

Board UPDATE



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April 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 ADOPTS 2016-2021 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM, ASSOCIATED AIR QUALITY DOCUMENTS

The Board adopted the 2016-2021 TIP, which lays out how federal funding is programmed to transportation projects in the Denver metro area over the next six years. The Board also adopted air quality conformity documents that demonstrate how the DRCOG and Upper Front Range regions will continue to meet all federally-prescribed pollutant emissions tests.

The TIP, subject of a public hearing before the Board in March, includes projects by the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT), RTD and DRCOG, each with their own selection process and funding sources. The document is the culmination of 18 months of work by the DRCOG Board, staff and committees that includes the policy document, call for projects and project selection.

The document's roadway and transit networks were modeled for air quality conformity and the results were used by the state Air Pollution Control Division to calculate pollutant emissions. All pollutant emissions tests were passed, as shown in the air quality conformity documents (*DRCOG CO and PM10 Conformity Determination* and *Denver Southern Subarea 8-hour Ozone Conformity Determination*).

BOARD MOVES FORWARD ON TIP TRANSPORTATION DEMAND MANAGEMENT POOL

The Board approved evaluation criteria, eligibility rules and the selection process for projects to be funded through the DRCOG Transportation Demand Management (TDM) Pool set-aside program of the 2016-2021 TIP.

As part of the *Policy on TIP Preparation for the 2016-2021 TIP*, the Board established several off-the-top set-aside programs, with one being the TDM Pool. Traditionally DRCOG allocates funds from the pool to specific projects every two years. TIP policy establishes \$3.2 million in federal funds over two years for TDM projects, which help people use the transportation system more efficiently, while reducing traffic congestion, vehicle emissions and fuel consumption. This year's projects will be selected to be funded in fiscal years 2016 and 2017. Funding can be used for either traditional TDM marketing projects or for small multimodal supportive infrastructure projects.

The call for projects is set to open soon. Project applications will be evaluated by DRCOG staff and a project review panel, before Board approval later this summer.

POSITIONS TAKEN ON STATE LEGISLATION

Board members were updated on current state legislative issues and bills of regional concern or interest and gave direction to staff regarding DRCOG positions on specific bills. More information on the specific legislation and positions taken by the Board since the General Assembly convened Jan. 7 may be found in this issue of *DRCOG Update*.

CDOT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SPEAKS TO BOARD

New CDOT Executive Director Shailen Bhatt attended the Board meeting to introduce himself and to talk about opportunities for DRCOG and CDOT to work together on transportation issues.

DRCOG ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

DRCOG Executive Director Jennifer Schaufele gave a presentation to the Board on DRCOG's responsibilities and duties as both a Regional Planning Commission and a Metropolitan Planning Organization.

PRESENTATION GIVEN ON SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES INITIATIVE

DRCOG Sustainable Communities Coordinator Paul Aldretti briefly reviewed the outcomes from the region's Sustainable Communities Initiative (SCI) federal grant project and presented the Sustainable Communities Regional Principles. The [outcomes](#) included those from the grant's stakeholder engagement efforts, corridor planning processes and the Outcomes Assessment and Knowledge sharing study. The [principles](#) were developed by the SCI Executive Committee, based on the outcomes of all SCI activities over the past three years. The principles are designed to provide suggestions and support to jurisdictions, agencies and other organizations that choose to incorporate the SCI outcomes into their planning policy efforts.

PLAN/PROGRAM ADOPTION VOTING INFORMATION PROVIDED TO BOARD

As part of the agenda packet, Board members also received information they requested on meeting attendance, current voting requirements and other information related to plan/program adoption. No presentation was provided. Chair Jackie Millet asked members to review the materials.

SAVE MAY 20 FOR NEXT METRO VISION IDEA EXCHANGE

DRCOG's next Metro Vision Idea Exchange on **Wednesday, May 20** will explore Community Energy Programs: Watts Going On? Join us to hear about opportunities created by innovative energy programs, best practices and the role of partnerships with utilities for meeting shared goals. Speakers will represent:

- Southwest Energy Efficiency Program (SWEET)
- City of Fort Collins
- City of Arvada
- Xcel Energy

The Idea Exchange is set for 10 a.m. to noon at DRCOG. To learn more and to register, please visit <https://drcog.org/node/4582>.

The Idea Exchanges are designed to give member government land use and transportation planners, local elected officials, other local government staff and stakeholders from the private sector the chance to share information and ideas, and learn about best practices that support Metro Vision goals. Application for AICP credits is in progress.