 2025 – DRCOG Board of Directors Retreat
July 2, 2025 – Finance and Budget Committee
September 3, 2025 – Finance and Budget Committee

Recommendation
None.

Attachment(s)
Staff presentation

For more information
If you need additional information, please contact Douglas W. Rex, Executive Director, at 303-480-6721 or drex@drcog.org.



TIP Administrative Fee

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Member Contribution (Dues) Assessment

- Calculated for each member based on population and assessed value
- Total annual assessment (frozen since 2024): $2,099,000
- Represents 2% of DRCOG's 2026/2027 budget



TIP Administrative Fee

- Potential to reduce member contribution assessment by 40-50%

- Assess 1.5% TIP fee.
  - Assessed on Board approved DRCOG-funded TIP projects
  - Reduces local match on the project from 20% to 18.5%
  - Increases federal share on the project from 80% to 81.5%



TIP Fee example

Current project - no fee

- Project Cost: $2,000,000
  - 80% Federal: $1,600,000
  - 20% Local: $400,000

- Total Federal: $1,600,000
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  - 1.5% TIP fee: $24,450

- Total Federal: $1,630,000
- Total Local: $394,450

Thank you!

Douglas W. Rex

Executive Director

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