



Agenda
Board of Directors
Wednesday, January 17, 2024
6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
1001 17th St. 1st Floor, Aspen/Birch Conference Rooms
Denver, CO

Times listed with each agenda item are approximate. It is requested that all cell phones be silenced during the Board of Directors meeting. Persons in need of auxiliary aids or services, such as interpretation services or assisted listening devices, are asked to contact the Denver Regional Council of Governments at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting. If you have difficulty using this document's content, please email access@drcog.org or call 303-455-1000.

1. 6:30 p.m. Call to order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Roll call and introduction of new members and alternates
4. Move to approve agenda

Strategic informational briefing

5. 6:40 p.m. Housing-related legislation for 2024
(Attachment A) Douglas W. Rex, Executive Director
6. 7:10 p.m. Report of the Chair
 - Report of the Performance and Engagement Committee
 - Report of the Finance and Budget Committee
7. 7:15 p.m. Report of the Executive Director
8. 7:20 p.m. Public comment
Up to 45 minutes is allocated now for public comment and each speaker will be limited to 3 minutes. If there are additional requests from the public to address the Board, time will be allocated at the end of the meeting to complete public comment. The chair requests that there be no public comment on issues for which a prior public hearing has been held before this Board. Consent and action items will begin immediately after the last speaker.

Consent agenda

9. 7:30 p.m. Move to approve Consent agenda
- A. Summary of December 20, 2023 meeting (Attachment B)
 - B. Designate Location for Posting Notices of Meetings (Attachment C)

Action items

10. 7:35 p.m. Discussion of DRCOG's Climate Pollution Reduction Grant: Priority Climate Action Plan Update and Implementation Grant Proposal (Attachment D) Robert Spotts, Manager, Transportation Planning and Operations
11. 8:00 p.m. Discussion of state legislative Issues: New Bills for Consideration and Action (Attachment E) Rich Mauro, Director, Legislative Affairs

Informational items

12. Administrative modifications to the 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program (Attachment F) Todd Cottrell, Manager, Transportation Planning
13. Draft 2024 Policy Statement on Federal Legislative Issues (Attachment G) Rich Mauro, Director, Legislative Affairs
14. Recommendations for election of DRCOG Board officers for 2024 (Attachment H) Nominating Committee
15. Draft Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (Attachment I) Flo Raitano, Director, Partnership Development and Innovation
16. 8:15 p.m. Committee reports
The Chair requests these reports be brief, reflect decisions made and information germane to the business of DRCOG.
- A. Report from State Transportation Advisory Committee – Nicholas Williams
 - B. Report from Metro Mayors Caucus – Bud Starker
 - C. Report from Metro Area County Commissioners – George Teal
 - D. Report from Advisory Committee on Aging – Jayla Sanchez-Warren
 - E. Report from Regional Air Quality Council – Doug Rex
 - F. Report from E-470 Authority – Deborah Mulvey



- G. Report from Colorado Department of Transportation – Darius Pakbaz
- H. Report from Regional Transportation District – Brian Welch

Administrative items

- 17. **Next meeting – February 21, 2024**
- 18. Other matters by members
- 19. 8:30 p.m. Adjourn



Calendar of future meetings

January 2024

3rd	Board Work Session	4:00 p.m.
16th	Regional Transportation Committee	Canceled
17th	Performance and Engagement Committee	5:00 p.m.
17th	Finance and Budget Committee	Canceled
17th	Board of Directors	6:30 p.m.
22nd	Transportation Advisory Committee	1:30 p.m.
26th	Advisory Committee on Aging	11:00 a.m.

February 2024

7th	Board Work Session	4:00 p.m.
20th	Regional Transportation Committee	8:30 a.m.
21st	Performance and Engagement Committee	5:00 p.m.
21st	Finance and Budget Committee	5:30 p.m.
21st	Board of Directors	6:30 p.m.
23rd	Advisory Committee on Aging	11:00 a.m.
26th	Transportation Advisory Committee	1:30 p.m.

March 2024

6th	Board Work Session	4:00 p.m.
19th	Regional Transportation Committee	8:30 a.m.
20th	Performance and Engagement Committee	5:00 p.m.
20th	Finance and Budget Committee	5:30 p.m.
20th	Board of Directors	6:30 p.m.
22nd	Advisory Committee on Aging	11:00 a.m.
25th	Transportation Advisory Committee	1:30 p.m.



Attachment A

Housing-related legislation for 2024

Board of Directors

Meeting date: January 17, 2024

Agenda Item #: 5

Housing-related legislation for 2024

Agenda item type: Strategic informational briefing

Summary

Update on probable housing-related legislation in the 2024 state legislative session.

Background

At the January meeting, members of the Governor's Office Policy and Legislative Teams will provide an update on probable housing-related bills for the upcoming 2024 legislative session. Specifically, state staff will brief the board on revised concepts under consideration related to the intersections of housing and transportation.

Action by others

n/a

Previous discussion/action

[November 1, 2023](#) - Board Work Session

Recommendation

n/a

Attachments

n/a

For more information

If you need additional information, please contact Douglas W. Rex, Executive Director, at (303) 480-6701 or drex@drcog.org.



Attachment B

Summary of December 20, 2023 meeting

Board of Directors Meeting Summary

Wednesday, December 20, 2023

Meeting was held via Zoom

Members/Alternates Present

Steve Conklin, Chair	City of Edgewater
Steve O’Dorisio	Adams County
Jeff Baker	Arapahoe County
Claire Levy	Boulder County
Austin Ward	City and County of Broomfield
Nicholas Williams	City and County of Denver
Kevin Flynn	City and County of Denver
George Teal	Douglas County
Tracy Kraft-Tharp	Jefferson County
Larry Vittum	Town of Bennett
Nicole Speer	City of Boulder
Deborah Mulvey	City of Castle Pines
Tim Dietz	Town of Castle Rock
Tammy Maurer	City of Centennial
Michelle Rogers	City of Dacono
Othoniel Sierra	City of Englewood
Ari Harrison	Town of Erie
Josie Cockrell	Town of Foxfield
Windi Padia	Town of Frederick
Lynette Kelsey	Town of Georgetown
George Lantz	City of Greenwood Village
Chuck Harmon	City of Idaho Springs
Brian Wong (Alternate)	City of Lafayette
Jeslin Shahrezaei	City of Lakewood
Stephen Barr	City of Littleton
Kat Bristow	Town of Lochbuie
Wynne Shaw	City of Lone Tree
Joan Peck	City of Longmont
Judi Kern	City of Louisville
Hollie Rogin	Town of Lyons
Colleen Whitlow	Town of Mead
Tom Mahowald	Town of Nederland
Richard Kondo	City of Northglenn
Neal Shah	Town of Superior
Jessica Sandgren	City of Thornton
Sarah Nurmela	City of Westminster
Bud Starker	City of Wheat Ridge
Darius Pakbaz	Colorado Department of Transportation
Brian Welch	Regional Transportation District

Others Present: Douglas W. Rex, Executive Director, Melinda Stevens, Executive Assistant, DRCOG; Janet Lundquist, Adams County; Art Griffith, Douglas County; Mac Callison, Aurora; Jesse Carey, Denver; Kent Moorman, Justin Martinez, Roberta Ayala, Thornton; Rachel Hultin, Wheat Ridge; Ed Bowditch, Jennifer Cassell, Bowditch & Cassell; Jordan Rudel, Danny Herrmann, CDOT; and DRCOG staff.

Chair Steve Conklin called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. with a quorum present.

The Chair noted new members and alternates: Michelle Rogers, new member for the City of Dacono; Judi Kern, new member for the City of Louisville; Sharon Davis, new alternate for the City of Arvada; Adam Morehead, new alternate for the City of Dacono; Dietrich Hoefner, new alternate for the City of Louisville; and Rachel Hultin, new alternate for the City of Wheat Ridge.

Move to approve agenda

Director Starker **moved** to approve the agenda, with the amendment to correct start times for the Board of Directors meetings for January 2024 and February 2024. The motion was **seconded** and **passed** unanimously.

Report of the Chair

- Director Baker reported that the Performance and Engagement Committee did not meet.
- Director Whitlow reported the Finance and Budget Committee met and approved two resolutions authorizing the Executive Director to:
 - allocate additional federal and state funds to AAA contractors totaling approximately \$1,600,000 for the state fiscal year ending on June 30, 2024.
 - negotiate and execute contracts for approximately \$200,000 to projects allocated Human Services Transportation Set-aside funding beginning January 1, 2024 and ending December 31, 2024.

Report of the Executive Director

- Regional Housing Assessment update: DRCOG staff and consultants will present on their initial findings of the assessment at the January 3 Board work session.
- Front Range Passenger Rail Board: DRCOG has four seats on the Board, the terms of two of those seats ending on March 1. DRCOG is currently soliciting candidates to fill those positions.
- Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy: The draft document is currently being finalized by staff and has been presented to the leadership team. Once it is ready to present, staff will bring it to the directors for approval.
- Winter Bike to Work Day: The event will take place next year on February 9.
- Executive Director Rex had the privilege to attend Chair Conklin's swearing-in as the new Mayor of Edgewater.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Move to approve consent agenda

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

Items on the consent agenda included:

- Summary of the November 15, 2023 meeting.
- Fiscal Year 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program Amendments

Discussion on the Draft 2023 Policy Statement on State Legislative Issues.

Rich Mauro reviewed suggested changes to the documents. Each year, the Board adopts two policy statements on a range of specific state and federal legislative issues. These documents provide the DRCOG Board, staff and lobbyists with policy direction on legislative issues during the coming year. The Draft 2024 Policy Statement on State Legislative Issues was provided to Board members at the December Board meeting along with DRCOG's legislative principle statement for review. DRCOG staff received comments on both [the legislative principle statement](#) and [the state policy statement](#) and have modified the draft documents to incorporate those suggestions. All other revisions were proposed by DRCOG staff.

Director Shaw **moved** to approve the 2024 Policy Statement on State Legislative Issues with the following amendments:

- Director Levy proposed adding the following language: "Property tax relief to help reduce a tax liability that especially burdens low-income senior homeowners, moderate income senior homeowners with rapidly rising home values and older adults on fixed incomes."
- Director Speer proposed adding the following language: "Actions to provide more accessible and obtainable housing options for older adults and individuals with disabilities."

The motion was **seconded** and **passed** with 36 in favor and one opposed.

Discussion of the Transportation Improvement Program Fiscal Year 2023 project delays.

Brad Williams provided an overview of the delays to the directors. The [Policies for Transportation Improvement Program Development](#) document identifies expectations for project initiation and sets a policy for addressing delays for projects or with DRCOG-allocated funding. At the end of Fiscal Year 2023, staff reviewed the implementation status of DRCOG-selected projects with the Colorado Department of Transportation and Regional Transportation District. Staff discussed with the sponsors the reasons for the delays and identified action plans demonstrating the sponsor's commitment to timely initiation. The [Project Delays Report for Fiscal Year 2023](#) summarizes the reasons for the delays and actions proposed by sponsors to get the project or phases initiated. The directors were presented with the report, which included staff recommendations for committee and Board consideration.

Director Starker **moved** to approve the proposed actions regarding Transportation Improvement Program project delays for Fiscal Year 2023. The motion was **seconded** and **passed** unanimously.

Discussion of the Transportation Demand Management Strategic Plan.

Kalie Fallon provided an overview of the plan to members. The FY 2024 – 2025 Unified Planning Work Program includes developing a regional transportation demand management strategic plan as part of an ongoing effort to support transportation demand management and mobility services in the Denver region. Prior to this planning process, the most recent regional transportation demand management plan was developed over a decade ago and culminated in the development of a Transportation Demand Management Short Range Plan. The project team included DRCOG staff and a consultant team led by UrbanTrans. Directors were presented with the final draft of the plan and associated toolkit.

Director Sandgren **moved** to adopt a resolution adopting the Regional Transportation Demand Management Strategic Plan. The motion was **seconded** and **passed** unanimously.

Update on the Taking Action on Regional Vision Zero plan

Emily Kleinfelter provided an update of the plan to the directors. DRCOG adopted Taking Action on Regional Vision Zero to support the region's commitment to eliminate traffic-related fatalities and severe injuries on our roadways and make safety a priority for all users of the transportation system in June 2020. The plan is guided by robust collaboration with local, regional, and state stakeholders through the Regional Vision Zero Working Group. The plan sets out action initiatives, an implementation timeline and measures that will help track regional progress toward safety improvements. DRCOG staff have been working on a strategic update to Taking Action on Regional Vision Zero to ensure its relevance and consistency with emerging best practices in transportation safety. Using the Working Group's feedback, staff have drafted an updated Vision Zero Implementation Plan that is representative of the region. The updated document is about to be released for a 30-day public comment period, as well as eventual consideration for approval from the DRCOG Board.

Review of the Special Session and preview of the 2024 Legislative Session

Rich Mauro, Ed Bowditch, and Jennifer Cassell presented a preview of the session and a review of the special session to the members. The just completed special session was mostly focused on property tax relief and the 2024 legislative session will likely address important issues for DRCOG in the areas of affordable housing, transportation, and Area Agency on Aging funding.

Committee Reports

State Transportation Advisory Committee

Director Williams stated there was no report.

Metro Mayors Caucus

Director Starker stated there was no report.

Metro Area County Commissioners

Director Teal reported that members discussed HB19-2010 which removed the preemption that prohibited local governments from adopting a local minimum wage. Members discussed their intent associated with the law. The migrant crisis was also discussed.

Advisory Committee on Aging

There was no report. Chair Conklin did want to acknowledge the passing of Cathy Noon, who was a large contributor to the committee and the DRCOG Board of Directors for many years.

Regional Air Quality Council

Executive Director Rex stated the council met on December 1 and discussed a couple of action items. The first being approval of the 2024 budget and work program. The council also took action on proposing some additional regulations related to venting and blowdowns, as well as existing pneumatic controllers for the oil and gas industry.

E-470 Authority

Director Mulvey stated the group met and had a discussion regarding the 2024 budget. There was some reporting on the next Gen. Toll operations, jurisdiction and staff changes, and the authority welcomed some new people to the Board.

Report from CDOT

Director Pakbaz stated the Transportation Commission met earlier in the day for a workshop. There was a discussion on the bridge and tunnel enterprise financing for 10-year plan bridge projects and the commission passed a resolution regarding fee access for right of way, in regards to fiber within state highway right of way.

Report from RTD

Director Welch stated that the Regional Transportation District's new fare structure will be implemented on January 1, 2024. They will also be providing zero fares starting at 7 p.m. on New Year's Eve, all the way through 7 a.m. on New Year's Day.

Next meeting – January 17, 2024

Other matters by members

Chair Conklin wanted to thank staff and directors for all of the work they do and wish everyone a happy and safe holiday season.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Steve Conklin, Chair
Board of Directors
Denver Regional Council of Governments

ATTEST:

Douglas W. Rex, Executive Director

Attachment C

Designate Location for Posting Notices of Meetings

Board of Directors

Meeting date: January 17, 2024

Agenda Item #: 9 - B

Designate Location for Posting Notices of Meetings

Agenda item type: Consent agenda

Summary

This action is related to the location for posting notice of meetings. DRCOG staff recommends designating the reception area of the DRCOG offices as the official location for posting notices of meetings.

Background

Notice of each regular and special meeting of the Board of Directors, each committee established by the Board, or those created as part of the approved committee structure of the Denver Regional Council of Governments, whether now existing or created in the future, should be posted in the reception area (which is a public place within the boundaries of DRCOG) of the offices of DRCOG located at 1001 17th Street, Suite 700, Denver, Colorado no less than twenty-four hours prior to the holding of the meeting. The posting shall include the time, date, and location of the meeting and shall, where possible, include specific agenda information.

This action implements SB 91-33.

Action by others

n/a

Previous discussions/actions

n/a

Recommendation

Move to designate the location for posting notice of meetings as described.

Attachments

n/a

For more information

If you need additional information, please contact Douglas W. Rex, Executive Director, at (303) 480-6701 or drex@drcog.org; or Melinda Stevens, Division Assistant, at 303-480-6701 or mstevens@drcog.org.



Attachment D

Discussion of DRCOG's Climate Pollution Reduction
Grant: Priority Climate Action Plan Update and
Implementation Grant Proposal

Board of Directors

Meeting date: January 17, 2024

Agenda Item #: 10

Discussion of DRCOG's Climate Pollution Reduction Grant: Priority Climate Action Plan Update and Implementation Grant Proposal

Agenda item type: Action item

Summary

Introduction to DRCOG's Priority Climate Action Plan developed under the Environmental Protection Agency Climate Pollution Reduction Grant and action on a proposal to submit an implementation grant application.

Background

On April 19, 2023, the DRCOG Board of Directors voted unanimously to accept the role of lead agency for the US Environmental Protection Agency's Climate Pollution Reduction Grant. Through this program DRCOG received a \$1 million Planning Grant to develop climate action plans in coordination with local stakeholders throughout the region.

The planning grant funds are designated for the completion of the following products:

- Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP), due March 1, 2024
- Comprehensive Climate Action Plan (CCAP), due August 1, 2025
- Status Report, due August 1, 2027

Staff will present an overview of the draft content in the Priority Climate Action Plan in advance of the DRCOG Board considering adopting the plan in February.

The Priority Climate Action Plan is comprised of a greenhouse gas emissions inventory, a low-income and disadvantaged communities analysis, an overview of public and stakeholder feedback, and quantified climate pollution reduction strategies.

Through a three month long vetting process that included stakeholder steering committee, equity steering committee, project management team, and public review and feedback, a set of eight strategies aimed at mitigating climate change were identified. These interconnected strategies prioritize actions that the region, local jurisdiction, and others may implement in the residential and commercial building sector, the transportation sector, and in workforce development while addressing economic disparities by prioritizing equitable access to benefits and ensuring that vulnerable communities receive a fair share of the opportunities arising from these investments.



Board of Directors
January 17, 2024
Page 2 of 3

The strategies will be further developed for inclusion in the Priority Climate Action Plan at a January 11, 2024, in-person workshop meeting with DRCOG stakeholders.

Completion of the Priority Climate Action Plan is a pre-requisite for any eligible agency to compete in the second phase of the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant program, which will competitively award \$4.6 billion for implementation projects. Applications for an implementation award under the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant need to be consistent with the programs, measures, and projects included in the Priority Climate Action Plan.

On January 2, 2024, the DRCOG Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Stakeholder Steering Committee reviewed two potential grant applications for consideration as a regional implementation grant request. The consensus of the Stakeholder Steering Committee was to recommend that the region apply for an implementation grant program proposed by the Front Range Beneficial Electrification Network (FRBEN), a coalition of over 25 of DRCOG's local governments. The proposal would implement a comprehensive, regional program that provides services to interested households and businesses to accelerate energy efficiency improvements and electrification for buildings through workforce development, energy improvement advisors, financial incentives, full-service decarbonization, policy acceleration, and innovation. The program would be available within the entire DRCOG area as well as Park and Elbert Counties because they are located within the Denver Metropolitan Statistical Area.

As a trusted regional agency, stakeholders have requested that DRCOG take the role of grant applicant and implementing agency for the program. Stakeholders have advocated for this action to leverage shared resources, reduce costs through central administration, and to match the scale of a regional program given the regional nature of workforce development, contractors, supply chain, utilities, and media markets.

Action by others
n/a

Previous discussion/action
[April 19, 2023](#) – Board of Directors

Recommendation

Move to approve DRCOG submitting a grant application to the US Environmental Protection Agency's Climate Pollution Reduction Implementation Grant for the Decarbonize DRCOG program.

Attachments
Staff presentation



Board of Directors
January 17, 2024
Page 3 of 3

For more information

If you need additional information, please contact Douglas W. Rex, Executive Director, at 303-480-6701 or drex@drcog.org; or Robert Spotts, Mobility Analytics Program Manager, Transportation Planning and Operations Division, at 303-480-5626 or rspotts@drcog.org.



Climate Pollution Reduction Grant: Priority Climate Action Plan and Implementation Grant Proposal



January 17, 2024

Robert Spotts, Mobility Analytics Program Manager

Maddy Nesbit, Senior Planner (Climate Pollution Reduction)

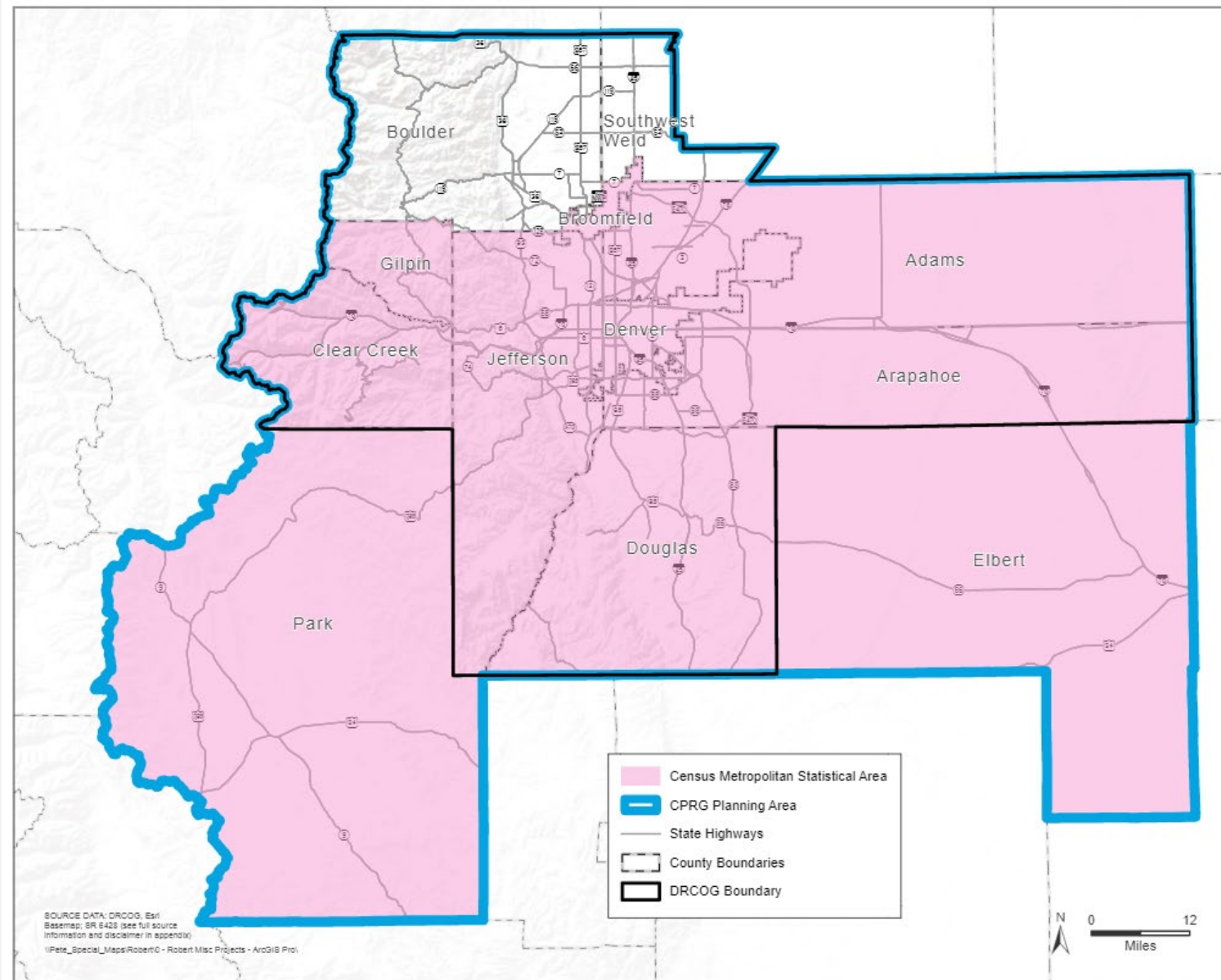
Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) Program

- \$5 billion program funded through the Inflation Reduction Act
 - Administered by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
 - \$250 million for planning (\$1m to ~70 largest metro areas, \$3m to each state)
 - \$4.6 billion in implementation grants, applications due April 1, 2024

DRCOG Awarded \$1 Million Planning Grant

- On April 19, 2023, the DRCOG Board voted unanimously to authorize DRCOG as the lead agency and grant recipient for the Planning Grant.
 - \$1 million planning grant awarded on August 1, 2023
 - Maddy Nesbit hired as fulltime staff for four-year life of grant
 - Lotus Sustainability hired as consultant for technical work and public engagement

Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Planning Area



Climate Pollution Reduction Planning Grant Requirements

- The planning grant funds are designated for the completion of the following products:
 - **Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP), due March 1, 2024**
 - Comprehensive Climate Action Plan (CCAP), due August 1, 2025
 - Status Report, due August 1, 2027



Priority Climate Action Plan

DRCOG's Priority Climate Action Plan

- An ambitious, interconnected set of **voluntary strategies** aimed at mitigating climate change.
- An opportunity to reduce co-pollutants, such as ozone precursors
- **Addresses economic disparities** by prioritizing equitable access to benefits and ensuring vulnerable communities receive a fair share of the opportunities arising from these investments.
- Strategies can be **customized** to meet the unique needs and priorities of each local community.
- Define local and regional initiatives that **collectively** impact the entire Denver region.

Priority Climate Action Plan Elements

- Public and Stakeholder Engagement
- Greenhouse Gas Inventory
- Low-Income and Disadvantaged Communities Benefits Analysis

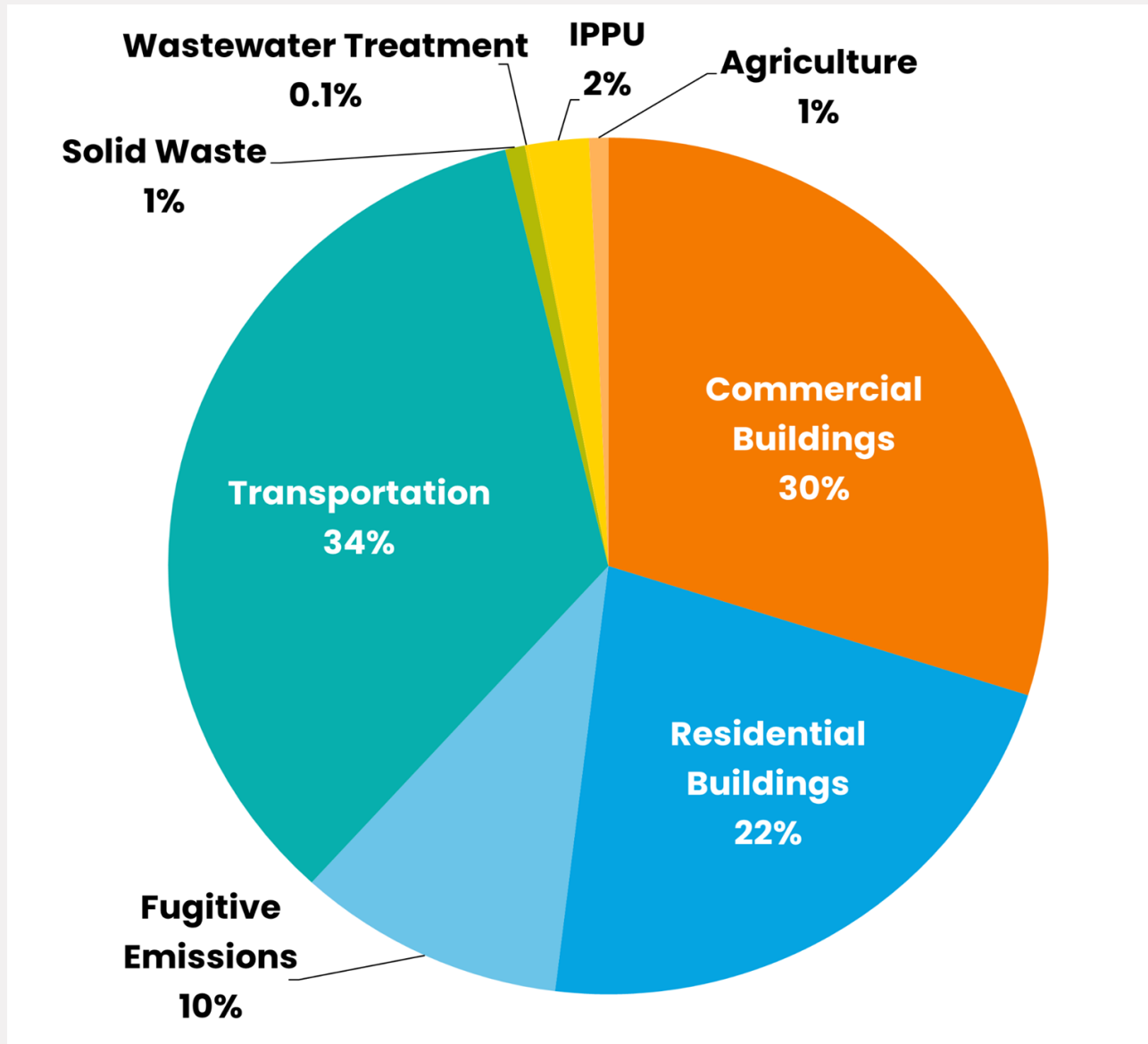
- Greenhouse Gas Reduction Strategies
 - Quantification of Greenhouse Gas Reductions
 - Review of Authority to Implement Strategies
 - Workforce Planning Analysis

Public and Stakeholder Engagement

- Monthly Stakeholder Steering Committee comprised of local government staff
 - Focused support from a Project Management Team
 - 40-60 attendees each month
- Formed an Equity Subcommittee comprised of leaders representing Community Based Organizations
 - Incorporated into key decision-making throughout
- Two virtual public meetings
 - First, to inform the public of this project
 - Second, to solicit feedback on the Priority Climate Action Plan
- Public Engagement Website
- Coordination with the Colorado Energy Office
- Dozens of meetings with individual stakeholders and non-profit groups

Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory

2022 Regional Greenhouse Gas Emissions: 43.7 million metric tons of CO₂ equivalency per year



Priority Climate Action Plan Strategies

How strategies were identified and vetted:



Grant identified sectors: Electric power generation, transportation, industry, Residential & Commercial Buildings, Waste and Materials Management, Agriculture/Natural & Working Lands.

Inventoried the region's pollution sources and **researched** best ways to reduce pollution nationwide.

We worked with **Community Leaders** to identify equity priority needs.

We worked with **Civic Leaders** to understand the region's specific needs.

Hosted public meetings, launched an **engagement platform**, attended and presented at **community events**, and **spoke with interested parties**.

Final Eight Strategies Recommended by Stakeholders

Central Coordinating Body

- One Stop Shop to facilitate and track
- Equity priority list

Building Energy Use

- Commercial, multifamily, public, university, schools and hospitals
- Residential

Transportation and Mobility

- Bus Rapid Transit in low-income disadvantaged communities
- Expand Active Transportation

Workforce Development

- Good Jobs designated for low-income disadvantaged communities
- Support for the Energy Transition

Next Steps

- **January 11-** Workshop to develop details for the eight strategies
- **January 22-** Internal deadline to submit Priority Climate Action Plan draft to our editor
- **February 21-** DRCOG Board action on the Priority Climate Action Plan



Implementation Grants

Competitive Implementation Grants

- Notice of Funding Opportunity released in September 2023
- **\$4.6 billion** available nationwide
 - Grants can range from \$2 million to \$500 million
 - Letter of Intent to Apply due February 1, 2024
 - Applications due April 1, 2024

EPA's Objectives for Implementation Grants

- EPA is encouraging **large partnerships** and will ensure **diverse geographic coverage** of funding nationwide.
- Key grant evaluation criteria include-
 - Impact of greenhouse gas reduction strategies
 - Low-income and disadvantaged community benefits
 - Overall project approach, scalability, and innovation

Implementation Grant Selection Process

- With advice from stakeholders, DRCOG staff recommended preparing **one focused, regional grant application.**
- In December, “champions” of grant program concepts presented to our Stakeholder Steering Committee on Jan 2.
 - Statewide Local Climate Action Accelerator Program (Colorado Energy Office)
 - Decarbonize DRCOG Program (Front Range Beneficial Electrification Network)
- Stakeholder Steering Committee Poll Results
 - Decarbonize DRCOG Program (71%)
 - Local Climate Action Accelerator Program (8%)
 - Pursue Both Programs (21%)

Decarbonize DRCOG

- Developed by the Front Range Beneficial Electrification Network (FRBEN)
 - Members from 25+ DRCOG local governments
 - Partner with Xcel Energy
- **A comprehensive, regional program** to provide services to interested households and businesses to accelerate energy efficiency improvements and electrification for buildings.

Decarbonize DRCOG Proposal

PROGRAM STRUCTURE



Full-Service Decarbonization Program for LIDAC



Energy Improvement Advisor Program



Financial Incentives and Rebates



Workforce Development



Local Policy Accelerator



Innovation Fund



Community Engagement, Program Co-Creation, Education and Accessibility through Marketing

Conceptual Budget and Impacts

Initiative	Budget	Impact Over 5 Years
Full-Service LIDAC Decarbonization	\$5-20 million	60-1,000 homes retrofit
Energy Improvement Advisor	\$5-10 million	25,000-50,000 clients advised
Direct Rebates and Incentives	\$5-50 million	600-200,000 rebates
Workforce Development	\$10-20 million	1,250-1,500 contractors trained
Local Policy Accelerator	\$5-20 million	Policy acceleration in 58 local gov'ts representing 3.3 million people
Innovation Fund	\$5-10 million	15-200 projects funded
Marketing and Engagement	\$5-20 million	825k unique impressions, 82 - 165k interactions
Administration	\$3-5 million	
Total	\$43-155 million	GHG Savings: 2-3 million mtCO2e

DRCOG's Role

- DRCOG has been asked by stakeholders to submit a regional grant application
- Benefits of DRCOG leading the implementation grant
 - Trusted regional agency: We go further if we go together.
 - Workforce development, contractors, supply chain, utilities, and media markets operate regionally.
 - Cost-savings of centralized administration.
 - Leveraging shared resources and unifying efforts across jurisdictions.
 - Benefits for all individuals within the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Planning Area.

Proposed Motion

Move to approve DRCOG submitting a grant application to US EPA's Climate Pollution Reduction Implementation Grant for the Decarbonize DRCOG program.

Attachment E

Discussion of state legislative Issues: New Bills for
Consideration and Action

Board of Directors

Meeting date: January 17, 2024

Agenda Item #: 11

Discussion of state legislative Issues: New Bills for Consideration and Action

Agenda item type: Action Item

Summary

This item concerns adoption of positions on state legislative bills as presented by staff.

Background

The Colorado General Assembly will convene on January 10. Any bills of interest that are introduced after the Board meeting packet is sent out will be emailed to Board members 48 hours prior to the Board meeting with staff comments and staff recommended positions (relative to the Board adopted Policy Statement on State Legislative Issues) for review at the meeting per current Board policy.

Action by others

n/a

Previous discussions/actions

n/a

Recommendation

Move to adopt positions on state legislative issues.

Attachments

Link: [2024 Legislative Preview – Bowditch & Cassell](#)

For more information

If you need additional information, please contact Douglas W. Rex, Executive Director, at (303) 480-6701 or drex@drcog.org; or Melinda Stevens, Division Assistant, at 303-480-6701 or mstevens@drcog.org.



Attachment F

Administrative modifications to the 2024-2027
Transportation Improvement Program

Board of Directors

Meeting date: January 17, 2024

Agenda Item #: 12

Administrative Modifications to the Fiscal Year 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program

Agenda item type: Informational Item

Summary

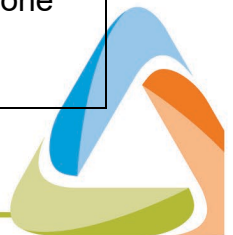
January 2024 Administrative Modifications to the *Fiscal Year 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program*.

Background

As described in the Board-adopted [Policies for Transportation Improvement Program Development](#), administrative modifications to the [Fiscal Year 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program](#) are reviewed and processed by staff. Administrative modifications represent revisions to Transportation Improvement Program projects that do not require formal action by the Board of Directors.

After the Board is informed of the administrative modifications, the modifications are processed and posted on the [Fiscal Year 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program web page](#). They are then emailed to the Transportation Improvement Program Notification List, which includes members of the Transportation Advisory Committee, the Regional Transportation Committee, project sponsors, staff of various federal and state agencies, and other interested parties.

Identification Number	Sponsor	Title	Reason for Amendment	New/ Removed Funding	Internal Funding Shifts
2008-028	CDOT Region 4	Region 4 Bridge Off-System Pool	Add two pool projects; adjust one pool project	Add \$4,100,000 in federal Bridge Off-System funds	None
2024-055	Douglas County	Colorado Blvd Bike/Ped Bridge over C470 – Precon	Split funding across Fiscal Years 2025 and 2026	None	None



Identification Number	Sponsor	Title	Reason for Amendment	New/Removed Funding	Internal Funding Shifts
2024-084	CDOT Region 1	I70: Chief Hosa to W Colfax	Add additional funding	Add \$3,000,000 in federal Strategic Safety funds	None

Action by others

n/a

Previous discussion/action

n/a

Recommendation

n/a

Attachments

Fiscal Year 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program Administrative Modifications (January 2024)

For more information

If you need additional information, please contact Douglas W. Rex, Executive Director, at 303-480-6701 or drex@drcog.org; or Todd Cottrell, Programming and Project Delivery Program Manager, Transportation Planning and Operations Division, at 303-480-6737 or tcottrell@drcog.org.



Attachment 1

January 2024 Administrative Modifications to the Fiscal Year 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program

2008-028: Add two pool projects, modify one existing pool project, and add \$4,100,000 in federal Bridge Off-System funds

Existing Project

Title: **Region 4 Bridge Off-System Pool**

Project Type: **Roadway - Bridge**

TIP-ID: **2008-028**

STIP-ID: **SR46601**

Open to Public:

Sponsor: **CDOT Region 4**

Project Scope

Bridge Off-System Pool funds off-system bridge projects throughout CDOT Region 4 (Boulder and SW Weld Counties).



Affected County(ies)

Boulder
Weld

Performance Measures

- Bridge Condition
- Congestion
- Freight Reliability
- Pavement Condition
- Safety
- Transit Assets
- Transit Safety
- Travel Time Reliability

All pool project funding depicts federal and/or state funding only.

Agency/Project Name	Notes	Cost (1,000s)	Agency/Project Name (Cont)	Notes	Cost (1,000s)	Agency/Project Name (Cont)	Notes	Cost (1,000s)
WCR34 - Mead (FY22)		\$160	WCR20 (FY23)		\$730			
120th St over Coal Creek (FY23)		\$513	WCR3 north of WCR12 (FY23)		\$1,036			

Amounts in \$1,000s	Prior Funding	FY24	FY25	FY26	FY27	Future Funding	Total Funding
Federal (BRO)		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		
State		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		
Local		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		
Total	\$3,049	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$3,049

Revised Project Listing and Funding Table

Agency/Project Name	Notes	Cost (1,000s)	Agency/Project Name (Cont)	Notes	Cost (1,000s)	Agency/Project Name (Cont)	Notes	Cost (1,000s)
WCR34 - Mead (Fiscal Year 2022/2024)		\$1,746	WCR20 (FY23)		\$730	Rock Creek Pkwy Rehab (Fiscal Year 2024)		\$1,077
120th St over Coal Creek (FY23)		\$513	WCR3 north of WCR12 (FY23)		\$1,036	WCR26 - Firestone (Fiscal Year 2024)		\$1,438

Amounts in \$1,000s	Prior Funding	FY24	FY25	FY26	FY27	Future Funding	Total Funding
Federal (BRO)		\$4,100	\$0	\$0	\$0		
State		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		
Local		\$2,056	\$0	\$0	\$0		
Total	\$3,049	\$6,156	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$9,205

2024-055: Adjust funding by splitting across fiscal years 2025 and 2026

Existing Project

Title: **Colorado Blvd Bike/Ped Bridge over C470 - Precon**

Project Type: **Active Transportation**

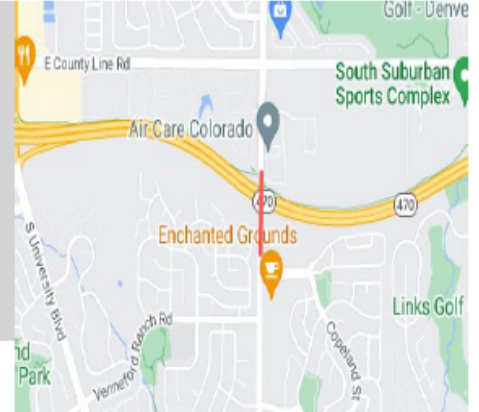
TIP-ID: **2024-055**

STIP-ID:

Open to Public:

Sponsor: **Douglas County**

Project Scope
Design for a bike/pedestrian bridge over C-470 at Colorado Blvd.



Affected Municipality(ies)
Unincorporated

Affected County(ies)
Douglas

Project Phases	
Year	Phase
2026	Initiate Design

Performance Measures	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Bridge Condition
<input type="checkbox"/>	Congestion
<input type="checkbox"/>	Freight Reliability
<input type="checkbox"/>	Pavement Condition
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Safety
<input type="checkbox"/>	Transit Assets
<input type="checkbox"/>	Transit Safety
<input type="checkbox"/>	Travel Time Reliability

Amounts in \$1,000s	Prior Funding	FY24	FY25	FY26	FY27	Future Funding	Total Funding
Federal (TA-DRCOG)		\$0	\$0	\$550	\$0		
State		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		
Local		\$0	\$0	\$150	\$0		
Total	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$700	\$0	\$0	\$700

Revised Funding Table

Amounts in \$1,000s	Prior Funding	FY24	FY25	FY26	FY27	Future Funding	Total Funding
Federal (TA-DRCOG)		\$0	\$275	\$275	\$0		
State		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		
Local		\$0	\$75	\$75	\$0		
Total	\$0	\$0	\$350	\$350	\$0	\$0	\$700

2024-084: Add \$3,000,000 in federal Strategic Safety Funds

Existing Project

Title: **I70: Chief Hosa to W Colfax**

Project Type: **Roadway Reconstruction**

TIP-ID: **2024-084**

STIP-ID:

Open to Public:

Sponsor: **CDOT Region 1**

Project Scope

Resurfacing improvements on I70 from Chief Hosa to Mile Post 259 (W Colfax Ave) to include guardrail improvements and implementation of safety strategies defined in the I70 Eastbound Active Traffic Management Concept of Operations including Variable Message Signs, Microwave Vehicle Radar Detection, friction sensors, and sign installations.



Affected Municipality(ies)

Affected County(ies)

Unincorporated

Jefferson

Performance Measures

- Bridge Condition
- Congestion
- Freight Reliability
- Pavement Condition
- Safety
- Transit Assets
- Transit Safety
- Travel Time Reliability

Amounts in \$1,000s	Prior Funding	FY24	FY25	FY26	FY27	Future Funding	Total Funding
Federal		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		
State (Faster-S)		\$0	\$12,800	\$0	\$0		
State (R P P)		\$0	\$9,000	\$0	\$0		
State (Surface)		\$0	\$9,500	\$0	\$0		
Local		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		
Total	\$0	\$0	\$31,300	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$31,300

Revised Funding Table

Amounts in \$1,000s	Prior Funding	FY24	FY25	FY26	FY27	Future Funding	Total Funding
Federal		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		
Federal (SAE)		\$0	\$3,000	\$0	\$0		
State		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		
State (Faster-S)		\$0	\$12,800	\$0	\$0		
State (R P P)		\$0	\$9,000	\$0	\$0		
State (Surface)		\$0	\$9,500	\$0	\$0		
Local		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		
Total	\$0	\$0	\$34,300	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$34,300

Attachment G

Draft 2024 Policy Statement on Federal Legislative
Issues

Board of Directors

Meeting date: January 17, 2024

Agenda Item #: 13

Draft 2024 Policy Statement on Federal Legislative Issues

Agenda item type: Informational Item

Summary

This item concerns transmittal of the Draft 2024 Policy Statement on Federal Legislative Issues. No action is requested, this item is provided for information only.

Background

Each year, the Board adopts two policy statements on a range of specific state and federal legislative issues. These documents provide the DRCOG Board, staff and lobbyists with policy direction on legislative issues during the coming year.

The Draft 2024 Policy Statement on Federal Legislative Issues is provided now to give Board members and their staff sufficient time to review its contents before the Board considers and acts on the document at its February 21, 2024 meeting.

On the advice of DRCOG's federal lobby team, staff has streamlined the document for 2024 to focus more clearly on its key policy priorities and removed superfluous information. If you have suggested changes to the draft, you are encouraged to contact staff by February 2, 2024.

Action by others

n/a

Previous discussions/actions

n/a

Recommendation

n/a

Attachments

1. Draft 2024 Policy Statement on Federal Legislative Issues
2. Link: [2023 Policy Statement on Federal Legislative Issues](#)

For more information

If you need additional information, please contact Douglas W. Rex, Executive Director, at (303) 480-6701 or drex@drcog.org; or Rich Mauro, Director, Legislative Affairs at (303) 480-6778 or rmauro@drcog.org.





2024 Federal Priorities - DRAFT

Overview

This paper outlines the key federal policy issues of the Denver Regional Council of Governments, which includes: (1) Older Adults, (2) Transportation, (3) Environment, and (4) Housing and Land Use. It identifies policy positions intended to inform the Colorado congressional delegation, Congress, federal and state executive branch officials, and others as they develop and implement national policy on these issues. This policy statement guides DRCOG's federal legislative positions and actions during the coming year.

DRCOG is a membership organization of more than 50 cities, towns and counties in the Denver metropolitan area. Under federal law, it serves as the Area Agency on Aging for eight counties to aid the 60-and-older population and the metropolitan planning organization (MPO) to coordinate transportation planning with air quality goals.

Under state statutes, DRCOG is a regional planning commission, responsible for preparing a regional plan for the development of the metro area. Metro Vision guides DRCOG's work and establishes shared expectations with our region's many and various planning partners. The plan outlines broad outcomes, objectives and initiatives established by the DRCOG Board to make life better for the region's residents. Achieving Metro Vision goals requires coordinated investment in a wide range of planning and implementation activities that transcend traditional funding categories. **DRCOG supports those efforts that help the region achieve the shared outcomes described in Metro Vision and encourages federal entities to align their policies and investment decisions to advance regionally determined objectives where appropriate.**

DRCOG recognizes the important role it plays in building and maintaining an equitable region where all residents and communities can thrive. DRCOG acknowledges its role in ensuring our region remains a diverse network of vibrant, connected, lifelong communities.

Older Adults

Older Americans Act reauthorization

DRCOG has been the designated Area Agency on Aging (AAA) for the metro area under the auspices of the federal Older Americans Act since 1973. In this capacity, DRCOG is responsible for planning and advocating for the needs of the region's older residents, as well as for providing a broad array of services and programs.

Congress reauthorized the Older Americans Act in 2020. Since the last full reauthorization, the challenges to communities, states and the nation presented by the aging of the population have continued to accelerate across the U.S. but particularly in Colorado. This critical national issue has continued to put pressure on services, especially the need for more tailored in-home and community-based services, the need for more focused prevention programs, the need for consumer advocacy in long-term care facilities, and increased support for family caregivers. **To that end, DRCOG seeks support for the following principles in the reauthorization of the Older Americans Act:**

- Require states, area agencies on aging, Medicaid long-term care agencies and other relevant entities to continue efforts to better coordinate regional and statewide planning of services and programs for seniors. This includes removing barriers to the coordination of elderly and disabled transportation services by providing the flexibility to allow trips for elderly and non-elderly disabled persons and for meal, medical and personal services to be served by the same provider using a combination of U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and U.S. Department of Transportation funding.
- Establish a federal database, which will summarize all care that a patient is receiving regardless of which federal agency is providing the care. This data sharing will allow DRCOG to better shape and provide services for aging adults.
- Maximize flexibility in use of Older Americans Act funds, giving area agencies on aging, local governments and service providers the ability to better meet the needs of older adults. For example, the Title III C-1 congregate meal and Title III C-2 home-delivered meal programs could be merged. Likewise, set a required local match at 10 percent and required state match at 5 percent across all Older Americans Act programs. Currently, required local and state funding match percentages vary widely.

Increase federal funding for Older Americans Act programs to keep up with demand by at-risk older adults in need of supportive services, which has risen and will continue to rise with the growth of the aging population. This long-term gap in funding translates to greater numbers of older adults and family caregivers with unmet needs and increasing pressures on state and local agencies, service providers and families.

- Bridge the gap between community services and health care through programs that promote care transitions and care coordination and encourage community-based service delivery models, including broader experimentation with Accountable Health Communities to integrate social needs in the delivery of health services and the establishment of local community care hubs.
- Provide a path for private sector investment in Older Americans Act services by incentivizing activities, including private pay, integrated care, and funding demonstration projects and evaluations of the benefits of community-based services in improving health care outcomes and reducing care costs.
- Strengthen the role of the Long-Term Care Ombudsman as a resident/consumer advocate for long-term care communities structured to enhance the quality of care for residents. Federal regulations designed to ensure the quality of care in long-term care facilities must be fully enforced. In addition, improve enforcement by increasing inspections and penalties on long-term care facilities failing to comply with regulations. Increase disclosure requirements of ownership and control of facilities and improved consumer information.

Elder Justice Act

This legislation provides critical protection for residents living in nursing homes and assisted living; provides needed resources and coordination to address the problem of elder abuse; and includes increased funding for the Long-Term Care Ombudsman program. The Elder Justice Act sets out a comprehensive approach to preventing and combating elder abuse, neglect,

exploitation and self-neglect. DRCOG supports full funding and implementation of the Elder Justice Act, consistent with the following principles:

- Provide a stronger and more coordinated federal response to promote elder justice.
- Increase federal support to states and communities for elder justice activities.
- Provide funding and training support to adult protection programs.
- Improve consumer protection by requiring the reporting of crimes by nursing facilities or employees and communication of consumer rights information.
- Provide new funding to improve ombudsman capacity and training, and for training of health department surveyors investigating allegations of abuse.

Other health and community services

DRCOG supports federal legislation, regulations and policies to promote universal access to health care coverage and the integration of long-term care into a continuum of medical and non-medical services, including health promotion and disease prevention. This includes the following:

- Utilize area agencies on aging in implementing Affordable Care Act provisions pertaining to older adults and their ability to stay healthy and age in the community. These include provisions for aging and disability resource centers, prevention and wellness programs, care transitions and coordination, and efforts to rebalance the long-term care system relative to institutional and community care.
- Increased funding of home- and community-based care programs and higher Medicare and Medicaid reimbursements. Home- and community- based services are critical components in the continuum of care for the elderly and disabled and are more cost-efficient than services in institutions, particularly with regard to rural areas and for minority populations.
- Increased prescription drug pricing transparency, including:
 - Revisions to the Medicare Part D prescription drug benefit to simplify the application process and coverage offered, as well as cap out-of-pocket costs and address, the gaps in coverage to provide a more comprehensive prescription medication benefit for all beneficiaries.
 - Allowing the federal government to negotiate prescription drug prices for patients using Medicare, Medicaid and other federal programs to lower cost to these critical federal programs.
 - Encouraging the federal government to provide additional funding for area agencies on aging to provide public education, counseling and enrollment assistance for citizens about the Medicare drug program.

- Enforce federal protections in areas including access to care, quality assurance, patient information, grievances and appeals, the doctor-patient relationship and physician treatment decisions, which is necessary to ensure that quality health care and other services are available to all.

Transportation

DRCOG has served as the metropolitan planning organization (MPO) for the Denver region since 1977, acting as a forum for a collaborative transportation planning process. DRCOG has been involved in the region's transportation planning even longer – the organization's first official action after its 1955 founding endorsed the construction of I-70 West.

As the MPO, DRCOG leads the cooperative, continuous and comprehensive regional transportation planning process. MPOs provide the only regional, multimodal transportation plans that link transportation to land use, growth and air quality. Through the MPO process, local governments, in cooperation with state and local transportation agencies, determine the best mix of transportation investments to meet the long-term transportation needs of the region.

Funding

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), also known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), provides a significant investment in infrastructure and includes the federal transportation authorization for fiscal years 2022 – 2026. While the act boosts federal transportation spending over the previous levels, investments remain significantly below what is needed. DRCOG supports the following funding principles:

- Increase federal transportation funding to provide sufficient resources to meet national investment needs on a sustainable basis.
- New and increased sources of funding should be distributed through formula funding with the greatest possible share going directly to local areas to address locally and regionally identified needs.
- Address inequities in current distribution formulas to increase funding to fast-growing states and incorporate equity considerations, including but not limited to geography, equity across income groups, population growth, and revenue generation into funding formulas.
- Provide dedicated sources of revenue and increased funding for the FTA's Capital Investment Grants Program, which funds bus rapid transit and rail new and small starts programs.
- Support and seek federal funding through grants and Congressionally-directed spending for the DRCOG regional bus rapid transit system.
- Support federal funding for the Front Range Passenger Rail project through a direct appropriation or increased funding to the National Railroad Passenger Corporation (Amtrak) for the project.
- Maintain the use of contract authority, allowing states to advance funds for multiyear construction projects.

- Reduce federal obstacles to implementing additional revenue options such as tolling, congestion pricing, value capture, and public-private partnerships.
- Further expand federal credit programs such as the Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act.
- Transition to a more direct user-based system such as a road usage charge to supplement then replace the federal fuel tax.

Metropolitan Planning

Metropolitan areas account for over 80% of U.S. population and about 90% of total U.S. jobs and wages and salary income. In 2021, Metro economies accounted for 94.1% (\$0.97 trillion) of GDP growth and 90.7% of employment growth, underscoring that US Metros are key to the nation's economic future. (source: U.S. Conference of Mayors, June 2022) The planning and regional decision-making led by metropolitan planning organizations is essential to maintaining mobility and national economic vitality. DRCOG supports the following:

- Increase the authority of metropolitan planning organizations to employ solutions at the regional level and provide regions and local governments the direct authority, flexibility, and funding to create a safe and efficient transportation system.
- Suballocate all “urban” Surface Transportation Block Grant and Carbon Reduction Program funds apportioned to a State for urbanized areas located within a metropolitan planning organization that is a transportation management area.
- Establish national performance objectives and measures for increasing access and mobility for people of all ages, incomes and abilities.
- Permit flexibility for states and regions to decide how best to make investments to show progress toward national safety, mobility, and accessibility goals.
- Reduce or eliminate the non-federal share for federal metropolitan planning funds.

Energy Efficiency, Air Quality and Environmental Sustainability

Transportation plays a key role in achieving energy independence and addressing the nation’s air quality and greenhouse gas emissions goals. The competitiveness of our economy, the health of our residents, and our national security depend on reducing reliance on and consumption of fossil fuels. DRCOG supports the following:

- Expand investment in research and development for alternative fuels, new clean fuel technologies, more efficient vehicles, and new ideas and technologies for transportation people and goods.
- Support the rapid conversion to more fuel-efficient and lower-emission vehicles.
- Add public transportation projects that enhance mobility, convenience, or reliability to the exempt project list for Clean Air Act purposes.
- Increase funding for transportation projects that improve air quality.
- Establish a population-based air quality severity formula for suballocating Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) funds within a state and require suballocation of CMAQ funds based on population to non-attainment metropolitan planning organizations that include urbanized areas with populations over 200,000.

Project Programming and Delivery

The scope and complexity of transportation planning has increased significantly. Efforts to streamline project planning and delivery are important and must be balanced against appropriate levels of regional and local coordination and environmental assessment. DRCOG supports the following:

- Allow metropolitan planning organizations to directly contract with subrecipients for non-infrastructure projects using federal funds.
- Continue to streamline project delivery and National Environmental Policy Act processes without compromising environmental or public participation values.
- Allow that within one half mile of an existing or proposed transit station, parking and transportation infrastructure, transit-oriented development planning, land acquisition and projects or programs that support compact, mixed-use, mixed-income, bicycle/pedestrian friendly development are eligible for federal transportation funding.
- Designate the “Rocky Mountain Corridor” (from Cheyenne, Wyoming through Colorado to Albuquerque, New Mexico and the Interstate 70 corridor from Denver International Airport to the Utah boarder) and the Western Regional Alliance high-speed rail network (connecting Denver, Salt Lake City, Reno, Las Vegas, and Phoenix) as High-Speed Rail Corridors.

Environment

Water Conservation and Quality

Water is a particularly scarce resource in the Denver region and the western United States, and a key consideration in planning for future growth and development. Metro Vision, the Denver region’s long- range plan for growth includes a water conservation element. The element calls on the region to maximize the wise use of limited water resources through efficient land development and other strategies and establishes a goal to reduce regional per capita water consumption. DRCOG supports federal policies and investments that contribute to local and regional water conservation efforts, including:

- Addressing water quality through an integrated approach that ties together the management of point sources, nonpoint sources and stormwater through the involvement of the various stakeholders.
- Maintain and strengthen the regional planning process as the key component of the watershed approach. Increase the planning funds provided under section 604(b) to assist responsible parties in meeting the expanding responsibilities that accompany implementation of a watershed planning and management approach.
- Increase funding for infrastructure investment, including EPA, Reclamation and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers programs, as well as the provision of greater flexibility of these funds will allow states and local governments to determine the best use, according to local prioritization of needs.

- Legislation, including funding, encouraging federal, state, tribal and local governments, as well as mining companies and nonprofit groups that have no prior ownership or responsibility for an abandoned mine, to clean up an abandoned or inactive mining site by granting them liability protections under several environmental statutes, including the Clean Water Act.

Housing and Land Use

DRCOG supports efforts to promote affordable housing options and help the region achieve the land use and development outcomes outlined in Metro Vision through federal actions that:

- Expand federal policies and investments that help local governments and the private sector develop successful urban centers, including transit station areas.
- Expand the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit, a critical tool for supporting private investment in the production and preservation of affordable housing.
- Provide funding and incentives to strengthen local and regional efforts to increase the supply of affordable housing.
- Expand housing policies and programs designed to support older adults, especially those of low- and moderate-income, and persons with disabilities to live independently in the residence of their choice. This includes policies and programs to:
 - Encourage the delivery of home- and community-based supportive services to assist older people and persons with disabilities in maintaining independence and actively engaging in their community.
 - Ensure that policies and funding for housing assistance and preservation programs continue to support residents who choose to remain in their homes as they age.
- Ensure that renters and homeowners (including manufactured-home owners) have appropriate protections from discrimination and displacement. Policies should emphasize the rights of residents and minimize disparities in treatment under the law, while balancing the rights of property owners.
- Ensure that Federal agencies and elected officials respect and support local and regional plans and land use authority. This includes ensuring funding decisions and the siting of federal and other facilities are consistent with those plans and respect local and regional land use authority.
- Ensure the Federal government protects open space, including natural habitats, by fully funding the Land and Water Conservation Fund and providing new incentives for land conservation and outdoor recreation opportunities.
- Ensure the Federal government continues funding in local and regional data and information programs to help DRCOG deliver improved information, tools and services for local and regional planning and decision-making.

Attachment H

Recommendations for election of DRCOG Board officers
for 2024

Board of Directors

Meeting date: January 17, 2024

Agenda Item #: 14

Recommendations for election of DRCOG Board officers for 2024

Agenda item type: Informational Item

Summary

This item is related to the Nominating Committee's recommendations for election of DRCOG Board officers for 2024.

Background

The Nominating Committee – comprised of Nicole Speer, Boulder; Kevin Flynn, Denver; Jeslin Shahrezaei, Lakewood; Stephen Barr, Littleton; and John Diak, Parker – considered all individuals who submitted their names to serve as Board officers. The committee wishes to thank those who expressed interest in serving. After discussion and consideration, the candidates proposed below are recommended by the Nominating Committee:

Vice Chair – Jeff Baker, County Commissioner, Arapahoe County

Secretary – Colleen Whitlow, Mayor, Town of Mead

Treasurer – Richard Kondo, Council Member, City of Northglenn

Wynne Shaw will serve as Chair and Steve Conklin will serve as Immediate Past Chair for the coming year.

Nominees have all been contacted and have indicated their willingness and enthusiasm to serve. In accordance with the Articles of Association, nominations may be made from the floor, provided the consent of the nominee is obtained in advance.

Election of Officers occurs at the February meeting of the Board of Directors.

Action by others

n/a

Previous discussions/actions

n/a

Recommendation

n/a

Attachments

n/a



Board of Directors
January 17, 2024
Page 2 of 2

For more information

If you need additional information, please contact Douglas W. Rex, Executive Director, at (303) 480-6701 or drex@drcog.org; or Melinda Stevens, Executive Assistant, at 303-480-6701 or mstevens@drcog.org.



Attachment I

Draft Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy

Board of Directors

Meeting date: January 17, 2024

Agenda Item #: 15

The Draft Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy

Agenda item type: Informational Item

Summary

The draft Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy document was finalized by the Leadership Team on December 19, 2023.

Background

At the June 21, 2023 Board of Directors meeting, the DRCOG Board unanimously approved a motion to proceed with the development of a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for the region to be forwarded to the Economic Development Administration for their consideration and approval. Please find attached the draft document for your review prior to proposed action at the February 17, 2024 Board meeting.

Action by others

The Leadership Team for the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy met on December 19, 2023 to review and provide final edits and comments for the draft of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy document. With a few minor suggested modifications, the Leadership accepted the final document as presented by staff.

Previous discussions/actions

[April 2, 2022](#) - Board Retreat

[June 15, 2022](#) - Board meeting

[November 2, 2022](#) - Board work session

[June 6, 2023](#) - Board work session

[June 21, 2023](#) - Board meeting

Recommendation

n/a

Attachments

Link: [Draft Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy](#)

For more information

If you need additional information, please contact Douglas W. Rex, Executive Director, at (303) 480-6701 or drex@drcog.org; or Flo Raitano, Director, Partnership Development and Innovation, Executive Office, at 303-480-6789 or fraitano@drcog.org.

