

AGENDA
REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
Tuesday, July 18, 2023
8:30 a.m.
VIDEO/WEB CONFERENCE
Denver, CO

1. Call to Order
2. Public Comment
3. June 20, 2023 RTC Meeting Summary
(Attachment A)

ACTION ITEM

4. FY 2022-FY 2023 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Amendment
(Attachment B) Andy Taylor, Regional Planning and Analytics Manager

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

5. Member Comment/Other Matters
6. Next Meeting – August 15, 2023
7. Adjournment

Attendees can request additional aids or services, such as interpretation or assistive listening devices, by calling 303-480-6701 or emailing ckennedy@drcog.org. Please notify DRCOG at least 48 hours in advance so we can coordinate your request.

ATTACH A

ATTACHMENT A

MEETING SUMMARY REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE Tuesday, June 20, 2023

In-Person Meeting with Virtual Option for Public (via Zoom)

MEMBERS PRESENT:

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| Yessica Holguin | Colorado Department of Transportation |
| Eula Adams (Alternate) | Colorado Department of Transportation |
| Karen Stuart | Colorado Department of Transportation |
| Randy Weil | Denver Regional Council of Governments |
| Doug Rex | Denver Regional Council of Governments |
| Austin Ward | Denver Regional Council of Governments |
| Wynne Shaw (Vice-Chair) | Denver Regional Council of Governments |
| Steve Conklin (Chair) | Denver Regional Council of Governments |
| Brian Welch (Alternate) | Regional Transportation District |
| Bob Broom | Regional Transportation District |
| Vince Buzek | Regional Transportation District |
| Debra Johnson | Regional Transportation District |
| Jeff Kullman | Michael Baker International |

OTHERS (NON-VOTING OR VIRTUAL) PRESENT:

| | |
|----------------------------|--|
| Deborah Mulvey (Alternate) | Denver Regional Council of Governments |
| Ron Papsdorf (Alternate) | Denver Regional Council of Governments |
| Michael Guzman | Regional Transportation District |

Public: Rick Pilgrim, Keith Hall, Classic Wagner, Allison Cutting, Matthew McCarthy, Mac Callison, Patrick Stanley

DRCOG Staff: Sheila Lynch, Cam Kennedy, Sang Gu Lee, Nora Kern, Robert Spotts, Jacob Riger, Steve Cook, Emily Lindsey, Brad Williams, Emily Kleinfelter, Todd Cottrell, Aaron Villere, Max Monk, Ala Alnawaiseh, Josh Schwenk

Call to Order

Chair Steve Conklin called the meeting to order at 8:31 a.m.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Summary of May 16, 2023 Meeting

The summary was accepted.

INFORMATIONAL BRIEFING

Statewide Transportation Program Distribution

Alvan-Bidal Sanchez, Regional Transportation Program Manager, explained that Program Distribution is part of CDOT's Statewide Transportation Plan and outlines the assignment of forecast revenues to various program areas for the timeframe of the plan. Program Distribution provides a long-term view of estimated state and federal transportation revenues and how they will be allocated among programs and regions. Funding is broken into program areas and includes existing federal and state sources. Only funding that can be generated under current law and average economic conditions into the future is

included. Program Distribution serves as the foundation for the Financial Plan developed for the Regional Transportation Plan and available revenue for capital projects is determined through coordination with CDOT.

Mr. Ron Papsdorf provided context on why this was being presented today. With CDOT embarking on a conversation involving program distribution, the formulas for the different programs are crucial when considering funding. For example, a lane mile of arterial street in the Denver metro area is not the same as a lane mile of a rural state highway. Given the DRCOG region's significant portion of the state on multiple economic and mobility indicators, it is important to understand the funding implications for the region of this statewide process. This will be a several months long conversation at the Statewide Transportation Advisory Committee (STAC) and ultimately the Transportation Commission.

Mr. Eula Adams stated that CDOT is confronted with the dueling responsibilities of assisting in road work to serve rural needs while also addressing the burgeoning expansions seen in urban areas across Colorado. Even if rural roads are a lot less traveled, they are still critical to the communities, and organizations such as STAC have been tireless advocates for those areas.

Ms. Wynne Shaw stated that it is worth recognizing that even though the Denver metro area makes up over half of the total vehicle miles traveled in the state, it contains a little less than half of the fatalities.

ACTION ITEMS

TAC Special Interest Seats Appointments

Jacob Riger, Multimodal Transportation Planning Manager, presented that the recent Transportation Advisory Committee Guidelines update added three new special interest positions (non-motorized transportation, housing, and equity) on the TAC. Chair Conklin is recommending appointments for two of them. Staff will be conducting additional recruitment for the equity special interest position. These appointments will become effective with the June TAC meeting.

Mr. Austin Ward MOVED to approve the special interest member appointments to the Transportation Advisory Committee. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

FY 2022-2025 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendments

Josh Schwenk, Transportation Planner, explained that DRCOG's transportation planning process allows for Board-approved amendments to the current Transportation Improvement Program (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 in the TIP.

The TIP projects to be amended are shown below and have been found to conform with the State Implementation Plan for Air Quality.

TIP Amendments:

| TIP ID# | Sponsor | Title | Reason for Amendment | New/Removed Funding | Internal Funding Shifts |
|-------------|---------------|---|--|--|--|
| 2012-010 | DRCOG* | DRCOG Second Commitment to FasTracks | Transfer remaining funding for Southwest Extension | N/A | Transfer \$2,089,000 in federal Surface Transportation Block Grant funding to Mineral Station Area Multimodal Improvements |
| 2022-080 | CDOT Region 4 | I25 Segment 5: CO66-WCR38 | Add new funding | Add \$11,000,000 in state Legislative funding and \$185,282,000 in federal TIFIA loans | N/A |
| New Project | Littleton* | Mineral Ave Multimodal Improvements: Santa Fe-Jackass Hill/Long Ave | Transfer remaining funding for Southwest Extension | N/A | Transfer \$2,089,000 in federal Surface Transportation Block Grant funding from DRCOG Second Commitment to FasTracks |

Mr. Papsdorf inquired about the final remaining commitment in principle project. Mr. Schwenk replied that is the Central Corridor, and a proposal for those funds has not been received yet, so those funds remain in the second commitment in principle pool.

Mr. Austin Ward MOVED to recommend to the Board of Directors the attached project amendments to the *2022-2025 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)*. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

INFORMATIONAL BRIEFING

RTD Northwest Rail Peak Service Study

Jacob Riger, Multimodal Transportation Planning Manager, introduced Mr. Patrick Stanley, RTD Engineering Programs Manager, who explained that the Northwest Rail Peak Service Study is one year into its efforts to identify the requirements, costs, and operational needs to upgrade existing track, develop rail stations, and provide peak service to northwestern metropolitan communities, which include Arvada, Westminster, Broomfield, Louisville, Boulder, and Longmont. Findings and implementation recommendations from the Study will help RTD and partners determine the feasibility of extending rail service to the entire corridor through an initial peak service approach. The continuation of the Northwest Rail to Longmont also offers opportunities for possible partnerships with other agencies, such as the Front Range Passenger Rail District.

Ms. Deborah Mulvey inquired about the plan to reconcile different propulsion mechanisms since RTD operates on the electrified system and BNSF operates on diesel. Mr. Stanley stated that the Front Range Passenger Rail could run on a different technology than what RTD typically uses, so all options are on the table. GM/CEO Debra Johnson added that it

is all about the infrastructure and how best to optimize the opportunities presented. Technology is evolving and RTD is looking at a lot of potential systems this could operate on.

Mr. Ward inquired about what would be cost-prohibitive to RTD to implement Northwest Rail Peak Service. Mr. Stanley replied that a specific cost has not yet been defined, but the study is trying to determine the facts and parameters that would be associated with peak service.

Mr. Ward also asked about what a realistic timeline could be for peak period service vis-a-vis Front Range Passenger Rail. GM/CEO Johnson replied that RTD has to discern different funding opportunities relative to working through funding strategies with the Federal Railroad Administration and look at every option and opportunity to get this off the ground.

Mr. Bob Broom inquired if the ridership estimates are based on pre-Covid numbers or post-Covid numbers. Mr. Stanley stated that the information comes from pre-Covid numbers, but those estimates will be updated after more information is available to conclude how much ridership has changed since the pandemic.

Executive Director Doug Rex stated that regarding ridership and travel patterns, DRCOG is updating its regional travel demand forecasting model within the next three years since DRCOG is actively participating in CDOT's statewide household travel survey.

Executive Director Rex asked how many freight trains run on this corridor and how much of the corridor is double-tracked. Mr. Stanley replied that, on average, five trains run on it daily and very little, if any is double-tracked. Executive Director Rex stated he was encouraged by the survey results and the partnership that is developing between BNSF and RTD.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

Member Comment/Other Matters

- CDOT Report – Ms. Karen Stuart stated that the Colorado Transportation Investment Office (CTIO) is currently recruiting a new director, while an official announcement will soon be released regarding the new director for CDOT's Department of Transit and Rail. Lastly, starting tomorrow, Mountain Express Lanes will start to be enforced with a grace period during the first month. Ms. Yessica Holguin mentioned that CDOT is working to fine-tune the fee-based fiber access program and the work continues as CDOT works to finalize a proposed resolution.
- RTD Report – GM/CEO Debra Johnson stated that on June 22 at 10:00 a.m. there will be a media event at Denver Union Station near Track 7 to kick off the 2023 Zero Fare for Better Air program. During July and August, there will be zero fares on RTD services. On June 27, the RTD Board of Directors will consider the Respect the Ride initiative, which is an updated code of conduct for behavior and guidelines for the use of RTD services. Finally, RTD is committed to investing in its existing infrastructure; as an example, significant work is ongoing to improve the E-Line and R Line.

Mr. Brian Welch added that the Call for Projects Partnership Program is currently open and there is a lot of interest from the five subregional councils. RTD is also working on the Zero Emission Fleet and Facilities Plan which will be released later this year.

Mr. Vince Buzek stated his enthusiasm for the Respect the Ride initiative and congratulated RTD staff and leadership on the work that has gone into this program as it nears action by the RTD Board of Directors.

Executive Director Rex stated that DRCOG is initiating activities to create a regional housing strategy. The plan is to address this task in two phases, with the first phase completed by the end of this year and the second phase, being completed within 18 to 24 months. Phase one will involve DRCOG gathering as much data as possible to inform the legislature about ways in which they can help local governments with the complex issues surrounding housing.

Ms. Stuart suggested the Metro Mayors Caucus be brought in as a stakeholder. Heidi Williams, former mayor of Thornton, was just appointed as executive director of the caucus and she would be a fantastic point of contact since the caucus has been very organized and effective in addressing previous issues such as water and energy. Executive Director Rex agreed that the Metro Mayors Caucus will be a partner as well as Colorado Counties, Inc., and the Colorado Municipal League.

Ms. Stuart also congratulated Ms. Holguin on joining Mayor-elect Mike Johnston's transition team and mentioned that not only has she been a wonderful resource for CDOT, but she is also willing to help on DRCOG's housing initiative as well and would be a great point of contact.

Next Meeting – July 18, 2023

Adjournment

There were no additional comments from members. The meeting adjourned at 9:56 a.m.

ATTACH B

ATTACHMENT B

To: Chair and Members of the Regional Transportation Committee

From: Andy Taylor, Regional Planning and Analytics Manager
303-480-5636 or ataylor@drcog.org

| Meeting Date | Agenda Category | Agenda Item # |
|---------------|-----------------|---------------|
| July 18, 2023 | Action | 4 |

SUBJECT

FY 2022-FY 2023 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Amendment

PROPOSED ACTION/RECOMMENDATIONS

DRCOG staff recommends approval of the proposed amendment to the FY2022-FY2023 Unified Planning Work Program.

ACTION BY OTHERS

[June 26, 2023](#) – TAC recommended approval

SUMMARY

The Unified Planning Work Program is the two-year work program for the Denver Metropolitan Planning Organization and serves as the management tool for scheduling, budgeting, and monitoring the planning activities of participating entities. The *FY 2022-FY2023 Unified Planning Work Program* was adopted in July 2021 and most recently amended in May 2023.

Amendments to the UPWP are periodically necessary to adjust work to be performed to comply with changes to federal law or adjust to unanticipated planning needs or new priorities. This amendment includes the addition of an activity for coordinating planning for housing and transportation in alignment with language added by Congress through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (Sec. 11201.d) to the section of United States Code that governs Metropolitan Planning Organizations (23 USC 134(k)(4)) in order to address a regional planning priority.

This amendment is being recommended prior to the adoption of a new UPWP for federal fiscal years 2024 through 2025 so that efforts to initiate this work and procure consulting services can commence prior to October 1, 2023. It would be added immediately after Activity 3.9, which ends at the top of page 33.

PREVIOUS DISCUSSIONS/ACTIONS

[May 17, 2022 – Housing and the Regional Transportation Planning Process](#)

PROPOSED MOTION

Move to recommend to the DRCOG Board of Directors the amendment to the *FY 2022-FY 2023 Unified Planning Work Program*.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Proposed new section: Activity 3.10 Housing Coordination Planning
2. [FY 2022-2023 Unified Planning Work Program as adopted through May 17, 2023](#)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

If you need additional information please contact Andy Taylor, Regional Planning and Analytics Manager at (303) 480-5636 or ataylor@drcog.org.

Activity 3.10 Housing Coordination Planning

Purpose: Integrate of housing, transportation, and economic development strategies in the regional transportation planning process and Metro Vision.

Tasks:

- Assess regional housing needs and opportunities that have a significant role in growth, housing, and economic development patterns contributing to growth in regional travel demand.
- Consult with state entities responsible for economic development, housing, and transportation; local entities responsible for land use, economic development, housing, and transportation; as well as other appropriate entities, to identify current goals and strategies, as well as common issues and opportunities.
- Compare transportation plans to land use management plans, including zoning plans, that may affect road use, public transportation ridership and housing development while also identifying the location of existing and planned housing and employment, and transportation options that connect housing and employment.
- Develop a Housing-Transportation Coordination Plan that integrates housing, transportation and economic development strategies in the regional transportation planning process.
- Identify strategic priorities for potential integration in and coordination with the housing, economic development or transportation plans of state, local, and other appropriate entities, which include Metro Vision and the MVRTP.
- Procure consultant services to assist in housing coordination planning.

Participants: DRCOG (lead), local governments, CDOT