

Board UPDATE



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Jan. 21, 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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PUBLIC HEARING HELD ON FISCALLY CONSTRAINED TRANSPORTATION PLAN

The DRCOG Board held a public hearing on the draft 2040 Fiscally Constrained Regional Transportation Plan (2040 RTP) and its associated air quality documents -- the DRCOG CO and PM10 Conformity Determination and the Denver Southern Subarea 8-hour Ozone Conformity Determination. The 2040 RTP defines the transportation elements and services to be provided over the next 25 years based on reasonable expected revenues, and the companion air quality documents show the plan meets federal air quality conformity requirements. While these reasonably expected revenues fall short of allowing the 2040 RTP to fully address future transportation needs, the plan calls for high-priority strategic investments in the Denver region's multimodal transportation system.

Sixteen people testified, with comments directed at the Colorado Department of Transportation's proposed I-70 reconstruction project east of I-25. The 2040 RTP reflects the most up-to-date proposed scope for I-70, as recommended in the I-70 East Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (August 2014). If the recommended scope for the corridor is changed during the Final EIS process or due to fiscal constraint issues, the 2040 RTP will be amended and the regional air quality conformity will be re-evaluated to reflect scope changes.

The Board is expected to consider the 2040 RTP at its Feb. 18 meeting.

SECOND-PHASE PROJECTS APPROVED FOR DRAFT 2016-2021 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

The Board approved second-phase projects to be included in the draft *2016-2021 Transportation Improvement Program*, which identifies all current federally funded transportation projects to be completed in the Denver region over a six-year period with federal, state or local funds.. About \$51.5 million is available for second-phase funding, and the Board gave the nod to 23 projects from throughout the region to use that second-phase funding. The Board approved first-phase projects totaling \$123.3 million at its December meeting.

The Board will hold a public hearing on the *2016-2021 TIP* at its March 18 meeting. The TIP features funding for projects in the categories of bicycle and pedestrian, transit service, transit passenger facility, studies, roadway capacity, roadway operational improvements, and roadway reconstruction. Projects were chosen for both phases according to Board-established criteria: first-phase projects were selected directly from score-ranked lists of funding requests by project type while second-phase projects were selected based on additional criteria and considerations.

A total of \$573 million in federal funds was requested through the TIP and \$174.8 million was programmed to fund projects.

BOARD MEMBERS HONORED FOR DRCOG SERVICE

Denver Council Member Chris Nevitt, Englewood Mayor Randy Penn, and Northglenn Mayor Joyce Downing were each recognized for observing five-year service anniversaries on the DRCOG Board. DRCOG Chair Jackie Millet presented each Board member with a commemorative clock.

2015 FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE ISSUES POLICY STATEMENT ADOPTED

The Board adopted a policy statement on a range of federal issues expected to come before Congress in 2015. This document provides the DRCOG Board, staff and lobbyists with policy direction on federal legislative issues during the coming year.

2012-2017 TIP AMENDED

The Board amended the *2012-2017 TIP*, which contains highway and transit improvements expected to be carried out in the region in the 2012-2017 time period. The amendment reflects additional funds and projects to the CDOT Region 1 Surface Treatment Pool.

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*.

2012-2017 AND 2016-2021 POLICY ON TIP PREPARATION AMENDED

Over the past several meetings, the Board has discussed the possible amendment to the 2012-2017 and 2016-2021 Policy on *TIP* Preparation relating to second-year project delays (i.e., projects facing the removal of funds). The Board has discussed an amendment that:

- provides project sponsors an opportunity to appeal to the Board;
- allows an opportunity for a variance of *TIP* policy if a project has unforeseen issues or is close to, but could not meet the deadline;
- removes the requirement for the sponsor of a delayed project to reimburse federal funds spent on the project; and
- enacts a consequence for sponsors of projects delayed a second year.

In January, the Board agreed to the consequence aspect of the proposal. As approved, sponsors faced with a project delay for a second year would have the maximum number of applications they can submit in the next *TIP* Call for Projects reduced by 20 percent.

Final action on the entire amendment to the Policy on *TIP* Preparation will be considered at the February Board meeting.

SAVE THE DATE: NEXT METRO VISION IDEA EXCHANGE

DRCOG's next Metro Vision Idea Exchange will explore the experiences of several communities from around the region as they integrate new transit facilities into their communities. Come learn about the successes and challenges faced by communities – from those seeing significant

private investment and development to those still planning for initial transit-oriented development and public investments needed to spur development. The Idea Exchange is set for 9:30 a.m. to noon **Wednesday, Feb. 25** at DRCOG. To learn more to register, please visit <https://drcog.org/node/3742>.

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.

NOMINATE OUTSTANDING REGIONALISTS BY JAN. 30

Remember: the deadline for nominations for DRCOG's highest honor, the John V. Christensen Memorial Award, is **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. Questions about the award may be directed to Connie Garcia at cgarcia@drcog.org or 303-480-6701.

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.

JAN. 30 IS DEADLINE FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT AWARD NOMINATIONS

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 event, focus on the efforts of local governments to help achieve the goals of Metro Vision. The award categories 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 [the awards nomination website](#) to learn more about the awards and to find 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 CHAMPION AWARD NOMINATIONS SOUGHT

Way to Go 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 awards nomination website](#) for more information and to submit a nomination. The nomination deadline is **Monday, March 2, 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.

Questions about the Way to Go Champion Awards may be directed to Colleen Miller at cmiller@drcog.org or 303-480-6764.