

Board of Directors Meeting Summary

Wednesday, August 20, 2025

Members/Alternates Present

Jeff Baker, Chair
Claire Levy
Austin Ward*
Rebecca Lloyd
Adam Paul
Kevin Flynn
Kevin Van Winkle
Andy Kerr
Sharon Davis
Royce Pindell, Alternate
Greg Mills
Deborah Mulvey
Tammy Maurer
Steve Douglas
Steve Conklin
Othoniel Sierra
Emily Baer
Ray Byrd
Paul Haseman, Alternate
Brian Wong
Jeslin Shahrezaei
Stephen Barr*
Kat Bristow
Judi Kern
Hollie Rogin*
Colleen Whitlow
Angela Bernhardt
Kathleen Bailey
Richard Kondo
John Diak
Mike Foster
Justin Martinez
Bud Starker
Bill Sirois

Arapahoe County
Boulder County
City and County of Broomfield
Clear Creek County
City and County of Denver
City and County of Denver
Douglas County
Jefferson County
City of Arvada
Town of Bennett
City of Brighton
City of Castle Pines
City of Centennial
City of Commerce City
City of Edgewater
City of Englewood
Town of Erie
Town of Firestone
City of Golden
City of Lafayette
City of Lakewood
City of Littleton
Town of Lochbuie
City of Louisville
Town of Lyons
Town of Mead
Town of Morrison
Town of Mountain View
City of Northglenn
Town of Parker
Town of Superior
City of Thornton
City of Wheat Ridge
Regional Transportation District

Others Present: Douglas W. Rex, Executive Director, Melinda Stevens, Executive Assistant, DRCOG; Michele Riccio*, Adams County; Art Griffith*, Douglas County; Mac Callison, Aurora; Larry Strock, Lochbuie; Kent Moorman*, Thornton; Jordan Rudel*, John Gardocki*, Colorado Department of Transportation; Bradley Miler*, Citizen; 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 Haseman **moved** to approve the agenda. The motion was **seconded** and **passed** unanimously.

Report of the Chair

- Director Kondo reported that the Performance and Engagement Committee did not meet.
- Director Shahrezaei reported the Finance and Budget Committee met August 6 and approved 6 resolutions for contracts and the meeting was chaired by Vice Chair Director Paul.

Report of the Executive Director

- 2025 Awards Celebration: The annual awards celebration will take place on August 27 at the Sewell Ballroom and is free for board members, with guest tickets available for \$49. The social hour will begin at 6pm and the official program will begin at 7pm. Board members were urged to speak with city or county staff about sponsoring a table.
- Carbon Pollution Reduction Grant: After four months of research and stakeholder input, the Building Decarbonization Program will be renamed Power Ahead Colorado (PACO). Karsh Hagan will present at the September board meeting to explain the naming process, significance, and branding strategy.
- Recognition of Director Nicole Sterling: Director Nicole Sterling, Mayor Pro Tem of Nederland, was nationally honored by the Government Technology Center for her AI work, particularly her application MyTown AI. Board members and staff were encouraged to request a presentation on MyTown AI due to its innovative community applications.
- New Director of Transportation and Operations: Following a national search, Jacob Riger was selected as DRCOG's new Transportation Planning and Operations Director, recognized for nearly 30 years of experience and strong performance in interviews.

Public Comment

There were no comments.

Move to approve consent agenda

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

Items on the consent agenda included:

- Summary of the meeting July 16, 2025
- 2025 Public Engagement Plan

Discussion of the 2026-2027 Unified Planning Work Program.

Josh Schwenk provided an overview of the program to the Board. The Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) outlines DRCOG's federally required work plan as the region's Metropolitan Planning Organization for federal fiscal years 2026–2027. The document details transportation planning tasks funded by the Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration, and it aligns with state legislation, federal planning factors,

and local direction. Funding levels will remain relatively stable, though recent caps on carryover funds mean reserves are lower. This will likely result in a greater reliance on in-house staff rather than consultant contracts, with potential consideration of additional funding sources in the future. The UPWP development process incorporated guidance from CDOT, RTD, partner agencies, and public feedback, with corrections and refinements made before the final draft was presented.

The UPWP emphasizes five key themes identified through stakeholder input: air quality and resilience, land use and housing policy, safety, transit improvements, and funding considerations. Planned tasks include completing a Comprehensive Climate Action Plan, updating the regional transportation plan with air quality conformity, developing a regional housing strategy, and updating Metro Vision to better integrate housing and land use. Safety initiatives include updating the high-injury network, crash profiles, and producing a Vision Zero operational toolkit. Transit priorities cover advancing the Regional Bus Rapid Transit Partnership, piloting the Ride Alliance trip exchange hub, and coordinating microtransit systems. Funding tasks include continuing TIP calls for projects and exploring a cost-of-service analysis toolkit to help local governments understand long-term infrastructure costs.

Director Flynn **moved** to approve the 2026-2027 Unified Planning Work Program. The motion was **seconded** and **passed** unanimously.

Discussion of the Corridor Transportation Planning Selection Recommendation.

Jacob Riger presented the recommended selection process to the Directors. DRCOG's Corridor Planning Program was created to directly advance priority projects identified in the 2050 Regional Transportation Plan. While DRCOG has historically supported studies led by CDOT, RTD, and local jurisdictions, this program allows the organization to take a more active leadership role in launching multimodal corridor studies, bus rapid transit projects, arterial safety initiatives, and Vision Zero efforts. Established as a pilot and now institutionalized in the 2024–2027 TIP with \$3 million allocated, the program is designed to fund early planning for corridors that are significant but have not yet advanced into pre-construction. For the current two-year call covering FY 2026–2027, \$1.5 million was made available and five letters of interest were received from across the region.

Proposals were evaluated by a selection panel including DRCOG, CDOT, and RTD staff, using criteria such as Metro Vision alignment, benefits to marginalized communities, regional impact, readiness, and demonstrated planning need. All submissions were considered strong, but limited funds required difficult prioritization. Ultimately, the panel recommended funding a single project: the Speer–Leetsdale–Parker corridor study, a 14-mile multimodal corridor stretching from downtown Denver through Glendale and Aurora to I-225 at the Nine Mile light rail station. Staff emphasized the corridor's strategic importance for roadway capacity, transit expansion, and bus rapid transit opportunities, noting that while other projects were not selected in this round, they remain eligible for future funding cycles.

Director Davis **moved** to approve the Corridor Transportation Planning Selection Recommendation. The motion was **seconded** and **passed** with 32 in favor and 1 against.

2050 Regional Transportation Plan Update.

Alvan-Bidal Sanchez provided an overview of the update to the Board. The upcoming call for projects tied to the 2050 Regional Transportation Plan will officially launch the week of August 25, 2025. The plan is intended to integrate priorities from local, regional, state, and federal partners into a single fiscally constrained plan for the Denver region. It incorporates both “programs” (ongoing investments like transit routes and sidewalks) and specific projects such as roadway widenings, new interchanges, rapid transit, safety improvements, and multimodal corridors. The current call is structured to ensure a broad mix of projects across categories like air quality, housing and land use, safety, active transportation, and transit. Some projects will automatically carry forward if they are under construction or already funded, while others may need resubmittal or new evaluation to be included.

Evaluation will use six existing RTP priorities, enhanced with Metro Vision objectives and federal performance measures, to ensure the process captures resilience, multimodal mobility, and equity concerns. Projects will be assessed qualitatively on criteria like regional impact, cost, timeline, and benefits to marginalized communities, with county transportation forums given specific submittal caps to balance representation. A Regional Review Panel made up of DRCOG, CDOT, RTD, and county forum representatives will combine staff scoring with congestion data, equity analysis, and local prioritization to draft investment recommendations. The call for projects will run through October 10, 2025, after which staff will evaluate submissions and advance investment priorities to the Transportation Advisory Committee in December, the Regional Transportation Committee and DRCOG Board in January, and then proceed into modeling for air quality and greenhouse gas compliance in early 2026.

Committee Reports

State Transportation Advisory Committee

Jacob Riger reported at the August 7 STAC meeting, CDOT presented its draft 2050 Statewide Transportation Plan and Transit Connection Study, both out for public comment, along with an engaging overview of the Division of Aeronautics, with final plan adoption expected in mid-September.

Metro Mayors Caucus

Director Starker stated the caucus met at the Denver Zoo on August 6, where members enjoyed presentations on wildfire resilience, air quality, and committee updates, followed by behind-the-scenes tours of the zoo’s animals.

Metro Area County Commissioners

Executive Director Rex stated at their August meeting, the Metro Area County Commissioners discussed setting 2026 priorities, highlighting cold weather shelter coordination, regional emergency preparedness, and construction defect reform implementation, while also receiving a presentation on the regional housing strategy.

Advisory Committee on Aging

There was no report.

Regional Air Quality Council

Executive Director Rex stated at their August meeting, staff reported that 2025 ozone readings have been relatively favorable compared to past years and provided an update on developing control strategies to address the region's serious non-attainment status.

E-470 Authority

Director Mulvey stated members reported raising \$90,000 through the Transportation Safety Foundation fundraiser to support EV firefighting blankets, while also reviewing the strategic plan and receiving an update on service plazas.

Report from CDOT

There was no report.

Report from RTD

Director Sirois reported that at the RTD Board meeting, staff announced the August 31 service change with downtown rail reconstruction rerouting the D and H lines, the reopening of Boulder Junction, a major increase in fare checks, and new micromobility partnership projects across several communities.

Next meeting – September 17, 2025

Other matters by members

There were no other matters by members.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

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

ATTEST:

Douglas W. Rex, Executive Director