

# BOARD UPDATE



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**Feb. 17, 2016**

## **Save the Date: Awards Celebration is Wednesday, April 27**

The Denver Regional Council of Governments seeks sponsors for its annual awards event, Wednesday, April 27, at the Westin Denver International Airport. Tables are available for member governments, corporate sponsors and nonprofit sponsors. ([Learn more about sponsorship.](#))

[Registration for the awards celebration is now open.](#) Celebrating the regional partnerships that result in a vibrant, connected region, the event will take place just after the opening of the Regional Transportation District's A Line from downtown Denver to the airport. Attendees are encouraged to board the commuter train at Union Station (a limited number of complimentary tickets will be available) and enjoy a 40-minute ride to the venue.

## **Reminder: Board Work Sessions Begin March 2**

The Metro Vision Issues Committee had its final meeting on Wednesday Feb. 3. Beginning on Wednesday, March 2, at 4 p.m. the new Board work sessions will convene for the first time. These work sessions are intended to provide Board directors with in-depth information on complex topics before the Board such as the Metro Vision Plan, the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and Transportation Improvement Program.

Meetings will be held when there are items for the Board to discuss prior to decisions being made at the Board meetings. An agenda and backup materials will be distributed one week prior to work sessions. Work sessions are informational in nature and no action will be taken during the sessions. All Board members and alternates are encouraged to attend.

## **Board Elects 2016-17 Officers**

DRCOG's Board of Directors elected its officers for 2016-17, approving the slate of candidates put forth by the nominating committee. No nominations were received from the floor. For the year to come, the Board's officers are:

Chair: Elise Jones, commissioner, Boulder County  
Vice chair: Bob Roth, council member, Aurora  
Secretary: Herb Atchison, mayor, Westminster  
Treasurer: Bob Fifer, council member, Arvada  
Immediate Past Chair: Jackie Millet, mayor pro tem, Lone Tree

Elected to one-year terms on the administrative committee were: Ron Rakowsky, Greenwood Village; Ashley Stolzmann, Louisville; and George Teal, Castle Rock. Officers of the Board also serve as members

of the Administrative Committee. In cases where one or more of the officers would otherwise qualify for administrative committee membership (Elise Jones, vice chair, and Bob Roth, secretary), the Board selects a municipal or county representative. The Board elected Saoirse Charis-Graves, Golden, and Colleen Whitlow, Mead.

The nominating committee comprises Robin Kniech, Denver; Roger Partridge, Douglas County; Saoirse Charis-Graves, Golden; Ron Rakowsky, Greenwood Village; Ashley Stolzmann, Louisville; and Colleen Whitlow, Mead.

### **Board Approves Conceptual Structure Changes**

Based on recommendations from its structure and governance committee, the Board of Directors approved, in concept, changes to the composition of its committees. The changes are intended to broaden opportunities for directors and alternates to participate in Board processes. Recommendations are in alignment with the Metro Vision Issues Committee becoming a work session for the entire Board. By approving the conceptual redesign, the Board approved eliminating its existing administrative committee in light of the creation of two new committees (finance and budget, performance and engagement), altering how nominating committee members are selected and creating an executive committee composed of Board officers. The Board will vote on revised Articles of Association and select the nominating committee at its March meeting.

### **Board Approves Modified Statement of Understanding**

After significant discussion, the Board took action on a proposed Statement of Understanding intended for inclusion in DRCOG's capacity-building program for new Board directors and alternates. As presented to the Board, the statement of understanding required signature by Board directors and alternates. The Board approved -- by a margin of two votes -- the statement of understanding as part of the capacity-building program. Following the vote, some Board directors voiced concern regarding the slim margin by which the measure passed. After a straw poll intended to gauge the interest of Board directors in removing the signature requirement from the statement, the Board voted to reconsider the agenda item. Upon reconsideration by the Board, it approved a modified statement of understanding that would no longer require signature by Board directors or alternates.

### **Board Requests Continued Work on TIP White Paper**

Doug Rex, director of DRCOG's Transportation Planning and Operations division, presented to the Board a white paper related to issues associated with development of the 2016-21 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The paper was developed in response to an August 2015 request by the Board to convene a work group to discuss the TIP process, funding allocations and criteria, and a comparative analysis of other metropolitan planning organization processes.

In addition to supporting material, the white paper included five recommendations related to developing a project-selection process purpose statement; further exploring the dual (regional/subregional) project-selection model; creating a project-selection process that places more emphasis on project benefits, overall value and return-on-investment; exploring opportunities to exchange Colorado Department of Transportation state funds with DRCOG federal funds; and evaluating off-the-top programs and projects.

The Board directed DRCOG's Transportation Planning and Operations Division to continue working with the TIP Review Work Group on the five recommendations and come back to the Board with additional findings.

### **Board Directs Staff to Develop Scope of Work Related to Urban Sustainability Accelerator Program**

DRCOG staff sought the Board's direction regarding participation in a cohort study through the Urban Sustainability Accelerator (affiliated with Portland State University). Deliberation regarding whether to participate followed several opportunities for Board members to meet with Robert Liberty, director of the program, late last year and a subsequent survey to gauge the interest among Board members and others who attended. After a brief discussion, the Board voted to direct DRCOG staff to work with the Urban Sustainability Accelerator to develop a scope of work regarding program participation to bring before the Board.

### **Board Takes Positions 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 is available in the ["2016 February Legislative Summary."](#)