

Board UPDATE



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July 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 APPROVES 2040 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN NETWORKS FOR AIR QUALITY MODELING

The Board approved the 2040 Regional Transportation Plan fiscally constrained roadway capacity and rapid transit projects and staging networks for air quality conformity modeling. The Regional Transportation Committee must concur with the Board's action before air quality modeling can begin.

DRCOG is updating its existing 2035 Regional Transportation Plan (2035 RTP) to the new 2040 RTP. To meet federal fiscal constraint and air quality conformity requirements, the 2040 RTP must: identify regionally significant roadway capacity and rapid transit projects; demonstrate revenues will be reasonably expected to fund these projects through 2040 (fiscal constraint); and identify the implementation period of each project for air quality conformity modeling purposes. Board action is needed to allow air quality conformity modeling to begin.

Board adoption of the 2040 Regional Transportation Plan is scheduled later this year or early 2015.

ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION AMENDED

The Board amended DRCOG's Articles of Association to address Board officer vacancies. Specifically, the Board's action now allows an incumbent vice chair to be appointed to fill a vacancy at chair and retain the position for an additional one-year term. Previously, the Articles allowed each officer to serve a one-year term.

The Board took the action as a way to address a current vacancy at chair, due to the recent resignation of Jack Hilbert. Hilbert, who was elected chair in February, left public office to take a position with the State of Colorado. The Board is expected to finalize its officer line up later this summer. In the interim, Vice Chair Jackie Millet, Lone Tree mayor pro tem, is chairing meetings.

TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM POLICY DOCUMENT APPROVED

The Board adopted the Policy on Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Preparation, Procedures for Preparing the 2016-2021 TIP, which will be used as the basis for selecting projects for the upcoming 2016-2021 TIP Call for Projects.

The TIP Policy sets forth the "rules" for all items relating to the TIP, including how the TIP will be developed, how DRCOG will select projects, eligibility of projects, and how amendments will be processed. Project funding requests can be solicited with the adoption of the TIP Policy.

The Regional Transportation Committee must concur with the Board's action before a Call for Projects can be initiated.

METRO VISION 2040 AD HOC COMMITTEES FORMED

This action taken by the Board creates two ad hoc groups of Board members and Board alternates. The first ad hoc group will explore integrating housing into Metro Vision 2040 while the other will examine economic vitality and its place in Metro Vision 2040. The ad hoc groups will review the data and information gathered during a recent nine-month discovery and assess the merit and support for integrating housing and economic vitality into Metro Vision 2040.

The Board is expected to approve ad hoc committee rosters in August, with both groups to begin meeting by late summer. Metro Vision 2040 adoption is anticipated by June 2015.

BOARD BRIEFED ON URBANSIM LAND USE MODEL IMPLEMENTATION

This agenda item updated the Board on DRCOG's new land use model, UrbanSim. DRCOG uses land use and travel models to help local officials plan for the future. DRCOG Regional Economist Daniel Jerrett told the Board UrbanSim combines urban economics, land use and real estate development theory into a series of models that can simulate individual choices. For instance, UrbanSim models the choices households make, such as to rent or own, single-family, multi-family or apartment, and location choice within the region. It also models choices of businesses in the region regarding where new employees will locate, and which existing businesses will choose to relocate and where. Finally, it models real estate developer choices such as supply/demand interactions to produce price signals, and land prices, zoning and existing building to determine where developers will build.

UrbanSim and DRCOG's Focus travel model can exchange information to reflect changes to the regional transportation plan over the forecast period and scenarios can be run to test various alternative transportation plans. DRCOG has been working to implement UrbanSim since 2012; model development finished in April 2014, and UrbanSim will begin to support the Focus travel model as well as other planning initiatives, including Metro Vision 2040.

FLO RAITANO APPOINTED ACTING SENIOR MANAGING DIRECTOR

Executive Director Jennifer Schaufele announced the appointment of Dr. Florine (Flo) Raitano as acting senior managing director. In the new leadership position, Raitano will help make recommendations on long-range activities; become actively involved in all agency programs and services; identify opportunities to leverage cross-program strengths; develop stronger teams through feedback, coaching and mentoring; develop and maintain collaborative external relationships; and carry out the duties and responsibilities of the executive director in her absence. Raitano previously served as DRCOG's special projects manager where she has been involved with the organization's Sustainable Communities Initiative grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and Metro Vision 2040 regional plan activities.

Twice elected mayor of Dillon, Raitano has extensive local government and public sector experience. She has served as executive director of the Colorado Rural Development Council and the I-70 Coalition. In addition, she was appointed by Gov. Bill Ritter in 2007 to the Technical Advisory Committee for the Blue Ribbon Panel on Transportation Finance and Implementation.