

Finance and Budget Committee Meeting Summary

Wednesday, October 1, 2025

Meeting held via Microsoft Teams

Members Present

Jeslin Shahrezaei, Chair	City and County of Denver
Adam Paul	City and County of Denver
Andy Kerr	Jefferson County
Sharon Davis	Arvada
Paul Haseman	Golden
Stephen Barr	Littleton
Marissa Harmon	Lone Tree

Others Present: Douglas W. Rex, Executive Director; and DRCOG staff.

Chair Shahrezaei called the meeting to order at approximately 5:32 p.m. with a quorum present.

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 September 3, 2025 meeting.
- Resolution authorizing the Executive Director to accept an amendment from the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment to extend the term of the disability application assistance grant through the period ending March 31, 2026.
- Resolution authorizing the Executive Director to accept approximately \$500,000 of Nutrition Services Incentives Program funding from the Colorado Department of Health and Human Services and distribute that funding to nutrition providers in the region for the period ending September 30, 2026.

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.

Director Kerr **moved** to select Sharon Davis of the Finance and Budget Committee to the Nominating Committee. The motion was **seconded** and **passed** unanimously.

Discussion of a resolution authorizing the Executive Director to amend a contract with Lotus Engineering and Sustainability supporting Decarbonization DRCOG's Building Policy Collaborative to increase the first term of the contract in an amount not to exceed \$2,220,000, with an initial term date of September 30, 2027 with the option to renew for two additional one-year terms for a total contract amount not to exceed \$2,700,000.

This item was tabled until the next meeting.

Discussion of a resolution authorizing the Executive Director to negotiate and execute a contract with Fehr & Peers to provide transportation and urban planning consulting services for DRCOG's Fitzsimons Innovative Transportation Solutions study in an amount not to exceed \$300,000 for a period of 15 months from the date of contract execution.

Noreen Smyth provided an overview of the contract to the Directors. These services will be funded through the Livable Centers Set-Aside Program identified in the FY2024–2027 Transportation Improvement Program. The \$300,000 contract will span 15 months and support regional efforts to enhance livability and multimodal connectivity across the Denver region. DRCOG's Livable Centers program, established through a \$1.25 million agreement with CDOT in October 2024, aims to promote efficient land use and infrastructure planning. The Fitzsimons study will evaluate current transportation conditions and develop coordinated multimodal and parking strategies to improve access and reduce congestion in the growing urban center. Following a July 2025 RFP that yielded four proposals, a selection panel, including DRCOG staff, the City of Aurora, and the Fitzsimons Redevelopment Authority, recommended Fehr & Peers as the preferred consultant.

Director Haseman **moved** to approve **Resolution Number 56**, authorizing the Executive Director to negotiate and execute a contract with Fehr & Peers to provide transportation and urban planning consulting services for DRCOG's Fitzsimons Innovative Transportation Solutions study in an amount not to exceed \$300,000 for a period of 15 months from the date of contract execution. The motion was **seconded** and **passed** unanimously.

Discussion of a resolution authorizing the Executive Director to negotiate and execute an agreement with MJM Innovations to provide call center services for DRCOG's Choice Services Transportation Program in the amount not to exceed \$180,000 for the period ending June 30, 2026, with annual autorenewals through June 30, 2030.

Fonda Buckles presented the contract to members. This contract will provide call center services for the Area Agency on Aging's transportation voucher program, which supplies about 58,000 trips annually and receives roughly 2,000 calls per month from older adults across the Denver metro area. After the previous call center abruptly ended its services in May, an RFP was issued, yielding eight proposals and three interviews. MJM Solutions, a 27-year-old company experienced in managing Older Americans Act and 5310-funded programs, was selected for its expertise in serving older adults, existing voucher systems, and ability to quickly integrate with DRCOG's current and additional transportation providers. The proposed contract would not exceed \$180,000 for one year and will ensure uninterrupted call center support while allowing continued program growth and client expansion.

Director Davis **moved** to approve **Resolution Number 57**, authorizing the Executive Director to negotiate and execute an agreement with MJM Innovations to provide call center services for DRCOG's Choice Services Transportation Program in the amount not to exceed \$180,000 for the period ending June 30, 2026, with annual autorenewals through June 30, 2030. The motion was **seconded** and **passed** unanimously.

Contract Threshold Requiring Finance and Budget Committee Approval.

Jenny Hunnings provided a broad overview of the contract requirements to the committee. This item was presented to initiate discussion with the committee about revisiting the current \$75,000 threshold that requires committee approval for contracts, a policy last updated in 2015. Since then, DRCOG's contractual budget has grown significantly, from a few million dollars to \$58.3 million in 2025, with multimillion-dollar contracts now common. Staff provided examples of contracts up to \$150,000 to illustrate that lower-dollar agreements are generally less consequential and may not require committee oversight. The goal is to gather committee input on whether to raise the approval threshold to better reflect the organization's expanded budget and contract scale, with potential action to be considered at a future meeting.

Report of the Chair

There was no report.

Report of the Executive Director

Executive Director Rex provided an update on the ongoing federal government shutdown, noting that DRCOG's funding sources remain secure since most are tied to authorization acts, though some federal staff furloughs, particularly at EPA, may temporarily affect responsiveness and reimbursements. The agency is closely monitoring the situation and reassuring contractors, especially those serving older adults, while expecting funding to continue flowing as usual. He also shared that planning is underway for a 2026 peer exchange in Seattle, with collaboration from local partners who recently hosted a national conference and offered ideas for potential site visits and programs.

Next meeting – November 5, 2025

Other matters by members

There were no other matters by members.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at approximately 5:55 p.m.