

# BOARD UPDATE



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## **BOARD RECEIVES BRIEFING ON METRO DENVER NATURE ALLIANCE**

At its October meeting, DRCOG's board of directors received a strategic informational briefing from Susan Daggett representing the Metro Denver Nature Alliance, a newly formed coalition of public, private and nonprofit partners. Brad Calvert, DRCOG director for regional planning and development, serves on the alliance's interim steering committee. The alliance will align the efforts of its partners to ensure equitable access to nature and promote healthier people, communities and natural places. Also representing the network was Dana Coelho of the U.S. Forest Service.

## **BOARD APOINTS REX AS DRCOG EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Following a nationwide search by EFL Associates involving interviews with nine initial applicants, four top candidates delivered presentations to the board Oct. 4. Board directors provided feedback to the Performance and Engagement committee. Following deliberation, the Performance and Engagement committee recommended Douglas W. Rex as its top candidate. At the Oct. 18 Board meeting, directors appointed Rex to serve at the pleasure of the Board.

## **BOARD CONCURS WITH REQUEST TO REMOVE NATIONAL HIGHWAY SYSTEM DESIGNATION FOR PORTION OF PEÑA BOULEVARD**

Following Federal Highway Administration guidelines, the City and County of Denver and Denver International Airport submitted to DRCOG – the region's metropolitan planning organization – a request to remove the National Highway System designation from the portion of Peña Boulevard from E-470 east to the airport terminal.

At its Oct. 18 meeting, the DRCOG board of directors concurred with the request via resolution. Per Federal Highway Administration guidelines, DRCOG will forward the request to the Colorado Department of Transportation for final submittal to the Federal Highway Administration.

## **BOARD APPROVES ELIGIBILITY RULES AND PROCESS FOR TRANSPORTATION DEMAND MANAGEMENT SET-ASIDE**

At its October meeting, the board of directors approved the eligibility rules, selection process and evaluation criteria for projects funded through the DRCOG Transportation Demand Management set-aside of the 2018–2021 Transportation Improvement Program for fiscal years 2018 and 2019. The set-aside represents \$3.2 million in federal funds over two years, including \$1.12 million allocated directly to DRCOG’s Way to Go partnership for seven transportation management associations. A \$2.08 million portion is allocated for a call for projects in two categories: approximately \$800,000 for small infrastructure and \$1.28 million for non-infrastructure marketing and outreach activities. In addition, \$211,000 remains from previous set-aside non-infrastructure projects. A call for projects will be issued shortly.

## **BOARD APPROVES 120-DAY VARIANCES TO RETAIN TIP FUNDING FOR PROJECTS DELAYED A SECOND YEAR**

Under board-adopted Transportation Improvement Program policy concerning second-year delays, project sponsors may appeal to the board for a variance to continue their project if it is delayed after Oct. 15. Through conversations with project sponsor staff, DRCOG became aware of three projects with second-year delays. CDOT and Regional Transportation District staff confirmed the delays. Each project sponsor submitted a letter expressing their desire to appeal. Projects for which the board approved 120-day variances include:

- a real-time transit signal project in Boulder County, delayed at construction phase;
- a project to upgrade traffic signal equipment for the central business district in the City and County of Denver, delayed at design phase; and
- corridor improvements along 112th Avenue in Northglenn, delayed at environmental and design phases.

## **BOARD APPROVES AMENDMENTS TO 2018-2021 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM**

At its Oct. 18 meeting and following a recommendation for approval by the Regional Transportation Committee, the Board approved amendments to the current Transportation Improvement Program. The approved amendments include:

- a removal of the Northwest Corridor Partners’ remaining allocated funds from the FasTracks pool consistent with the board’s 2008 second commitment in principle to FasTracks corridors
- an allocation of second commitment in principle funds to quiet zones in Broomfield

- an allocation of second commitment in principle funds to quiet zones in Westminster
- moving funds into fiscal year 2018 to obligate previous TIP funding related to Regional Transportation District transit vehicle overhauls and maintenance; state of good repair; and bus and facilities capital improvements.

## **BOARD HEARS INFORMATIONAL BRIEFING ON CDOT'S FEDERALLY REQUIRED SAFETY TARGETS**

At the October board of directors meeting, Jacob Riger of Transportation Planning and Operations and Charles Meyer of CDOT presented on CDOT's federally required 2018 safety targets. State departments of transportation and metropolitan planning organizations (such as DRCOG) are required by the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act to set annual performance-based safety targets related to the number of fatalities, rate of fatalities, number of serious injuries, rate of serious injuries and number of combined non-motorized fatalities and serious injuries. DRCOG must set and report its targets by February 2018.