

# Board UPDATE



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April 16, 2014

The Board Update is a capsule report of action taken at the monthly meeting of the Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG) Board of Directors and includes other DRCOG news and events of interest. The Update is prepared especially for members of county commissions, city councils and town boards. More detailed information may be obtained from your jurisdiction's DRCOG representative or DRCOG staff at 303-455-1000.

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## **BOARD HOLDS PUBLIC HEARING ON REGIONAL PLAN AMENDMENTS**

The Board held a public hearing on proposed amendments to Metro Vision 2035, the Metro Vision 2035 Growth and Development Supplement, the 2035 Metro Vision Regional Transportation Plan and associated air quality conformity determinations.

Federal transportation planning requirements mandate before regionally significant transportation projects (e.g., one or more new lane miles or a new interchange) can be constructed, they must be identified in the current fiscally constrained Metro Vision Regional Transportation Plan, the 2035 MVRTP.

The amendments include the following.

### Regionally Significant Roadway Projects

- C-470 (Douglas County): New managed toll express lanes (Responsible Acceleration of Maintenance and Projects, or RAMP)
- I-70 (Mountain Corridor): Eastbound peak period toll express lane (RAMP)
- US 6/19<sup>th</sup> Street (Golden): New interchange (RAMP)
- SH 2 (Commerce City): Widening (RAMP)
- Bridge Street/I-76 (Brighton): New interchange
- Arapahoe Road/Jordan Road (Centennial): Grade separation

### Rapid Transit Projects (RTD)

- North Metro: Extend from 72<sup>nd</sup> Avenue to 124<sup>th</sup> Avenue
- I-225: Relocate Montview Station to Fitzsimons Parkway

The public hearing also provided an opportunity to comment on recommended revisions to urban centers recognized in Metro Vision 2035 for the purposes of modeling revised regional land use assumptions. An additional amendment would increase the maximum contiguous urban growth boundary/area (UGB/A) associated with a rural town center to three square miles.

Three people testified at the hearing, with their comments supporting the new managed toll express lanes on C-470 in Douglas County. The Board is scheduled to consider the proposed amendments at its May meeting.

## **2014-15 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM AMENDED**

Action taken by the Board amends the 2014-15 Unified Planning Work Program in the following areas: congestion management process, Metro Vision implementation program, the annual FasTracks assessment, FasTracks program management and planning assistance, regional modeling and forecasting, other major planning activities, and program financing tables. The

Unified Planning Work Program is developed biannually to detail transportation and development planning activities to be accomplished by DRCOG, CDOT, RTD and local governments.

## **EVALUATION CRITERIA APPROVED FOR THE 2040 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN**

As part of its continuing work to develop the Fiscally Constrained 2040 Regional Transportation Plan, the Board approved recommendations from the Metro Vision Issues Committee regarding evaluation criteria for the plan's roadway capacity projects pertaining to gap closure. Both new lane and widening projects are eligible to receive points for closing missing segments in the Board-adopted Regional Roadway System.

The plan, on track for adoption in December, will address transportation challenges and guide the development of a multimodal transportation system through the year 2040.

## **POSITIONS TAKEN ON STATE LEGISLATION**

Board members were updated on current state legislative issues and bills of regional concern or interest and gave direction to staff regarding DRCOG positions on specific bills. More information on the specific legislation and positions taken by the Board since the General Assembly convened Jan. 8 may be found in this issue of DRCOG Update.

## **BOARD BRIEFED ON CHANGES TO AGING PROGRAM**

The Board was updated on some changes the DRCOG Area Agency on Aging (AAA) is making in the way it does business as a result of the Affordable Care Act. DRCOG AAA Director Jayla Sanchez-Warren made the presentation. Notable among the changes are meeting the increasing need for the AAA's core services; creating new partnering opportunities; diversifying funding; capitalizing on our knowledge, skills and abilities; and developing business acumen.

## **REGIONAL BICYCLE SUMMIT SET MAY 1**

DRCOG is hosting a Regional Bicycle Summit from 8 a.m. to noon Thursday, May 1 at DRCOG. The Summit is set to look at bicycling statistics and trends in the region, the role of DRCOG and local jurisdictions in implementing bicycle projects, the Green Lane Project, and protected bike lane projects in Denver. For more information, contact Melina Dempsey at 303-380-5628 or [mdempsey@drcog.org](mailto:mdempsey@drcog.org).

## **JOINT REGIONAL DRCOG AND CDOT MEETING MAY 12**

DRCOG is joining state transportation officials at a **5-7 p.m. Monday, May 12** meeting to take input on local and regional transit and human service transportation needs in the Denver region and across the state. The meeting will be held at Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) Headquarters, Shumate Building, 4201 E. Arkansas Ave. The open house focuses on CDOT's Statewide Transit Plan and DRCOG's 2040 Metro Vision Regional Transportation Plan, and RTD officials will be present as well.

CDOT's Statewide Transit Plan is expected to be completed early this summer, when it will be integrated into a statewide transportation plan. Comments provided at the region's meeting will

be included in the plan. DRCOG's 2040 Metro Vision Regional Transportation Plan is anticipated to be final by the end of the year.

For more information: <http://bit.ly/cdottransit>.

#### **NEXT IDEA EXCHANGE SET MAY 14**

Join us! DRCOG will host its next Metro Vision Idea Exchange titled Urban Centers: Making it Work in Not-so-Urban Places **Wednesday, May 14**. Louisville, Castle Rock and Centennial staff will share local examples of programs, initiatives, and regulatory efforts to enhance and promote sustainable development in a variety of contexts. [Learn more](#) about the event and register.