

Board UPDATE

Dec. 17, 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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FIRST PHASE PROJECTS SELECTED FOR DRAFT 2016-21 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

The Board approved a list of first phase projects to include in the draft 2016-2021 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), which identifies all current federally funded transportation projects to be completed in the Denver region over a six-year period with federal, state or local funds. The TIP features first and second phase funding and these first phase projects, in the categories of bicycle and pedestrian, transit service, transit passenger facility, roadway capacity, roadway operational improvements, and roadway reconstruction, were chosen according to Board-established criteria for eligibility, completeness and scoring, and affirmed by a peer review panel. The action taken by the Board also directs the allocation of any remaining first phase funding to second phase.

A total of \$573 million in federal funds was requested through the TIP, and it is estimated \$175 million will be available to fund project requests. In the first phase, which accounts for up to 75 percent of available funds, projects are selected directly from score-ranked lists of funding requests by project type. The remaining 25 percent of funds are programmed in second phase, which considers other criteria in addition to project score.

The Board is developing the 2016-21 TIP and will hold a public hearing on the document in February. Adoption is scheduled for the Board's March meeting.

POLICY ON TIP PREPARATION PROCEDURES AMENDED

As follow up to its July action approving the Policy on TIP Preparation, the Board amended the policy to reflect second phase selection criteria recommended by MVIC. TIP projects selected as part of the 2016-21 call for projects will be selected in two phases. While first phase projects are selected directly from score-ranked lists of funding requests by project type, second phase projects are reviewed using other criteria.

The second phase selection criteria approved by the Board are divided into two tiers.

Tier 1

- Very small communities
- County funding equity status and ratio

Tier 2

- TIP score points
- Multijurisdictional projects
- Projects not eligible for first phase

- Number of sponsor projects selected in first phase
- First and last mile connections

BOARD CONSIDERS TIP PROJECT DELAY CHANGES IN TIP POLICY; GRANTS VARIANCE TO A WHEAT RIDGE PROJECT

The Board discussed amending the 2012-2017 and 2016-2021 Policy on TIP Preparation regarding delayed projects, deciding to continue discussions further at its next meeting. The Board granted a variance in the TIP Policy to allow the City of Wheat Ridge's Kipling Multi-use Trail Project to continue.

POLICY STATEMENT ON 2015 STATE LEGISLATIVE ISSUES ADOPTED

The Board approved a policy statement on issues with the potential to be considered by the Colorado General Assembly in 2015, setting the framework for DRCOG's state legislative program. The policy statement covers the topics of regional planning and development, transportation, human services, the environment, and intergovernmental relations, highlighting DRCOG's position on a number of issues.

BOARD SETS JAN. 21 PUBLIC HEARING

The DRCOG Board will hold a public hearing at its Jan. 21 meeting, beginning at 6:30 p.m., on the draft 2040 Fiscally Constrained Regional Transportation Plan and associated air quality conformity documents. The fiscally constrained plan defines the transportation elements and services the region anticipates being able to fund with known and forecast revenues. More information on the hearing and an opportunity to comment on the plan, the DRCOG CO and PM10 Conformity Determination, and the Denver Southern Subarea 8-hour Ozone Conformity Determination can be found at <https://drcog.org/node/3668>.

BOARD BRIEFED ON METRO VISION 2040

Board members received a brief update on the development of Metro Vision 2040, including an outline of the upcoming Board input and review process. Board members will receive a working draft of the new plan at their January meeting.

The 2012 and 2013 Board workshops shaped the effort to update Metro Vision when staff was directed to consult and engage numerous entities, and to consider new issues not previously included, such as housing economic development and community resiliency. Over the past few years, the public, stakeholders and local government staff have been engaged to lay the foundation for Metro Vision 2040. The Board also established two new committees, the Metro Vision Planning Advisory Committee and the Citizens Advisory Committee, and specifically charged them to work with staff and advise the Board on Metro Vision development and implementation.

The Metro Vision review schedule includes the following key milestones.

- January 2015 – Working draft transmitted to Board
- February 2015 – Metro Vision Issues Committee (MVIC) and Board review session #1
- March 2015 -- MVIC and Board review session #2
- April 2015 -- MVIC and Board review session #3
- May 2015 – Public Hearing
- June 2015 – MVIC and Board action

DRAFT POLICY STATEMENT ON 2015 FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE ISSUES PRESENTED

The Board received a draft policy statement on issues expected to come before Congress in 2015. The Board is being asked to review and provide comments on the policy statement, which covers a range of federal legislative issues. The Board is expected to act on the policy statement at its January meeting.

BOARD MEMBERS HONORED FOR DRCOG SERVICE

Greenwood Village Mayor Ron Rakowsky, Federal Heights Mayor Joyce Thomas, Commerce City Councilman Jim Benson and Thornton Council Member Val Vigil were each recognized for observing five-year service anniversaries on the DRCOG Board. DRCOG Chair Jackie Millet presented each Board member with a commemorative clock.

SAVE THE DATE: DRCOG AWARDS EVENT AND DIAMOND ANNIVERSARY

Please save the evening of **April 22** on your calendars for DRCOG's Awards Event, a celebration of the region as a great place to live, work and play. It's also DRCOG's 60th anniversary! The event will be held at the Seawell Ballroom in the Denver Center for the Performing Arts Complex. Please watch for more information coming soon.

NOMINATE OUTSTANDING REGIONALISTS

Remember: the deadline for nominations for DRCOG's highest honor, the John V. Christensen Memorial Award, is **Jan. 30, 2015**. Established in 1972, the award is presented to the person best exemplifying the tradition of the late John V. Christensen in promoting and working for regionalism and cooperation. He was an Arapahoe County commissioner and one of DRCOG's founders in 1955. Former DRCOG Chair and Littleton Council Member James A. Taylor received the award in 2014.

Award nominations may be submitted online at www.drcog.org. Questions about the award may be directed to Connie Garcia at cgarcia@drcog.org or 303-480-6701.

This year's recipient will be announced and honored at DRCOG's 60th Anniversary and Awards Event April 22 at the Seawell Ballroom, 1400 Curtis, in the Denver Center for the Performing Arts Complex.

NOMINATIONS OPEN FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT AWARDS

Jan. 30, 2015, is also the deadline for nominations for the DRCOG Local Government Awards program. The awards, to be presented at DRCOG's April 22 event, focus on the efforts of local governments to help achieve the goals of Metro Vision. The award categories include:

- **Action**, which will recognize a Metro Vision project, program or plan that has been completed or implemented.
- **Planning for economic development**, which will honor exceptional contributions to regional economic development through innovative municipal and county efforts to create vibrant and vital places where people live, work and play.
- **Community livability**, which will focus attention on efforts by local governments to attract and serve people of all ages through mobility and access, housing and community living, helping current residents age in place.

Visit www.drcog.org for information about the awards and nomination forms that can be completed and submitted online. For more information on the program, please contact Rich Mauro at 303-480-6778 or rmauro@drcog.org or Brad Calvert at 303-480-6839 or bcalvert@drcog.org.

WAY TO GO CHAMPION AWARD NOMINATIONS SOUGHT

Way to Go Champion Awards honor metro area businesses, organizations and individuals for their commitment to commuting alternatives. The **Way to Go Employer Champion Awards** honor innovation and initiative in workplace programs and practices that encourage employees to choose commute options that are healthier, more affordable and improve traffic congestion and air quality. The **Way to Go Commuter Champion Awards** recognize individuals, and are open to anyone who demonstrates leadership, innovation and achievement in commute options.

Visit www.drcog.org for more information and to submit a nomination. The nomination deadline is **4 p.m. Friday, Jan. 30, 2015**, with award winners to be honored at the DRCOG Awards Event April 22 at the Seawell Ballroom in the Denver Center for the Performing Arts Complex.

Questions about the Way to Go Champion Awards may be directed to Colleen Miller at cmiller@drcog.org or 303-480-6764.