

BOARD UPDATE



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Last chance to make a nomination for DRCOG annual awards

Friday, Jan. 29, is the deadline for submitting nominations for the Metro Vision and John V. Christensen Memorial awards. [Visit the DRCOG website \(www.drcog.org/awards\) to make a nomination.](http://www.drcog.org/awards)

2016-2021 Transportation Improvement Program Amendments

Three amendments to the 2016-2021 Transportation Improvement Program were brought before the DRCOG Board from the Transportation Advisory Committee, which recommended approval at its December meeting. The Board passed an amendment to update the scope and funding types (including adding funds) for Interstate 25 north managed lanes from 120th Avenue to E-470. The Board also passed an amendment to transfer funds between fiscal years and funding types (from a local to state loan) for C-470 managed toll express lanes from Wadsworth to I-25. The Regional Transportation Committee had recommended approval of both amendments at its Jan. 19 meeting.

The board also approved moving forward on a third proposed amendment (to update the project scope and name related to Regional Transportation District Route 324 frequency improvements) contingent on staff finding that the project's new scope would have a comparable TIP score as its original scope. The Regional Transportation Committee had not acted on the amendment at its regular January meeting, and will hold a special meeting Tuesday, Jan. 26, to discuss concurrence with the Board's action.

Transportation Improvement Program Project Implementation Delays

Consistent with policy expectations regarding addressing delays for Transportation Improvement Program projects with DRCOG-allocated federal funding, the Board received an update on 17 delayed projects or project phases receiving fiscal year 2015 funding. Of the 17 project phases, three were in second-year delays, and 14 were experiencing first-year delays. DRCOG requested the Colorado Department of Transportation and Regional Transportation District review the projects. DRCOG staff then discussed with the sponsors reasons for the delays and action plans demonstrating the sponsor's commitment to timely initiation. The Board reviewed and approved staff recommendations for each of the projects.

Metro Vision Outcomes

Brad Calvert, DRCOG Regional Planning and Operations staff, described the development of the current iteration of Metro Vision through stakeholder participation and input, Board ad hoc and formal committees, and plan drafting. During several meetings in late 2015, the Metro Vision Issues Committee recommended approval of five overarching themes and 14 outcomes for the draft Metro Vision plan. Overarching themes and outcomes are high-level focus areas derived from the organization's vision. They clarify the vision and represent areas of focus across the organization that must be achieved to accomplish the vision and fulfill its mission. The DRCOG Board adopted a revised mission and vision in 2015.

The draft Metro Vision plan provided to the Board in February 2015 included 16 draft outcomes, however, the Metro Vision Issues Committee (MVIC) recommended removing two (Outcome 4: "Freestanding communities and rural town centers remain distinct from the larger urban area;" Outcome 7: "A transportation system contributing to a better quality of life"). The committee emphasized, however, that subsequent discussions will consider the strategic objectives associated with those outcomes.

Chair Jackie Millet facilitated Board discussion of each of the remaining MVIC-recommended outcomes. Conversation included how the plan is implemented and how DRCOG will monitor plan performance over time. The Board also discussed DRCOG's urban growth boundary/area program and whether marijuana cultivation was considered in Outcome 10 ("The region's working agricultural lands and activities contribute to a strong regional food system"). The Board approved the 14 outcomes put forth by MVIC.

Legislative Update: New Bills for Consideration and Action

Lobby Colorado Associates partners Ed Bowditch and Jennifer Cassell provided a general report about the first week of Colorado's legislative session. Bowditch noted that the state's economy is slowing slightly within the natural resources industries (extraction and oil and gas) and that income and sales tax revenues are slightly declining. No TABOR refund is expected for 2015-16, and the state will need to set aside \$192 million for 2016-17. Bowditch anticipates lobbying in support of Colorado's Strategic Plan on Aging and other aging and transportation issues of particular concern to DRCOG. Cassell briefed the Board on a joint memorial to urge Congress to remove the "hold harmless" provision from the Older Americans Act, as well as conversion of a bill that would have potentially altered state Transportation Commission boundaries into a study of transportation districts. A bill allowing the Colorado Department of Transportation to bond for transportation projects, killed during the last legislative session, is expected to return this session.

Rich Mauro, DRCOG legislative policy analyst, brought 10 bills before the Board with recommended staff action. See "[2016 January Legislative Summary](#)" for more details.

Statement of Understanding by Members of the Board of Directors

At its December Board meeting, directors briefly discussed a statement of understanding proposed for inclusion as part of Board capacity-building and on-boarding. At the previous meeting, the Board requested the item be slated for further discussion at the January meeting. The Board's legal counsel suggested several changes to the statement of understanding, including that a phrase regarding inability to meet one's obligations would be best addressed in the Board's Articles of Association. Legal counsel also suggested that members and alternates sign the document. Board Director Laura Christman presented a document reflecting suggested changes to the statement of understanding, which was distributed in hard-copy for review by the Board.

Conversation on the topic was wide-ranging and diverse, including topics such as oaths of office, implications for directors who may choose not to sign and expectation-setting for Board participation. Board Director Bob Fifer, representing the Structure and Governance committee, invited further comment from the group via email to Connie Garcia, Board coordinator. Chair Jackie Millet indicated that three documents (the original statement of understanding, the legal counsel's suggested revisions and Christman's suggested changes), as well as the date and time of the next Structure and Governance committee meeting, would be shared with the Board by email.

Balanced Scorecard

Jerry Stigall, DRCOG director of organizational development, provided a brief informational presentation on progress to DRCOG and division scorecards, as well as, the Balanced Scorecard system software that will allow for measurement and reporting of organizational- and division-level strategy.