

# Board of Directors Meeting Summary

Wednesday, February 18, 2026

## Members/Alternates Present

Jeff Baker, Chair	Arapahoe County
Julie Dran Mullica	Adams County
Claire Levy	Boulder County
Austin Ward	City and County of Broomfield
Jodie Hartman-Ball, Alternate	Clear Creek County
Adam Paul	City and County of Denver
Kevin Flynn	City and County of Denver
Kevin Van Winkle	Douglas County
Sharon Davis	City of Arvada
Nicole Speer	City of Boulder
Greg Mills	City of Brighton
Deborah Mulvey	Castle Pines
Christine Sweetland	City of Centennial
Robert Eber	City of Cherry Hills Village
Charles Dukes	City of Commerce City
Steve Conklin	City of Edgewater
Jack Bethel	City of Englewood
Emily Baer	Town of Erie
Rachel Binkley	City of Glendale
Gerchard Pfau	City of Golden
George Lantz	City of Greenwood Village
Chuck Harmon	City of Idaho Springs
Jeslin Shahrezaei	City of Lakewood
Robert Reichardt	City of Littleton
Marissa Harmon	City of Lone Tree
Judi Kern	City of Louisville
Colleen Whitlow	Town of Mead
Kathleen Bailey	Town of Mountain View
Richard Kondo	City of Northglenn
John Diak	Town of Parker
Sally Daigle, Alternate	City of Sheridan
Neal Shah	Town of Superior
Justin Martinez	City of Thornton
Jack Johnson, Alternate	City of Westminster
Rachel Hultin	City of Wheat Ridge
Darius Pakbaz	Colorado Department of Transportation
Bill Sirois	Regional Transportation District

Others Present: Douglas W. Rex, Executive Director, Melinda Stevens, Executive Assistant, DRCOG; Michele Riccio\*, Adams County; DJ Beckwith\*, Zeke Lynch\*, Douglas County; Robert Andrews\*, Mac Callison, Tom Work-Braddock; Aurora; Kat Bristow\*, Lochbuie; Susie Hidalgo-Fahring\*, Longmont; Kent Moorman\*, Thornton; Joshua Sievers, Northglenn; Jordan Rudel\*, John Gardocki\*, Colorado Department of Transportation; Jennifer Cassell, Bowditch & Cassell; Rodney Milton, Urban Land Institute (ULI) Colorado; Richard McClintock\*, Jason Stone\*, Citizens; and staff.

\*Participated via Zoom

Chair Jeff Baker called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. with a quorum present.

The Chair noted new members and alternates: Saul Tapia Vega, new member for the City of Lafayette; Nate Winegar, new alternate for the City of Castle Pines; Kyle Beaulieu, new alternate for the City of Lafayette; David Rein, new alternate for the City of Lakewood; Jack Johnson, new alternate for the City of Westminster; and Josh Sievers, new alternate for the City of Northglenn.

### **Move to approve agenda**

Chair Baker noted that item number 14: Shared Micromobility in the Denver Region Update, would be postponed until the summer.

Director Harmon **moved** to approve the agenda as amended. The motion was **seconded** and **passed** unanimously.

### **Urban Land Institute: Local government technical assistance program**

Sheila Lynch introduced Rodney Milton, Executive Director of The Urban Land Institute (ULI) Colorado, to present an overview of the program to the Board. ULI is a global, multidisciplinary organization of about 45,000 members that includes planners, architects, consultants, brokers, and other built-environment professionals. They all work as trusted advisors to help communities solve complex development challenges. In Colorado, ULI has roughly 1,400 members statewide and works closely with partners such as DRCOG to address regional challenges including housing supply, regulatory barriers, and downtown revitalization, which is seen as critical to the region's health. Through services such as convening expert conversations, Technical Advisory Panels (TAPs), and more in-depth Advisory Service Panels (ASPs), ULI provides communities with multidisciplinary expertise to help evaluate sites, generate development solutions, and move projects forward. The organization also offers the UrbanPlan program: a hands-on, gamified simulation that helps elected officials, staff, students, and community members better understand the real estate development process, financial realities, and trade-offs involved in shaping successful communities.

### **Report of the Chair**

Chair Baker announced that Senator Matt Ball will attend the meeting around 7:30 p.m. to discuss planned legislation related to the RTD Accountability Committee recommendations during agenda item 12 on state legislative issues.

- Director Kondo reported that the Performance and Engagement Committee met prior to the meeting and were informed that nominations for the 2026 awards celebration are now open until April 17 and received an update on the upcoming peer exchange trip to Seattle from May 6–8 to meet with the Puget Sound Regional Council.
- Director Shahrezaei reported the Finance and Budget Committee met on May 4, approving several contract amendments on the consent agenda, along with two action items approving rollover funding from the Older Americans Act for FY2026 and awarding funds for the Fitzsimmons Innovation Transportation Solutions Study to support projects in the eastern metro area.

### **Report of the Executive Director**

- 2026-2027 Committee Appointments: All applicants for the Finance & Budget and Performance & Engagement committees were accepted, with room for additional members and an open invitation for others to join or observe meetings.

- Discussion of new bills: Senator Matt Ball will attend the meeting briefly to gather feedback from members as part of stakeholder outreach for probable RTD Accountability Committee legislation.
- Winter Bike to Work Day: The February 13 event was a success with over 5,000 riders participating and strong media coverage, thanks to the work of DRCOG's Way to Go staff and partners.
- 2026 Awards Celebration: The awards nomination process is now open, and members are encouraged to involve their local governments through table sponsorships to support the annual celebration.
- Board Leadership Transitions and Recognition: Executive Director Rex recognized outgoing board leaders, including Chair Baker and Immediate Past Chair Steve Conklin, thanking them for their years of service and leadership.
- Recognition of Mac Callison's Retirement: Longtime Aurora representative and Transportation Technical Advisory Committee member Mac Callison was acknowledged for his years of service as he prepares for retirement.
- New Chief Operations Officer: Jenny Hunnings was promoted from Director of Administration and Finance to Chief Operations Officer to support internal operations and allow the executive director greater focus on strategic and external work.

### Public Comment

There were no comments.

### 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 January 21, 2026, meeting
- 2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program Policy Amendments
- Community-Based Transportation Planning and Innovative Mobility Set-Asides: Project Recommendations for Funding
- 2026 Federal Safety Targets
- Appointments to the Performance & Engagement and Finance & Budget committees

### Election of Officers.

Director Davis, Chair of the Nominating Committee, along with Directors Speer, Mulvey, Flynn, Conklin, and Diak, considered all individuals who submitted their names to serve as Board officers. After discussion and consideration, the candidates proposed were recommended unanimously by the Nominating Committee:

- Vice Chair – Richard Kondo, Council Member, City of Northglenn
- Secretary – Jeslin Shahrezaei, Council Member, City of Lakewood
- Treasurer – Judi Kern, Council Member, City of Louisville

Colleen Whitlow will serve as Chair and Jeff Baker will serve as Immediate Past Chair for the coming year.

Director Conklin **moved** to elect Board officers for 2026 as presented. The motion was **seconded** and **passed** unanimously.

**Discussion to select representatives to serve on the Regional Transportation Committee, Statewide Transportation Advisory Committee, E-470 Board of Directors, and the Power Ahead Colorado Oversight Committee.**

Interest was solicited from DRCOG directors to serve as representatives on several regional committees, including the Regional Transportation Committee (RTC), the Statewide Transportation Advisory Committee (STAC), the E-470 Board of Directors, and the Power Ahead Colorado (PACO) Oversight Committee. DRCOG holds five seats on the RTC (three reserved for the Board Chair, Vice Chair, and Executive Director) and must appoint two additional at-large representatives and alternates to attend when members are unavailable. DRCOG also maintains standing representation on both STAC and the E-470 Board, with two directors selected annually for each body, one serving as the primary member and the other as the alternate. In addition, four seats are available on the PACO Oversight Committee, which provides policy recommendations to the DRCOG Board regarding the Power Ahead Colorado regional initiative.

After discussion and consideration, the Nominating Committee recommended the candidates listed:

- Regional Transportation Committee:
  - Steve Conklin, Edgewater (member)
  - Nicole Speer (member)
  - Kevin Flynn (alternate)
  - Sharon Davis (alternate)
- Statewide Transportation Advisory Committee:
  - Emily Baer, Erie (member)
  - Greg Mills, Brighton (alternate)
- E-470 Board of Directors:
  - Deborah Mulvey, Castle Pines (member)
- Power Ahead Colorado Oversight Committee:
  - Emily Baer, Erie (member)
  - Kathleen Bailey, Mountain View (member)
  - Charles Dukes, Commerce City (member)
  - Nicole Speer, Boulder (member)

Director Bailey **moved** to approve members to serve on the Regional Transportation Committee, the Statewide Transportation Advisory Committee, the E-470 Board of Directors, and the Power Ahead Colorado Oversight Committee. The motion was **seconded** and **passed** unanimously.

**2026 legislative preview and discussion of state legislative issues: New, bills for consideration and action.**

Rich Mauro and Jennifer Cassell provided an overview of new bills for consideration to the Board. There was one bill regarding transportation, two bills regarding aging, and two bills regarding housing for discussion and action. The following bills were voted on separately:

- Transportation bills
  - House Bill 26-1065 – Transit and Housing Investment Zones
    - Director Mullica moved a position of support with technical amendments. The motion was seconded and passed with 30 in favor, 1 opposed, and 3 abstentions.
- Aging bills
  - House Bill 26-1018 – Long-term Care Services for Nursing Home Residents
    - Director Baker moved a position of monitor. The motion was seconded and passed with 29 in favor and 5 abstentions.

- House Bill 26-1107 – Health Care in Regulated Facilities
  - Director Kondo moved a position of support with amendments. The motion was seconded and passed with 27 in favor and 7 abstentions.
- Housing bills
  - House Bill 26-1001 – Housing Developments on Qualifying Properties
    - Director Mills moved a position of oppose. The motion was seconded and passed with 24 in favor, 5 opposed, and 4 abstentions.
  - Senate Bill 26-001 – Workforce Housing & Housing Tax Credit
    - Director Flynn moved that no position be taken at this time. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Senator Ball joined the meeting and introduced himself as the representative for Senate District 31 and came to speak to the Board about the recent Regional Transportation District (RTD) Accountability Committee report and the ongoing discussion about whether changes should be made to RTD's governance structure. He explained that he plans to sponsor legislation this session to explore potential reforms. The goal would be to help improve the region's transit system and that he is currently gathering input from stakeholders, including DRCOG and RTD, before drafting the bill. He encouraged Board members to review the report and share feedback on whether governance changes are needed and what potential alternatives might look like, noting that the proposal will likely be drafted over the next month with possible introduction in mid-March.

Board members shared mixed perspectives on potential RTD governance reforms. Some expressed concern that consolidating districts could make campaigns more difficult for average residents and reduce accountability. Others noted that while the RTD board may be too large, governance changes alone may not address broader challenges, including the agency's large geographic service area and responsiveness to local communities. Several directors emphasized the need for stronger local government representation and accountability, while cautioning that restructuring the board should be part of a broader effort to address systemic issues affecting transit services across the region.

### **Fiscal Year 2029-2032 Transportation Improvement Program Kick-off.**

Todd Cottrell provided an overview of the new fiscal year program to the Board. The kickoff of the development of a new Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) covering federal fiscal years 2029–2032 began with the January meeting of the Transportation Advisory Committee. The process will span approximately 32 months and is divided into three phases. The first phase, occurring throughout the current year, focuses on updating the TIP policy document through regular discussions with the Transportation Advisory Committee and a newly formed TIP subcommittee to address more detailed topics. The second phase will involve calls for projects, beginning with the regional share in early 2027 and continuing with subregional project calls through early 2028. The final phase will focus on preparing the draft TIP, conducting public review and hearings, and completing the adoption process, with the goal of finalizing the new TIP by August 2028 ahead of the start of federal fiscal year 2029. Staff will provide periodic updates to the Regional Transportation Committee and the Board throughout the process to ensure opportunities for input.

## **Committee Reports**

### **State Transportation Advisory Committee**

Director Ward reported at its February 5 meeting, STAC received updates from CDOT on the 10-Year Plan, potential revisions to interchange approval policy (PD 1601), the upcoming Transportation Alternatives Program call, and implementation of SB 25-030 to inventory planned local bike, pedestrian, and transit projects.

### **Metro Mayors Caucus**

Director Marissa Harmon stated the caucus held its annual retreat in late January, discussing strategies to protect local home rule authority, advancing a housing toolkit and regional business attraction efforts at the state level, and hosting a meeting focused on sustainability and recycling initiatives.

### **Metro Area County Commissioners**

Executive Director Rex reported they did not meet.

### **Advisory Committee on Aging**

Jayla Sanchez-Warren reported after SNAP benefit reductions, the AAA secured a \$75,000 state grant to distribute 1,500 \$50 grocery gift cards to residents in need, with 1,000 already distributed and the remainder expected to be completed by mid-March. The agency also presented to state legislators about the challenges facing all AAAs, highlighting a 23% decline in service units and urging lawmakers to prioritize aging services.

### **Regional Air Quality Council**

Director Kern reported at the recent meeting hosted in Louisville, they highlighted the Clean Air Auto Repair Program, which helped repair 105 emissions-failing vehicles for low-income residents last year, helping reduce pollution while enabling individuals to keep their cars and maintain access to work.

### **E-470 Authority**

Director Mulvey reported their February meeting focused on approving a design contract for part of the widening of 104th to US-85.

### **Report from CDOT**

Director Pakbaz reported the Transportation Commission held a workshop reviewing budgets for CDOT and its enterprises and met jointly with the Colorado Transportation Investment Office to discuss Bustang funding and long-term solutions.

### **Report from RTD**

Director Sirois reported that RTD announced the consolidation of eight FlexRide zones in the Denver Tech Center into a single zone to simplify service for customers and noted that the call for projects for its Partnership Program, funding 2027–2029 initiatives, will be released on April 11.

### **Next meeting – March 18, 2026**

### **Other matters by members**

Chair Baker expressed that it was an honor to serve as the Chair for DRCOG's Board of Directors.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

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

ATTEST:

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Douglas W. Rex, Executive Director