

# Board of Directors Meeting Summary

Wednesday, July 17, 2024

## Members/Alternates Present

Jeff Baker, Chair	Arapahoe County
Lynn Baca, Alternate	Adams County
Austin Ward	City and County of Broomfield
Randy Wheelock	Clear Creek County
Kevin Flynn	City and County of Denver
Adam Paul	City and County of Denver
Marie Mornis	Gilpin County
Sharon Davis, Alternate	City of Arvada
Larry Vittum	Town of Bennett
Ryan Schuchard, Alternate	City of Boulder
Greg Mills	City of Brighton
Tammy Maurer	City of Centennial
Randy Weil	City of Cherry Hills Village
Steve Conklin	City of Edgewater
Emily Baer	Town of Erie
Ray Byrd	Town of Firestone
Josie Cockrell	Town of Foxfield
Rachel Binkley	City of Glendale
Paul Haseman	City of Golden
Chuck Harmon	City of Idaho Springs
Brian Wong	City of Lafayette
Roger Low, Alternate	City of Lakewood
Marrissa Harmon	City of Lone Tree
Joan Peck	City of Longmont
Colleen Whitlow	Town of Mead
Nichole Sterling	Town of Nederland
Richard Kondo	City of Northglenn
John Diak	Town of Parker
Terrance Kelly	City of Sheridan
Justin Martinez	City of Thornton
Sarah Nurmela*	City of Westminster
Bud Starker	City of Wheat Ridge
Brian Welch	Regional Transportation District

Others Present: Douglas W. Rex, Executive Director, Cam Kennedy, Division Assistant, DRCOG; Michele Riccio\*, Adams County; Brian Weimer, Arapahoe County; DJ Beckwith\*, Art Griffith\*, Douglas County; Mac Callison, Aurora; Nicole Speer\*, Boulder; Andrew Focht\*, Aaron Monks\*, Castle Rock; Christine Sweetland\*, Centennial; Shontel Lewis\*, Jesse Carey\*, Denver; Jon Whiting\*, Thornton; Ed Bowditch, Jennifer Cassell, Bowditch & Cassell; KC McFerson, Colorado Department of Local Affairs; Danny Herrmann, Colorado Department of Transportation; Tyler Bump, LeeAnn Ryan, ECONorthwest; Patrick Stanley, Regional Transportation District; and DRCOG staff.

\*Participated via Zoom

Chair Jeff Baker called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m. with a quorum present.

### **Move to approve agenda**

Director Harmon **moved** to approve the agenda. The motion was **seconded** and **passed** unanimously.

### **Public Hearing on Nondiscrimination Program Update**

Chair Baker convened the public hearing at 6:37 p.m. Alvan-Bidal Sanchez and Cole Neder presented the program update to the Board. All agencies that receive federal funds are required to comply with various nondiscrimination laws and regulations, including Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which forbids discrimination against anyone in the U.S. because of race, color or national origin. DRCOG adheres to other federal nondiscrimination statutes that afford legal protection and is committed to engaging and involving all residents of the Denver region, including those with limited English proficiency, in its activities. Staff has initiated a required three-year update to the three existing plans: the Title VI Implementation Plan, Limited English Proficiency Plan and Americans with Disabilities Act Program Access Plan and are developing a new Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Program Plan for its Federal Transit Administration Section 5310 grant program.

Chair Baker opened the public hearing at 6:51 p.m. There were no comments from the public. The Chair closed the hearing at 6:52 p.m.

### **Report of the Chair**

- Chair Baker reported that the Performance and Engagement Committee did not meet.
- Director Kondo reported the Finance and Budget Committee met prior to the meeting and approved five resolutions authorizing the Executive Director to:
  - negotiate and execute a contract with Consor for the Sheridan Corridor Safety study in an amount not to exceed \$500,000 and a term of 18 months from the date of contract execution.
  - negotiate and execute a contract with Nelson\Nygaard for the East Colfax Extension Bus Rapid Transit Alternatives Analysis study in an amount not to exceed \$1,000,000 and a term of 24 months from the date of contract execution.
  - accept funds from the Colorado Disability Funding Committees Disability Benefit Application Assistance grant for \$135,000 for the period of July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025 to support the Aging and Disability Resource Center's expansion in public benefit navigation and application assistance in the Area Agency on Aging.
  - accept funds from the State of Colorado Department of Regulatory Agencies of approximately \$185,000 over 18 months ending on September 30, 2025 to administer a regional State Health Insurance Assistance Program.
  - accept additional funds of up to \$240,000 from the State of Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing for a total of approximately \$603,000 for the Community Options Program in the 2024-2025 state fiscal year.

### Report of the Executive Director

- SACOG Peer Exchange: DRCOG hosted the Sacramento Council of Governments on June 27-28 and their main focus was on transportation and housing.
- Colorado Women's Chamber of Commerce: They will honor the positive impact of 25 local women leaders at their gala event on August 22, 2024. Dr. Flo Raitano was selected as one of those 25 women.
- 2024 Bike to Work Day: This year's event will take place on June 26 and over 19,000 participants turned out this year to celebrate cycling as a viable mode of transportation in this region.
- Annual Awards Celebration: The event will take place on August 28 at the Seawell Ballroom. Registration is now open and directors are encouraged to reserve their spot. Staff is soliciting sponsorships for the event.
- New DRCOG website: The new site is user friendly, particularly on smartphones, and includes accessibility elements that meet the State's new requirements.

### Public Comment

There was no public comment.

### Move to approve consent agenda

Director Starker **moved** to approve the consent agenda. The motion was **seconded** and **passed** unanimously.

Items on the consent agenda included:

- Summary of the May 15, 2024 meeting.
- Amendments to the Fiscal Year 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program

### Discussion of the Fiscal Year 2023 Transportation Improvement Program Second Year Delays

Brad Williams provided an overview of the delays to the directors. Through conversations with project sponsor staff, and confirmed by the Colorado Department of Transportation, DRCOG is aware of [14 projects that had phases delayed in FY 2023](#) and will continue to be delayed in FY 2024 for a second year after July 1, 2024. The FY 2023 first year delayed projects were approved by the Board in December 2023. Each project lists the reasons for the continued delay, the cause for the delay, and the staff recommended action per adopted policy.

Director Flynn **moved** to approve the staff recommendation to continue each project and establishing deadlines for each sponsor's project. The motion was **seconded** and **passed** unanimously.

### Land use and housing legislation.

Sheila Lynch introduced KC McFerson, Colorado Department of Local Affairs, to present a summary of new legislation regarding housing and land use to the Board. Colorado's 2024 legislative session saw several notable bills on a variety of land use and housing topics. The Colorado Department of Local Affairs' Division of Local Government was tasked with helping implement the legislation as a result of these bills. The two main bills focused on were:

- [HB24 -1313](#): Housing in Transit-Oriented Communities

- [SB24-174](#): Sustainable Affordable Housing Assistance

The Division of Local Government has created a [webpage to share more information and updates on 2024 land use and housing legislation](#) as it launches a stakeholder engagement process and develops additional tools and resources for local governments.

### **Regional Housing Needs Assessment Report**

Sheila Lynch introduced Tyler Bump, ECONorthwest, to provide an overview of the report to the directors. DRCOG initiated development of a Regional Housing Needs Assessment at the end of September 2023. The assessment articulates the scale and scope of the region's housing needs, identifies systemic barriers to addressing housing in the Denver region, and offers a framework for development of a regional housing strategy. DRCOG and the consultant team of ECONorthwest, Community Planning Collaborative, and MIG engaged a cross-sector, 30-member advisory group for six meetings to provide guidance during development of the Regional Housing Needs Assessment. The project team engaged approximately 200 stakeholders through the advisory group and focus groups, as well as interviews on the topics of infrastructure, housing advocacy and services, regional economics, housing finance, housing development, the environment, and local government. DRCOG staff and the consultant team have shared preliminary findings from the Regional Housing Needs Assessment during development of the project. ECONorthwest shared the [draft report](#), its [appendices](#), and they will outline the immediate next steps for this work at the conclusion of their contract, which ends July 31, 2024.

### **Northwest Rail Peak Service Study Project Update**

Cole Neder introduced Patrick Stanley, Regional Transportation District, to provide an update on the project to the directors. The study continues to define the Base Configuration that would provide peak service by coordinating with existing railway operators, evaluating operational requirements, and identifying costs and funding needs. The service delivery area is a 35-mile segment from the existing B Line Westminster Station to a future Longmont Station. The project proposes three trains each weekday morning and evening between Longmont and Denver, with six new stations. RTD's current focus includes assessing required infrastructure, operational costs, and potential partnerships. HDR, their consulting firm, is nearing completion of milestone 3 (Base Configuration) and is progressing towards milestone 4 (Service Options and Partnerships).

Recent developments include receiving 30% engineering plans and cost estimates from BNSF Railway, with ongoing reviews and adjustments. RTD is still awaiting final details on easements and operational costs. Collaboration with the Front Range Passenger Rail District and the Colorado Department of Transportation is ongoing to explore potential collaborations and cost-sharing opportunities. Community engagement has been strong, with multiple open houses and surveys revealing key concerns and suggestions. The next steps involve finalizing infrastructure costs, continuing stakeholder engagement, and addressing any emerging challenges, particularly regarding BNSF's freight expansion plans and its impact on operations and community plans.

### **Committee Reports**

**State Transportation Advisory Committee**

Director Mills stated the committee met in June and received updates on the Multimodal Options Fund distribution and the impact of Senate Bill 24-032 on transit funding. In July, their meeting included updates on the development of various state transportation plans and they discussed the Transportation Commission's decision to keep the existing regional priority program funding distribution formula.

**Metro Mayors Caucus**

Director Starker stated the caucus met on Jun 5 and received a report from the Executive Director on a couple of new programs that are coming.

**Metro Area County Commissioners**

There was no report.

**Advisory Committee on Aging**

Jayla Sanchez-Warren reported that the Advisory Committee on Aging held their recent meeting at Volunteers of America's Central Kitchen, highlighting their extensive partnership for food and nutrition services, including home-delivered and congregate meals.

**Regional Air Quality Council**

There was no report.

**E-470 Authority**

Director Diak stated the group met and received updates on public affairs, their roadshow schedule, and recent crash reports.

**Report from CDOT**

There was no report.

**Report from RTD**

Brian Welch stated that RTD recently celebrated its 50 millionth passenger on the A-Line, the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the passage of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, and they are making great progress on the Downtown Rail Replacement project.

**Next meeting – August 21, 2024**

**Other matters by members**

There were no other matters by members.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 8:46 p.m.

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Jeff Baker, Chair  
Board of Directors  
Denver Regional Council of Governments

ATTEST:

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Douglas W. Rex, Executive Director