

Board UPDATE



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Nov. 12, 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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MEMBERS OF NOMINATING COMMITTEE APPOINTED

Leading up to officer elections in February, a Nominating Committee has been appointed to recommend the organization's 2014 officers and Board members to serve on the Administrative Committee. Nominating Committee members include Arvada Council Member Bob Fifer, Boulder Council Member Suzanne Jones, Denver Council Member Chris Nevitt, Centennial Mayor Cathy Noon, Douglas County Commissioner Roger Partridge and Longmont Council Member Gabe Santos.

2014 FASTRACKS BASELINE REVIEW AND DETERMINATION REPORT APPROVED

The Board approved DRCOG's 2014 FasTracks Baseline Review and Determination Report. RTD submitted, and DRCOG reviewed, the 2014 FasTracks Baseline Report per resolution adopted by the DRCOG Board in 2013. That resolution required RTD to submit the 2014 FasTracks Baseline Report, as well as "Change Reports," whenever RTD proposes major changes to FasTracks. DRCOG reviews all RTD FasTracks submittals for criteria established by the DRCOG Board in 2004. Similarly, State Senate Bill 90-208 (SB-208) directs DRCOG to review and approve the method of financing and technology prior to RTD's construction of any rapid transit corridor, including FasTracks.

RTD's 2014 FasTracks Baseline Report noted two major changes to FasTracks.

- The completion year for the Southeast Extension has advanced from the 2030-2035 timeframe to a 2019 opening, and
- Northwest Rail Line trains will not initially stop at the 41st/Fox or Pecos Junction stations (shared with the Gold Line). RTD will re-evaluate this operational change after one year of service in this configuration. The re-evaluation will take place in 2017 and involve consultation with the concessionaire and area stakeholders.

Both changes will be reflected in the DRCOG travel model networks. The Southeast Extension opening day change will also be identified in the 2040 Regional Transportation Plan. DRCOG's Review and Determination Report concluded no further action on these changes is needed.

2015 DRCOG BUDGET APPROVED

The Board of Directors approved the 2015 DRCOG Budget, a fiscal guide for the operation of DRCOG from Jan. 1 – Dec. 31, 2015, with amendments. The budget highlights work activities in the DRCOG Metropolitan Planning Organization's Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), the Area Agency on Aging, the Communications and Marketing Division, Executive Office and Administration and Finance. The operating budget is estimated at \$18.7 million. In addition, the regional council will pass grants through totaling approximately \$12 million.

BOARD ASKS STAFF TO RE-EXAMINE TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM POLICY

The City of Wheat Ridge updated Board members on the status of its Kipling Multi-use Trail Project, which had been allocated federal transportation funding through the 2012-2017 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The project's funding has been retracted, due to the city's inability to meet Board-established TIP deadlines to keep projects moving that are using scarce regional resources. The city has been working with DRCOG and the Colorado Department of Transportation on how best to continue moving the project forward and appeared before the Board to ask for its consideration. The Board directed staff to re-examine the policy so that it does not require repayment of federal dollars and to lay out the time period for delay with good cause. Staff will report back to the Board in December.

BOARD DISCUSSES TIP SECOND-PHASE PROJECT POLICY

As follow up to its July action approving the Policy on Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Preparation, Procedures for Preparing the 2016-21 TIP, the Board discussed selection criteria for second-phase projects, as recommended by the Metro Vision Issues Committee. The Board will continue its discussion in December, and is expected to take action on the policy then.

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. TIP projects selected as part of the 2016-21 call for projects will be selected in two phases. In the first phase, projects are selected directly from the score-ranked lists of funding requests by project type. Up to 75 percent of available funds will be programmed in this first phase. The remaining 25 percent of funds are programmed in second phase, with other criteria being considered in addition to project score. The Board must decide on the other criteria that will be used to select second-phase projects, and amend the TIP Policy to include the criteria.

DRAFT POLICY STATEMENT ON 2015 STATE LEGISLATIVE ISSUES PRESENTED

The Board received a draft policy statement on issues expected to come before the Colorado General Assembly in 2015. The Board is being asked to review and provide comments on the policy statement, which covers the topics of regional planning and development, transportation, human services, the environment, and intergovernmental relations. The Board will act on the policy statement at its December meeting.

DECEMBER BOARD MEETING BEGINS AT 4 P.M.

The Dec. 17 Board of Directors meeting will begin at 4 p.m., to be followed by an open house at 6 p.m. showcasing DRCOG programs and projects.

NOMINATE OUTSTANDING REGIONALISTS

The nomination period is now open for DRCOG's highest honor, the John V. Christensen Memorial Award. Nominations are due no later than **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.

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 the deadline for nominations for the DRCOG Local Government Awards program. The awards, to be presented at DRCOG's April 22 awards event, focus on the efforts of local governments to help achieve the goals of Metro Vision. The award categories, new this year, 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 COMMUTER CHAMPION AWARD NOMINATIONS SOUGHT

Way to Go Commuter 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 the www.drcog.org for more information and to submit a nomination; look for the awards program icon on the home page. 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.

METRO VISION IDEA EXCHANGE SET FOR DEC. 15

Mark your calendars for DRCOG's upcoming Metro Vision Idea Exchange set from **10 a.m. to noon Dec. 15** at DRCOG. As part of the Metro Vision 2040 Plan, DRCOG has scheduled a number of Idea Exchanges, opportunities for member government land use and transportation planners, local elected officials, other local government staff and stakeholders from the private sector to share information and ideas, and learn about best practices that support Metro Vision

goals. Speakers from the City and County of Denver, Adams County and Tri-County Health Department will be sharing their experiences conducting health impact assessments (HIA). [Learn more and register](#). Application for AICP credits is in progress.