

Board UPDATE

May 21, 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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METRO VISION 2035 AMENDED

The Board adopted amendments to the Metro Vision 2035 Plan, including the Growth and Development Supplement, pertaining to Urban Centers and Rural Town Centers. The amendments to urban centers recognized in Metro Vision included adjustments to two existing centers, both in the City and County of Broomfield, and a new center – Downtown Littleton. In addition, the action by the Board revises the designation criteria for rural town centers. The change increases the maximum contiguous urban growth boundary/area (UGB/A) associated with a rural town center to three square miles. A public hearing on the amendments was held in April.

2035 METRO VISION REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN AMENDED

The Board amended the 2035 Metro Vision Regional Transportation Plan, with the action incorporating Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) RAMP-funded projects, Regional Transportation District (RTD) FasTracks changes and local government projects. The amendments represent fiscally constrained regionally significant projects with no impact on air quality conformity.

Federal transportation planning requirements mandate that 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 6/19th 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 72nd Avenue to 124th Avenue
- I-225: Relocate Montview Station to Fitzsimons Parkway

A public hearing on the amendments was held in April.

BOARD NIXES PROPOSAL PERTAINING TO MAP-21 REAUTHORIZATION

The Board also considered, but decided not to support a legislative proposal related to the reauthorization of MAP-21. MAP-21, the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act, is a funding and authorization bill to govern United States federal surface transportation spending. The proposal the Board deliberated would give metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs) the flexibility to voluntarily use federal transportation dollars for investment in transit-oriented development (TOD). While some Board members agreed with the flexibility the proposal provides, others expressed the view it would add further competition for limited federal transportation dollars.

BOARD CONFIRMS METRO VISION ISSUES COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

The Board confirmed Chair Jack Hilbert's appointments to the Metro Vision Issues Committee (MVIC) for June 2014-May 2015. Appointments occur annually to MVIC, which is composed of 28 Board members and alternates. Appointments are considered, based on the criteria, committee description and interest in serving. Members represent a cross-section of the membership.

CDOT REPORTS ON THE FUTURE OF TRANSPORTATION PROJECT FUNDING

CDOT Director of the Office of Government Relations Herman Stockinger and High Performance Transportation Enterprise Director Michael Cheroutes addressed the Board on the new era of transportation funding. [View](#) the presentation.

RTD ANNUAL REPORT TO DRCOG

RTD Planning Project Manager Susan Wood presented RTD's FasTracks Annual Status Report for the Board's information. The report summarizes FasTracks' schedule and financial status. RTD will provide additional detailed information in its 2014 FasTracks Plan Baseline Report in August, per the Board's established policy for FasTracks review as amended by resolution in 2013.

REPORT ON SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES INITIATIVE

Sustainable Communities Initiative (SCI) Executive Committee Member Craig Carlson briefed the Board on the activities related to enhancing economic opportunity that are being conducted as part of the SCI. He provided an overview of work on FasTracks corridor catalytic site and technical assistance projects currently underway through SCI.

SUE HORN HONORED FOR DRCOG SERVICE

2013 Board Chair Sue Horn was recognized for her service to DRCOG with the presentation of a leadership plaque by Chair Jack Hilbert. He noted her service and thanked her for her leadership during a very busy year for DRCOG. During her tenure as chair, DRCOG made progress on Sustainable Communities Initiative activities and organizational development efforts were launched, in addition to other accomplishments, such as successful advocacy for aging funding.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION WRAP UP

Board members received information on the highlights of the 2014 legislative session and special session, which just wrapped up May 7. A successful session for DRCOG, all but one of the bills the Board supported was passed and every bill the Board opposed failed to pass. The 15 bills on which positions were taken were of special interest because of an identified impact on member governments or the regional programs administered by DRCOG. One of the most significant achievements was the successful DRCOG-led effort to increase state funding of senior services by \$4.5 million. With its share of this increase, DRCOG will be able to more effectively meet the growing needs for services in the Denver region. The summary attached to this issue of *DRCOG Update* highlights the other significant pieces of legislation for DRCOG during the session.

SCI SPRING SYMPOSIUM SET MAY 29

Plan to attend the SCI Spring Symposium May 29 to discuss the topic of Housing and Transit: Moving toward Opportunity. The event will be held from 8:30-11:30 a.m. Thursday, May 29 at the Denver Housing Authority's Mulroy Opportunity Center, 3550 W. 13th Ave, conveniently located to the Knox stop on the W light rail line. [Learn more and register](#) by visiting the DRCOG website. Registration opens at 8 a.m. and a light breakfast will be served.

JOIN US FOR THE SECOND SCI QUARTERLY MEETING

Tuesday, June 10 is the date for the second SCI Consortium quarterly meeting. It will be held from 9-11 a.m. at DRCOG in the Independence Pass meeting room. Updates on all SCI activities will be given. In addition, participants will discuss two topics generating a lot of interest. They include:

- How communities and providers of sustainability services can work more effectively to identify opportunities and effective strategies, and
- How corridor and regional planning efforts can better integrate public health, environmental quality and the built environment.

To learn more about the meeting and register, please visit the [website](#).

DATE CHANGE FOR JUNE BOARD MEETING

The DRCOG Board of Directors will meet at **6:30 p.m. Wednesday, June 25**.

REGISTER NOW FOR BIKE TO WORK DAY

The Denver region's Bike to Work Day is set **June 25** and registration is now open on DRCOG's new Bike to Work Day website at <http://biketowork2014.org/>. More than 7,000 local residents have already registered for the event on the site, which provides information on breakfast and bike home stations, route planning, bike-related events throughout the region and details on ordering the popular event t-shirt. When people pledge to participate by registering on the website, they are eligible for prize drawings, plus they provide data that supports policy-making efforts. It also supports two goals the DRCOG Board has set forward as key in Metro Vision – reducing single-occupant vehicle trips to work from 74 percent to 65 percent and reducing daily vehicle miles traveled per capita by 10 percent. DRCOG's Way to Go program plans the annual event with assistance from a team of public and private partners. This event is the second-largest of its kind in the nation and one of the reasons we're seeing large numbers of new bike commuters every year!