

# Board of Directors Meeting Summary

Wednesday, November 20, 2024

## Members/Alternates Present

Jeff Baker, Chair	Arapahoe County
Steve O’Dorisio*	Adams County
Claire Levy	Boulder 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
Andy Kerr	Jefferson County
Nicole Speer	City of Boulder
Greg Mills	City of Brighton
Tammy Maurer	City of Centennial
Steve Douglas	City of Commerce City
Steve Conklin	City of Edgewater
Othoniel Sierra	City of Englewood
Emily Baer	Town of Erie
Josie Cockrell	Town of Foxfield
Windi Padia	Town of Frederick
Lynette Kelsey	Town of Georgetown
Rachel Binkley	City of Glendale
Chuck Harmon	City of Idaho Springs
Brian Wong	City of Lafayette
Jeslin Shahrezaei	City of Lakewood
Stephen Barr*	City of Littleton
Marissa Harmon	City of Lone Tree
Judi Kern	City of Louisville
Hollie Rogin	Town of Lyons
Colleen Whitlow	Town of Mead
Paul Sutton	Town of Morrison
Richard Kondo	City of Northglenn
John Diak	Town of Parker
Terrence Kelly*	City of Sheridan
Neal Shah	Town of Superior
Justin Martinez	City of Thornton
Sarah Nurmela*	City of Westminster
Bud Starker	City of Wheat Ridge
Darius Pakbaz	Colorado Department of Transportation
Bill Sirois	Regional Transportation District

Others Present: Douglas W. Rex, Executive Director, Melinda Stevens, Executive Assistant, DRCOG; Janet Lundquist\*, Adams County; Bryan Weimer, Arapahoe County; DJ Beckwith\*, Art Griffith\*, Douglas County; Mac Callison, Aurora; Larry Vittum\*, Bennett; Sarah Grant\*, Broomfield; Kat Bristow\*, Lochbuie; Kent Moorman\*, Thornton; Ed Bowditch, Jennifer Cassell, Bowditch & Cassell; John Gardocki\*, Colorado Department of Transportation; Randle Loeb, Patrick Holtz; Citizens; and DRCOG staff.

\*Participated via Zoom

Chair Jeff Baker called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. with a quorum present.

### **Move to approve agenda**

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

### **Report of the Chair**

Chair Baker wanted to remind directors of DRCOG's Restricted Hybrid Meeting Option policy.

- Director Conklin reported that the Performance and Engagement Committee had a special meeting on November 6 to review and discuss revisions to the Nominating Committee Guidelines. At its regularly scheduled meeting, the Committee reviewed Executive Director Rex's Performance Evaluation, which had an overall positive result.
- Director Kondo reported the Finance and Budget Committee selected Andy Kerr as a representative from Finance and Budget to the Nominating Committee. They also discussed and approved eight resolutions authorizing the Executive Director to either amend, negotiate, or execute a number of contracts.

### **Report of the Executive Director**

- **Crash Responders Safety Week:** During the week of November 18 – 22, recognition is given to first responders for Crash Responders Safety Week, which urges the public to be more cautious around work zones and emergency vehicles.
- **Medicare Open Enrollment:** Medicare open enrollment began on November 6 and ends on December 7. DRCOG's State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) team is available to help residents navigate their options.
- **GoTober:** DRCOG's Way to Go program concluded their annual campaign to encourage people to try sustainable modes of transportation during the month of October with great success. Executive Director Rex wanted to thank all jurisdictions and corporations for their participation.
- **Decarbonize DRCOG Update:** On November 12 and 13, DRCOG staff and grant program partners attended a two-day workshop with representatives from Excel Energy, the Colorado Energy Office, Rewiring America, and the Collective Clean Energy Fund to align on the status, interactions, and collaborative opportunities of their five complementary programs.

### **Public Comment**

Randall Loeb emphasized the importance of taking responsibility for local affairs to preserve democracy and our future. He also invited directors to honor the lives of those who have passed due to homelessness on December 21 by participating in a gathering at the Capitol.

Patrick Holtz spoke against the proposed amendments to the 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program, specifically criticizing the addition of federal funding for projects like the Box Elder Creek Erosion and Flood Protection project. He argued that increasing

federal deficit spending through these projects will harm the economy, inflate costs, and burden future generations, questioning whether the local officials are fully informed about project details and costs.

### **Move to approve consent agenda**

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

Items on the consent agenda included:

- Summary of the October 16, 2024 meeting.
- Amendments to the Fiscal Year 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program
- Amendments to the Policies for Fiscal Year 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program Set-Aside Programs

### **Discussion on amendments to the 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program (Second Set)**

Josh Schwenk provided a summary of the proposed amendments to directors. The region's transportation planning process allows for Board-approved amendments to the current TIP on an as-needed basis. The [proposed amendments to the 2024-2027 TIP](#) have been found to conform with the State Implementation Plan for Air Quality. Two projects in this set of amendments are related to funding returned by the City of Englewood originally programmed to their US285/Broadway Operational Improvements project. As the available funding was not accepted by any project sponsors on the Arapahoe County wait list, the Arapahoe County Subregional Forum met November 7, 2024, to decide how to reapportion the funding to existing TIP projects. Two requests were made, one by the City of Littleton and another by the City of Centennial.

The Forum took action to allocate funding to these two projects as outlined in the amendments. As the Board-adopted Policies for TIP Program Development does not explicitly address the process for a Forum to allocate funding to projects not on their wait list, this action includes a request for an exception to the Policy. Additionally, DRCOG staff have been made aware of three federal discretionary awards that need to be added to the TIP, which are also included in these amendments.

Director Starker **moved** to adopt **Resolution No. 13, 2024**, approving the [attached project amendments](#) to the 2024-2027 TIP, including an exception to the TIP Policy to allow the Arapahoe County Subregional Forum action. The motion was **seconded** and **passed** unanimously.

### **Discussion on Revisions to the Nominating Committee Guidelines.**

Executive Director Rex and Director Conklin presented the revised guidelines to the Board. The DRCOG Board of Directors' Performance and Engagement Committee proposed [revisions to the Nominating Committee Guidelines](#) to more accurately represent the process for recommending board officers for consideration by the full Board. The proposal

would also grant the Nominating Committee authority to make recommendations to the Board for all regional committees that DRCOG has representation

Director Ward **moved** to approve revisions to the Nominating Committee Guidelines. The motion was **seconded** by Director Flynn.

Director Levy **moved** to amend the motion to include “gender representation.” Director Ward and Director Flynn accepted proposed amendment. The motion **passed** unanimously.

### **Select a representative to the Nominating Committee**

Executive Director Rex presented this item to the committee. The Nominating Committee consists of member representatives from the Performance & Engagement Committee, the Finance & Budget Committee, the Board, a member selected by the Board Chair, the Immediate Past Chair of the Board, and a Board member representing the City and County of Denver. At the January meeting each year, the Nominating Committee shall present to the Board nominations for Executive Committee members to be elected at the February meeting.

Chair Baker opened up nominations from the floor at 7:25 p.m. Director Speer nominated Austin Ward to serve on the Nominating Committee. Director Whitlow nominated John Diak to serve on the Nominating Committee. Both candidates accepted the nominations.

Director Flynn **moved** to close nominations from the floor at 7:26 p.m. The motion was **seconded** and **passed** unanimously.

Chair Baker stated that he would select a member of the Board to serve on the Nominating Committee at a later date to ensure diversity is prioritized for the committee. To avoid a ballot vote, Director Diak graciously withdrew his nomination from the floor.

Director Speer **moved** to select Austin Ward of the Board of Directors to the Nominating Committee. The motion was **seconded** and **passed** unanimously.

### **Ride Alliance Overview**

Malorie Miller presented the pilot project to the directors. DRCOG received a grant award through the Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation (SMART) program in July 2024. The grant award of \$975,486 provides funding to upgrade and pilot the Ride Alliance Trip Exchange Hub. This project builds off work from the initial Trip Exchange Hub and its purpose is to coordinate human service transportation trip requests across the region, reduce trip denials, create a no-wrong door approach for clients seeking services, and streamline reporting processes across human service transportation providers. This project will enhance functionality, integrate transportation providers via an application programming interface, and pilot the Trip Exchange Hub with actual trips.

Several organizations submitted letters of commitment for the SMART application, as well as the North Front Range Metropolitan Planning Organization and A Little Help, who have expressed interest and support. Additional transportation providers may become involved as the project progresses. There is a significant need for Ride Alliance due to the rapidly aging population in Colorado. The demand for services is increasing as funding remains limited. Ride Alliance maximizes current resources and is a cost-effective solution to providing regional coordination.

### **Regional Housing Needs Assessment and State Compliance**

Sheila Lynch presented updates to the assessment and compliance with state legislation to the Board. The context of state laws has evolved since DRCOG embarked on the work for this assessment over three years ago. DRCOG staff have continued to monitor the state's implementation of the [Sustainable Affordable Housing Assistance act](#), which passed earlier this year as Senate Bill 2024-174. State legislation requires that nearly all local governments in Colorado conduct and publish a housing needs assessment. One key exception is for local governments that participate in the creation of a regional housing needs assessment. DRCOG staff are closely monitoring a path to compliance involving several near-term dates with the goal of giving local governments the ability to use DRCOG's Regional Housing Needs Assessment in fulfillment of the new requirement

Based on initial drafts and the state's engagement with DRCOG staff, DRCOG's assessment is well-positioned for conditional approval with nearly all the legislatively required components. Additions or clarifications from DRCOG staff will not change the assessment's primary findings. DRCOG staff plan to represent these additions and clarifications through supplements in the [Denver Region Housing Needs Profiles interactive dashboard](#).

Seeking conditional approval will allow DRCOG to achieve compliance before completing the required procedural steps involving local government time and attention through public meetings and submission of comments. Achieving approval will allow local governments to evaluate whether they wish to use DRCOG's assessment as their state mandated resource for housing planning or whether they wish to pursue their own assessment under the state's methodology before December 31, 2026. Pursuing substantial compliance now will also allow DRCOG to focus attention on development of a Regional Housing Strategy.

### **2050 Metro Vision Regional Transportation Plan Major Update Kickoff**

Alvan-Bidal Sanchez provided an overview of the updated plan to directors. The Denver Regional Council of Governments developed the Metro Vision Regional Transportation Plan to guide the region's investments in the multimodal transportation system. The plan helps DRCOG's member governments and partners implement the shared aspirational vision of Metro Vision. The plan is updated every four years and amended as needed to ensure that its content remains relevant and reflects current trends, needs and priorities. DRCOG staff initiated a cycle amendments process in September 2023 that concluded in May 2024. DRCOG staff have initiated the next major update to the RTP, which must be adopted by fall 2026 to meet federal requirements.

## **Committee Reports**

### **State Transportation Advisory Committee**

Director O’Doriso stated the committee reviewed the 2025 budget, work plan, and travel survey. With new leadership in place, the STAC is focusing on the impact and influence they wish to have with the Transportation Commission. Discussions will continue, especially regarding increasing representation on the STAC, with an emphasis on efficiency and effectiveness in collaboration with CDOT.

### **Metro Mayors Caucus**

There was no report.

### **Metro Area County Commissioners**

Executive Director Rex reported the commissioners met on November 15 and had their end of year meeting with a brunch social. They discussed priorities for the upcoming year and introduced Commissioner Darrell Watson as the new chair.

### **Advisory Committee on Aging**

There was no report.

### **Regional Air Quality Council**

Executive Director Rex reported the council held a retreat on November 1 to welcome new members and connect in person. The event was hosted by Adams County at the Riverdale Animal Shelter in Regional Park.

### **E-470 Authority**

Director Diak stated the Board met and reviewed third-quarter financials, which showed increased traffic, along with rising expenses.

### **Report from CDOT**

Darius Pakbaz reported that the Transportation Commission held a workshop earlier in the day and will meet the following day to discuss several items, including a Burnham Yard briefing, a right-of-way condemnation request, approval of the draft Fiscal Year 2026 budget, a new interchange request for US 34 in Greeley, a Build America bond refunding workshop, and access issues in Durango.

### **Report from RTD**

Bill Sirois reported that ballot initiative 7A passed with 71% of vote in favor, which confirmed the region's value of transit. Additionally, RTD is finalizing its facilities and fleet transition plan to move toward a zero-emission fleet, with a focus on updating aging facilities, and will welcome seven new board members on January 7.

## **Next meeting – December 18, 2024**

### **Other matters by members**

Chair Baker presented Director Maurer with an award to honor her for her years of service on the DRCOG Board.

**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