

On Board | January 2018 |
Information for DRCOG Board
directors and alternates.

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Happy New Year!

I hope you and yours had a wonderful holiday season. While many of us were fortunate to spend cherished time with family and friends, DRCOG's Board directors, staff and member governments have also been busy wrapping up 2017 getting ready for this year. Read on for some recent highlights and our plans to make life better in the region during the next few months.

Douglas W. Rex
Executive Director



Save the date: Winter Bike to Work Day

DRCOG is working with the Colorado Department of Transportation to coordinate the first statewide Winter Bike to Work Day, Friday, Feb. 9. DRCOG's communications and marketing team designed the poster and is providing artwork

and social media prompts for use statewide. You can help by encouraging individuals and businesses within your community to participate. Stand by for more details.



DRCOG receives 15 applications for transportation demand management set-aside

During a call for projects that closed Dec. 15 for the transportation demand management set-aside of the 2018-2019 Transportation Improvement Program, DRCOG received 15 applications representing a request for over \$2.7 million from the federal Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality program. The review committee is meeting early this year and will present a recommended list of projects in the spring.

Awards nominations now open

Help us recognize your community's successes! Nominations are now open for our Metro Vision and John V. Christensen awards. Please encourage applications from your communities for projects, plans and people that make life better in the region. But hurry – nominations close on Wednesday, Jan. 31.

Metro Vision awards: Nominate a project, plan or program that furthers the region's shared aspirational vision for the metro area. Learn more about last year's winners.

John V. Christensen Award: Nominate an individual who exemplifies regionalism and collaboration. Learn more about Tom Clark, last year's winner.

[Submit a nomination](#)

Save the date! We'll honor this year's winners the evening of Wednesday, April 25 at the Hyatt Regency Denver at Colorado Convention Center.



TIP spotlight: Arapahoe Road

Except for landscaping, two Transportation Improvement Program projects involving Arapahoe Road are substantially complete: the Interstate 25 and Arapahoe Road interchange, and operational improvements at Arapahoe Road and Yosemite Street.

The projects, sponsored by Arapahoe County, were separately awarded, but combined for construction purposes. With a total project cost of \$72 million, CDOT contributed \$50.4 million in Responsible Acceleration of Maintenance and Partnerships funding. Other funding sources included the DRCOG-administered Surface Transportation Program-Metro (\$4.2 million for interchange design and \$3 million for design and construction of the Arapahoe Road/Yosemite Street intersection) and \$14.4 million in local funding.



DRCOG hosts Boomer Bond communities meeting

On Dec. 13, staff from DRCOG's Regional Planning and Development and Area Agency on Aging divisions hosted representatives from five member governments and three partner organizations (AARP, Tri-County Health Department and Connected Communities) to discuss the Boomer Bond initiative. Representatives of four communities (Frederick, Sheridan, Federal Heights and Dacono) that have conducted the Boomer Bond assessment shared their experiences, and a representative from Cherry Hills Village, which is considering using the assessment, was also in attendance. Topics of conversation included Area Agency on Aging services and DRCOG's technical support for communities using the assessment.



DRCOG receives Collaboration in Industry award

On Dec. 7, the Colorado Business Roundtable awarded DRCOG a Collaboration in Industry award in the government

and business development category. Steve Erickson (right), communications and marketing director, attended a luncheon at The Cable Center on the University of Denver campus to accept the award on behalf of the executive office and the Board of Directors. DRCOG was recognized for bringing regional communities together, its Way to Go partnership and Bike to Work Day, which includes participation by 700 businesses.

Passenger rail commission provides report

In 2017, the Colorado General Assembly created the Southwest Chief and Front Range Passenger Rail Commission, on which DRCOG's Jacob Riger, long-range transportation planning manager, serves as vice chair.

The legislature directed the commission to provide a report outlining next steps for developing and implementing a potential Front Range passenger rail system by Dec. 1. Riger led the subcommittee charged with preparing the recommendations, which included key issues, tasks, initial costs and timelines.

See [Denver 7's interview](#) with Riger.

Join us for Board orientation Thursday, Feb. 15

If you're a recently elected official, new to the Board of Directors or haven't attended an orientation recently, please plan to attend our next [Board orientation](#) at 4 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 15. City and county managers and key staff are also welcome.

Please [email Connie](#) if you or your staff are interested in attending.



DRCOG leaders advocate for aging services and transportation funding

On Dec. 12 and 13, I traveled with Jayla Sanchez-Warren, Area Agency on Aging director; Bob Roth, Board chair; Herb Atchison, Board vice chair; and Mickey Ferrell, lobbyist; to Washington, D.C. to meet with Colorado's senators and representatives.

During our visits, we discussed how federal Older Americans Act funding allocations to states are adversely affected by the lack of a federal budget, creating such uncertainty that DRCOG's Area Agency on Aging may need to enforce service caps and deadlines on community providers.

We also discussed the projected deficit for the Highway Trust Fund (\$127 billion by 2027), the federal funding source for our transportation system. Federal infrastructure investment remains a priority in DRCOG's federal policy statement and we continue to educate our federal delegation about the significant need for additional funding to maintain and improve the regional transportation system.

Active transportation plan underway

In November 2017, DRCOG began convening representatives of member governments, partner agencies and advocacy groups to develop the region's first [active transportation plan](#). Since then, the committee has been meeting monthly to

discuss existing conditions and learn about local plans and policies. During the months to come the committee will develop a regional plan that:

- supports access to active transportation facilities (such as multiuse paths, bike lanes and sidewalks) for people of all ages, incomes and abilities.
- enhances active transportation options for rural, suburban and urban communities.
- encourages active transportation facilities that connect the network and region efficiently, including those that provide connections to transit.
- supports the Denver region's vision to improve safety, reduce vehicle miles traveled, decrease the number of people driving alone and improve the region's air quality.

In the news ...

The data doctor ([5280](#), quotes Jayla Sanchez-Warren)

“Roads are not enough”: Commission exploring Front Range passenger train service preps lawmakers on their pitch ([The Denver Post](#), quotes Jacob Riger)

Front Range rail plan updated Thursday in Denver ([KRDO](#), quotes Jacob Riger)

Go-Tober challenge introduces sustainable commute options to 50,000 employees ([Global Newswire](#), quotes Steve Erickson)

Autonomous vehicles and the last-mile problem ([Mountain Town News](#), quotes Flo Raitano)

Calendar

Jan. 9

[Transportation Improvement Program Policy Work Group](#)

DRCOG, 2:30 p.m.

Jan. 12

Regional Transitions Committee

DRCOG, noon

Jan. 16

Regional Transportation Committee

DRCOG, 8:30 a.m.

Jan. 17

Finance and Budget Committee

Board of Directors

DRCOG, 5:30 p.m.

DRCOG, 6:30 p.m.

Jan. 22

Transportation Advisory Committee

Transportation Improvement Program Policy Work Group

DRCOG, 1:30 p.m.

DRCOG, 2:30 p.m.

Jan. 24

Agency Coordination Team/Air Quality Interagency
Consultation Group

DRCOG, 9 a.m.

Jan. 30

[Nomination deadline: Metro Vision and John V. Christensen awards](#)

5 p.m.



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