

**Attachment A
Meeting Summary
Regional Transportation Committee
Tuesday, September 17, 2024**

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

Members (or Voting Alternates) Present:

Bill Sirois (Alternate)	Regional Transportation District
Bob Broom (Alternate)	Regional Transportation District
Debra Johnson	Regional Transportation District
Michael Guzman (Alternate)	Regional Transportation District
Yessica Holguin	Colorado Department of Transportation
Eula Adams (Alternate)	Colorado Department of Transportation
Colleen Whitlow (Vice Chair)	Denver Regional Council of Governments
Randy Weil	Denver Regional Council of Governments
Doug Rex	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

Additional Alternates (Or Members and Alternates Attending Virtually) Present:

Ron Papsdorf (Alternate)	Denver Regional Council of Governments
Deborah Mulvey (Alternate)	Denver Regional Council of Governments
Karen Stuart	Colorado Department of Transportation

Public: Jason Hercules, Eugene Howard, Dee Beckwith, Rob Colosimo, Chrissy Breit

DRCOG staff: Josh Schwenk, Cam Kennedy, Jacob Riger, Alvan-Bidal Sanchez, Nora Kern, Malorie Miller, Todd Cottrell, Max Monk, Ala Alnawaiseh, Emily Lindsey, Brad Williams, Sang-Gu Lee

Call to Order

Chair Jeff Baker called the meeting to order at 8:31 a.m.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

July 16, 2024 Regional Transportation Committee Meeting Summary

The summary was accepted.

Action Items

Fiscal Year 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program Amendments

Josh Schwenk, Senior Planner, discussed that the proposed amendments to the Fiscal Year 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program have 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.

Director Colleen Whitlow 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.

Nondiscrimination Program Update

Alvan-Bidal Sanchez, Regional Transportation Planning Program Manager, discussed that every three years, DRCOG prepares the Title VI Implementation Plan, Limited English Proficiency Plan, and Americans with Disabilities Act Program Access Plan and have developed a new Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Program Plan for its Federal Transit Administration Section 5310 grant program. Staff initiated an update in the spring of this year. Major updates include leveraging DRCOG's new Equity Index and incorporating new state accessibility requirements. The drafts of the four nondiscrimination plans were the subject of a public review and comment period June 16-July 17, including a public hearing conducted by the DRCOG Board of Directors on July 17, 2024.

Director Michael Guzman inquired what the goal is for the DBE program, and Mr. Sanchez replied that it is 1.8 percent. Mr. Sanchez explained that this is due to the number of firms in the region available to do the work that needs to be contracted out.

General Manager/CEO Debra Johnson asked if this program is race-neutral or race-conscious. Mr. Sanchez replied that it is race neutral.

Director Michael Guzman moved to recommend the Board of Directors adopt the Title VI Implementation Plan and the associated Limited English Proficiency Plan, Americans with Disabilities Act Program Access Plan, and Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Program Plan. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Discussion Items

Front Range Passenger Rail Update

Jacob Riger, Multimodal Transportation Planning Manager, introduced Chrissy Breit, Chief of Staff for the Front Range Passenger Rail District Board, commonly known as the FRPR District. Since its inception in mid-2022, the FRPR District has been engaged in a series of internal organizational activities and planning, project development, and engagement efforts toward implementing passenger rail service from Fort Collins to Pueblo, with future connections to Wyoming and New Mexico. The district is undertaking a Service Development Plan for the rail corridor and was awarded entry into the Federal Railroad Administration's Corridor Identification and Development Program. Recent state legislation, including House Bill 24-1012, Senate Bill 24-184, and Senate Bill 24-230, together provide additional funding, coordination, opportunities, and requirements for developing and implementing FRPR service.

Commissioner Yessica Holguin inquired about what funding is being looked at beyond a potential sales tax. Ms. Breit replied that some new state fees have been generated to support this project. Additionally, the District can raise sales and property tax, and they are hoping to take advantage of federal funding opportunities. Director Deborah Mulvey added that the taxation district boundary covers a large geographic area.

Director Guzman asked how much federal funding is left for rail projects and when will the service development plan be finished. Ms. Breit replied that there are appropriations remaining through 2026 and there is time to look for additional opportunities for funding beyond federal support. The Service Development Plan will be finished by the end of 2025.

Commissioner Eula Adams inquired about the messaging and how it varies since constituents, especially in the southern part of the FRPR District, will not see this project become a reality for quite some time. Ms. Breit replied that a project of this size takes time and requires phasing and the planning work in the north section is further along.

Director Bob Broom inquired why the FRPR will not include a connection to the Denver International Airport since millions of people use it to get in and out of Colorado each year. Ms. Breit stated that those individuals can use RTD's A Line from the airport to Union Station and then transfer from Union Station to the FRPR. She also noted that every route option has advantages and disadvantages, but it is important to directly serve Denver Union Station.

Director Mike Silverstein asked how the FRPR District is working to foster connectivity and Ms. Breit replied that workshops are being set up to bring together local transit providers and local communities across the FRPR District to begin those conversations.

Director Greg Mills asked what potential sales tax rate the FRPR District is considering. Ms. Breit stated that the rate is estimated to be 2.3% based on preliminary financial analysis. Director Mills stated that it might be a very big ask for people across the FRPR District, including in his community.

South Boulder Road and Alameda Avenue Corridor Studies Final Reports

Nora Kern, Subarea and Project Planning Program Manager, discussed that the Alameda Avenue Corridor Study assessed multimodal transportation services and facilities, including the potential for future bus rapid transit (BRT), on Alameda Avenue from Wadsworth Boulevard to Sable Boulevard. This corridor is identified for BRT in the 2030-2039 staging period of the 2050 Regional Transportation Plan. The South Boulder Road Corridor reviewed multimodal transportation on the corridor from the Broadway and Table Mesa Drive intersection in Boulder to South 120th Street in Lafayette. The corridor is identified for transit planning in the 2040-2050 staging period in the Regional Transportation Plan.

Administrative Items

Member Comment/Other Matters

- Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) Report

Commissioner Holguin stated the Transportation Commission will be going on a field trip later this month that will show a wide range of projects between Denver and Grand Junction, and it will serve as a great opportunity for the Commissioners to gain insight into initiatives going on across the state. Additionally, the Colorado Boulevard Bus Rapid Transit community engagement process has started, and the survey will be open until September 27, so feedback and input are encouraged from everyone.

Commissioner Adams also commented on the unfortunate deaths of two CDOT workers earlier this month in Mesa County and reiterated the importance of safety on our roads and stated that this loss is felt sincerely throughout CDOT. Lastly, Commissioner Adams stated his delight that Karen Stuart was recognized at DRCOG's award ceremony, and was glad to have attended it.

Director Skyler McKinley extended his sympathies for CDOT's losses and said the legislation that was championed by his organization last year resulted in the passage of the Slow Down, Move Over law which provides guidance to drivers for how they need to respond whenever they encounter a stopped vehicle. This legislation has served as a model for other states and, hopefully, tragedies like what happened this month can become a thing of the past.

- Regional Transportation District (RTD) Report

Director Guzman stated that RTD is working to strengthen its ability to provide services to all its constituent areas and a lot of vital work has been done this summer to make that happen. For example, train lines in downtown Denver will be reinstated at the end of this month and practice runs are currently ongoing. General Manager/CEO Johnson added that the next phase of the projects downtown will commence next summer, and the focus will be on the straightaways, meaning the rail lines between intersections. There will be a celebratory event on Saturday, October 5 at the 16th and California station to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the inaugural light rail, which RTD opened on October 7, 1994.

General Manager/CEO Johnson added that RTD has added live look-in equipment for both operator and customer safety. The entire bus fleet and 20 percent of light rail vehicles now have this technology in place so if there is a situation on a vehicle, RTD's safety dispatchers can look in and see it in real-time. Additionally, RTD will be offering two free fare days to encourage voter participation on October 29 and November 5, and the Zero Fare for Youth Program is now permanent. Lastly, RTD underwent a state audit and met all nine of the state's financial health ratios for the calendar year 2022.

- Regional Air Quality Control (RAQC) Report

Director Silverstein stated that RAQC has received funding and has been working on food truck electrification and a clear air program, where RAQC looks at high-emitting vehicles and helps fund the repair of those vehicles when the owners are either low-income or have spent a substantial sum already and still can't pass emissions tests. Lastly, there is a celebration this evening at the RAQC office, and all on the committee are welcome to attend.

Jacob Riger thanked the Committee for its leadership on safety issues, and summarized several safety projects DRCOG staff has been working on, including completing the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration 405c grant project (known as the Regional Crash Data Consortium), processing 2022 regional crash data, and developing an interactive crash data dashboard, which staff will present next month. Additionally, DRCOG just learned it received an almost \$1 million discretionary grant from the United States Department of Transportation Build America Bureau to accelerate the planning and project development for several Bus Rapid Transit corridors in the 2050 Regional Transportation Plan.

Next Meeting – October 15, 2024

Adjournment

There were no additional comments and the meeting adjourned at 9:53 a.m.