

# BOARD UPDATE



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## **MOBILITY CHOICE PARTNERS PRESENT STRATEGIC INFORMATIONAL BRIEFING**

Don Hunt, retired Colorado Department of Transportation director, and Kelly Brough, president and CEO of the Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce, gave an informational briefing on Mobility Choice. The presentation provided further information on an initiative introduced to the DRCOG Board of Directors in December 2015. Mobility Choice represents a public-private partnership to “maximize existing investments in the metro Denver transportation system by leveraging technology to meet future workforce mobility needs, resulting in enhanced economic opportunity and quality of life.”

DRCOG staff has been participating in Mobility Choice discussions with the Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce, the Colorado Department of Transportation and the Regional Transportation District. The partners have proposed funding a Mobility Choice Blueprint study at a cost of \$1.5 million, of which each public partner’s responsibility would be \$500,000. CDOT has already committed \$500,000, citing mission alignment with its RoadX program.

The Board directed DRCOG staff to develop a formal Transportation Improvement Program amendment to be taken through the DRCOG committee process in August. Doug Rex, DRCOG director of Transportation Planning and Operations, noted that funding for the project would most likely be available through an increased funding allocation to DRCOG from the Fixing America’s Surface Transportation (FAST) Act and returns from TIP projects completed for less money than budgeted.

## **BOARD DISCUSSES BALLOT INITIATIVES**

At its May meeting, the Board discussed possible positions on November ballot issues and directed staff to add consideration of Initiative 117 and Amendment 69 to a future agenda. Initiative 117, related to retention of excess state revenue, was pulled by its organizers before the July Board meeting. Amendment 69, which would create a health care payment system for Colorado residents partially funded through an additional income tax, has been certified. Although a motion was made to oppose Amendment 69, the number of Board Directors abstaining made its passage impossible.

## **BOARD APPROVES AMENDMENTS TO 2016-21 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM**

The Board amended the 2016-2021 Transportation Improvement Program to reflect changes to projects within Colorado Department of Transportation Region 4 as well as DRCOG's "second commitment in principle" to FasTracks corridors.

Related to FasTracks corridors, the amendments reflect a partial drawdown in funds (\$5.058 million) from Northwest Corridor Partners for quiet zones in the City of Boulder, Boulder County and Louisville-Lafayette as well as railroad bridge replacement in Longmont. CDOT Region 4 amendments relate to the Surface Treatment pool, Funding Advancements for Surface Transportation and Economic Recovery (FASTER) transit pool, Responsible Acceleration of Maintenance and Partnerships (RAMP) project pool and project rollover list.

## **BOARD AMENDS UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM FOR FISCAL YEARS 2016-17**

The Board approved amendments to Unified Planning Work Program for fiscal years 2016-17, which helps fulfill DRCOG's mission as the region's metropolitan planning organization and describes proposed multimodal transportation planning activities. The document is prepared biennially and serves as the management tool for scheduling, budgeting and monitoring the planning activities of participating entities. The amendments reflect procedural, financial and schedule changes, including updating references from the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21) Act to the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act, minor clarifications to work tasks and activities, updates and clarifications to finance tables, and minor updates to selected deliverable completion dates and activity descriptions.

## **BOARD APPROVES INFORMATION REQUIREMENTS FOR FISCALLY CONSTRAINED REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN PROJECT SUBMITTALS**

Following adoption of a new high-occupancy vehicle policy by the Colorado Department of Transportation and a recommendation by the Transportation Advisory Committee, the Board approved updated additional information requirements for Fiscally Constrained Regional Transportation Plan project submittals with a tolling component.

## **BOARD ADOPTS METRO VISION PERFORMANCE MEASURES AND STRATEGIC INITIATIVES**

The DRCOG Board of Directors continued its forward momentum on the Metro Vision update at its July meeting by approving the Metro Vision update's performance measures, strategic initiatives (menu of voluntary options available to organizations), and preamble. DRCOG staff expects to bring a public review draft before the Board for release later this year.

## **DIRECTOR OF PARTNERSHIP DEVELOPMENT AND INNOVATION PROVIDES INFORMATIONAL BRIEFING ON SMALL COMMUNITIES, HOT TOPICS FORUM.**

Flo Raitano, DRCOG's director of partnership development and innovation, briefed Board Directors on the opportunity for representatives from smaller member governments to attend a Sept. 15 daylong event to discuss shared challenges and opportunities. Representatives from 22 communities, which were identified using criteria including sales tax revenue, population and median household income, were invited to determine forum topics through a survey. Topics will include economic development, infrastructure, funding strategies and finance options, planning and transportation funding. Online registration will open soon. Board directors, mayors and key staff are encouraged to attend. Contact Flo at [fraitano@drcog.org](mailto:fraitano@drcog.org) or 303-480-6789 for more information.

## **COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING DIRECTOR RECAPS BIKE TO WORK DAY**

Board Directors received a briefing on the annual Bike to Work Day, which was held July 22 this year. Steve Erickson, director of communications and marketing, reported that 32,000 riders (of which 37 percent were first-timers) logged 598,000 miles. Average commutes measured 9.2 miles one-way. Participants could stop at one of 260 breakfast stations, bike-home stations or bike parties. And 779 businesses and organizations facilitated the participation of their employees through the business challenge. In partnership with Strava, a run- and ride-tracking social network that provided metro area data for Bike to Work Day, DRCOG developed heat maps and interactive representations of participation. Follow-up activities will include a survey that measures commute behavior changes among participants and efforts by the Way to Go outreach staff to encourage business participants to explore commuting choice for their employees.