

# Board UPDATE



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May 20, 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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## **SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES REGIONAL PRINCIPLES**

The Board endorsed the Sustainable Communities Regional Principles and accepted a document containing the principles and recommended strategies to guide action on the principles. In 2011, as part of a coordinated effort with 86 partner organizations, DRCOG received a \$4.5-million grant from the Sustainable Communities Partnership. The Partnership includes the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the U.S. Department of Transportation and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The five principles were developed by the Sustainable Communities Initiative (SCI) Executive Committee, based on the outcomes of all SCI grant activities over the past three years and include Housing Opportunity, Healthy Places, Economic Vitality and Resiliency, Transit Accessibility, and Transit-Oriented Communities. The principles are intended to provide suggestions and support to jurisdictions, agencies and other organizations for incorporation into their planning and policy efforts at their individual discretion.

## **BOARD APPROVES DRCOG METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLANNING PROCESS SELF-CERTIFICATION STATEMENT**

The Board approved a self-certification statement for the DRCOG Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). Federal regulations require the state and the MPO, concurrent with the submittal of a new Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to the Federal Highway Administration and the Federal Transit Administration, to self-certify that the metropolitan transportation planning process is being carried out in accordance with applicable federal regulations.

## **ELIGIBILITY RULES, EVALUATION CRITERIA APPROVED FOR URBAN CENTER STUDIES/STATION AREA MASTER PLANS POOL**

The Board approved evaluation criteria, eligibility rules and the selection process for projects to be funded through the DRCOG Urban Center Study and Station Area Master Plan (UC/STAMP) set-aside program of the 2016-2021 TIP. The DRCOG Board established several off-the-top set-aside programs as part of the Policy on TIP Preparation for the 2016-2021 TIP; the UC/STAMP pool is one such program. DRCOG allocates funds from the pool to specific projects every two years. TIP policy establishes \$1.2 million in federal funds over two years for this program, which supports the importance of urban centers and transit station areas in healthy, livable and well-connected communities.

Applications are due by **5 p.m. Wednesday, July 1, 2015**, and should be submitted by email to Michele Anderson at [manderson@drcog.org](mailto:manderson@drcog.org). A verification email will be sent upon receipt. The application, and UC/STAMP eligibility and evaluation criteria will be posted to the DRCOG [website](#) Tuesday, May 26, 2015.

On June 1, 2015, DRCOG and RTD are hosting an **informational meeting** for potential UC/STAMP applicants to discuss project eligibility, the application process and evaluation criteria, and RTD's contracting requirements. Attendance is strongly encouraged if organizations are considering applying for funds. Visit <https://drcog.org/node/4777> to register.

## **BOARD CONFIRMS METRO VISION ISSUES COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS**

The Board confirmed Chair Jackie Millet's appointments to the Metro Vision Issues Committee (MVIC) for June 2015-May 2016. Appointments occur annually to MVIC, which is composed of up to 28 Board members and alternates. Appointments are considered based on the criteria, committee description and interest in serving. Members represent a cross-section of the membership.

## **BOARD HEARS ARAPAHOE COUNTY URBAN GROWTH BOUNDARY/AREA REQUEST**

Arapahoe County Commissioner Rod Bockenfeld made a presentation to the Board requesting a one-square-mile increase in the county's urban growth boundary/area (UGB/A) allocation. The request was made to account for areas previously covered by the county's UGB/A allocation that have been lost to municipal annexations since 2011. By virtue of a tie vote on the issue, the request was denied.

## **LEARNING MORE ABOUT BIKE TO WORK DAY**

Communications and Marketing Director Steve Erickson discussed the region's upcoming Bike to Work Day event and shared with Board members actions they can take to contribute to a successful event on June 24. The Denver region's Bike to Work Day event is the second-largest in the nation. More information about Bike to Work Day may be found later in this issue of the *DRCOG Update*.

## **COLLABORATIVE ASSESSMENT PRESENTATION**

Board members also received a presentation on the Board Collaborative Assessment Results and Report by Director of Organizational Development Jerry Stigall. The assessment was sent to all Board members on April 16, and results are designed to assist Board members in improving their collaboration for regional impact.

## **AREA AGENCY ON AGING CONTRACTS**

Area Agency on Aging Director Jayla Sanchez-Warren provided information to the Board on continuing to contract with the Colorado Department of Human Services for the DRCOG Area Agency on Aging and with service providers. DRCOG is designated by the State as the Area Agency on Aging to receive and administer federal Older Americans Act and State Funding for Senior Services monies to provide services to older adults and their caregivers throughout the region. The amount of funding anticipated for the upcoming fiscal year, July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016, is approximately \$15.6 million. Through a Request for Proposals process, 26 contractors have been recommended for funding to provide a variety of services throughout the region.

## **RTD ANNUAL FASTRACKS STATUS REPORT TO DRCOG**

RTD Assistant General Manager for Planning Bill Van Meter presented RTD's FasTracks Annual Status Report for the Board's information. The report consists of the RTD FasTracks Progress Fact Sheet, which provides a status on each project, as well as a map with schedule information, and updated FasTracks estimated capital costs as of March 2015.

## **LEGISLATIVE SESSION WRAP UP**

Board members received information on the highlights of the 2015 legislative session, which just wrapped up May 6. It was another successful session for DRCOG, with DRCOG taking positions on 24 bills of special interest because of an identified impact on member governments or the regional programs administered by DRCOG. DRCOG staff and lobbyists also monitored and in some cases provided input and advice on the Long Appropriations Bill and at least four dozen other bills for potential impact on DRCOG, its programs or its members. One of the most significant achievements was the successful DRCOG-led effort to increase state funding of senior services by \$4 million. With its share of this increase, DRCOG will be able to more effectively meet the growing needs for services in the Denver region. Another important accomplishment was DRCOG's lead role in passing a bill to study the impacts of the aging of the population and recommend actions to improve public- and private-sector responses. The summary attached to this issue of *DRCOG Update* highlights the other significant pieces of legislation for DRCOG during the session.

## **JUNE BOARD MEETING CANCELED**

The DRCOG Board of Directors will not meet in June due to a conflict with the annual CML Conference. The Board's next meeting will be at **6:30 p.m. Wednesday, July 15.**

## **REGISTER NOW FOR BIKE TO WORK DAY**

The Denver region's Bike to Work Day is set for **June 24** and registration is now open on DRCOG's new Bike to Work Day website at <http://biketoworkday.us/>. More than 4,700 local residents have already registered for the event on the site, which provides information on breakfast and bike home stations, route planning, bike-related events throughout the region and details on ordering the popular event T-shirt. When people pledge to participate by registering on the website, they are eligible for prize drawings, plus they provide data that supports policy-making efforts. It also supports two goals the DRCOG Board has set forward as key in Metro Vision – reducing single-occupant vehicle trips to work from 74 percent to 65 percent and reducing daily vehicle miles traveled per capita by 10 percent. DRCOG's Way to Go program plans the annual event with assistance from a team of public and private partners. This event is the second-largest of its kind in the nation and one of the reasons we're seeing large numbers of new bike commuters every year!

## **CALL FOR PROJECTS FOR TDM POOL FUNDING**

DRCOG is accepting applications for \$2.08 million in federal Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) funds through the DRCOG Regional Travel Demand Management Pool for fiscal years 2016-2017. Travel Demand Management (TDM) is a key tool to facilitate mobility options for residents of the Denver region while reducing single-occupant vehicle (SOV) travel by eliminating or shortening trips, changing the mode of travel, or changing the time of day a trip is made. It includes actions that increase transportation system efficiency through the promotion

and facilitation of transportation options such as, but not limited to, carpooling, carsharing, vanpooling, transit, bicycling, bike sharing and walking. Applications are due **June 15**. For more information and specific requirements for applications, visit <https://drcog.org/regional-travel-demand-management-pool>. Questions about the TDM solicitation process and project application should be directed to TDM Bicycle Pedestrian Planner Melina Dempsey, 303-480-5628 or [mdempsey@drcog.org](mailto:mdempsey@drcog.org).