

Attachment A
Meeting Summary
Regional Transportation Committee
Tuesday, March 17, 2026
Virtual Meeting (Via Zoom)

Members (or Voting Alternates) Present:

Michael Guzman	Regional Transportation District
Karen Benker	Regional Transportation District
Debra Johnson	Regional Transportation District
Shelley Cook	Colorado Department of Transportation
Elise Jones	Colorado Department of Transportation
Colleen Whitlow (Chair)	Denver Regional Council of Governments
Doug Rex	Denver Regional Council of Governments
Mike Silverstein	Regional Air Quality Council
Erin Clark	Denver Housing Authority

Additional Alternates Present:

Darius Pakbaz (Alternate)	Colorado Department of Transportation
Bill Sirois (Alternate)	Regional Transportation District

Public: Alejandra Casteneda

DRCOG staff: Carolyn Klamm, Todd Cottrell, Nora Kern, Malorie Miller

Call to Order

Chair Colleen Whitlow called the meeting to order at 8:30 am.

Public Comment

Alejandra Casteneda provided public comment about DRCOG's Sheridan Corridor Safety Study.

December 16, 2025 Regional Transportation Committee Meeting Summary

The summary was accepted without changes.

Action Items

2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program Policy Amendment.

Todd Cottrell, Program Manager, Programming and Project Delivery, reminded the committee that the region's transportation planning process allows for Board-approved amendments to the current TIP on an as-needed basis. Typically, these amendments involve the addition or deletion of projects, or adjustments to existing projects, and do not impact funding for other projects. The project to be amended has been found to conform with the State Implementation Plan for Air Quality.

Commissioner Jones moved to recommend to the Board of Directors the attached project amendment to the 2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Informational Briefings

Sheridan Corridor Safety Study Final Report

Nora Kern, Program Manager, Subarea and Project Planning, described the study, which sought to identify improvements to reduce serious and fatal crashes along the corridor between I-76 and US-285. This study was funded through DRCOG's Corridor Planning Set Aside, after being nominated by both Denver and Lakewood. DRCOG led this study in partnership with the cities of Denver, Lakewood, Edgewater, Wheat Ridge and the Town of Mountain View, as well as CDOT and RTD.

Over the last year, DRCOG staff and a team of consultants have worked with the corridor stakeholders to conduct robust community engagement, analyze the crash data and other existing conditions data, collect traffic counts, conduct site visits at 10 locations, and collaborate to develop both corridor wide and location specific recommendations. All recommendations identify a lead agency for next steps, a general timeline, and possible funding sources. The Sheridan Safety Study wrapped up in January 2026, and the final plan is now available on the project website.

Director Paglieri asked about the area along the corridor referenced during public comment and that the current implementation plan is different than what was originally proposed. In particular, he asked about proposed improvements at Sheridan and 20th. Nora responded that CDOT and the City of Edgewater have an ongoing project along Sheridan from 17th to 26th that is about 90% designed and will go to construction next year (2027). Accordingly, the study mostly did not have other recommendations for this section. For signal timing, Nora noted Denver would probably be the lead on the recommendation for a corridor-wide signal re-timing project which would likely be a couple years away.

Commissioner Cook appreciated Nora and DRCOG studying the corridor. She asked about the intersection at 52nd, which is in multiple cities and counties. Nora responded that this intersection was added to the list of recommendations based on community input.

Ride Alliance Stage One Report Out

Malorie Miller, Senior Planner discussed the Ride Alliance project. DRCOG received an almost \$1 million grant award through the Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation (SMART) program in 2024 to upgrade and pilot the Ride Alliance Trip Exchange Hub. The purpose of the Trip Exchange is to coordinate human service transportation trip requests across the region, reduce trip denials, create a "no-wrong door" approach for clients seeking services, and streamline reporting processes across human service transportation providers.

Ride Alliance completed the first ever 6-week pilot to test Trip Exchange functionality with actual clients and trips. Over 50 one-way trips were tested. Transportation providers who participated in the pilot included the DRCOG Area Agency on Aging transportation voucher program, Via Mobility Services, RTD FlexRide, and the North Front Range Metropolitan Planning Organization RideNoCo project.

The project has received approval from the Department of Transportation to extend the SMART Stage 1 project through June 30, 2026 to develop a public-facing interface for direct trip booking in the Trip Exchange.

Director Guzman lauded the work by Malorie and the team and looked forward to the ability to better connect inter-regional trips. He also graciously offered his support and help as needed.

Director Clark echoed Director Guzman's kudos. Coming from the housing space, she is excited by the innovation and potential of this project. She hopes to eventually connect at scale with the clientele served by housing authorities.

Administrative Items

Member Comment/Other Matters

- Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) Report

Director Cook noted the upcoming Transportation Commission workshop to address the Bustang funding shortfall. There will also be a workshop to address wildfire fuels within state rights of way. Director Jones noted the Commission will receive a report of public comment provided on the draft 10-Year Plan, which is anticipated to be adopted at the April Commission meeting. Darius Pakbaz noted he attended the national meeting of the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) in Washington DC, where an update on surface transportation reauthorization was provided. Darius also gave a presentation at AASHTO about innovative truck parking partnerships in Colorado, particularly the new truck parking area in Bennett.

Director Silverstein asked about Bustang funding deficits and the notion that every modal investment should pay for itself. Commissioner Cook noted it was a good point worthy of further discussion. Darius noted that Bustang has one of the highest recovery ratios in the country.

- Regional Transportation District (RTD) Report

General Manager and CEO Debra Johnson shared the RTD Board will soon consider the June 2026 service changes, which will incorporate ongoing downtown rail reconstruction. She also noted funding from the Clean Transit Enterprise is helping to provide needed service associated with the downtown rail reconstruction. She also noted RTD began operational testing within the East Colfax Bus Rapid Transit corridor. Finally, she also described that RTD's transit police has expanded with two new

substations, in Englewood and Boulder, which will expand geographic reach and responsiveness. RTD has seen notable decreases in security-related calls during 2025 and so far in 2026. Debra also thanked Bill Sirois for his dedicated leadership and service to RTD and the region.

Director Benker mentioned two legislative bills (RTD Accountability Committee recommendations – forthcoming bill) and transit access (HB26-1269). The RTD Board will soon be taking a position on the transit access bill.

Bill Sirois thanked the Committee. He noted that he has worked with DRCOG for 30 years, and at RTD for 20 years.

- Regional Air Quality Control (RAQC) Report

Director Silverstein explained the RAQC submitted a state enterprise application to help fund the emission control strategy evaluation process in preparation for trying to achieve compliance with federal ozone standards. RAQC has also initiated a health effects study to analyze the health burdens and costs of ozone in the region, which will culminate in a white paper later this year. RAQC is also implementing its DRCOG-funded grant programs through CDOT to reduce vehicle fleet emissions and increase electrification (such as for food trucks), funding bicycles for low income and subsidized housing communities as an alternative transportation mode, and to electrify lawn and garden equipment, and RAQC's general education and outreach programs.

- Other Matters

Doug Rex noted that Jacob Riger had sent out a survey to change RTC meeting days/times and that Jacob will follow up about the two most likely options. He also thanked Bill Sirois for his years of service. Commissioner Jones asked whether the DRCOG Board has been briefed on the proposed Initiative 175. Doug noted that DRCOG typically waits until the ballot language is finalized.

Next Meeting – April 14, 2026

Adjournment

There were no additional comments, and the meeting adjourned at 9:41 a.m.