

Board UPDATE



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June 25, 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 MAKES COMMITMENT IN PRINCIPLE TOWARD I-70 EAST RECONSTRUCTION

The DRCOG Board showed its support for the I-70 East reconstruction project by establishing a commitment in principle to contribute up to \$50 million in DRCOG-controlled federal funding over the next two Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) cycles, but within CDOT's construction timeframe (2016-2021). The Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) requested the action in a letter to the Board from Executive Director Don Hunt and Transportation Commission Chair Douglas Aden.

After more than a decade of study, CDOT is completing the final steps of an Environmental Impact Statement and identifying funding sources to begin construction in 2016. The money from DRCOG for the vital regional travel corridor is one element of CDOT's total funding package for the project.

This commitment in principle is similar to action taken by the Board to support FasTracks financially, beginning in 2004.

BOARD CONSIDERS 2040 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN NETWORKS FOR AIR QUALITY MODELING; WILL CONTINUE DISCUSSION IN JULY

The Board discussed the 2040 Regional Transportation Plan draft fiscally constrained roadway capacity and rapid transit projects, and asked DRCOG staff to bring a revised list of roadway capacity projects back to the Board for further consideration in July based on certain parameters. Specifically, the Board gave direction to staff on funding assumptions for two projects, and asked staff to revise the project list based on a couple different matching funds assumptions that would allow federal funds to flow to more projects, pending Federal Highway Administration approval of such assumptions.

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.

REGIONAL INTELLIGENT TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS DEPLOYMENT PROGRAM ADOPTED

The Board adopted the *Regional Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) Deployment Program*, which guides the investment of \$3.68 million in federal funds through the TIP for regional ITS programs over the next four years. The Board's action allows 10 sponsors to proceed with projects that improve regional transportation operations. The funded projects have the collective goal of improving travel reliability for all modes by making the various systems in the region work better together and perform at their optimum level. A key focus in achieving this goal is reducing the impact of traffic incidents. Projects include travel time monitoring on transportation corridors, incident management, data coordination, and ramp metering.

The 2012-2017 TIP includes an annual funding pool for regional ITS programs, with \$825,000 available each year for fiscal years 2014 and 2015 and additional project savings of \$423,000. A similar level of funding is projected for 2016 and 2017.

2012-2017 TIP AMENDED

The Board amended the 2012-2017 TIP to reflect routine quarterly amendments. A dynamic document, the TIP is amended to modify current projects or add new ones as more implementation details are known. Amendments typically involve the deletion and addition of tasks or adjustments, and do not impact other projects in the TIP.

The amendments approved by the Board include increasing funds for both the CDOT Region 1 FASTER Transit Pool and the Region 6 (formerly) Bridge On-System Pool. An additional amendment reprograms the use of the DRCOG Second Commitment in Principle funds from the Peoria/Smith station to double tracking along the East Corridor. Total funding remains unchanged.

METRO VISION 2035 GOAL STATUS UPDATE AND METRO VISION 2040 PREVIEW

This item updated the Board on the region's progress on goals established in Metro Vision 2035. The Board adopted a major update of Metro Vision 2035 in February 2011 to include a focus on sustainability. The Board defined sustainability for the region by identifying a series of measurable goals the region should achieve by 2035. A [Regional Snapshot](#) summarizing the most recent data available to report progress on adopted Metro Vision 2035 goals was distributed at the meeting.

Staff also provided a brief summary of recent activities and the anticipated process to engage the Board in the development of Metro Vision 2040. Over the next several months, staff will seek input from the Metro Vision Issues Committee and the Board to prepare key elements of Metro Vision 2040 for Board consideration in 2015.

CHAIR JACK HILBERT RESIGNS

Douglas County Commissioner and DRCOG Chair Jack Hilbert has resigned his DRCOG post. He is resigning as Douglas County commissioner on July 13 to accept a position with the Colorado Department of Human Services' Child Welfare Protection Division. The DRCOG Board will discuss chair succession at its July meeting.

LOCAL DATA RELATIONSHIP TO REGIONAL DECISION-MAKING EXPLORED

The Board received an overview of the types of local data DRCOG collects and how that data affects such important regional initiatives as the measurement of Metro Vision goals, qualification for TIP funding, and job forecasts at the local level, to name a few. DRCOG is introducing a new website to improve data exchange with the region's jurisdictions.