

Special Board of Directors Meeting Summary

Wednesday, January 7, 2026

Meeting was held virtually via Zoom

Members/Alternates Present

Jeff Baker, Chair	Arapahoe County
Julie Mullica	Adams County
Claire Levy	Boulder County
Austin Ward	City and County of Broomfield
Adam Paul	City and County of Denver
Kevin Flynn	City and County of Denver
Andy Kerr	Jefferson County
Susan Berumen	Gilpin County
Sharon Davis	City of Arvada
Nicole Speer	City of Boulder
Greg Mills	City of Brighton
Deborah Mulvey	City of Castle Pines
Tim Dietz, Alternate	Town of Castle Rock
Christine Sweetland	City of Centennial
Charles Dukes	City of Commerce City
Steve Conklin	City of Edgewater
Emily Baer	Town of Erie
Ray Byrd	Town of Firestone
Georgia Koefed	Town of Georgetown
Lisa Vitry	City of Golden
George Lantz	Town of Greenwood Village
Chuck Harmon	City of Idaho Springs
Jeslin Shahrezaei	City of Lakewood
Larry Strock, Alternate	Town of Lochbuie
Marissa Harmon	City of Lone Tree
Judi Kern	City of Louisville
Robert Reichardt	City of Littleton
Hollie Rogin	Town of Lyons
Colleen Whitlow	Town of Mead
Kathleen Bailey	Town of Mountain View
Nichole Sterling	Town of Nederland
Richard Kondo	City of Northglenn
John Diak	Town of Parker
Sally Daigle	City of Sheridan
Justin Martinez	City of Thornton
Sarah Nurmela	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; Kenny Nguyen, Broomfield; Mac Callison, Aurora; Steve Douglas, Commerce City; Kent Moorman, Thornton; John Gardocki, Colorado Department of Transportation; Lee Ann Ryan, Tyler Bump, ECONorthwest; Chandler Sanchez, Southwest Energy Efficiency

Project (SWEEP); Eden Teklemariam, Laura Weinberg, Ty Robbins, Citizen; and DRCOG staff.

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

The Chair noted new members and alternates: Rachel Hultin, new member for the City of Wheat Ridge; Sally Daigle, new member for the City of Sheridan; Christine Sweetland, new member for the City of Centennial; Robert Reichardt, new member for the City of Littleton; Charles Dukes, new member for the City of Commerce City; Dan Larson, new alternate for the city of Wheat Ridge; Shawna Ambrose, new alternate for the City of Arvada; Kenny Van Nguyen, new alternate for the City and County of Broomfield; and Brandon Bell, new alternate for Town of Erie.

Move to approve agenda

Director Baer **moved** to approve the agenda, with agenda item number 8 (Urban Land Institute: Local government technical assistance programs) being postponed. The motion was **seconded** and **passed** unanimously.

Public Comment

Chandler Sanchez, Southwest Energy Efficiency Project (SWEEP), urged the Board to better align near-term transportation investments with community priorities and DRCOG's stated goals for safety, climate, and mobility, noting strong public support for transit and multimodal infrastructure over new road expansions. While many high-scoring multimodal projects advance regional goals, delaying them, especially in fast-growing counties, risks perpetuating car dependency and postponing critical safety, pollution, and mobility benefits.

Move to approve consent agenda

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

Items on the consent agenda included:

- Summary of the November 5, 2025, special meeting
- 2026 Policy Statement on State Legislative Issues
- Amendments to the 2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program

Discussion of Appointments to the Front Range Passenger Rail District Board.

Jacob Riger provided a brief history of the Board and its relation to DRCOG to the directors. DRCOG's statutory responsibility under Senate Bill 23-238, is to appoint four representatives to the Front Range Passenger Rail District Board, who serve staggered four-year terms with two appointments made every two years. Following a fall/early winter application and vetting process, the Nominating Committee recommends reappointing the two incumbents whose terms are expiring, Chris Nevitt of Denver, current FRPRD Board Chair, and Deborah Mulvey of Castle Pines, Chair of the Governance and Communications Committee, with voting limited to DRCOG Board members representing the MPO area only.

Director Kondo **moved** to appoint the DRCOG Nominating Committee's recommended candidates to represent DRCOG on the Front Range Passenger Rail District Board. The motion was **seconded** and **passed** with 36 in favor and 1 abstention.

Regional Housing Strategy Update.

Sheila Lynch introduced Lee Ann Ryan and Tyler Bump of ECONorthwest to provide this update to the Board. The Regional Housing Strategy is grounded in MetroVision, the Denver region's unanimously adopted long-range plan for growth, which establishes a shared vision among all 59 member governments to ensure diverse, attainable, and well-connected housing options for residents of all ages, incomes, and abilities. Guided by MetroVision's housing objectives, DRCOG initiated the Regional Housing Strategy as the implementation arm of that vision, beginning with a Regional Housing Needs Assessment to define the scale of need and identify barriers. The strategy is designed to complement, not replace, local housing efforts by providing regional coordination, technical assistance, and scalable solutions informed by robust data analysis, stakeholder engagement, and an environmental scan highlighting strong local momentum and emerging regional innovations.

The strategy development process has included extensive engagement with the DRCOG Board, a steering committee of elected officials, advisory groups, local governments, housing practitioners, nonprofits, and philanthropic partners, and is now moving from research into draft structure and implementation readiness. The emerging framework includes a clear purpose, vision, goals, pathways, and actionable strategies focused on expanding housing supply and diversity, preserving affordability and preventing displacement, strengthening regional coordination, aligning funding capacity, and building public and political will. Drawing on peer regional examples and local successes, such as Boulder County's cross-jurisdictional housing partnership, the next phase will refine strategies, stress-test implementation approaches, build regional buy-in, and prepare for launch and adoption through continued board involvement and engagement into 2026.

2050 Regional Transportation Plan Update – Recommended Investment Priorities.

Alvan-Bidal Sanchez presented this update to the Board. The Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) call for projects process began last summer, which included the development of the solicitation framework, receipt of 133 candidate projects, and a comprehensive evaluation by DRCOG staff. Projects were assessed using congestion data, equity analysis, and forum rankings, with most submissions coming from county transportation forums and a new addition of DRCOG-sponsored projects focused on the regional BRT network. The draft list was unanimously recommended by the Transportation Advisory Committee in December, will be reviewed by the Regional Transportation Committee later this month, and will then come before the Board for approval. Financially, the region received \$11.4 billion in project requests but is constrained to approximately \$7.8 billion in available funding through 2050, requiring prioritization to meet federal fiscal constraint requirements.

The evaluation and refinement process included extensive coordination with regional partners (CDOT, RTD, and county forums) through a Regional Review Panel and weekly partner check-ins to align scopes, staging, costs, and regional priorities, and to ensure consistency with CDOT's 10-Year Plan. Funding availability reflects differing roles among

partners, with RTD holding the largest share, followed by CDOT and DRCOG administered funds, and a clear distinction between funds programmed for specific projects versus ongoing programs. Of the \$7.8 billion, roughly one-third is committed to previously approved projects already underway, over half is allocated to resubmitted priority projects already in the RTP, and about 14% is proposed for new projects. Following Board action, the plan will move into modeling to demonstrate compliance with federal air quality and state greenhouse gas reduction requirements.

Next meeting – January 21, 2026

Other matters by members

There were no other matters by members.

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