

# Board of Directors Meeting Summary

Wednesday, February 21, 2024

## 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             |
| Andy Kerr                       | Jefferson County                      |
| Lisa Feret                      | City of Arvada                        |
| Alison Coombs (Alternate)       | City of Aurora                        |
| Larry Vittum                    | Town of Bennett                       |
| Nicole Speer                    | City of Boulder                       |
| Deborah Mulvey                  | City of Castle Pines                  |
| Randy Weil                      | City of Cherry Hills Village          |
| Christine Sweetland (Alternate) | City of Centennial                    |
| Steven Douglas                  | City of Commerce City                 |
| Othoniel Sierra                 | City of Englewood                     |
| Emily Baer (Alternate)          | Town of Erie                          |
| Josie Cockrell                  | Town of Foxfield                      |
| Windi Padia                     | Town of Frederick                     |
| Lynette Kelsey                  | Town of Georgetown                    |
| Lisa Vitry (Alternate)          | City of Golden                        |
| George Lantz                    | City of Greenwood Village             |
| Chuck Harmon                    | City of Idaho Springs                 |
| Brian Wong                      | City of Lafayette                     |
| Jeslin Shahrezaei               | City of Lakewood                      |
| Wynne Shaw                      | City of Lone Tree                     |
| Judi Kern                       | City of Louisville                    |
| Colleen Whitlow                 | Town of Mead                          |
| Tom Mahowald                    | Town of Nederland                     |
| Richard Kondo                   | City of Northglenn                    |
| John Diak                       | Town of Parker                        |
| Terrance Kelly                  | City of Sheridan                      |
| Neal Shah                       | Town of Superior                      |
| Justin Martinez                 | City of Thornton                      |
| Claire Carmelia (Alternate)     | 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, Chris Chovan, Adams County; Bryan Weimer, Arapahoe County; Art Griffith, Douglas County; Adam Paul, Denver; Mac Callison, Aurora; Kat Bristow, Lochbuie; Kent Moorman, Roberta Ayala, Thornton; Ed Bowditch, Jennifer Cassell, Bowditch & Cassell; Jordan Rudel, Colorado Department of Transportation; Pepe Sanchez, Colorado University; Jason Stone, Citizen; and DRCOG staff.

Chair Steve Conklin called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m. with a quorum present.

The Chair noted new members and alternates: Justin Martinez, new member for the City of Thornton; Ryan Schuchard, new alternate for the City of Boulder; Christine Sweetland, new alternate for the City of Centennial; Kim Wright, new alternate for the City of Englewood; Roger Low, new alternate for the City of Lakewood; Shannon Lukeman-Hiromasa new alternate for the City of Northglenn; Roberta Ayala, new alternate for the City of Thornton; Claire Carmelia, new alternate for the City of Westminster; and Emily Baer new alternate for the Town of Erie.

Move to approve agenda

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

### **Report of the Chair**

Chair Conklin wanted to thank Director Baker and Director Whitlow for their service as chairs for both committees for the last year.

- Director Baker reported that the Performance and Engagement Committee met prior to the meeting and solidified the date for the 2024 Board Retreat, which will take place April 26 - 27. They also discussed and provided direction to staff for desired agenda topics for the retreat.
- Director Whitlow reported the Finance and Budget Committee met and approved the consent agenda containing three resolutions, along with five other resolutions authorizing the Executive Director to:
  - negotiate and execute a contract with Nelson/Nygaard to develop a regional Active Transportation Plan in an amount not to exceed \$350,000 for a term not to exceed 24 months from the date of contract execution.
  - negotiate and execute a contract with Fehr and Peers for the North Federal Microtransit study in an amount not to exceed \$74,525 for a term of 14-months from the date of contract execution.
  - execute a contract with the Regional Transportation District for support and acceptance of the vanpool services offered by the Denver Regional Council of Governments' Way to Go program in an amount not to exceed \$583,000 beginning on January 1, 2024, and terminating on December 31, 2024.
  - execute a contract with Enterprise Leasing Company of Denver, LLC to provide vanpool services for the Way to Go vanpool program, in a total amount not to exceed \$583,000 per year, beginning on January 1, 2024, and terminating on December 31, 2024, with the option to renew for two additional one-year terms upon satisfactory performance.
  - negotiate and execute a contract with Charitable Rides and Adult Services, LLC doing business as OnTheGo in an amount not to exceed \$125,000 for the period beginning on March 1, 2024 and ending February 28, 2025 with option to renew for and three additional one-year terms upon satisfactory performance.

### Report of the Executive Director

- Consent Agenda: Executive Director Rex informed the directors that there were more items than normal on consent and of course any member was welcome to pull an item from consent for further discussion, if needed.
- Executive Director Rex wanted to welcome Dr. Jose Sanchez, a new professor at Colorado University of Denver and acknowledge his research interest which is regional planning and collaboration.
- Legislation: DRCOG staff has been working with regional and state associations on introduced or pending legislation. There has been a significant amount of time spent on House Bill 24-1313, which concerns Transit-Oriented Communities. The Board will take a position on this bill at the March Special Board of Directors meeting.
- Regional Housing Needs Assessment: The second phase of the assessment is underway and DRCOG will be hosting discussions with over 10 stakeholder groups throughout the month of March. Staff prepared and submitted a proposal to the Department of Local Affairs through the Energy and Mineral Impact Fund for \$200,000 to support the Regional Housing Strategy and the proposal was accepted and chosen to receive these funds.
- Executive Director Rex wanted to thank Chair Conklin for his service on the Board as Chair for the last year.

### Public Comment

There was no public comment.

### Move to approve consent agenda

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

Items on the consent agenda included:

- Summary of the January 17, 2024 meeting.
- Appointments to the Performance & Engagement and Finance & Budget committees.
- Proposed 2024 Policy Statement on Federal Legislative Issues.
- The Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy.
- Transportation Improvement Program Policy Amendments.
- 2024 Federal Safety Performance Measure Targets.

### Discussion of appointments to the Front Range Passenger Rail District Board

Jacob Riger provided an overview of the Board and the selection process to the directors. DRCOG has four representatives on the Front Range Passenger Rail District Board, all appointed by the DRCOG Board in February 2022. Two of the four representatives have 4-year terms, and the other two representatives have initial 2-year terms that expire March 1, 2024. DRCOG staff solicited candidates for these two expiring appointments from December 19, 2023 to January 19, 2024 and received six applications. DRCOG's Nominating Committee – comprised of Nicole Speer, Boulder; Kevin Flynn, Denver; Jeslin

Shahrezaei, Lakewood; Stephen Barr, Littleton; and John Diak, Parker – considered all individuals who applied to represent DRCOG on the Front Range Passenger Rail District Board. After discussion and consideration, the Nominating Committee recommended the following candidates:

- Joan Peck, Mayor, Longmont
- Sarah Nurmela, Mayor Pro Tem, Westminster

Director Mulvey **moved** to approve the DRCOG Nominating Committee's recommended candidates to represent DRCOG on the Front Range Passenger Rail District Board. The motion was **seconded** and **passed** unanimously.

\*Please note: Representatives from Georgetown and Idaho Springs did not participate in this vote per Senate Bill 21-238.

### **Discussion of the Denver Regional Council of Governments Priority Climate Action Plan**

Robert Spotts and Maddy Nesbit provided an updated overview of the plan and implementation timeline to the directors. Staff presented an overview of the draft Priority Climate Action Plan at the January 17 Board meeting in advance of the DRCOG Board considering adopting the plan. The plan includes a greenhouse gas emissions inventory, a low-income and disadvantaged communities analysis, an overview of public and stakeholder feedback, and quantified climate pollution reduction measures. The plan is a pre-requisite for any eligible entity to compete in the second phase of the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant program that will competitively award \$4.6 billion for implementation projects. Through a three-month long planning process, a set of eight voluntary strategies aimed at reducing climate pollution were identified. These interconnected strategies prioritize investment in the residential and commercial building sector, the transportation sector, and 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.

Director Ward **moved** to adopt the Denver Regional Council of Governments Priority Climate Action Plan to be submitted to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency by March 1, 2024. The motion was **seconded** and **passed** 35 in favor and two opposed.

### **Election of Officers**

Director Speer, Chair of the Nominating Committee, along with Directors Flynn, Shahrezaei, Barr, and Diak, considered all individuals who submitted their names to serve as Board officers. After discussion and consideration, the candidates proposed were recommended unanimously by the Nominating Committee:

- Chair – Wynne Shaw, Mayor Pro Tem, City of Lone Tree
- Vice Chair – Jeff Baker, County Commissioner, Arapahoe County
- Secretary – Colleen Whitlow, Mayor, Town of Mead
- Treasurer – Richard Kondo, Council Member, City of Northglenn
- Immediate Past Chair – Steve Conklin, Mayor, City of Edgewater

Director Weil **moved** to elect Board officers for 2024 as presented. The motion was **seconded** and **passed** unanimously.

**Discussion to select representatives to serve on the Regional Transportation Committee, Statewide Transportation Advisory Committee, and E-470 Board of Directors.**

Interest was solicited for directors to serve as DRCOG's representatives on the Regional Transportation Committee, the State Transportation Advisory Committee, and E-470 Board of Directors. New members of the Advisory Committee on Aging are appointed by the Board Chair; Paul Haseman, Judi Kern, and Lisa Feret were appointed to the committee. The following directors submitted their names for consideration on the following committees:

- Regional Transportation Committee:
  - Greg Mills, City of Brighton
  - Randy Weil, City of Cherry Hills Village
  - Deborah Mulvey, City of Castle Pines; Alternate

Director Lantz **moved** to approve Board members to serve on the Regional Transportation Committee, with the addition of Austin Ward and Steve Conklin as alternates. The motion was **seconded** and **passed** unanimously.

- Statewide Transportation Advisory Committee:
  - Steve O'Dorisio, Adams County
  - Greg Mills, City of Brighton

A ballot vote was performed to determine which candidate would serve as the member and which candidate would serve as the alternate.

Director Flynn **moved** to approve Steve O'Dorisio to serve as the member and Greg Mills to serve as the alternate on the Statewide Transportation Advisory Committee. The motion was **seconded** and **passed** unanimously.

- E-470 Board of Directors:
  - Deborah Mulvey, City of Castle Pines

By acclamation, the Board **moved** to approve the Board member to serve on the E-470 Board of Directors. The motion **passed** unanimously.

**Discussion of state legislative issues: Bills on Which Positions Have Previously Been Taken**

Rich Mauro provided a [status update](#) on bills previously acted upon by the Board to the directors. Mr. Mauro responded to questions about these bills. No additional action by the Board was required.

**Discussion of state legislative issues: New Bills for Consideration and Action**

Rich Mauro, Ed Bowditch, and Jennifer Cassell provided an overview of new bills for consideration to the Board. There was one new bill regarding aging, three new bills regarding transportation, and four new bills regarding housing for discussion and action. The following bills were voted on separately:

## Board of Directors Meeting Summary

February 21, 2024

Page 6 of 7

- House Bill 24-1211 – State Funding for Senior Services Contingency Fund
  - By acclimation, the Board **moved** a position of support. The motion was **passed** with 30 in favor and 7 abstentions.
- Senate Bill 24-032 - Methods to Increase the Use of Transit
  - By acclimation, the Board **moved** a position of support. The motion was **passed** with 29 in favor, 1 opposed, and 6 abstentions.
- Senate Bill 24-065 - Mobile Electronic Devices & Motor Vehicle Driving
  - By acclimation, the Board **moved** a position of support. The motion was **passed** with 29 in favor and 8 abstentions.
- Senate Bill 24-036 - Vulnerable Road User Protection Enterprise
  - Director Levy **moved** a position of amend. The motion was **seconded** and **passed** with 27 in favor, 3 opposed, and 7 abstentions.
- House Bill 24-1152 - Accessory Dwelling Units (ADU)
  - Director Starker **moved** a position of oppose unless amended. The motion was **seconded** and **passed** with 21 in favor, 6 opposed, and 10 abstentions.
- House Bill 24-1083 - Construction Professional Insurance Coverage Transparency
  - Director Levy **moved** a position of support. The motion was **seconded** and **passed** with 17 in favor, 5 opposed, and 15 abstentions.
- Senate Bill 24-106 - Right to Remedy Construction Defects
  - Director Mulvey **moved** a position of monitor. The motion was **seconded** and **failed** with 16 in favor, 11 opposed, and 10 abstentions.
  - Director Starker **moved** a position of support. The motion was **seconded** and **passed** with 18 in favor, 5 opposed, and 14 abstentions.
- Senate Bill 24-112 - Construction Defect Action Procedures
  - Director Starker **moved** a position of monitor. The motion was **seconded** and **passed** with 26 in favor and 11 abstentions.

### Committee Reports

#### State Transportation Advisory Committee

Director Williams stated the committee met in February and received a few important updates. The Transportation Commission will begin discussing the program distribution for formula funds in March. They also received an overview of the update to the State Freight and Passenger Rail plan. There was a preview of the next statewide plan, which will be the 2050 statewide plan due in August.

#### Metro Mayors Caucus

Director Starker stated they met February 7 and received a presentation from representatives of the Colorado Municipal League regarding land use, zoning, and accessory dwelling units. They also had a discussion on potential construction litigation reform and received briefings from the Regional Transportation District, the Department of Local Affairs, and the Metro Denver Economic Development Corporation.

#### Metro Area County Commissioners

There was no report given.

**Advisory Committee on Aging**

Jayla Sanchez-Warren stated the committee met and received a legislative update, received and update on their public awareness campaign, and discussed the home delivered meal program in Adams County.

**Regional Air Quality Council**

Chair Conklin stated there was no report.

**E-470 Authority**

Director Mulvey stated there was no report.

**Report from CDOT**

Director Pakbaz stated the Colorado Travel Count survey is out, which takes a sample of 20,000 residents to look at their travel patterns to help forecast future travel in the State.

**Report from RTD**

Brian Welch stated that Mayor Mike Johnston nominated Jamie Lewis to fill out the remaining term that belonged to Kate Williams.

**Next meeting – Special Board meeting on March 6, 2024**

**Other matters by members**

Chair Conklin wanted to express his deep gratitude to the newly elected Board officers for the 2024-2025 year, DRCOG staff, and the entire Board of Directors.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 9:29 p.m.

---

Wynne Shaw, Chair  
Board of Directors  
Denver Regional Council of Governments

ATTEST:

---

Douglas W. Rex, Executive Director