

Finance and Budget Committee Meeting Summary

Wednesday, July 17, 2024

Members Present

Rich Kondo, Chair	City of Northglenn
Jeff Baker	Arapahoe County
Sharon Davis (Alternate)	Arvada
Angela Lawson*	Aurora
Paul Haseman	Golden

Others Present: Douglas W. Rex, Executive Director; Colleen Whitlow, Mead; and DRCOG staff.

*Participated virtually

Chair Rich Kondo called the meeting to order at 5:39 p.m. with a quorum present.

Move to approve consent agenda

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

Items on the consent agenda included:

- Summary of the June 5, 2024 special meeting

Discussion of a resolution 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. Ron Papsdorf provided an overview of the contract to the members. In May 2024, DRCOG released a Request for Proposals (RFP) to identify a firm to lead the planning and analysis work for the Sheridan Corridor Safety Study. This study will develop a plan to address the urgent safety issues along the corridor and develop a shared vision for integrating mixed land uses and multimodal mobility along the corridor between Interstate 76 and Hampden Avenue.

DRCOG received three proposals in response to the RFP that were reviewed and evaluated by a selection panel. Based on the selection panel's evaluation, DRCOG staff recommended that the Executive Director to negotiate and execute a contract with the preferred consultant, Consor. The total contract amount is not to exceed \$500,000. The contract term will be 18 months from the date of contract execution.

Director Haseman **moved** to approve **Resolution Number 26, 2024**, 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. The motion was **seconded** and **passed** unanimously.

Discussion of a resolution authorizing the Executive Director to 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.

Ron Papsdorf provided an overview of the contract to the directors. In May 2024, DRCOG released a Request for Proposals (RFP) to solicit services from a firm that will lead the alternatives analysis development process for the planned extension of the East Colfax Bus Rapid Transit project from Interstate 225 east to E-470. DRCOG received four proposals in response to the RFP that were reviewed and evaluated by a selection panel. The panel interviewed three of the firms and based on their evaluation, DRCOG staff recommended the Executive Director negotiate and execute a contract with the preferred consultant, Nelson\Nygaard. The total contract amount is not to exceed \$1,000,000. The contract term will be 24 months from the date of contract execution.

Director Haseman **moved** to approve **Resolution Number 27, 2024**, authorizing the Executive Director to 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. The motion was **seconded** and **passed** unanimously.

Discussion of a resolution authorizing the Executive Director to 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.

Jayla Sanchez-Warren provided a overview of the fund allocations to the committee. The Area Agency on Aging applied for a Colorado Disability Benefit Application Assistance Grant in January 2024 to support the work of the Aging and Disability Resource Center in helping individuals 18 and older with a disability apply for Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and Colorado Medicaid benefits.

Additional funding was needed to support individuals 18 and older with a disability as funding for the Aging and Disability Resource Center is minimal. Staff currently support individuals mostly 60 and older with applications but due to funding restrictions, very little support has been offered to individuals under 60 with a disability to complete the long process of applying for SSI/SSDI. Staff have been able to provide support with Colorado Medicaid programs for those under 60 but numbers for those individuals are small in comparison to those 60 and older. This grant will help expand those services with the anticipation that approval rates will increase with the additional support and oversight of trained staff.

Director Haseman **moved** to approve **Resolution Number 28, 2024**, authorizing the Executive Director to 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. The motion was **seconded** and **passed** unanimously.

Discussion of a resolution authorizing the Executive Director to 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.

Jayla Sanchez-Warren provided an overview of the fund allocations to the directors. DRCOG's Aging and Disability Resources Center (ADRC) is designated by the State as a regional provider for the State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP). Under the program, the ADRC performs extensive Medicare outreach and provides health benefits counseling and education for free to eligible seniors. In addition to these activities, federal funds received by the ADRC support Medicare enrollment assistance and advocacy services, as well as Medicare fraud education and prevention. Funds for the program are derived from three separate funding streams with different annual expiration dates. Total estimated funds of approximately \$185K are anticipated over a period of 18 months ending in September 2025. These funds, combined with other state funds, will be used to support the work of three dedicated full-time staff members.

Director Haseman **moved** to approve **Resolution Number 29, 2024**, authorizing the Executive Director to 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. The motion was **seconded** and **passed** unanimously.

Discussion of a resolution authorizing the Executive Director to 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.

Jayla Sanchez-Warren provided a overview of the fund allocations to members. DRCOG's Aging and Disability Resource Center anticipates a contract amendment from the State of Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing (HCPF) expanding the scope of service to include contracted group in-reach counseling for skilled nursing facility residents. The program is designed to help Medicaid recipients with moving out of institutional care and back into a community setting such as in one's home or a family member's home. The additional funding will be utilized to conduct multiple group in-reach events at the 73 nursing facilities in the DRCOG region during the fiscal year. These activities are in addition to the transitions options counseling that staff will continue to provide. The additional funds increase the total award from HCPF to approximately \$603,000.00 and expire on 6/30/2025.

Director Davis **moved** to approve **Resolution Number 30, 2024**, authorizing the Executive Director to 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. The motion was **seconded** and **passed** unanimously.

Report of the Chair

There was no report.

Report of the Executive Director

Executive Director Rex updated the committee on DRCOG's new website and the structure of posted agendas, which was restructured to adhere to accessibility guidelines.

Next meeting – August 21, 2024

Other matters by members

There were no other matters by members.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 5:59 p.m.