

# Board UPDATE



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Feb. 18, 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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## **2015 OFFICERS ELECTED**

Elected Feb. 18 to lead the regional council in 2015 are:

- Lone Tree Mayor Pro Tem Jackie Millet as chair,
- Boulder County Commissioner Elise Jones as vice chair,
- Aurora Council Member Bob Roth as secretary, and
- Westminster Mayor Herb Atchison as treasurer.

Bennett Mayor Sue Horn is immediate past chair.

Additionally, the Board elected the following members to serve one-year terms on the DRCOG Administrative Committee:

- Greenwood Village Mayor Ron Rakowsky
- Longmont Council Member Gabe Santos
- Arvada Council Member Bob Fifer
- Louisville Council Member Ashley Stolzmann
- Littleton Mayor Phil Cernanec

The Administrative Committee is comprised of the officers, representatives of each county and city in the region with populations exceeding 120,000, and the at-large representatives elected by the Board.

Nominating Committee members included Denver Council Member Chris Nevitt; Boulder Council Member Suzanne Jones; Longmont Council Member Gabe Santos; Centennial Mayor Cathy Noon; Castle Rock Council Member George Teal; and Douglas County Commissioner Roger Partridge.

## **BOARD ADOPTS FISCALLY CONSTRAINED 2040 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN**

The Board adopted the Fiscally Constrained 2040 Regional Transportation Plan (2040 RTP) and its associated air quality conformity documents. The Fiscally Constrained 2040 RTP, subject of a public hearing in January, identifies individual regionally significant (major) roadway capacity and rapid transit projects anticipated to be implemented over the next 25 years. The plan reflects revenues reasonably expected to be available to fund construction of these major projects, and to maintain and operate the transportation system. Air quality documents show the plan will not cause a violation of federal air quality conformity standards.

## **BOARD SETS MARCH 18 PUBLIC HEARING**

The DRCOG Board will hold a public hearing at its March 18 meeting, beginning at 6:30 p.m., on the draft 2016-2021 Transportation Improvement Program and associated air quality

conformity documents – the DRCOG Carbon Monoxide (CO) and Particulate Matter (PM10) Conformity Determination, and the Denver Southern Subarea 8-hour Ozone Conformity Determination. This public hearing also serves as part of the public involvement and comment process for 1) RTD's Strategic Business Plan (SBP), and 2) Federal Transit Administration (FTA) funding Section 5307. More information on the hearing and an opportunity to comment on the plan and its associated air quality conformity documents can be found at <https://drcog.org/node/3801>.

## **2012-2017 AND 2016-2021 POLICY ON TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM PREPARATION (TIP) AMENDED**

After discussing the topic for several months, the Board amended the 2012-2017 and 2016-2021 Policies on TIP Preparation related to second-year project delays or projects facing the removal of funds. Reflecting the Board's discussion, the amendment will:

- provide project sponsors an opportunity to appeal to the Board;
- allow an opportunity for a variance of *TIP* policy if a project has unforeseen issues or is close to, but could not meet the deadline;
- remove the requirement for the sponsor of a delayed project to reimburse federal funds spent on the project; and
- enact a consequence for sponsors of projects delayed a second year. At the January meeting, the Board approved a 20 percent reduction in the maximum number of applications a sponsor may submit in the next TIP Call for Projects.

## **IMPLEMENTATION DELAYS OF TIP PROJECTS**

In a related matter, the Board approved the TIP Project Delays Report for Fiscal Year 2014, which summarizes reasons for delays in implementing projects with DRCOG-allocated federal funds. It provides actions proposed by sponsors to get projects ready to go or a particular phase underway, and DRCOG staff recommendations on the delays. Many of the projects in the report have resolved their delay issues and are underway. For the remainder, the report approves the delays, but offers steps to be taken to move the projects forward. The annual report follows up on the Board's goal to see timely initiation of TIP projects/phases. Delays, for whatever reason, tie up scarce federal funds that could have been programmed to projects that are ready and waiting.

## **2014-2015 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM AMENDED**

The Board amended the 2014-15 Unified Planning Work Program, developed biannually to detail transportation and development planning activities to be accomplished by DRCOG, CDOT, RTD and local governments. The amendments update the projects in the work program.

## **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*.

## **UPDATE ON RESPONSIBLE ACCELERATION OF MAINTENANCE AND PARTNERSHIPS**

CDOT Division of Transportation Development Director Debra Perkins-Smith summarized the current status of 32 projects in the DRCOG region funded through the Responsible Acceleration of Maintenance and Partnerships (RAMP) program. The RAMP program, which covers the state, allows funds to be spent, based on estimated cash reserves, as soon as possible on transportation projects that are ready to proceed. In the Denver region, these projects range from large freeway widening projects (e.g., managed lanes) on C-470 and North I-25 to traffic signal system replacements.

## **BRIEFING ON SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITITES INITIATIVE CORRIDOR BLUEPRINTS**

DRCOG Sustainable Communities Coordinator Paul Aldretti provided information on the corridor planning activities conducted as part of the Department of Housing and Urban Development Sustainable Communities Initiative (SCI) grant DRCOG received in 2011. For more than 18 months, working groups comprised of staff representatives from jurisdictions along the East, Gold and Northwest rail lines and US 36 Bus/Rapid Transit Line have been conducting collaborative planning on opportunities and challenges related to the introduction of new transit infrastructure. Corridor Blueprints reflecting the outcomes of this work in each corridor will be finalized by the beginning of March and presented to elected officials in participating jurisdictions.

## **SAVE THE DATE: DRCOG AWARDS EVENT IS APRIL 22**

Please save the evening of **April 22** on your calendars for DRCOG's Awards Event and 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. Join us at 6 p.m. April 22 at the Seawell Ballroom of the Denver Center for the Performing Arts Complex and watch for more information coming your way soon about registration.