

# Board update

## Board meeting: October 15, 2025

### Action items



#### [Selection of Nominating Committee representative](#)

**Presenter:** Douglas W. Rex, executive director

**Background:** Each fall, the Board selects directors to serve on the Nominating Committee, which makes nominations the following year for the Executive Committee, Finance and Budget Committee, Performance and Engagement Committee, and other regional boards and committees. The full Board selects one member of the Nominating Committee, while others are appointed by the chair and other committees.

Nominating Committee members must have served on the Board for at least one year, and they are not eligible to be nominated to the Executive Committee while serving on the Nominating Committee.

Nicole Speer of the City of Boulder, who has previously served on the Nominating Committee, was the only director nominated from the floor.

**Result:** The Board elected Speer to another term on the Nominating Committee.



#### [Programming year adjustments to the Transportation Improvement Program](#)

**Presenter:** Jacob Riger, Transportation Planning and Operations director

**Background:** The regular schedule for developing the 2028-2031 Transportation Improvement Program (also known as the TIP) would require policy development in 2025 and a call for projects in 2026, during the update of the 2050 Metro Vision Regional Transportation Plan. The overlap wouldn't give stakeholders in the region the chance to align TIP investment priorities with updated Regional Transportation Plan priorities. It would also create a burden for project sponsors and DRCOG staff.

In May, TIP program manager Todd Cottrell proposed a solution to the Board to address the overlap by making two one-time adjustments to the TIP process. The first adjustment would shift the 2028-2031 TIP to 2029-2032, which would allow the updated Regional Transportation Plan to be adopted before the next TIP call for projects. Future TIP documents would follow the

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regular schedule of updates every two years and calls for projects every four years.

The second adjustment is to reallocate funding for federal fiscal year 2028 to cover the gap left by changing the TIP schedule. Following the May Board presentation, DRCOG staff refined the proposal for handling 2028 funding into a three-pronged approach: first, allocating one year of funding to each set-aside at the current \$11.5 million level; second, backfilling each federal funding source without reducing or eliminating funding from existing projects, which would cost an estimated \$26 million; and third, adding the remaining unallocated fiscal year 2028 funding (projected at \$48 million) to the next call for projects for the 2029-2032 TIP.

**Result:** The Board voted to table action on the TIP adjustments until the November 5 special Board meeting.

## Strategic informational briefing



### *Front Range Passenger Rail and joint service update*

**Presenters:** Chris Nevitt, chair, Front Range Passenger Rail District, and Lisa Kaufmann, senior strategic advisor to Governor Jared Polis

**Background:** Senate Bill 21-238, which established the Front Range Passenger Rail District, requires the district to provide an annual update to each metropolitan planning organization, including DRCOG, that has members on its board. Over the past several

months, the district has been working to develop a comprehensive service development plan that details how it will bring intercity rail service to nine stations between Pueblo and Fort Collins, eventually extending to New Mexico and Wyoming. The plan, which will be completed later this year, outlines all components of the program, including how implementation will be phased and the various projects needed for each phase.

As required by Senate Bill 24-184, the Front Range Passenger Rail District is collaborating with the governor's office, the Colorado Department of Transportation, Clean Transit Enterprise, the Colorado Transportation Investment Office and the Regional Transportation District to establish the first phase of service by 2029. The joint startup service would provide three daily round trips between Denver and Fort Collins. It would be financed solely with existing revenues and would include only the minimum necessary infrastructure updates, such as temporary station platforms. The joint service, which will include eight stops, offers a hybrid between RTD's Northwest Rail extension plans and the full planned Front Range Passenger Rail service. The group has begun negotiations with BNSF Railway and will develop service and financial plans in 2026 for the project's startup phase.

The joint service efforts for Front Range Passenger Rail align with the state's efforts to implement Mountain Rail from Denver to Winter Park, Steamboat Springs, Craig and Hayden. Mountain Rail has secured access to three daily round trips through the Moffat Tunnel and will start daily service to Granby in 2026.

## Informational briefings



### [Regional Transportation District Finishing FasTracks report](#)

**Presenter:** Bill Sirois, senior manager of transit-oriented communities, RTD

**Background:** RTD staff recently published a draft of the 2025 Finishing FasTracks Report, which outlines how the agency plans to complete the four unfinished projects in its FasTracks program (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) by 2034.

RTD staff estimate that the agency needs at least \$1.6 billion to complete the four remaining FasTracks projects, but the estimate doesn't account for increases in construction costs over the next nine years. The FasTracks Internal Savings Account and other potential funding sources provided by recent state legislation (including oil and gas production fees and the congestion impact fee on vehicle rentals) would only cover an estimated \$441 million, leaving a nearly \$1.2 billion gap in funding. RTD staff also noted that all four projects would require additional design, which could further increase costs.

The draft plan is open for public comment until November 14. RTD staff expect to submit the final Finishing FasTracks report to the governor and the Colorado General Assembly, as required by Senate bills 24-230 and 25-161, by late November.



### [Multimodal Supportive Local Development Toolkit update](#)

**Presenter:** Cole Neder, senior planner, Transportation Planning and Operations

**Background:** DRCOG staff are developing a toolkit to provide local governments with strategies and standards to advance multimodal development in urban, suburban and rural communities. The toolkit will include case studies that highlight effective multimodal development practices from across the region, with implementation lessons and relevant takeaways. It will also feature guidance on regulatory approaches that promote multimodal access, along with optional code language. Finally, the toolkit will define implementation roles for DRCOG and member governments, identify coordination opportunities, offer technical assistance approaches and propose metrics for tracking outcomes.

Stakeholder and public engagement is ongoing until April 2026 and will include focus groups with member government staff and elected officials, a developer roundtable, and a variety of community events at existing mobility hubs, transit-oriented developments and multimodal corridors.

