

# Board of Directors Meeting Summary

Wednesday, September 18, 2024

## Members/Alternates Present

Jeff Baker, Chair	Arapahoe County
Steve O’Dorisio	Adams County
Austin Ward	City and County of Broomfield
Shontel Lewis, Alternate	City and County of Denver
Adam Paul	City and County of Denver
Andy Kerr	Jefferson County
Sharon Davis, Alternate	City of Arvada
Nicole Speer	City of Boulder
Greg Mills	City of Brighton
Deborah Mulvey	City of Castle Pines
Tammy Maurer	City of Centennial
Steve Douglas	City of Commerce City
Steve Conklin	City of Edgewater
Othoniel Sierra	City of Englewood
Lynette Kelsey	Town of Georgetown
Rachel Binkley	City of Glendale
Paul Haseman	City of Golden
Chuck Harmon	City of Idaho Springs
Stephen Barr	City of Littleton
Alecia Brown, Alternate	City of Lone Tree
Judi Kern	City of Louisville
Colleen Whitlow	Town of Mead
Richard Kondo	City of Northglenn
John Diak	Town of Parker
Neal Shah	Town of Superior
Roberta Ayala	City of Thornton
Claire Carmelia, Alternate	City of Westminster
Bud Starker	City of Wheat Ridge
Bill Sirois, Alternate	Regional Transportation District

Others Present: Douglas W. Rex, Executive Director, Melinda Stevens, Executive Assistant, DRCOG; Michele Riccio\*, Adams County; DJ Beckwith\*, Douglas County; Mac Callison, Aurora; Larry Vittum\*, Bennett; Christine Sweetland, Centennial; Josie Cockrell\*, Foxfield; Terrance Kelly\*, Sheridan; Kent Moorman\*, Thornton; Ed Bowditch, Bowditch & Cassell; Angie Drumm, Colorado Department of Transportation; Holly Buck, Felsburg, Holt and Ullevig; Chrissy Breit, Front Rand Passenger Rail; 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.

### Report of the Chair

- Director Conklin reported that the Performance and Engagement Committee met prior to the meeting and had a discussion regarding Board Officer recruitment and selection considerations. The committee will have a continued discussion on this item at their next meeting in October.
- Director Kondo reported the Finance and Budget Committee met prior to the meeting and approved five resolutions, two of which were on consent, authorizing the Executive Director to:
  - negotiate and execute a contract with Radian for the 303 Artway/Montbello Loop Implementation Plan in an amount not to exceed \$250,000 and a term of 14 months from the date of contract execution.
  - negotiate and execute a contract with Toole Design for the Brighton Core Circulation Study in an amount not to exceed \$300,000 and for a term of 14 months from the date of contract execution.
  - accept funds from the Colorado Department of Local Affairs, Colorado's Energy and Mineral Impact Assistance Fund, in the amount of \$200,000 for a one-year term to support the development of a regional housing strategy.

### Report of the Executive Director

- Annual Awards Celebration: Executive Director Rex thanked everyone for their attendance and support. Highlights from the event included a special recognition by Governor Polis with a proclamation of August 28 to be DRCOG AAA Day and Karen Stewart receiving the prestigious JVC award.
- GoTober: DRCOG's Way to Go program promotes this annual campaign to encourage people to try sustainable modes of transportation during the month of October.
- Federal discretionary funding awards: DRCOG has been awarded two federal discretionary grants in the last couple months: A Safe Streets for All grant and the Build America Bureau Innovative Finance and Asset Concessionaire grant. With those funds combined, DRCOG has brought \$202 million to the region.

### Public Comment

There was no public comment.

### 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 July 17, 2024 meeting.
- Economic Development District Designation
- Nondiscrimination Program Update
- Fiscal Year 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program Amendments

### **Discussion of the Regional Transportation District TABOR Ballot Question**

Rich Mauro provided an overview of the ballot measure to the directors. In 1999, voters exempted RTD from the TABOR revenue and spending limitations for the purpose of paying 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, 2024 meeting, the RTD Board passed a resolution to submit to the voters a continuation of the exemption. [The question](#) will be on the November 5 election ballot.

Directors were informed that, according to DRCOG's Articles of Association, in order to take a position on a ballot measure, an affirmative vote of a majority of member representatives shall be required to adopt a resolution. It was ultimately decided that the Board would not be able to take any position since there were not enough directors present and able to vote.

Director Haseman **moved** to table this agenda item for a special meeting to be held. The motion was **seconded** and **passed** unanimously.

### **Oversight and decision-making process for DRCOG's building decarbonization program.**

Robert Spotts presented the process and timeline of the new program to the Board. DRCOG was awarded a \$199.7 million grant from the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to fund a regional initiative aimed at transforming the building sector across the Denver region. The program's implementation will involve the distribution of millions of dollars to various stakeholders. DRCOG staff proposed the establishment of a new committee structure designed to provide transparent oversight, foster public engagement, and ensure accountability throughout the program's lifecycle. The committees will include local government officials, community leaders, environmental advocates, industry experts, and representatives from underserved communities.

Mr. Spott's provided an overview of two proposed committees and their structure: a [Technical Committee](#) and an [Advisory Committee](#). The Board may consider amendments to DRCOG's "Committee Policy, Guidelines, and Descriptions" to formally adopt the new structure and appoint board members to the Advisory Committee at their October meeting.

### **Federal Boulevard Bus Rapid Transit Project Overview**

Jacob Riger introduced Angie Drumm of the Colorado Department of Transportation, and Holly Buck of Felsburg, Holt and Ullevig, to provide an overview of the project to directors. The Federal Boulevard Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project spans 18 miles along Federal Boulevard from 120th Avenue to Dartmouth Avenue. DRCOG is helping fund the ongoing pre-construction activities through its 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program. The project is currently undergoing environmental review and preliminary design. These activities address all aspects of the project and is building from the alignment recommended in previous studies and some constrained sections where it would operate in mixed traffic with speed and reliability components. The project entered into the Federal Transit Administration's Capital Investment Grant Program in Fall 2023 and is specifically included in the Small Starts funding stream. Entry in the program means the project is

evaluated and rated in multiple categories to eventually receive significant federal funding (up to \$150 million) towards project construction. This multi-year process begins with entering into the program and submitting a rating application to the FTA, which CDOT will do in late September. As part of providing a support letter to CDOT as a key project stakeholder, DRCOG staff requested CDOT provide an overview of the Federal BRT project to the Board.

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

Jacob Riger introduced Chrissy Breit, Front Range Passenger Rail, to provide an update on the project to the directors. The Front Range Passenger Rail District (FRPR) has been engaged in a series of internal organizational activities and planning, project development, and engagement efforts towards implementing passenger rail service from Fort Collins to Pueblo, with future connections to Wyoming and New Mexico. The FRPR is undertaking a federally required Service Development Plan for the rail corridor and was awarded entry into the Federal Railroad Administration's Corridor Identification and Development Program. Recent state legislation provided additional funding, coordination, opportunities, and requirements towards developing and implementing Front Range Passenger Rail service. The FRPR Board is currently chaired by Chris Nevitt, one of DRCOG's four representatives. Over the next two years, FRPR plans to accomplish the following:

- Service Development Plan and NEPA
- SB24-184 implementation
- Initial host railroad agreements
- Financial plan
- Economic Impact Study
- Community education and outreach
- Coalition building
- Ballot initiative

### **Committee Reports**

#### **State Transportation Advisory Committee**

Director O'Dorisio stated the committee discussed and took action on Policy Directive 14 related to performance targets for the 2050 Statewide Plan. The committee also discussed and acted on revisions to the STAC Bylaws.

#### **Metro Mayors Caucus**

Director Starker stated the caucus met on August 7 and received a report from the Lily Griego, Regional Director of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. They also received a presentation from Mike Freeman and Kasia Iwanizcko MacLeod the Colorado-Wyoming Engine.

#### **Metro Area County Commissioners**

Executive Director Rex reported the commissioners met on August 30 to discuss their updated Strategic Map and their priorities for 2024-2025.

#### **Advisory Committee on Aging**

Jayla Sanchez-Warren reported that the Advisory Committee on Aging used their last meeting to visit the Broomfield Community Center, which additionally serves as a senior center for Broomfield and has multiple programs that are designed for older adults.

**Regional Air Quality Council**

Executive Director Rex reported the council met on September 6 and had a conversation concerning the role that the council and staff in legislative activities. They also received a year-to-date report on ozone in the region.

**E-470 Authority**

There was no report.

**Report from CDOT**

There was no report.

**Report from RTD**

Bill Sirois stated that RTD completed the downtown rail reconstruction three weeks ahead of schedule. RTD just implemented their live look-in cameras on all buses and light rail, which are real time cameras that police can use to monitor and react to any incidents that occur. Additionally, the Zero Fare for Youth program is officially a permanent program

**Next meeting – October 16, 2024**

**Other matters by members**

There were no other matters by members.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 8:43 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