

Special Board of Directors Meeting Summary

Wednesday, November 5, 2025

Meeting was held virtually via Zoom

Members/Alternates Present

Jeff Baker, Chair

Claire Levy

Austin Ward

Rebecca Lloyd

Adam Paul

Kevin Flynn

Andy Kerr

Susan Berumen

Sharon Davis

Royce Pindell, Alternate

Greg Mills

Deborah Mulvey

Jason Gray

Tammy Maurer

Steve Conklin

Georgia Koefed

Lisa Vitry

George Lantz

Chuck Harmon

Jeslin Shahrezaei

Kat Bristow

Marissa Harmon

Judi Kern

Colleen Whitlow

Angela Bernhardt

Kathleen Bailey

Richard Kondo

John Diak

Justin Martinez

Sarah Nurmela

Rachel Hultin, Alternate

Darius Pakbaz

Arapahoe County

Boulder County

City and County of Broomfield

Clear Creek County

City and County of Denver

City and County of Denver

Jefferson County

Gilpin County

City of Arvada

Town of Bennett

City of Brighton

City of Castle Pines

Town of Castle Rock

City of Centennial

City of Edgewater

Town of Georgetown

City of Golden

Town of Greenwood Village

City of Idaho Springs

City of Lakewood

Town of Lochbuie

City of Lone Tree

City of Louisville

Town of Mead

Town of Morrison

Town of Mountain View

City of Northglenn

Town of Parker

City of Thornton

City of Westminster

City of Wheat Ridge

Colorado Department of Transportation

Others Present: Douglas W. Rex, Executive Director, Melinda Stevens, Executive Assistant, DRCOG; Michele Riccio, Adams County; Mac Callison, Aurora; Tim Dietz, Castle Rock; Paul Haseman, Golden; Larry Strock, Lochbuie; Kent Moorman, Thornton; Ed Bowditch, Bowditch and Cassell; Matt Frommer, Southwest Energy Efficiency Project (SWEEP); George Lux, Citizen; and DRCOG staff

Chair Jeff Baker called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. with a quorum present.

Move to approve agenda

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

Report of the Chair

Chair Baker wanted to acknowledge and congratulate those Board members who were up for reelection on November 4 and won their races.

Report of the Executive Director

- Post-election acknowledgment: Executive Director Rex also wanted to thank the Board and noted appreciation for members being able to attend the day after an election.
- Call for Projects: DRCOG has officially opened a call for letters of interest, starting now and closing on Nov 15, with over \$3 million available for technical assistance projects (with no local match required) for livable center, small area planning, community-based transportation planning, and innovative mobility set-asides planning.
- WayToGo GoTober winners: Executive Director Rex highlighted the winners of the Way to Go program's employer transportation challenge across five size categories. Winning organizations will be featured on DRCOG's website, social media, and local TV.
- Power Ahead Colorado Update: DRCOG hosted its own HVAC licensing stakeholder meetings, drawing strong participation from industry and local governments. DORA expressed its appreciation to DRCOG for the valuable and wide-ranging feedback received.

Public Comment

Matt Frommer, Southwest Energy Efficiency Project (SWEET), urged DRCOG to ensure the next RTP budget prioritizes multimodal and transit projects that align with Metro Vision goals, such as safety, air quality, climate action, VMT reduction, and equitable access, rather than continuing to overspend on highway expansions that increase driving, emissions, and sprawl. He emphasized that funding BRT, complete streets, and bike/ped projects in the next five years would save money, improve health and mobility, reflect residents' preferences, and avoid delaying critical investments for future generations.

Move to approve consent agenda

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

Items on the consent agenda included:

- Summary of the meeting October 15, 2025
- Amendments to the 2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program
- Transportation Demand Management Set-Aside

Discussion of the DRCOG Comprehensive Climate Action Plan.

Robert Spotts presented an overview of the plan to the Board. The development of DRCOG's Comprehensive Climate Action Plan followed the Board's 2023 authorization of a \$1 million federal planning grant that funded new staff and consultants to produce three major deliverables: the Priority Climate Action Plan (approved April 2024), the newly completed Comprehensive Climate Action Plan, and a final status report due in 2027. Mr. Spotts outlined the plan's required elements, including emissions inventories, projections, greenhouse gas reduction targets aligned with state goals, and a suite of

reduction targets aligned with state goals, and a suite of measures across buildings, transportation, and waste, which will focus only on the strategies DRCOG is capable of implementing or coordinating as a regional convener.

Mr. Spotts summarized the plan's chapters, highlighting emissions data, proposed reduction measures (such as Power Ahead Colorado building programs, BRT expansion, active transportation funding, TDM investments, EV infrastructure coordination, and new regional waste initiatives), along with the benefits analysis, extensive stakeholder engagement, and workforce challenges that must be addressed to meet climate goals. Looking ahead, DRCOG will use the remaining two years of the grant to continue Power Ahead Colorado work, support stakeholder groups such as the waste working group, and leverage staff capacity to advance regional sustainability efforts in alignment with Metro Vision.

Director Kern **moved** to adopt the Denver Regional Council of Governments Comprehensive Climate Action Plan to be submitted to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency by December 1, 2025. The motion was **seconded** and **passed** unanimously.

Continued discussion of the Transportation Improvement Program: Programming Year Adjustments.

Todd Cottrell provided a brief overview of this item that was brought over from the October Board meeting. He focused on the key recommendations and described how unusual circumstances, such as an off-cycle RTP adoption and recent funding reductions, caused the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to fall out of alignment. Recommendation 1 seeks to correct this by ensuring the RTP is adopted before any future TIP calls for projects, effectively shifting the next TIP cycle to cover 2029–2032. Recommendation 2 addresses the unprogrammed FY28 created by this schedule shift, noting that recent funding cuts required DRCOG to prioritize keeping existing projects whole. The proposal extends current FY24–27 set-asides for one additional year, uses part of FY28 funds to backfill shortfalls, and moves the remaining estimated funds, potentially around \$50 million, into the next TIP call for projects, though exact amounts may adjust as future federal and state funding becomes clearer.

Director Mills **moved** to approve exceptions to the adopted Policies for TIP Program Development document to shift the future Fiscal Years 2028-2031 TIP to 2029-2032, and to allocate future Fiscal Year 2028 funding as noted. The motion was **seconded** and **passed** unanimously.

2050 Regional Transportation Plan Update – Candidate Project Submittals.

Alvan-Bidal Sanchez presented this update to the Board. The presentation outlines progress on the 2050 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) update, noting that the call for projects closed on October 17 and yielded 133 submissions from local governments, CDOT, RTD, and DRCOG itself. Staff have spent the past weeks scoring projects using adopted evaluation criteria and are now meeting weekly with CDOT, RTD, and a regional review panel, along with county transportation representatives, to refine draft investment priorities, which will be presented to the Transportation Advisory Committee in December and to RTC and the DRCOG Board in January before moving into the federal air quality and state greenhouse gas compliance modeling phase. They also describe the concept of

“carryover projects,” which are automatically included in the new RTP because they are already funded, under construction, or in environmental phases.

The public engagement effort included an online survey, pop-up events across the region, and meetings with Civic and Youth Advisory groups, which collectively show strong public preference for improved transit, biking, walking infrastructure, and system maintenance, with less interest in adding new general-purpose lanes. Safety concerns (transit safety, vulnerable road user safety, and railroad crossings) were common themes, and engagement events continue across the 10-county region as staff work with communities to identify investment priorities. The next steps include completing project evaluations in November, drafting recommended investments for committee review in December, and advancing them to RTC and the Board in January as part of the ongoing RTP update process.

State-required regional plan elements.

Sheila Lynch wanted to present a brief update on required elements to the Board. There is a new funding opportunity through the Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA), which has opened a Housing Planning grant program to help regions and local governments meet requirements established under Senate Bill 174. Because DRCOG’s Metro Vision serves as the region’s long-range plan, the organization must complete two new mandated components, a strategic growth element and a water element, by the end of 2026, and staff intend to apply for state funding to support that work. The grant window opens November 7 and closes December 3, prompting the early briefing due to meeting schedule timing.

The same program includes funding for housing action planning, which local governments with populations of 5,000 or more are now required to complete. Since DRCOG has already developed substantial groundwork through its regional housing strategy, additional funding could allow the agency to provide technical assistance to help local governments develop and adopt their required housing action plans. This update is intended to give board members advance notice and the opportunity to ask questions before staff submit the application.

Committee Reports

State Transportation Advisory Committee

There was no report.

Metro Mayors Caucus

There was no report.

Metro Area County Commissioners

The commissioners reviewed and set priorities for the upcoming year, received a briefing from DRCOG’s lobbyist on the special and upcoming legislative sessions, held an extended discussion on potential legislative priorities, and postponed a planned presentation on older adults to next month due to time.

Advisory Committee on Aging

Jayla Sanchez-Warren reported that despite losing over \$5 million in funding for FY2025, the AAA still delivered 878,802 service units but experienced major declines, especially in rides and meals,

reflecting increasingly difficult conditions for older adults as broader assistance programs also face reductions.

Regional Air Quality Council

There was no report.

E-470 Authority

There was no report.

Report from CDOT

Director Pakbaz stated the upcoming Transportation Commission meeting will cover updates to the 10-year plan, western slope highway camera issues, and finalizing the FY27 draft budget, alongside recent public meetings on major corridor projects and the Statewide Transportation Advisory Committee meeting occurring tomorrow.

Report from RTD

There was no report.

Next meeting – December 17, 2025

Other matters by members

Director Kern urged everyone to attend Jayla's upcoming presentation highlighting urgent needs facing Colorado's seniors, praised the AAA's work despite limited resources, and announced that the Louisville Senior Center will offer a daily hot meal to any senior in need amid SNAP reductions.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:12 p.m.

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

ATTEST:

Douglas W. Rex, Executive Director