

BOARD UPDATE



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BOARD ADOPTS CYCLE 2 AMENDMENTS

The DRCOG Board of Directors adopted a resolution concurrently approving the 2015 Cycle 2 Amendments to the 2040 Fiscally Constrained Regional Transportation Plan (2040 RTP), the 2015 Cycle 2 Amendments to the Denver Southern Subarea 8-hour Ozone Conformity Determination and the 2015 Cycle 2 Amendments to the CO and PM10 Conformity Determination. The 2040 RTP amendments include project scope and timing changes related to managed toll express lanes along C-470; I-70 east reconstruction; a new on-ramp at Pena Boulevard and Tower Road; and widening Tower Road, E-470, McIntyre Street, Quincy Avenue and Wadsworth Boulevard. The amended 2040 RTP meets all applicable federal air quality conformity requirements.

BOARD APPROVES TIP AMENDMENTS

The Board passed three amendments to the 2016-2021 Transportation Improvement Program.

Board directors voted to split their consideration of the amendments, allowing the Board to discuss and vote on two companion projects related to Arapahoe Road (an interchange reconstruction at Interstate 25 and an intersection improvement at Yosemite Street) separately from an amendment related to a \$7.8 million RoadX pilot program.

Conversation related to the RoadX amendment included the source of its funds (the Colorado Department of Transportation), the rationale for its inclusion in the TIP and the nature of the pilot program.

BOARD APPROVES INTEGRATION OF DRMAC WITH DRCOG

The Board adopted a resolution approving the integration of the Denver Regional Mobility and Access Council (DRMAC) into DRCOG. As background, at its November 2015 meeting, the DRCOG Board approved staff conducting due diligence to explore integrating DRMAC with DRCOG. The DRMAC Board requested the due diligence recognizing the overlap in services, service area, and potential benefits achieved in economies of scale. DRCOG's attorney, auditors, insurance agents and staff reviewed DRMAC's finances, contracts and other documents. DRCOG staff also consulted with DRMAC's board, fiscal sponsor (Colorado Nonprofit Development Center) and primary funder (CDOT), which support the integration and ensured DRMAC's grant revenue contracts could be transferred to DRCOG. Staff anticipates completing the integration prior the end of 2016.

BOARD REJECTS PARTICIPATION IN COHORT PROGRAM

After considerable discussion, the Board decided against participating in a cohort of other metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs) through Portland State University's Urban Sustainability Accelerator

program. The Board's decision followed an evaluation of the program's effectiveness for DRCOG and its member communities, including a series of several presentations by the program's director; a survey of program attendees; and conversation at the Board's February meeting that resulted in a request for a scope of work. Conversation at the March Board meeting was wide-ranging and included topics such as: the value of third-party analysis from subject-matter experts to improve the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) process; concerns regarding methodological approaches and concerns regarding compatibility of the other MPOs in the cohort.

BOARD DIRECTS DRCOG STAFF ON LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

During the state and federal legislative sessions, the DRCOG Board hears monthly updates from Rich Mauro, DRCOG legislative liaison. Mauro provided information about bills upon which the Board had previously been briefed, as well as four new bills. The four new bills included HB16-1304, Transportation Priorities Community Conversations (which the Board directed DRCOG staff to monitor); SB16-1334, Inclusionary Zoning in County Unincorporated Areas (which the Board directed DRCOG staff to monitor); SB16-1313, Authority of Local Government Master Plans to Include Policies to Implement State Water Plan Goals (which the Board directed DRCOG staff to oppose); and HB16-1340 County Planning Commission Exemption from Approval Requirement (which the Board directed DRCOG staff to monitor). For more information, see the "[2016 March Legislative Update](#)."

BOARD APPROVES STRUCTURAL CHANGES TO NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Reflecting and incorporating changes to its overall committee structure, the DRCOG Board approved changes to its Nominating Committee. As unanimously recommended by the Structure/Governance group, the Board determined that the Nominating Committee shall be composed of six members: the immediate past Board chair (or vice chair if there is no immediate past Board chair); a Board member representing the City and County of Denver; one member selected by the Performance and Evaluation Committee; one member selected by the Budget and Finance Committee; one member selected by the Board of Directors; and one member selected by the Board Chair.

BOARD AMENDS ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION

At its February meeting, the Board had agreed to conceptual changes to its committee structure put forth by the Structure and Governance group, and directed staff to revise the *Articles of Association* to reflect the recommended changes for Board approval. Following minor amendments regarding eligibility related to term and level (Director or alternate) of service; and to correct a typo changing nomination of an "additional member" (as opposed to a "sixth member"), the Board adopted a resolution amending the Articles of Association.

BOARD FORMS AD HOC NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Following on the heels of amending Articles of Association that include a new committee structure, the Board elected an ad hoc Nominating Committee which will recommend members to serve on the Finance and Budget and Performance and Engagement committees. In addition to the Board's immediate past chair (Jackie Millet) and a representative of the City and County of Denver (Robin Kneich), the Board selected Ron Rakowsky (Greenwood Village), John Diak (Parker), Colleen Whitlow (Mead) and Ashley Stolzmann (Louisville).

BOARD RECEIVES INFORMATIONAL BRIEFING ON ALTERNATIVE FUEL VEHICLE PROGRAMS

In October 2015, the DRCOG Board asked staff to compile information regarding two alternative fuel programs, *ALT Fuels Colorado* and *Charge Ahead Colorado*, both administered jointly by the Regional Air Quality Council and the Colorado Energy Office. In response, Steve Cook of Transportation Planning and Operations gave an informational briefing at the March Board meeting.

In its October request, the Board had asked about whether transit vehicles would be eligible to participate in ALT Fuels Colorado, as the Regional Transportation District and other transit providers have expressed interest in expanding their electric vehicle fleets. Staff informed the Board, after working with CDOT and the Regional Air Quality Council on procedural concerns, it has been decided that both electric and compressed natural gas transit vehicles will be eligible in future ALT Fuels Colorado calls for projects.

The Board also inquired whether the eligibility rule for ALT Fuels Colorado requiring electric vehicle charging station to be co-located with a compressed natural gas station is working. Cook's report to the Board indicated that while it is difficult to assess the success of the co-location element, it is a valuable addition to the ALT Fuels Colorado program, providing flexibility to applicants. However, staff believes applicants pursuing electric vehicle infrastructure are better served applying through the Charge Ahead Colorado program, which focuses on electric infrastructure and funds both equipment and installation of electric vehicle charging stations.

In summary, DRCOG staff advised that ALT Fuels Colorado and Charge Ahead Colorado are complementary programs functioning together to bring a diverse, accessible alternative fuel market to the Denver region and Colorado. Staff further recommended that DRCOG's member governments take advantage of the funding available for fleet vehicles.