

**Attachment A
Meeting Summary
Regional Transportation Committee
Tuesday, November 19, 2024**

***In-person meeting with Virtual Option for Public (Via Zoom)**

Members (or Voting Alternates) Present:

Bill Sirois (Alternate)	Regional Transportation District
Debra Johnson	Regional Transportation District
Troy Whitmore	Regional Transportation District
Michael Guzman (Alternate)	Regional Transportation District
Yessica Holguin	Colorado Department of Transportation
Shelley Cook	Colorado Department of Transportation
Eula Adams (Alternate)	Colorado Department of Transportation
Darius Pakbaz (Alternate)	Colorado Department of Transportation
Colleen Whitlow (Vice Chair)	Denver Regional Council of Governments
Randy Weil	Denver Regional Council of Governments
Ron Papsdorf (Alternate)	Denver Regional Council of Governments
Greg Mills	Denver Regional Council of Governments
Jeff Baker (Chair)	Denver Regional Council of Governments
Erin Clark	Denver Housing Authority
Mike Silverstein	Regional Air Quality Council
Skyler McKinley	Auto Club Group

Public: Aaron Heumann, Dee Beckwith, Alison Cutting

DRCOG staff: Jacob Riger, Cam Kennedy, Josh Schwenk, Brad Williams, Nora Kern, Erik Braaten, Max Monk, Aaron Villere, Carolyn Klamm, Alvan-Bidal Sanchez, Todd Cottrell, Emily Lindsey

Call to Order

Chair Jeff Baker called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

October 15, 2024 Regional Transportation Committee Meeting Summary

The summary was accepted.

Action Items

Transportation Improvement Program Policy Amendments

Josh Schwenk, Senior Planner, discussed the proposed amendments to the Fiscal Year 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program, which has been found to comply with the current Transportation Improvement Program amendment procedures as contained

within the Board-adopted Policies for Transportation Improvement Program Development and conform with the State Implementation Plan for Air Quality.

Commissioner Shelley Cook moved to recommend to the Board of Directors the attached project amendments to the Fiscal Year 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Transportation Improvement Program Policy Amendments Second Set

Josh Schwenk, Senior Planner, discussed the two projects in this set of amendments related to funding returned by the City of Englewood originally programmed to the US285/Broadway Operational Improvements project. As the available funding was not accepted by any project sponsors on the Arapahoe County waitlist, the Arapahoe County Subregional Forum met on November 7, 2024, to decide how to reapportion the funding to existing TIP projects. Two requests were made, one by the City of Littleton and another by the City of Centennial. Additionally, DRCOG staff have been made aware of three federal discretionary awards that need to be added to the TIP, which are also included in these amendments.

Director Randy Weil moved to recommend to the Board of Directors the attached project amendments to the 2024-2027 TIP, including an exception to the TIP Policy to allow the Arapahoe County Subregional Forum action. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Transportation Improvement Program Set-Aside Policy Amendments

Josh Schwenk, Senior Planner, discussed that this document compiles the policies and procedures for each of DRCOG's TIP set-aside programs into one document that can be easily referenced by any interested applicant to DRCOG's various transportation funding programs. Changes have occurred since the adoption of this document that warrant an update, including:

- Adoption of the Transportation Demand Management Strategic Plan.
- Successful pilots of the Transportation Corridor Planning and Community-Based Transportation Planning programs lead to lessons learned for DRCOG-led planning programs.
- Development of intergovernmental agreements with the Colorado Department of Transportation and further development for the four new set-aside programs (Transportation Corridor Planning, Innovative Mobility, Livable Centers Small-Area Planning, and Community-Based Transportation Planning).
- Changes to state digital accessibility policy which may impact website management.
- General refinement of project procedures and evaluation criteria.

To account for these changes, staff have worked to update the TIP Set-Aside Policy document. TAC recommends approval.

Director Mike Silverstein moved to recommend to the Board of Directors the attached amendments to the Policies for 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program Set-Aside Programs. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Discussion Items

2050 Metro Vision Regional Transportation Plan Major Update Kickoff

Alvan-Bidal Sanchez, Regional Transportation Planning Program Manager, presented that since the original adoption in 2021, numerous plans and programs have been initiated or completed that will be reflected in the updated 2050 RTP. Once adopted, the 2050 RTP must meet federal fiscal constraint requirements, meaning there must be reasonably expected funding to implement the proposed projects and investments. The 2050 RTP must also meet federal air quality conformity requirements and state transportation greenhouse gas emission reduction requirements, among other state and federal requirements.

Chair Jeff Baker stated that with the new administration taking over in January 2025, there is concern involving federal funding and inquired how this potentially changes the timeline of this update. Mr. Sanchez replied that DRCOG relies on CDOT's program distribution so there will be coordination regarding financial assumptions contained in the updated plan. Resources go through various economic and other cycles and those are considered when preparing long-term revenue forecasts for planning purposes.

Mr. Darius Pakbaz stated that program distribution was taken to the Statewide Transportation Advisory Committee and the Transportation Commission. However, it is still too early to tell what changes may ultimately occur when the new administration takes office. Director Ron Papsdorf added that this conversation also provides an opportunity for the region to discuss not just the resources we estimate to come from the federal government but to consider and discuss other regional funding tools that could help achieve the transportation outcomes we want to see.

2050 Metro Vision Regional Transportation Plan Scenario Planning Kickoff

Alvan-Bidal Sanchez, Regional Transportation Planning Program Manager, discussed that as the next major update to the RTP begins, staff are interested in completing a new scenario analysis to inform and refine the investment priorities identified in the 2050 RTP. The objective will be to understand how and to what extent each scenario influences regional relationships between urban form, transportation system approaches, travel, and mobility patterns.

Director Michael Guzman inquired how minority populations can be involved in this effort since they may not speak English, and they might need additional resources to be able to participate. Mr. Sanchez replied that during the last cycle, DRCOG created a Civic Advisory Group, and it included people that had not been involved in the process before and the plan is to bring that group back during this upcoming update.

Additionally, there will be more on-the-ground engagement that focuses on disadvantaged communities. Mr. Jacob Riger added that DRCOG has been pioneering new engagement techniques with the Federal Highway Administration, such as looking at childcare, providing food at meetings, hosting meetings at times outside of the normal work schedule as well as other outreach efforts to connect with populations we have not been able to previously connect with.

Director Erin Clark inquired about what the data shows in terms of bringing new people into the conversation to see if these efforts are reaching the targeted demographics. Mr. Sanchez stated DRCOG's Limited English Proficiency Plan as well as partnering with the Area Agency on Aging have helped bring more older adults, refugees, and non-English speakers to the table. DRCOG has also reached out to trusted leaders in those communities to foster trust and teamwork to get those community leaders to bring people into this conversation and provide open and candid feedback.

Director Papsdorf stated that the impacts of updated population employment forecasts will lead to a future conversation about the state's greenhouse gas emission reduction rule, which requires a fixed reduction amount from a baseline. If we have to re-baseline based on these new forecasts and then achieve the same fixed amount of greenhouse gas emission reductions, achieving compliance with the rule may be much harder than last time.

Director Clark stated that since the region isn't expected to grow nearly as much as what was initially projected, is there a sense of how the new population shifts will reshape the region, such as could certain suburban areas today turn into urban areas and how do we prepare for that? Mr. Sanchez replied that Colorado is still one of the fastest-growing states from a national perspective. Director Papsdorf added that DRCOG staff are looking at land use forecasts and evaluating the impacts of housing developments and rezoning around transit corridors and transit stations on where people live and how they commute.

Director Michael Guzman stated that when looking at the mix of transportation options, one of the options showed making transit free, and he cautioned that nothing is free, someone needs to pay for it. Mr. Sanchez replied that in terms of transit, one of the options analyzed was making the service zero fare for customers but yes, the cost would still need to be paid. The scenarios were theoretical "what-ifs", such as doubling transit frequency or building a fully managed lane network across the region within 20 years. Director Guzman stated that he understands the concept but ultimately expectations need to be realistic.

Commissioner Eula Adams inquired when the summary of this data be presented in full to the committee. Mr. Sanchez stated that regarding the population forecast, that will be shown in the upcoming scenario results presentation next month. The RTP planning

process will also be presented to the committee through periodic updates, so these data points will come through for the committee's review at a number of different milestones.

Administrative Items

Member Comment/Other Matters

- Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) Report

Commissioner Adams stated that this week, the Transportation Commission and the Colorado Transportation Investment Office Board will discuss Front Range Passenger Rail, Burnham Yard, the Moffat Tunnel, and Budget Amendments for 2024-2025 as well as the Budget for 2025-2026.

Commissioner Cook noted that the Mountain Rail Project, which would start a new rail service between Denver, Steamboat Springs, and Craig, had the second of three public meetings and had 170 attendees in Arvada. The final public meeting will take place in December. This week is Crash Responder Safety Week and just recently, CDOT lost two highway maintainers, and the Golden Police Department lost an officer and had another seriously injured, which brings home the point of how important it is to combat distracted driving. Mr. Darius Pakbaz added that the Commission will also look at the Greeley Regional Interchange Project and staff are continuing to work on the 2050 Statewide Plan.

- Regional Transportation District (RTD) Report

General Manager/CEO Debra Johnson stated that on election night, 71% of voters across the region approved ballot measure 7A which will exempt RTD from Tabor revenue and spending limits. Last week, RTD's Operations and Safety Committee approved the January 2025 service changes, including an increase of services and service frequency with bus routes and the reinstatement of 15-minute headways on the E and H light rail lines. Also last week, the Finance and Planning Committee unanimously approved the staff's recommendation relating to the Fiscal Year 2025 budget. RTD is also in the final stages of its facility fleet and transition plan as the agency works to transition to zero-emission technologies and alternative fuels. Lastly, RTD is working with the Broomfield-based nonprofit Precious Child on its program, RTD Gives, which encourages employees and customers to collect warm clothing for children and adults during the winter months.

Director Guzman thanked voters for the passage of 7A and reaffirmed the RTD Board's commitment to use that funding for the benefit of the region. On January 7, 2025, seven new directors will join the Board. RTD has now fully implemented live look-in cameras on all RTD buses and is working on increasing that capacity on all rail cars for safety purposes. Lastly, RTD will be conducting the Grand Illumination of Denver Union Station on November 29, and all are welcome to attend and celebrate.

- Regional Air Quality Control (RAQC) Report

Regional Transportation Committee

November 19, 2024

Page 6

Director Silverstein stated that RAQC is finishing up a grant application for \$18 million from the EPA to fund the lawn and garden electrification program. A decision from the EPA is expected before the end of this calendar year so funding is allocated under the law before the new administration assumes office.

Next Meeting – December 17, 2024

Adjournment

There were no additional comments and the meeting adjourned at 10:18 a.m.