

BOARD UPDATE



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BOARD APPROVES 2020-2023 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM FOCUS AREAS

At its September meeting, the DRCOG Board approved the following focus areas for the 2020-2023 Transportation Improvement Program:

- improving mobility infrastructure and services for vulnerable populations (including improved transportation access to health services)
- increasing the reliability of the existing multimodal transportation network.
- improving transportation safety and security.

At the Board's work session on Sept. 6, directors agreed that focus areas should guide investment decisions, rather than determine project eligibility. They determined that criteria involving TIP focus areas should combine qualitative and quantitative considerations, and that focus areas should be considered for both regional and subregional share processes.

BOARD RECEIVES STRATEGIC INFORMATIONAL BRIEFING ON GOVERNOR'S TASK FORCE ON RESPONDER SAFETY

Following recent fatalities of law enforcement personnel responding to traffic incidents, Governor Hickenlooper charged the Colorado State Patrol with convening a task force to conduct a review of first responder safety. Colorado State Patrol Deputy Chief Mark Savage led the multi-disciplinary task force, which developed nearly 100 recommendations. At the September meeting of the DRCOG Board of Directors, Savage presented a summary of findings and recommendations.

Savage's presentation introduced task force's campaign: "One Scene. One Culture. Save Lives." The campaign establishes unified and comprehensive updates to training, operations, policies and procedures, communications, and infrastructure, including technological advances, across the various organizations that have first responders at scenes of crashes and breakdowns.

Savage also highlighted the importance of the traveling public in eliminating, reducing and minimizing first-responder vulnerability at the scenes of crashes and breakdowns.

BOARD HEARS PRESENTATION ON RTD STRATEGIC BUDGET PLAN AND FASTRACKS ANNUAL PROGRAM EVALUATION

At the September DRCOG Board of Directors meeting, Heather McKillop, Regional Transportation District chief financial officer, delivered a presentation on RTD's strategic budget plan, its six-year financial plan for the base transit system; and its annual program evaluation, a six-year financial plan for the FasTracks program. McKillop mentioned that both plans include an emphasis on maintaining existing infrastructure. She indicated that bus rapid transit along State Highway 119 has been shifted to 2024, but if funding can be freed via operating costs or sales and use tax revenue, the project will be moved back into the six-year plan.

BOARD RECEIVES INFORMATIONAL BRIEFING ON VOLKSWAGEN SETTLEMENT

As part of the \$2.7 billion Environmental Mitigation Trust Fund established under a settlement with automaker Volkswagen following its admission of using software to manipulate exhaust emissions test results for its diesel vehicles, Colorado was allocated \$68.7 million for mitigation projects to reduce emissions of nitrogen oxides. Eligible projects include funding incentives for alternative fuel vehicles and engine repowers for heavy and medium-duty trucks, transit buses, shuttle buses, school buses, freight switcher locomotives and airport ground equipment. The fund may also provide incentives for light-duty zero emission vehicle supply equipment.

The Colorado Department of Health and Environment received recommendations from the Regional Air Quality Council, the Colorado Department of Transportation, Colorado Energy Office, and the public to inform a Proposed Beneficiary Mitigation Plan, which it will submit later this year. Ken Lloyd of the Regional Air Quality Council provided an overview of the allocation of funds and program administration under the proposed mitigation plan.