

Board of Directors Meeting Summary

Wednesday, April 16, 2026

Members/Alternates Present

Colleen Whitlow, Chair	Town of Mead
Jeff Baker	Arapahoe County
Rebecca Lloyd	Clear Creek County
Austin Ward	City and County of Broomfield
Adam Paul	City and County of Denver
Kevin Flynn	City and County of Denver
Susan Berumen	Gilpin County
Andy Kerr	Jefferson County
Sharon Davis	City of Arvada
Alison Coombs*	City of Aurora
Nicole Speer	City of Boulder
Deborah Mulvey	City of Castle Pines
Christine Sweetland	City of Centennial
Charles Dukes	City of Commerce City
Steve Conklin	City of Edgewater
Josie Cockrell	Town of Foxfield
Gerchard Pfau	City of Golden
Chuck Harmon	City of Idaho Springs
Saul Tapia Vega	City of Lafayette
Jeslin Shahrezaei	City of Lakewood
Robert Reichardt	City of Littleton
Kat Bristow*	Town of Lochbuie
Marissa Harmon	City of Lone Tree
Susie Hidalgo-Fahring, Alternate	City of Longmont
Judi Kern	City of Louisville
Hollie Rogin	Town of Lyons
Angela Bernhardt	Town of Morrison
Kathleen Bailey	Town of Mountain View
Richard Kondo	City of Northglenn
Mike Foster, Alternate	Town of Superior
Justin Martinez	City of Thornton
Sarah Nurmela	City of Westminster
Kiernan Maletsky	Regional Transportation District

Others Present: Douglas W. Rex, Executive Director, Jacob Riger, Transportation and Operations Director, DRCOG; Michele Riccio*, Adams County; DJ Beckwith*, Art Griffith*, Douglas County; Kent Moorman*, Thornton; John Gardocki*, Colorado Department of Transportation; Ed Bowditch, Jennifer Cassell, Bowditch and Cassell; and staff.

*Participated via Zoom

Chair Colleen Whitlow 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 Kern reported that the Finance and Budget Committee elected Justin Martinez as Vice Chair of the committee, approved a resolution for funds for the Choice Services Transportation Program, and received a presentation of the DRCOG Fiscal Year 2026/2027 Draft Budget.
- Director Shahrezai reported that the Performance and Engagement Committee met prior to the Board and discussed final details of the upcoming Peer Exchange in Seattle.

Report of the Executive Director

- Seattle Peer Exchange: The event will take place from May 6 to May 8 and is limited to the first 30 participants that sign up. Until April 1, registration is limited to one participant per community to ensure an opportunity for geographic representation.
- Annual Awards Celebration: Nominations are being accepted through April 17. Executive Director Rex encouraged members to sponsor a table for the event as it is a good way to celebrate all the work their local staff are doing within the region.
- Power Ahead Colorado: The program announced a major investment from Xcel Energy to expand the Colorado Contractor Hub's training, resources, tools, rebate processing, and statewide heat pump outreach.
- Executive Director Rex acknowledged and thanked Mayor Hollie Rogin for years of dedicated public service and kindness.

Public Comment

There were no comments.

Move to approve consent agenda

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

Items on the consent agenda included:

- Summary of the meeting March 18, 2026, meeting
- Amendments to the 2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program
- Human Services Transportation Set-Aside and Section 5310 Project
- Livable Centers Set Aside Project Recommendations
- 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program Set-Aside Policy Document Amendment

Discussion of the Metropolitan Planning Organization Boundary Expansion

Jacob Riger provided an overview of the ongoing effort to expand the DRCOG metropolitan planning organization (MPO) boundary to include Clear Creek and Gilpin counties. Discussions with local governments have been underway for more than a year and federal law requires MPO boundaries to include urbanized areas and areas expected to become urbanized within the next 20 years. Expanding the boundary would be a low-cost, high-value opportunity to improve regional transportation coordination, align planning boundaries, strengthen advocacy efforts, and provide the counties with representation in the transportation planning process. This proposal had already received unanimous recommendations from both the Transportation Advisory Committee and the Regional Transportation Committee. If approved, DRCOG would submit documentation and a formal

request to CDOT, potentially amend its metropolitan planning agreement with CDOT and RTD and ultimately seek final approval from the governor and federal transportation agencies to officially adopt the boundary expansion.

Director Conklin **moved** to adopt **Resolution No. 7, 2026**, requesting revision of the metropolitan planning area boundary and modification of the memorandum of agreement regarding the Denver urban area transportation planning process. The motion was **seconded** and **passed** unanimously.

Discussion of Power Ahead Colorado Innovation Pilot Program Policy

Mac Prather briefed the Board on the contents of the policy. It is a \$6 million initiative designed to support innovative, community-driven approaches to building electrification and expand access to highly efficient all-electric heating and water heating systems, particularly in underserved communities. The program will distribute funds through three rounds of pilot project subawards averaging approximately \$200,000 each, with the first funding round capped at \$350,000 per application. The program focuses on four broad funding tracks: making electrification easier to deliver, improving demand flexibility and technical performance, coordinating neighborhood-scale deployment strategies, and expanding equitable access to healthier and more efficient buildings. This includes tools to simplify heat pump installation, demand-responsive heat pump water heaters, neighborhood electrification campaigns, and partnerships with healthcare providers to educate residents about indoor air quality benefits.

Director Ward **moved** to approve the Innovation Pilot Program Policy. The motion was **seconded** and **passed** unanimously.

Status of bills on which positions have previously been taken

Jennifer Cassell provided an update to the Board. House Bill 26-1065 concerning Transit and Housing Investment Zones is expected to move forward after delays in the Appropriations Committee, while House Bill 1102, which redirects funding to DMV operations at the expense of the Highway Users Tax Fund (HUTF), was amended to include a financial backfill mechanism tied to a separate tax reform bill in order to protect transportation funding. There was success in amending House Bill 26-1399, an orbital budget bill that originally proposed cutting the Multimodal Options Fund through 2031, reducing the impact to only a single fiscal year through collaborative advocacy efforts involving DRCOG and regional partners. However, the group was unsuccessful in altering House Bill 26-1398, which changes the retail delivery fee distribution formula from an 85/15 split to 70/30, resulting in reduced transportation funding for local government.

Discussion of state legislative issues: New, bills for consideration and action.

Rich Mauro and Executive Director Rex provided an overview of the only new bill for consideration to the Board:

- Transportation bills
 - Senate Bill 26-150 – Modernizing Regional Transportation District
 - Director Ward moved a position of amend. The motion was seconded and with 16 in favor and 10 abstentions.

Committee Reports

State Transportation Advisory Committee

Director Mills reported they met on April 2 and received a presentation from CDOT on their draft 10-year plan focused on maintenance, safety, asset management, and transportation choices, ongoing electrification and zero-emission vehicle initiatives, charging station and transit vehicle electrification efforts, and roadside vegetation management strategies related to wildland fire mitigation.

Metro Mayors Caucus

Director Harmon stated their last meeting focused on housing initiatives, including development of the Future Housing Coalition through Metro Mayors Caucus and creation of a municipal toolkit aimed at helping communities implement strategies to expand income-aligned and accessible housing for all residents

Metro Area County Commissioners

Executive Director Rex stated the commissioners met on March 20 and had discussions on county-specific legislative priorities and a presentation by Jayla Sanchez-Warren regarding demographic shifts within the older adult population.

Advisory Committee on Aging

Jayla Sanchez-Warren reported that the committee had discussions on legislative updates, regional transportation and paratransit challenges for older adults, including funding shortages and growing demand highlighted by Frank Bruno, as well as county efforts focused on transit planning, caregiving advocacy, and recognition of senior volunteers.

Regional Air Quality Council

Executive Director Rex reported that at their April 3 meeting, they received a presentation on the nationally recognized Engines Off program that electrifies mobile businesses such as food trucks and had discussions on the control strategy blueprint and coordination with CDPHE and the Air Quality Control Commission.

E-470 Authority

Director Mulvey reported ongoing progress on toll plazas near Buckley, Parker, Chambers, and Peña Boulevard, and highlighted E-470's new branding and public outreach campaign.

Report from CDOT

There was no report.

Report from RTD

Director Maletsky reported on RTD's open partnership program for community-based mobility projects, the launch of a comprehensive operational analysis of all transit services with planned stakeholder engagement, and the rollout of upgraded digital signage across the system beginning at Union Station.

Next meeting – May 20, 2026

Other matters by members

Director Rogin expressed gratitude and appreciation for her fellow directors and DRCOG.

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Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

Colleen Whitlow, Chair
Board of Directors
Denver Regional Council of Governments

ATTEST:

Douglas W. Rex, Executive Director