

At a Glance

Mission

The Denver Regional Council of Governments is a planning organization where local governments collaborate to establish guidelines, set policy and allocate funding in the areas of:

- Transportation and personal mobility.
- Growth and development.
- Aging and disability resources.

Vision

Our region is a diverse network of vibrant, connected, lifelong communities with a broad spectrum of housing, transportation and employment, complemented by world-class natural and built environments.

Boundary

A map of the DRCOG boundary is available through the [Regional Data Catalog](#).

If you need digital accessibility assistance, submit a request at drcog.org/access or call 303-455-1000. Please expect a response within 72 hours (three business days).



Roles and responsibilities

DRCOG functions as a **regional planning commission** and prepares [Metro Vision](#), the plan for the physical development of the region. Each DRCOG member government implements Metro Vision in ways that complement its local vision and plans.

DRCOG serves as the **metropolitan planning organization** for the region, ensuring that existing and future expenditures of transportation project funds are based on a collaborative planning process involving local governments and major planning partners, such as the Colorado Department of Transportation and the Regional Transportation District.

DRCOG is the region's federally designated **area agency on aging**. The Area Agency on Aging carries out programs pursuant to the Older Americans Act and Older Coloradans Act, advocating for the rights of older adults in long-term care facilities and distributing funding for programs serving older adults, from transportation to meals.

Cancellation policy for Board and committee meetings

The DRCOG Board of Directors and its committees are scheduled to meet monthly. Notice of meetings is made public, in accordance with Colorado's open meeting laws. There may be times when DRCOG's executive director must cancel an advertised meeting, including but not limited to:

- When there is no business to conduct.
- It is known in advance there will not be a quorum present.
- A meeting falls on a holiday.
- When inclement weather or another emergency occurs.

A cancellation will be communicated as soon as it is known, but no later than two hours before the meeting start time.

To check for meeting cancellation:

1. Check the calendar page on [the DRCOG website](#).
2. Check your email inbox; we make every effort to send a notice of cancellation as soon as possible.
3. Check on X (formerly Twitter) [@DRCOGorg](#).

Member governments

Board of Directors

Colleen Whitlow, Chair | **Richard Kondo**, Vice Chair | **Jeslin Shahrezaei**, Secretary
Judi Kern, Treasurer | **Jeff Baker**, Immediate Past Chair

Jurisdiction	Director	Alternate	Population (2020)
Adams County	Julie Duran Mullica, Commissioner	Kathy Henson, Commissioner	520,070
Arapahoe County	Jeff Baker, Commissioner	Rhonda Fields, Commissioner	655,044
Boulder County	Claire Levy, Commissioner	Ashley Stolzmann, Commissioner	330,860
City and County of Broomfield	Austin Ward, Council Member	Laurie Anderson, Council Member	74,470
Clear Creek County	Rebecca Lloyd, Commissioner	Jodie Hartman-Ball, Commissioner	9,387
City and County of Denver	Adam Paul, Director of Regional Affairs	Nicholas Williams, Deputy Chief of Staff, Transportation and Infrastructure	717,632
City and County of Denver	Kevin Flynn, Council Member	Shontel Lewis, Council Member	717,632
Douglas County	Kevin Van Winkle, Commissioner	Abe Laydon, Commissioner	360,037
Gilpin County	Susan Berumen, Commissioner	Vacant	5,799
Jefferson County	Andy Kerr, Commissioner	Rachel Zenzinger, Commissioner	582,782
City of Arvada	Sharon Davis, Council Member	Shawna Ambrose, Council Member	124,367
City of Aurora	Alison Coombs, Council Member	Rob Andrews, Council Member	386,913
Town of Bennett	Larry Vittum, Trustee	Royce Pindell, Trustee	2,902
City of Black Hawk	David Spellman, Mayor	Vacant	127
City of Boulder	Nicole Speer, Mayor Pro Tem	Ryan Schuchard, Council Member	108,154
Town of Bow Mar	Vacant	Vacant	851
City of Brighton	Greg Mills, Mayor	Ann Taddeo, Council Member	40,303
City of Castle Pines	Deborah Mulvey, Council Member	Nate Winegar, Council Member	11,206
Town of Castle Rock	Jason Gray, Mayor	Tim Dietz, Trustee	73,746
City of Centennial	Christine Sweetland, Mayor	Ashish Vaidya, Council Member	108,152

Member governments (continued)

Jurisdiction	Director	Alternate	Population (2020)
City of Central	Zane Plsek, Alderman	Vacant	776
City of Cherry Hills Village	Robert Eber, Mayor Pro Tem	Susan Maguire, Council Member	6,429
Town of Columbine Valley	Vacant	Vacant	1,502
City of Commerce City	Charles Dukes, Council Member	Craig Kim, Council Member	62,699
City of Dacono	Michelle Rogers, Council Member	Adam Morehead, Mayor	6,340
Town of Deer Trail	Vacant	Vacant	1,104
City of Edgewater	Steve Conklin, Mayor	Vacant	4,996
Town of Empire	Vacant	Vacant	343
City of Englewood	Jack Bethel, Council Member	Othoniel Sierra, Mayor	33,657
Town of Erie	Emily Baer, Trustee	Brandon Bell, Mayor Pro Tem	30,405
City of Federal Heights	Linda Montoya, Mayor	Vacant	14,334
Town of Firestone	Ray Byrd, Trustee	Don Conyac, Mayor	16,660
Town of Foxfield	Josie Cockrell, Trustee	Lisa Jones, Mayor	752
Town of Frederick	Windi Padia, Trustee	Vacant	14,695
Town of Georgetown	Georgia Kofoed, Police Judge	Rich Barrows, Selectman	1,113
City of Glendale	Rachel Binkley, Council Member	Ryan Tuchscherer, Council Member	4,599
City of Golden	Gerhard Pfau, Council Member	Emily Kurzinski, Council Member	20,226
City of Greenwood Village	George Lantz, Mayor	Vacant	15,652
City of Idaho Springs	Chuck Harmon, Mayor	Vacant	1,811
City of Lafayette	Saul Tapia Vega, Mayor	Kyle Beaulieu, Council Member	30,377
City of Lakewood	Jeslin Shahrezaei, Council Member	David Rein, Council Member	156,195
Town of Larkspur	Vacant	Isaac Levy, Council Member	206

Member governments (continued)

Jurisdiction	Director	Alternate	Population (2020)
City of Littleton	Robert Reichardt, Council Member	Kyle Schlachter, Mayor	45,533
Town of Lochbuie	Kat Bristow, Trustee	Larry Strock, Trustee	8,189
City of Lone Tree	Marissa Harmon, Mayor	Alecia Brown, Council Member	14,256
City of Longmont	Matthew Popkin, Council Member	Susie Hidalgo-Fahring, Mayor	99,129
City of Louisville	Judi Kern, Council Member	Dietrich Hoefner, Council Member	21,171
Town of Lyons	Hollie Rogin, Mayor	Mark Browning, Trustee	2,202
Town of Mead	Colleen Whitlow, Mayor	David Adams, Trustee	4,776
Town of Morrison	Angela Bernhardt, Trustee	Adam Way, Trustee	396
Town of Mountain View	Kathleen Bailey, Mayor Pro Tem	Vacant	541
Town of Nederland	Nichole Sterling, Mayor Pro Tem	Vacant	1,481
City of Northglenn	Richard Kondo, Council Member	Joshua Sievers, Council Member	38,007
Town of Parker	John Diak, Council Member	Erik Frandsen, Council Member	58,804
City of Sheridan	Jay Whittaker, Council Member	Sally Daigle, Mayor	6,089
Town of Silver Plume	Lee Berenato, Mayor	Vacant	206
Town of Superior	Neal Shah, Mayor Pro Tem	Mike Foster, Trustee	13,099
City of Thornton	Justin Martinez, Council Member	Roberta Ayala, Council Member	142,118
City of Westminster	Sarah Nurmela, Mayor Pro Tem	Jack Johnson, Council Member	116,072
City of Wheat Ridge	Rachel Hultin, Council Member	Dan Larson, Council Member	32,365

Population source: State of Colorado Demography Office

Governor's non-voting appointees to the Board of Directors

Darius Pakbaz, Colorado Department of Transportation

Sally Chafee, Colorado Department of Transportation

Regional Transportation District non-voting appointee to the Board of Directors

Kiernan Maletsky, Regional Transportation District

Key staff



Douglas W. Rex
Executive Director

drex@drcog.org
303-480-6701

Responsibilities: Board and committees, state and federal legislative matters, policy analysis, Board member outreach.

Doug leads a team of professionals dedicated to enhancing and protecting the quality of life in the region. He works with the Board of Directors to establish guidelines, set policy and allocate funding. Doug joined DRCOG in 2013 as director of Transportation Planning and Operations and moved into the executive director role in 2017. Under his leadership, the organization has redefined the process for allocating federal transportation funds, launched innovative programs and services in the aging division, and adopted Metro Vision, the region's plan for growth and development through 2040. Doug works closely with planning partners and community leaders in the Denver metro area to help the region achieve its best possible future, emphasizing healthy, inclusive and livable communities; connected multimodal transportation; a vibrant regional economy; and a safe and resilient natural and built environment. He has a master's in urban planning from the University of Kansas and more than 30 years' experience in transportation planning, policy and operations.



Randy Arnold
Human Resources Director

rarnold@drcog.org
303-480-6709

Responsibilities: Human resources compliance; staff recruitment, onboarding, benefits, performance and development; facilities management; workplace safety.

Randy leads a team of professionals in DRCOG's daily human resources operations. Randy joined DRCOG as the organization's first director of Human Resources in 2019. Since joining, Randy has added a full-time staff member to lead DRCOG's recruitment and onboarding functions and modernized staff development activities by securing a learning management system and a digital library of courses. Randy brings more than 30 years of human resources experience to DRCOG. He has served in leadership roles in long-term health care, higher education, consulting and environmental services. Randy holds a Master of Business Administration with an emphasis in human resource management and certifications from both the Society of Human Resource Management and the Human Resources Certification Institute.



Jenny Hunnings
Chief Operating Officer
jhunnings@drcog.org
303-480-6707

Responsibilities: Business operations, finance and accounting, budgets, contracts, compliance, risk, information technologies.

Jenny leads Administration and Finance division staff in the daily business operations of DRCOG. She started at DRCOG in 2014 as contracts and budget manager, was promoted to accounting services manager in 2015, and has served as director since 2019. She is responsible for maintaining fiscal integrity and leads the annual federal singular audit, payroll, risk management, grant and Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act compliance oversight, grant application submittals, and new business development opportunities. She also leads DRCOG's information technology team. Jenny brings more than 25 years of financial and business operations experience to DRCOG. Her prior roles include regional accounting manager and regional director for two large corporations.



Sheila Lynch
Regional Planning and Development Director
slynch@drcog.org
303-480-6839

Responsibilities:

Metro Vision, local government capacity building, partnership development, regional data, land-use modeling and forecasting, internal and external technology solutions.

To her role as director of Regional Planning and Development, Sheila brings more than 20 years of experience in promoting and applying planning innovations, securing funding to grow and sustain projects, pursuing continuous improvement of existing services, and developing inspired and effective teams. After obtaining a master's in city planning from the University of Pennsylvania, Sheila started her career as a case manager for a homeless youth program before leading community development initiatives at community-based nonprofits. After moving to Colorado, she worked in planning for the City of Lakewood, project-managing local land use entitlement processes and land development regulation updates. Prior to joining DRCOG, Sheila was the land use and built environment manager for the Tri-County Health Department, leading a team of professionals who worked closely with local communities to incorporate health and environmental considerations in planning decisions and development projects.



Steve Erickson
Communications
and Marketing
Director

serickson@drcog.org
303-480-6716

Responsibilities: Communications, marketing, public relations, research, creative design and production, web and social media, Way to Go.

Steve leads all communications and marketing initiatives at DRCOG, as well as the regional transportation demand management program, Way to Go. Steve is responsible for media relations, graphic design and production, DRCOG's websites and social media, events, and public engagement. During his tenure, DRCOG has rebranded, creating a new visual identity to better represent its innovative mission and vision, and has redesigned and launched new user-friendly websites. He also oversaw the creation of a new brand for the Way to Go partnership, which is well known for organizing Bike to Work Day, the second-largest event of its kind nationwide. Steve came to DRCOG in 2012 with 15 years of diverse leadership experience in marketing, advertising and public relations.



Jacob Riger
Transportation
Planning and
Operations Director

jriger@drcog.org
303-480-6751

Responsibilities: Metropolitan planning organization activities and programs; Transportation Advisory and Regional Transportation committees.

Jacob has almost 30 years of expertise in transportation planning in the public and private sectors. He joined DRCOG in 2012 and most recently served as manager of multimodal transportation planning, leading teams that develop and maintain the 2050 Metro Vision Regional Transportation Plan; corridor and community plans; and safety, transit and freight planning. He directly led DRCOG's bus rapid transit planning efforts and managed several of the agency's committees and work groups. He has also represented DRCOG on the boards of the Southwest Chief and Front Range Passenger Rail Commission and the Denver Regional Mobility and Access Council, as well as on the Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations' Technical Committee. Prior to DRCOG, he worked for consulting firms specializing in multimodal and transit planning for various metropolitan planning organizations, transit agencies and local governments across the country.



Florine (Flo) Raitano
Director of
Partnership
Development and
Innovation

fraitano@drcog.org
 303-480-6789

Responsibilities: Operational and service excellence for partners and stakeholders.

Flo has been with DRCOG since 2013 and is actively involved in all agency programs and services, helping make recommendations on long-range activities; identifying opportunities to leverage cross-program strengths; developing stronger teams through feedback, coaching and mentoring; developing and maintaining collaborative external relationships; conducting targeted outreach to DRCOG’s smaller, more rural communities; and most recently developing the region’s first Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy to ensure DRCOG’s involvement in creating a robust economy and resilient region. Twice elected mayor of Dillon, Flo has a background in water, community development, transportation and economic development. She served for 10 years as the first executive director of the Colorado Rural Development Council, was executive director of the I-70 Coalition from 2006 to 2010 and was appointed by Governor Bill Ritter in 2007 to the Technical Advisory Committee for the Blue Ribbon Panel on Transportation Finance and Implementation.



Jayla Sanchez-Warren
Area Agency on
Aging Director

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 303-480-6735

Responsibilities:

Older adult information, issues and services; Network of Care; Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program; Aging and Disability Resource Center; Advisory Committee on Aging.

Jayla oversees grants via the federal Older Americans Act and state Older Coloradans Act to local providers for transportation, nutrition, home care and legal services for the region’s 60-and-older population. Jayla has more than 37 years’ experience in the field of aging, including as a long-term care ombudsman advocating for the rights of residents in nursing homes and assisted living facilities. She co-founded DRCOG’s Boomer Bond program, which helps local governments prepare for and respond to the needs of an aging population. She has worked to diversify funding for the Area Agency on Aging, and under her leadership, the agency has received \$6.5 million in additional funding and participated in several national demonstration programs. Jayla has successfully advocated to double state funding for area agencies on aging, significantly increasing services for the state’s most vulnerable people. She serves on the Colorado Aging Policy Advisory Committee and the Community Advisory Committees for Telligen and the Coalition to Transform Advanced Care.



Rich Mauro
**Director of
Legislative Affairs**
rmauro@drcog.org
303-480-6778

Responsibilities: Legislative analysis, advocacy and policy development.

Rich directs DRCOG's legislative program, assisting the Board and executive director in identifying, analyzing and advocating for state and federal legislation related to all of DRCOG's programs and responsibilities, including regional planning, transportation, older adults and the environment. He also coordinates policy development for the agency. Rich has been with DRCOG for nearly 40 years and has played a key role in many state legislative initiatives, including increasing state funding for the Older Coloradans Act from \$500,000 two decades ago to more than \$20 million today. He serves on the board of the Colorado Center for Aging, co-chairs the Colorado Center for Aging's Advocacy Committee and was awarded the Colorado Gerontological Society's Distinguished Pioneer in Aging Award in 2025. Rich holds a master's in political science and public administration from the University of Colorado Boulder. Prior to joining DRCOG, he spent six years at the Colorado Legislative Council.



Melinda Stevens
Executive Assistant
mstevens@drcog.org
303-480-6701

Responsibilities: Board and committee communication and administration.

Melinda started working for DRCOG in August 2019 as the division assistant for Transportation Planning and Operations, where she gained an understanding of the organization's essential work to improve transportation for all Denver region residents. A year later, in August 2020, she was appointed to the role of executive assistant. Melinda considers it an honor and a privilege to be part of DRCOG and its member governments' efforts to improve the quality of life in the Denver metro area. Melinda studied communications and criminal justice at the University of Northern Colorado.