

Board UPDATE



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July 15, 2015

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 BRIEFED ON AIR QUALITY PLANNING, OZONE STANDARDS

Regional Air Quality Commission (RAQC) Director Ken Lloyd reviewed for the Board how ozone is created, and some of the history of the Denver Metro/North Front Range (DMNFR) area's challenge in meeting EPA standards for this pollutant. Under the current emissions budget for the 2008 8-hour ozone standard (75 parts per billion), the DMNFR area is classified as marginal nonattainment and had a deadline of December 31, 2015 to reach attainment (determined from monitor readings over a three-year period of 2013-2015). The attainment deadline was changed to July 20, 2015, which effectively changes the determination period to 2012-2014. As a result, the DMNFR area will not attain the ozone standard by the deadline and will be raised to moderate nonattainment with a new attainment date of July 20, 2018. Lloyd reviewed the timeline for developing the State Implementation Plan for Ozone for the DMNFR area, and cautioned the Board that a new, more stringent, ozone standard is likely to be established by the EPA.

TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM AMENDED

The Board amended the 2016-2021 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), which is done on an as-needed basis. Current amendments include changes in project name, limits, scope and increased funding for FasTracks North Metro: Denver Union Station to Eastlake/124th Ave (from FasTracks North Metro: Denver Union Station to 72nd Ave); revised funding table for FasTracks Corridor Extension Lincoln Ave to RidgeGate; and an update to project scope and increase in project funds for the I-70 East Reconstruction project to be consistent with the State Transportation Improvement Program.

FY2016-FY2017 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM APPROVED

The Board approved the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) for FY2016-FY2017, a federally required document that outlines planning tasks and activities to be conducted within the region with federal transportation planning funds. The document also lists major planning activities performed by local governments and partner agencies, and as such was prepared with input from local government staff, CDOT and RTD. Priorities over the next two years include:

- Complete a MAP-21 compliant Metropolitan Planning Agreement between DRCOG, CDOT and RTD
- Complete an update to the Prospectus, Transportation Planning in the Denver Area
- Prepare an update to the Public Involvement in Regional Transportation Planning document

- Prepare report on status and impacts of DRCOG transportation planning and programming with environmental justice
- Complete the Metro Vision Update (including the 2040 Metro Vision Regional Transportation Plan); track progress on performance measures
- Conduct a regional freight movement study
- Develop a regional active transportation plan
- Urban Growth Boundary/Area (UGB/A) update
- Maintain the TIP and develop MAP-21 compliant reporting
- Maintain the transportation operations program
- Develop safety reports (traffic, as well as a pedestrian and bicycle report)
- Update the Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan
- Coordinate the 2016 Denver Regional Aerial Photography Project
- Maintain and enhance land use and transportation forecasting models

TIMING FOR ADOPTION OF BUDGET, WORK PROGRAM, BOARD WORKSHOP ALIGNED

Based on recommendations from staff, the Board approved a motion to synchronize the timing of the adoption of DRCOG's annual Work Program and the Annual Budget, adopting them together no later than November beginning this year, and moving the Board Workshop into the fall instead of its traditional February time slot beginning in 2016. This will provide a more complete picture of how funding aligns with current and planned projects and activities.

STRATEGIC PLANNING MODEL

DRCOG Organizational Development Director Jerry Stigall presented the Strategic Planning Model, which provides the framework for aligning established Metro Vision outcomes to the actions and activities needed to further desired outcomes. It will serve as the basis for monitoring, measuring and reporting on progress toward Metro Vision outcomes.

BOARD PORTAL INTRODUCED

DRCOG Communications and Marketing Director Steve Erickson walked the Board through a new section of drcog.org where tools and resources for Board use are housed. Credentials for logging into this portion of the site were sent in an email the following day; if you have questions or have had difficulty accessing this portion of the site contact Steve Erickson at 303-480-6716 or serickson@drcog.org.

MILLET HONORED FOR SERVICE

At the Board meeting DRCOG Chair and Lone Tree Mayor Pro Tem Jackie Millet was presented with a commemorative clock and recognized for having completed five years of regional service.

BOARD ORIENTATION AUG. 13

Board members, alternates, local elected officials and member government staff are invited to attend a Board orientation Thursday, Aug. 13. The session is meant to give an in-depth introduction to the roles and function of DRCOG, as well as an overview of current projects and initiatives. The orientation will be held at 4 p.m. in the Independence Pass conference room on the first floor: please RSVP to Board Coordinator Connie Garcia at cgarcia@drcog.org or 303-480-6701 if you plan to attend.

