

Board update

Board meeting: September 18, 2024

Action item



[Discussion of the Regional Transportation District ballot question](#)

Presenter: Rich Mauro,
legislative affairs director

Background: In 1999, voters exempted RTD from revenue and spending limitations under the Taxpayer's Bill of Rights, also known as TABOR, so the organization could pay down debt incurred to finance construction of the Southeast and Southwest light rail lines until bond repayment, which will happen this year. At its June 25 meeting, the RTD board of directors passed a resolution to submit a question for the November 5 election ballot to allow voters to decide whether to continue RTD's TABOR exemption. Mauro presented a draft resolution expressing the Board's support of RTD's ballot question.

Result: The Board voted to table action on the resolution until a future meeting.

Informational briefings



[Oversight and decision-making process for DRCOG's building decarbonization program](#)

Presenter: Robert Spotts,
program manager, Transportation Planning and Operations

Background: To manage the implementation of a new building decarbonization program, DRCOG staff have designed a new committee

structure to provide transparent oversight, foster public engagement and ensure accountability. The proposed committees will also bring together diverse perspectives and maintain a strong focus on equity in line with the program's goals.

Spotts presented an overview of the proposed structure, which would follow the Transportation Advisory Committee and Regional Transportation Committee model. Staff, working groups and ad hoc committees would make recommendations to a technical committee, which would have 30 members: 18 representatives from local governments, one senior DRCOG staff member, one representative from the Colorado Energy Office, four representatives from Xcel and other utility companies, and eight representatives from special interest groups in the building sector.

The technical committee would make recommendations to an advisory committee, which would have 11 members: four DRCOG Board representatives, one senior DRCOG staff member, one representative from the Colorado Energy Office, two utility members and three special interest members. The advisory committee would make recommendations to the Board.

The October 16 Board meeting agenda will include action items to amend the [Committee Policy, Guidelines and Descriptions](#) to formalize the building decarbonization committee structure and appoint Board members to the advisory committee. Directors and alternates will have an opportunity to express their interest in serving on the advisory committee prior to the meeting.



[Federal Boulevard Bus Rapid Transit project overview](#)

Presenters: Angie Drumm, Region 1 deputy director of traffic safety and operations, Colorado Department of

Transportation; and Holly Buck, president, Felsburg Holt & Ullevig

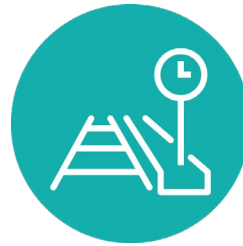
Background: The Colorado Department of Transportation’s Federal Boulevard Bus Rapid Transit project spans 18 miles of Federal Boulevard from 120th Avenue to Dartmouth Avenue. DRCOG’s Transportation Improvement Program is helping fund ongoing preconstruction activities.

The project is currently in the environmental review and preliminary design phase, which will address multiple aspects, including proposed service, routing and operations; vehicles and infrastructure; and roadway and station design, cost, funding and financing. CDOT has confirmed that much of the route will have a dedicated curbside bus lane; the sections where buses will operate in mixed traffic will include transit-only signals to help ensure speed and reliability. CDOT plans to consolidate the 89 existing stops along the route into 44 enhanced stations and increase service frequency.

The final design phase is set to begin next year, and construction is scheduled to start in mid-2027, with a goal of being fully operational by 2030. As part of the Federal Transit Administration’s Capital Investment Grant Program, the project is eligible to receive up to \$150 million in federal funding for construction.

To obtain public feedback, CDOT is attending community events and festivals and will hold a second round of open houses in spring 2025. A stakeholder committee, established in July, will continue to meet regularly.

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[Front Range Passenger Rail update](#)

Presenter: Chrissy Breit, chief of staff, Front Range Passenger Rail District

Background: Since its inception in mid-2022, the Front Range Passenger Rail District has been working to implement passenger rail service from Fort Collins to Pueblo, with a goal of beginning service in 2029 and offering six round trips daily by 2035.

In late 2023, the district was accepted into the Federal Railroad Administration’s Corridor Identification and Development Program, which makes it eligible for millions in grant funding. Current activities include the creation of a federally required service development plan, expected to be completed in late 2025, and meetings with local government officials to pinpoint future station locations. Front Range Passenger Rail District staff also plan to share the organization’s Alternatives Analysis Report, which evaluated the feasibility of various intercity rail configurations, with the public later this year.

Legislation passed by the Colorado General Assembly earlier this year, including Senate Bill 24-184 (Support Surface Transportation Infrastructure Development) and Senate Bill 24-230 (Oil and Gas Production Fees), will provide additional funding and opportunities for the development and implementation of Front Range Passenger Rail service. The district chose to forgo pursuing additional funding through a ballot question in the 2024 election and instead plans to do so in 2026.

