

# BOARD UPDATE



1290 Broadway • Suite 100 • Denver, Colorado 80203-5606  
main: 303-455-1000 • fax: 303-480-6790 • email: [drcog@drcog.org](mailto:drcog@drcog.org) • web: [www.drcog.org](http://www.drcog.org)

Dec. 7, 2016

## **REMINDER: BOARD OPEN HOUSE IS FEB. 1, 2017**

The Board open house will take place Wednesday, Feb. 1, 2017, following the regularly scheduled Board work session.

## **JOHN V. CHRISTENSEN AND METRO VISION AWARDS NOMINATIONS OPEN**

Reminder: Nominations for the John V. Christensen and Metro Vision awards may be made at [drcog.org/annualawards](http://drcog.org/annualawards) until Tuesday, Jan. 31, 2017.

The John V. Christensen Memorial Award has been presented since 1972 and is regarded as one of the region's most prestigious awards. Established in memory of John V. Christensen, one of DRCOG's founders and an Arapahoe County commissioner, it recognizes individuals who promote cooperation and collaboration for the benefit of the region.

The Metro Vision Awards recognize regional projects, programs and plans exemplifying coordinated efforts between local governments, state and federal partners; the business community; philanthropic and not-for-profit organizations. Successful applications will detail community examples that foster local innovation around transportation and personal mobility, growth and development, community resiliency, promoting access to opportunity and aging and disability resources.

## **BOARD APPROVES TIP AMENDMENTS**

Following unanimous approval by the Regional Transportation Committee the day prior, the DRCOG Board unanimously approved amendments to the 2016-2021 Transportation Improvement Program. The Denver Smart City Program, a newly awarded \$6 million federal grant project, will fund technologies to reduce congestion. Federal funds were matched by \$6 million in City and County of Denver discretionary capital improvement funds. A second amendment involved a scope revision to a City of Northglenn project for corridor improvements along 112th Avenue. Because the original scope (constructing a multiuse trail) was completed using local funds, the amended project primarily includes intersection improvements to accommodate future bus service and a small section of multiuse trail.

## **BOARD APPROVES AIR QUALITY CONFORMITY MODELING**

At its December meeting, the DRCOG Board of Directors unanimously approved the fiscally constrained roadway capacity projects and rapid transit networks to be modeled for air quality

conformity for the 2040 Metro Vision Regional Transportation Plan (2040 MVRTP). The Regional Transportation Committee had unanimously approved this item the previous day.

The 2040 Fiscally Constrained Regional Transportation Plan (2040 FCRTTP) was adopted in February 2015. DRCOG staff recommended that the transportation networks to be modeled for air quality conformity include all projects in the 2040 FCRTTP as well as subsequent amendments, including two proposed project amendments from the City of Thornton that would modify projects already in the 2040 FCRTTP.

The draft 2040 MVRTP and associated air quality conformity determination documents will be the subject of a public hearing for the draft Metro Vision Regional Transportation Plan in early 2017.

### **DIRECTORS HEAR ABOUT CDOT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM**

At its December meeting, the DRCOG Board of Directors received an informational briefing from Jeff Sudmeier, multimodal planning branch manager for the Colorado Department of Transportation. Sudmeier introduced directors to the CDOT Development Program, an inventory of major transportation needs developed as a tool for identifying investment priorities. The program inventory includes approximately 130 highway projects representing \$9 billion in funding needs and transit projects representing \$2 billion in funding needs, with bicycle and pedestrian projects still to be added. The program identifies a 10-year higher-priority subset estimated at \$2.9 billion. Sudmeier indicated that projects were identified via regional transportation plans, existing planning processes and stakeholder input.

### **BOARD RECEIVES UPDATE ON METRO VISION PUBLIC COMMENT**

On Nov. 16, the public comment period for the Metro Vision update concluded with a public hearing on the draft plan, during which Board directors heard testimony from five individuals. Each of the organizations that provided oral testimony also provided written comments. In total, 25 individuals and organizations provided more than 300 comments. Many comments suggested adjustments to the draft plan or sought clarification on issues, but numerous comments supported the plan as drafted.

Brad Calvert, director of Regional Planning and Development, briefed directors on staff plans for presenting comments at the Jan. 4 Board work session. In the work session packet, Board directors will receive all comments as submitted, individual comments organized by theme or topic, and high-level staff feedback. Staff may also prepare suggested changes to the draft. Calvert reported that staff are currently providing each jurisdiction which responded during the public comment period the opportunity to discuss their comments, concerns and ideas with DRCOG staff.