

Board update

Board meeting: May 15, 2024



Action items



[Discussion of the fiscal year 2024-2025 budget](#)

Presenter: Jenny Dock,
Administration and Finance
director

Background: Prepared by DRCOG staff, the 2024-2025 Budget and Work Program is a fiscal guide for the operation of DRCOG from July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025, and also highlights DRCOG's work plan activities for the Denver region. The Finance and Budget Committee reviewed the draft budget at its standing meeting on April 17 and recommended it for Board approval after final review at a special meeting on May 1.

Dock gave an overview of the primary changes to the budget from the previous fiscal year. Revenue is down slightly due to a loss of funding for the Area Agency on Aging, although an increase in transportation grants has made up much of the difference. Dock also detailed efforts to reduce expenditures to achieve budget neutrality and highlighted the importance of member contributions as a funding source.

Result: The Board unanimously approved the 2024-2025 Budget and Work Program.

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[Discussion of the Federal Transit Administration Section 5310 funding awards](#)

Presenter: Travis Noon,
Area Agency on Aging grant
compliance manager

Background: The Federal Transit Administration Section 5310 program provides annual funding to support specialized transit services for older adults and individuals with disabilities. Approximately \$3.1 million is available for the period from July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025. A call for projects in November 2023 generated requests from 10 organizations, totaling nearly \$4.1 million.

The proposals were reviewed by a selection panel that included staff from the City and County of Denver, City of Northglenn, Adams County, and members of DRCOG's Advisory Committee on Aging. Noon gave a summary of the panel's award recommendations, which prioritized funding for direct services to older adults and people with disabilities.

The panel's original recommendations allocated around \$3.3 million in funding, based on annualized estimates from the Federal Transit Administration. However, the full-year apportionments released in April were slightly lower than estimated, so DRCOG staff recommended reducing the award amount to DRCOG from \$900,000 to \$516,346. All other projects remained as originally proposed by the review panel.

Result: The Board unanimously approved the recommended Federal Transit Administration Section 5310 awards for fiscal year 2024-2025.

Informational briefings



[Active Transportation Plan update](#)

Presenter: Aaron Villere, senior planner, Transportation Planning and Operations

Background: In 2019, the Board adopted DRCOG's Active Transportation Plan, which outlines ways to support walking, bicycling and active mobility in the Denver region. The plan is scheduled for a major update during the 2024-2025 fiscal year. Villere gave an overview of some post-pandemic challenges and innovations in active mobility that the updated plan will address.

DRCOG staff will kick off the planning process with stakeholder and public engagement this spring and summer. The updated plan will address safety improvements and comfort for active modes of transportation; the expansion of multimodal accessibility throughout the region; and ways to help member governments accelerate implementation of local active transportation plans, projects and programs.

[FasTracks annual status report](#)



Presenters: Brian Welch, assistant general manager, and Michael Davies, government relations officer, Regional Transportation District

Background: Welch presented RTD's annual FasTracks status report, as required by a resolution adopted by the Board in 2013. To date, 10 FasTracks projects have been completed, and four remain unfinished: the North Metro Rail Line from 124th to 162nd

Avenue, the Southwest Rail and L Line extensions, and Phase 2 of the Northwest Rail Line. Welch gave an update on the Northwest Rail Peak Service Study, which he expects will be completed later this year.

Davies addressed two pieces of legislation from the 2024 session relevant to the FasTracks program. Senate Bill 24-230 (Statewide Remediation Services) provides funding for transit and passenger rail projects and requires RTD to produce a report outlining how it will finish all remaining FasTracks projects by 2034, with a priority on the Northwest Rail and North Metro Rail lines. Senate Bill 24-184 (Support Surface Transportation Infrastructure Development) also provides funding for transit and passenger rail and requires RTD, in conjunction with other agencies, to produce a series of reports on establishing passenger rail along the corridor between Denver and Fort Collins, an area that overlaps with the Northwest Rail Line.

[State legislative wrap-up](#)



Presenters: Rich Mauro, legislative affairs director; Jennifer Cassell, partner, Bowditch & Cassell Public Affairs

Background: The 2024 Colorado General Assembly adjourned on May 8. Mauro and Cassell highlighted bills that DRCOG took positions on related to aging, transportation and housing.

House Bill 24-1430 (Long Bill Funding) will provide \$2 million for Colorado's area agencies on aging, although the final amount fell short of the \$5 million DRCOG staff and lobbyists advocated for. Mauro noted that House Bill 24-1211 (State Funding for Senior Services Contingency Fund) and House Bill 24-1322 (Medicaid Coverage Housing and Nutrition Services) may also provide funding opportunities for the Area Agency on Aging and its service providers.

In transportation, Cassell highlighted the big year for transit in this session, including Senate Bill 24-032 (Methods to Increase the Use of Transit), which made permanent the grant program that allows transit agencies to offer free rides during peak ozone season and created a new grant program to allow agencies to provide fare-free year-round transit services to Coloradans age 19 and younger. The final bill also included a two-year extension of the Alternative Transportation Option Tax Credit for employers.

In housing, Cassell said most of the legislation introduced this year passed, with the exception

of construction defect bills. She highlighted House Bill 24-1313 (Housing in Transit-Oriented Communities), noting that the final bill was significantly narrower than the original and gives local governments more flexibility around implementation. DRCOG staff and lobbyists were successful in getting one amendment added to the bill, which allows area agencies on aging to apply for infrastructure grant funding.

A full summary of the legislative session is available on [the DRCOG website](#).

