

Board of Directors Meeting Summary

Wednesday, July 16, 2025

Members/Alternates Present

Jeff Baker, Chair
Rebecca Lloyd
Adam Paul
Kevin Flynn
Susan Berumen
Rachel Zenzinger, Alternate
Sharon Davis
Alison Coombs
Royce Pindell, Alternate
Nicole Speer
Greg Mills
Deborah Mulvey
Tammy Maurer
Steve Douglas*
Steve Conklin
Josie Cockrell
Georgia Kofoed
Paul Haseman, Alternate
Chuck Harmon
Isabel Cruz, Alternate
Stephen Barr
Alecia Brown*, Alternate
Judi Kern
Hollie Rogin
Colleen Whitlow*
Angela Bernhardt
Kathleen Bailey*
Richard Kondo
John Diak
Justin Martinez
Sarah Nurmela
Darius Pakbaz
Bill Sirois

Arapahoe County
Clear Creek County
City and County of Denver
City and County of Denver
Gilpin County
Jefferson County
City of Arvada
City of Aurora
Town of Bennett
City of Boulder
City of Brighton
City of Castle Pines
City of Centennial
City of Commerce City
City of Edgewater
Town of Foxfield
Town of Georgetown
City of Golden
City of Idaho Springs
City of Lakewood
City of Littleton
City of Lone Tree
City of Louisville
Town of Lyons
Town of Mead
Town of Morrison
Town of Mountain View
City of Northglenn
Town of Parker
City of Thornton
City of Westminster
Colorado Department of Transportation
Regional Transportation District

Others Present: Douglas W. Rex, Executive Director, Melinda Stevens, Executive Assistant, DRCOG; Michele Riccio*, Adams County; Bryan Weimer, Arapahoe County; DJ Beckwith*, Kevin Van Winkle*, Art Griffith*, Douglas County; Mac Callison, Aurora; Gerrit Slatter*, Boulder; Jeff Dankenbring*, Centennial; Kyle Kearns*, Thornton; Claire Carmelia, Westminster; John Gardocki*, Colorado Department of Transportation; Susan Wood, Regional Transportation District; Jason Stone*, Randle Loeb*, 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 Chuck Harmon **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 met prior to the meeting and received a briefing on the upcoming awards celebration on August 27 and took action on the location for next year's peer exchange, which will take place in Seattle.
- Executive Director Rex reported the Finance and Budget Committee met at the beginning of July and approved 8 resolutions and discussed a proposal to introduce a TIP administrative fee to reduce member contributions while maintaining necessary funding for operations.

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 for \$1,200.
- Economic Development District Advisory Committee (EDDAC): At their first meeting, the committee reported progress on applying for an economic development district to bring additional federal funding to the region and elected Director Justin Martinez as Chair and Director Jeslin Shahrezaei as Vice Chair.
- Regional Housing Needs Assessment: The 60-day public review of the regional housing needs assessment has begun, with materials available on the DRCOG website and staff available to support communities interested in using the assessment. Board members are encouraged to connect with Sheila Lynch or Regional Planning and Development staff for assistance or questions.

Public Comment

Randle Loeb stated that recent federal budget cuts, impacting Medicaid, SNAP, and other services, will have severe and potentially lasting effects on immigrant and rural communities, and urged Board members to take action to protect vulnerable populations.

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 meeting June 18, 2025
- 2050 Regional Transportation Plan Update: Regional Roadway System

Discussion of the FY 2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Second Year Delays.

Brad Williams provided an overview of these delays to the Board. The list of projects presented included details and sponsor letters for TIP projects with FY 2024 funding that were first delayed in September 2024 and remain delayed as of July 1, 2025.

Under DRCOG policy, delays caused by the sponsor result in loss of funding for the affected phase, while delays due to external factors are reviewed by the Board for possible extensions or other actions. Since January 2023, DRCOG has tracked these projects monthly, resulting in fewer delays overall despite increased workloads and funding uncertainties. Staff determined that six projects remain delayed and recommended continuing each with newly established deadlines for Board approval.

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

DRCOG Small-area forecast: update on jurisdiction and agency feedback.

Zach Feldman presented the latest information on the forecast to the Directors. The small area forecast is a census block-level projection of households, housing, and employment from 2020 to 2050, used in key planning tools such as the travel demand model and regional housing needs assessment. The forecast is tied to Colorado's State Demography Office data and uses the UrbanSim land use model, incorporating zoning capacities, development data, and jurisdiction feedback to ensure accuracy. Between January and May 2024, DRCOG gathered 105 comments from 12 jurisdictions, adjusting capacities in nearly 3,000 census blocks and adding 170 scheduled development projects totaling 6,000–7,000 housing units. Updates addressed missing data issues (e.g., hotel-to-apartment conversions) and ensured undevelopable land was excluded.

The latest forecast has already been integrated into the regional housing needs assessment and will be included in the final air quality conformity runs for the regional transportation plan. Data is available via DRCOG's web map and data catalog for broader use, with the goal of aligning regional planning with local expectations while staying within county-level demographic constraints.

Active Transportation Plan.

Aaron Villere provided an overview of the plan to the Board. DRCOG is finalizing a major update to the Regional Active Transportation Plan, last adopted in 2019, to better align with Metro Vision, the Regional Transportation Plan, the Vision Zero Plan, and the Complete Streets Toolkit. Developed over the past year with input from member governments, partner agencies, and community stakeholders, the plan aims to be a practical resource for improving walking, bicycling, and other micromobility options across the region. It builds on the "three-legged stool" framework—pedestrian focus areas, short trip opportunity zones, and regional active transportation corridors—updated to reflect recent trends, new data, and local planning efforts. The plan emphasizes universal access, connected bike networks, and integration with local projects, while responding to changes in travel behavior, emerging mobility devices, and post-pandemic shifts.

Two key supplements will accompany the plan: a Sidewalk Delivery Guide to accelerate pedestrian network completion using updated accessibility standards, and a "Building a Better Bicycle+" guide with best practices for accommodating diverse bicycle types, addressing user conflicts, and improving year-round maintenance. The public draft is expected to be released by the end of July, with broad outreach planned to local governments, community partners, and targeted user groups, aiming for adoption in the fall.

RTD Annual FasTracks Report.

Cole Neder introduced Susan Wood, Program Manager with Regional Transportation District, to present the annual report to the Board. The report outlines the status of each project, financial information, and updates on notable initiatives such as the Northwest Rail Peak Service study and the “Finishing FastTracks” effort. Since voter approval in 2004, RTD has completed 75% of the program, with the most recent project being the North Metro Rail to 124th Avenue in 2020. Remaining projects include the second phase of Northwest Rail, North Metro extension to 136th, and extensions to the Southwest and Central corridors. Financial updates included current expenditures, total project budgets, and a five-year financial forecast (2025–2029) that aligns with RTD’s System Optimization Plan and prioritizes asset maintenance.

The report also detailed the FastTracks Internal Savings Account (FISA), created in 2012 to fund unfinished corridors, which currently holds about \$191.6 million and is projected to grow to \$526.8 million by 2040. Eight funding sources contribute to FISA, and future RTD Board action will determine its use. The “Finishing FastTracks” report, required by Senate Bill 24-230, was nearly complete by its original July 1, 2025 deadline but will now be submitted by December 2025 to incorporate new requirements from Senate Bill 25-161, which also adds tasks for RTD to complete. Work with Front Range Passenger Rail continues to explore ways to accelerate remaining projects.

Committee Reports

State Transportation Advisory Committee

There was no report.

Metro Mayors Caucus

Director Conklin stated the caucus has not met, but wanted to share upcoming activities, which include Transportation and Mobility Committee meetings, participation in the July 26 Mile Long Table event, and an August 1 visit with Mayor Rogin in Lyons.

Metro Area County Commissioners

Executive Director Rex stated at the June 20 meeting, the MACC discussed 2025–2026 regional priorities, aiming to act and vote on three metro-wide actions at its August meeting.

Advisory Committee on Aging

There was no report.

Regional Air Quality Council

There was no report.

E-470 Authority

Director Mulvey stated the Transportation Safety Foundation held a fundraiser with an above-average number of awards and announced positive plans for toll plazas featuring EV chargers, gas stations, and food options.

Report from CDOT

Director Pakbaz reported the commission had a light agenda focused on the budget, winter maintenance, and welcomed new commissioners Elise Jones (District 4), Juan Marcano (District 3), and Barbara McLaughlin (District 9), with the District 1 seat still pending.

Report from RTD

Director Sirois reported that the downtown rail reconstruction project will continue with a Kalamath crossing closure this August, followed by major work on the two-mile Central Line segment between Auraria and Welton starting next year and finishing in 2027. RTD also reported improved customer and employee survey results, and announced August service changes, including increased service on routes like the FF2 to Boulder, the return of the FF4, and other system-wide adjustments.

Next meeting – August 20, 2025

Other matters by members

Director Paul shared that former Mayor Marjorie Sloan, a respected regional advocate and former DRCOG director, Metro Mayors Caucus chair and RTD director, passed away July 15, 2025.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

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

ATTEST:

Douglas W. Rex, Executive Director