

**Attachment A
Meeting Summary
Regional Transportation Committee
Tuesday, July 16, 2024**

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

Members (or Voting Alternates) Present:

Vince Buzek	Regional Transportation District
Brian Welch (Alternate)	Regional Transportation District
Bob Broom	Regional Transportation District
Debra Johnson	Regional Transportation District
Shelley Cook	Colorado Department of Transportation
Karen Stuart	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
Doug Rex	Denver Regional Council of Governments
Greg Mills	Denver Regional Council of Governments
Jeff Baker (Chair)	Denver Regional Council of Governments
Jeff Kullman	Michael Baker International
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
Yessica Holguin	Colorado Department of Transportation

Public: Patrick Stanley, Jean Sanson, Brandon Zhou, David Krutsinger, Jon Girand, Dee Beckwith, Rob Colosimo

DRCOG staff: Josh Schwenk, Cam Kennedy, Jacob Riger, Lauren Kirgis, Cole Neder, Alvan-Bidal Sanchez, Nora Kern, Kalie Fallon, Robert Spotts, Steve Cook, Todd Cottrell, Max Monk, Ala Alnawaiseh, Brad Williams, Sang-Gu Lee

Call to Order

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

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

May 14, 2024 Regional Transportation Committee Meeting Summary

The summary was accepted.

Action Item

Amendments to the Fiscal Year 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program

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 Mike Silverstein 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.

Discussion Items

Northwest Rail Update

Cole Neder, Senior Transit Planner, introduced Patrick Stanley, Engineering Programs Manager, Regional Transportation District Capital Programs, who provided an update on the Northwest Rail Peak Service Study. The study defines the Base Configuration that would provide Peak Service by coordinating with existing railway operators, evaluating operational requirements, and identifying costs and funding needs. The service delivery area is a 35-mile segment from the existing B Line Westminster Station to a future Longmont Station.

Director Jeff Kullman inquired about the impact on Bus Rapid Transit, commonly referred to as BRT, routes in the area regarding potential competition for ridership. Mr. Stanley replied that this project would give passengers increased mobility options and a variety of travel choices.

Commissioner Shelley Cook inquired about the plan for the existing B Line Station in Westminster, and whether there would be cross-platform access for people to switch trains. Mr. Stanley replied that the concept right now is it would be a one-seat ride (no transfer required) from Longmont to Denver that would not require cross-platform access.

Commissioner Cook asked who is developing the framework that will be evaluated for the partnership. CEO/General Manager Debra Johnson replied that there is a group meeting on September 30 that will include the Front Range Passenger Rail District Board and RTD executive leadership to discuss the framework going forward.

Commissioner Cook inquired if RTD could join with the Front Range Passenger Rail District Board to jointly apply for federal funding under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to accelerate the project. Mr. Stanley replied that RTD is planning to seek partners to help secure federal funding since currently there are limited options for RTD to pursue federal funding.

Regional Bus Rapid Transit Update

Jacob Riger, Multimodal Transportation Planning Manager, was joined by David Krutsinger, Denver Transit Director, and Jean Sanson, Principal Transportation Planner of the City of Boulder, who reminded the committee that the Regional Bus Rapid Transit, commonly known as BRT, Partnership was established to address common funding, implementation, and coordination obstacles. This partnership is potentially unique nationwide, as it brings together multiple agencies in a voluntary collaborative to guide the implementation of several BRT corridors in various jurisdictions at different planning and project development stages simultaneously. The Regional BRT Partnership is responsible for executing the regional BRT network outlined in DRCOG's 2050 RTP, CDOT's 10-Year Plan, and corresponding local plans. The region has committed to implementing 11 BRT corridors by 2050, and five of them by 2030, to help meet the region's mobility, equity, and other goals, as well as to help meet federal air quality conformity and state transportation greenhouse gas emission reduction requirements.

Commissioner Eula Adams inquired what plans are in place to ensure merchants are not adversely affected by the designation of a BRT line near their business. For example, there is a lot of speculation right now about the upcoming BRT project on Colfax and its potential construction impacts. Mr. Krutsinger stated that Denver's Department of Economic Development and Opportunity is working with businesses along the Colfax corridor to involve the community in the construction process as well as providing marketing support. Additionally, there is a Neighborhood Equity and Stabilization Program to help ensure the area's residents are not displaced.

Commissioner Karen Stuart asked if there is any opportunity to incorporate more BRT routes into this program, such as for State Highway 7. Mr. Riger replied that State Highway 7 is in the 2050 RTP with significant fiscal constraint investment to help further develop transit service in the corridor, but it is not designated as a BRT corridor. As the 2050 RTP is updated over the next two years, part of that effort will be fine-tuning the BRT network as needed.

Commissioner Bob Broom asked how BRT will impact parking in Aurora. Mr. Krutsinger replied that since the Aurora section is side running in existing lanes, it will not impact parking.

Director Greg Mills echoed Commissioner Stuart's comment about State Highway 7 needing BRT and inquired about whether all 11 corridors identified for BRT already have some other form of transit option. Mr. Riger replied that, while most of the corridors do have some level of existing transit service, not all of them do. Director Papsdorf explained further the importance of the 11 corridors that have been specifically designated as BRT, and that other corridors, such as State Highway 7, are certainly valued and included in the 2050 RTP to further develop and invest in transit service.

Edgewater Community-Based Transportation Plan Update

Nora Kern, Multimodal Transportation Planning Manager, reminded the committee that in 2022, the Denver Regional Council of Governments selected the Edgewater School Transportation Plan as one of two pilot projects for the new community-based transportation planning program. The goal of this plan is to address safety and traffic concerns around Lumberg and Edgewater Elementary schools. The final plan includes an overview of existing transportation operations and infrastructure at and around the two schools; an extensive community engagement process; and proposed projects, programs, and improvements to the operations at each school.

CEO/General Manager Debra Johnson asked how success is defined with this project and how were the 195 survey responses leveraged to help discern a path forward. Ms. Kern replied that one of the takeaways is the importance of setting targets upfront. When it comes to survey results, it is important to see not just how many people are responding but who specifically is responding. For example, it's especially important to hear from the parents of students, who are responsible for getting their students to school each day.

Chair Jeff Baker inquired about who was installing the street barriers and changing the signage. Ms. Kern replied that the City of Edgewater is directly doing this work and has been a fantastic partner on this project.

Annual Transportation Advisory Committee Review

Jacob Riger, Multimodal Transportation Planning Manager, explained that the Transportation Advisory Committee, commonly referred to as TAC, assists the Board of Directors and the Regional Transportation Committee, commonly referred to as RTC, by reviewing the work of the transportation planning process, advising on methods of planning and implementation, and working with staff to develop policy options and, as appropriate, recommendations to the RTC. This annual review exercise is meant to maintain a close bond between the Board Chair, RTC, and the membership and work of TAC.

Administrative Items

Member Comment/Other Matters

- Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) Report

Commissioner Eula Adams stated that Commissioner Karen Stuart has now finished her second tenure as Chair of the Transportation Commission and Terry Hart has succeeded her as the chair, with Mr. Adams now serving as the Vice Chair. The monthly commissioners meeting will be occurring tomorrow with a tour of the KOA facility. Commissioner Stuart congratulated Commissioner Adams on his new role and discussed that the Colorado Transportation Investment Office, commonly referred to as CTIO, is continuing its safety enforcement program and results have shown that toll violations have seen a 70% reduction. Regarding Senate Bill 24-184, it will be

discussed by CTIO in further detail during the upcoming retreat since a lot of information is still developing about how Senate Bill 24-184 will be implemented. Mr. Darius Pakbaz stated that the Statewide Transportation Plan has kicked off and multiple conversations have already occurred with the Transportation Commission, rural partners, and other stakeholders.

- Regional Transportation District (RTD) Report

GM/CEO Johnson stated that the A Line recently served its 50 millionth customer in terms of revenue service. To celebrate, customer appreciation events are occurring around Denver. This upcoming Saturday, RTD and community partners will be celebrating the 60th anniversary of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 at the Studio Lofts, where the winner of the community bus design contest will be unveiled. Additionally, RTD's "open doors" elevator program has been expanded to include more transit stations as of July 1. Regarding the downtown Denver construction project, RTD is making great progress and is ahead of schedule regarding reconstructing the tracks of the downtown loop.

Executive Director Doug Rex took the opportunity to note that in addition to the new format of DRCOG's meeting agendas, the DRCOG website has also been recently updated. The new agenda format and the new website have been redesigned in response to the House Bill 1110 accessibility law that went into effect on July 1. Lastly, DRCOG's annual awards celebration is coming up in August and there remain sponsorship opportunities for those interested.

Commissioner Stuart added that CDOT has also been working on modifying its website and agenda materials to comply with the new accessibility regulations and those efforts in terms of remediation and archiving old materials are ongoing across the department.

Next Meeting – September 17, 2024

Adjournment

There were no additional comments and the meeting adjourned at 10:31 a.m.