

Board UPDATE



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March 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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PUBLIC HEARING ON DRAFT 2016-2021 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

The DRCOG Board held a public hearing on the draft 2016-2021 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) 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 served as part of the public involvement and comment process for RTD's Strategic Business Plan (SBP) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5307 funding.

The TIP, which identifies federally-funded surface transportation projects to be implemented in the Denver region from fiscal years 2016 through 2021, is developed in a cooperative process involving local governments through DRCOG, the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) and the Regional Transportation District (RTD). The TIP reflects nearly \$3.72 billion programmed over six years by DRCOG, CDOT and RTD.

Public comment included a letter expressing concerns and opposition to funding the FLEX route extension in Longmont and Boulder County, and testimony at the hearing about safety concerns for the 17th Avenue and Sheridan Boulevard intersection.

METRO VISION PLAN REVIEW PROCESS APPROVED

The Board approved a review and approval process for Metro Vision, the region's long-range growth and development plan. Highlights include the following:

- As the primary policy committee of the Board, the Metro Vision Issues Committee (MVIC) will work closely with staff to review and further develop draft plan elements.
- All, or a portion, of monthly MVIC meetings will operate as Metro Vision study sessions and the Board will be provided with notes of MVIC meetings.
- When draft plan elements are completed to MVIC's satisfaction, the committee will take action to recommend those elements to the Board.
- All MVIC actions to recommend the plan, or a portion of the plan, will be noted as Action items on the Board agenda.
- During the review process, DRCOG staff will bundle MVIC recommendations and present them to the Board for its consideration and action.
- The Board will direct staff to release a draft plan for public review and hold a public hearing.
- MVIC will recommend approval of the final Metro Vision plan.
- The Board has final approval of Metro Vision. Adoption of the plan requires a majority of the member representatives.

This process is likely to take several months, with final plan adoption anticipated later this year.

For its next meeting, the Board directed staff to bring back information reflecting Board attendance and voting history as well as options for the number of votes needed to adopt the Metro Vision Plan. They also asked staff to research some other councils of governments to discern their voting requirements.

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*.

2015 TRAFFIC SIGNAL SYSTEM FUNDING ALLOCATIONS

The Board approved recommended allocations to local operating agencies in Castle Rock, Centennial, Denver, Douglas County, Lakewood and Superior to purchase signal system equipment. The funding (\$608,266) comes from Fiscal Year 2015 Traffic Signal System Improvement Program (TSSIP) contingency/miscellaneous funds. The TSSIP, which guides implementation of cost-effective traffic signal systems improvements, is programmed in the adopted 2012-2017 TIP.

BOARD AMENDS 2012-2017 TIP

The Board amended the 2012-2017 TIP. Amendments to the TIP are considered quarterly and typically add projects or modify funding for existing projects, and do not impact funding for other projects in the TIP. There were two amendments: 1) Adding CDOT Responsible Acceleration of Maintenance and Partnerships (RAMP) program funds to the North I-25: Front Range Environmental Impact Statement and preconstruction activity project, and 2) adding a new Colfax Avenue Transit Priority and bus infrastructure improvement project on Colfax Avenue from Broadway to Potomac Street.

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES INITIATIVE UPDATE

DRCOG Sustainable Communities Coordinator Paul Aldretti briefed the Board on the results of the Outcomes Assessment and Knowledge Sharing activities conducted as part of the Sustainable Communities Initiative (SCI) federal grant. The University of Colorado – Denver conducted research on experience in the previous RTD light rail corridors (Southeast, Southwest and West) and case studies in three other regions (Portland, San Diego and Dallas) to identify lessons learned, best practices and metrics to help guide transit and transit-oriented development in the Denver region. The presentation provided information about the findings and recommendations for actions that can enhance the benefits of transit in the region.

ANNUAL LISTING OF METRO AREA PROJECTS RECEIVING FEDERAL OBLIGATION

Available for review on the DRCOG website is a list of all transportation projects in the Denver region that were obligated federal funds in federal Fiscal Year 2014 (Oct. 1, 2013 – Sept. 30, 2014). A net total of \$395.1 million was obligated in Fiscal Year 2014 for 92 transportation projects. View the list at

<https://drcog.org/programs/transportation-planning/transportation-improvement-program/annual-list-federally-obligated>.

FINAL SCI CONSORTIUM MEETING AND CELEBRATION APRIL 7

Please register for the upcoming final meeting of the Sustainable Communities Initiative (SCI) Consortium on **April 7** as DRCOG and its partners wrap up three years of hard work and collaboration on the SCI grant. The event will be held from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Mile High United Way, 711 Park Avenue West in Denver. Harriet Tregoning, director of the US Department of Housing and Urban Development's Office of Economic Resilience will be a special guest, along with Rick Garcia, HUD regional administrator. Learn more and register at <https://drcog.org/node/3832>. All Consortium members and supporters, partners and stakeholders are encouraged to join DRCOG in commemorating our successes and thinking about where we go from here.

BIKE TO WORK DAY OPEN HOUSE SET APRIL 8

June 24 is Bike to Work Day 2015 in the metro area and DRCOG Way to Go hosts a Bike to Work Day Open House **April 8** at DRCOG. The open house is designed for anyone interested in attending, but especially event coordinators at companies and organizations, bike station organizers and sponsors – past, present and future. The open house will run from 7-10 a.m. and from 3-6 p.m. so people can combine the trip to DRCOG with their commutes. The open house is a one-stop shop for all things related to Bike to Work Day, such as posters; information kits; tips on promoting the event, coordinating a company team, organizing a breakfast or bike home station; t-shirt ordering, etc. Register: [7-10 a.m.](#) or [3-6 p.m.](#). For more information, please contact Way to Go Marketing Manager Colleen Miller at cmiller@drcog.org or 303-480-6764.

APRIL 9 IS STAND UP FOR TRANSPORTATION DAY

Please join DRCOG, RTD and CDOT at **10 a.m. Thursday, April 9, at Market Street Plaza (16th and Market)** for a Unity Parade to Denver Union Station to collectively call attention to the state of the nation's transportation infrastructure. Stand Up for Transportation Day will be a local day for national education and outreach to the public and elected officials. The goal is to raise awareness of the nation's long-term transportation infrastructure funding situation and to call on Congress to pass a long-term transportation spending bill that provides a more predictable, dedicated funding stream to support transportation. Sign an online petition and [learn more](#).

REGISTER FOR THE APRIL 22 DRCOG AWARDS EVENT AND DIAMOND ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Please save the evening of **April 22** on your calendars for DRCOG's **Awards Event and 60th Anniversary Celebration** and register today. Join us at 6 p.m. at the Seawell Ballroom of the Denver Center for the Performing Arts Complex for a dinner reception. The presentation of key regional awards and the celebration of DRCOG's 60th anniversary begins at 7:15 p.m. The cost is \$65 per person; large groups may want to consider a sponsorship, which includes a reserved table. Register and learn about sponsorships at <https://drcog.org/AnnualAwards/>.