



### Happy anniversary, Metro Vision!

It's been just over a year since the Board of Directors unanimously adopted the Metro Vision update that represents the region's shared vision for its future, and which guides DRCOG's work. Although the most recent version of the plan is just a year old, the region has been planning for its future under the Metro Vision identity for more than 20 years.

I'd like to extend a special welcome to those of you who have just joined the Board. Please consider attending [Board orientation](#) on Feb. 15, at which we'll cover Metro Vision, DRCOG's structure, its programs and how we continue our legacy of regional collaboration.

Douglas W. Rex  
Executive Director



Congratulations, directors!

Congratulations to Board directors Eva Henry, Elise Jones and Bob Roth who were recognized at the January meeting for five years of meritorious service on the DRCOG Board of Directors. We appreciate the regional commitment demonstrated by all Board directors, and consider longevity of service among our directors one of DRCOG's strengths.

Thank you, Eva, Elise and Bob!



## Reminder: Register 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.

DRCOG's senior staff will join me to provide information about DRCOG's history, structure, programs and shared aspirations for the future of the region.

Please [email Connie](#) by **Friday, Feb. 9**, if you or your staff are interested in attending.



## Winter Bike to Work Day is Friday

Join DRCOG and the Colorado Department of Transportation Friday, Feb. 9, to celebrate Colorado's first statewide commemoration of International Winter Bike to Work Day. The Denver region's residents are competing against their counterparts in [cities worldwide](#) to log the most rides. DRCOG and several member governments, local businesses and transportation management associations are hosting breakfast stations or other events. DRCOG produced two videos to prepare new-to-winter-biking commuters ([Tips for winter biking](#) and [How to dress for winter biking](#)).

[Commit to ride](#)

[Find an event](#)



## AAA director lends DRCOG's expertise to Older Americans

## Act reauthorization plan

In late January, Area Agency on Aging director Jayla Sanchez-Warren traveled to Washington, D.C., to meet with the Mission Forward task force responsible for updating the Older Americans Act for reauthorization, including representatives of the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging, the National Council of Aging, the American Society on Aging and the Elder Justice Coalition.

"The Act is 52 years old, and we want it around for 50 more years," Sanchez-Warren said.

Through its Area Agency on Aging, DRCOG provides direct services as well as funding for community providers that provide nutrition services, support veterans and help older adults get to medical and personal appointments.

The Older Americans Act, which provides federal funding and the national structure for area agencies on aging nationwide, is due for reauthorization in 2019, although whether Congress will act next year is uncertain, according to Sanchez-Warren.

Since 2005, federal funding has dropped from \$28 to \$17 (adjusted for inflation) per person 65 and older annually. By 2025, funding under the Older Americans Act is expected to drop to \$11 per senior, per year.

"If updates to the Act increase funding, it will be easier for the Area Agency on Aging to partner with businesses and provide more support to community-based services in our member jurisdictions, which in turn will allow their residents to stay in their homes and communities, and reduce their health care costs," Sanchez-Warren said.



## DRCOG signs lease at 1001 17th St.

It's official! DRCOG's lease for 1001 17th St. has been fully executed. In anticipation of an early June move date, we will be working with the project manager and architect to finalize the floor plan. DRCOG staff have had opportunities to tour the building and visit the seventh-floor offices. Employees in each division have provided input on office furniture, color palette and decor via designated representatives.

## Chair Roth appears on No Copay Radio

Board chair Bob Roth was a guest on [No Copay Radio](#) last week, discussing older adults in Aurora. Roth represents Ward V on the Aurora City Council. On the show, which aired at 4 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 3 on Cruisin' 1430 AM, Roth discussed how DRCOG makes life better for older adults, as well as the December trip that Jayla Sanchez-Warren, director of DRCOG's Area Agency on Aging; vice chair Herb Atchison; Roth and I took to meet with Colorado's senators and representatives in Washington, D.C.

[Roth's interview](#) is available in the show's podcast archive on [DRCOG's website](#). The Area Agency on Aging is a sponsor of No Copay Radio. Atchison will be a guest on a future show, and several DRCOG staff, partners and board directors have appeared on past shows.

Listen



## Next Metro Vision Idea Exchange is Feb. 28

Mismatched supply and demand for housing, soaring prices, stagnating wages, limits on new construction and dramatic population growth have caused a spike in housing prices in the Denver region. Multiple families living under one roof can help reduce the cost of food, utilities, rent and maintenance. However, such arrangements often run afoul of building occupancy codes, zoning ordinances and restrictive covenants.

Join us for "[Doubled-Up And Dealing With It: Responding to Shared Housing Arrangements](#)," the next Metro Vision Idea Exchange, from 10 a.m. to noon on Wednesday, Feb. 28. Participants will learn about strategies planners and policymakers can use to address housing-related challenges in the Denver region. Hear from industry experts and public officials about policy and enforcement responses to regional growth dynamics. Participants will share their experiences and uncover potential partnerships to address equitable, affordable and attainable housing development in the region.

Speakers will include Don Elliot, director of Clarion Associates; Tina Axelrad, zoning administrator for the City and County of Denver and Travis Parker, planning director for the City of Lakewood.

[Register](#)

UHealth pilot exceeds

## expectations

Since launching in October 2017, the Area Agency on Aging's UCHHealth community care management pilot program has exceeded expectations for both budget and client case load. Through the program, UCHHealth clinical staff at the Anschutz Seniors Clinic or Internal Medicine Clinic refer patients to the Area Agency on Aging for extra help managing their health.

Case managers help clients overcome challenges affecting their health, such as financial insecurity, depression, social isolation, difficulty obtaining nutritious food and a lack of transportation to follow-up appointments.

The efficiency championed by case management and transitions manager Amy Pulley and the dedication of DRCOG's case managers have resulted in the pilot serving 50 clients to date, instead of the projected 30.

As a result of its success, the program has been extended through May — three months beyond the proposed pilot term.

"The pilot has been an incredible learning experience for all, and we believe the partnerships we are establishing with the population health office at UCHHealth will be invaluable as we look to the future," Pulley said. "There is still a lot of work to be done, but we are confident we are moving in the right direction."



Celebrate regional achievement  
April 25

Please plan to join us to celebrate the best of our region's efforts to make life better the evening of Wednesday, April 25, at the Hyatt Regency Denver at Colorado Convention Center. At our annual awards event, the Board of Directors hosts more than 400 guests (including elected officials and leaders from throughout the region and across sectors) to honor collaboration, innovation and partnership. We'll recognize recipients of:

- Way to Go Champion awards
- Distinguished Service awards
- Metro Vision awards
- John V. Christensen Memorial Award

**Board directors and alternates:** Use coupon code BOARD18 to register yourself; or BOARDGST18 for your complimentary admission and one guest for **\$49**.\*

Register

Want to attend with other representatives from your community? Member governments, nonprofits and government agencies may [sponsor a table](#) for \$900.

\* Only one coupon code can be used per transaction, so registration for multiple board directors or alternates from the same jurisdiction should be done as separate transactions.

## Calendar

Feb. 7

[Board Work Session](#)

Performance and Engagement Committee

DRCOG, 4 p.m.

CANCELED

Feb. 9



International Winter Bike to Work Day

Feb. 13

Transportation Improvement Program Policy Work Group

DRCOG, 2:30 p.m.

Feb. 14

Active Transportation Stakeholder Committee

DRCOG, 2 p.m.

Feb. 15

Board orientation

DRCOG, 4 p.m.

Feb. 16

Advisory Committee on Aging

DRCOG, noon

Feb. 20

Regional Transportation Committee

DRCOG, 8:30 a.m.

Feb. 21

Finance and Budget Committee

DRCOG, 5:30 p.m.

Board of Directors

DRCOG, 6:30 p.m.

## Feb. 26

Transportation Advisory Committee

Transportation Improvement Program Policy Work Group

DRCOG, 1:30 p.m.

DRCOG, 2:30 p.m.

## Feb. 27

Aging and Disability Resource Center Advisory Council on Aging

DRCOG, 1 p.m.

## Feb. 28

Agency Coordination Team/Air Quality Interagency Consultation Group

DRCOG, 9 a.m.

Metro Vision Idea Exchange: Responding to Shared Housing Arrangements

DRCOG, 10 a.m.

Regional Transportation Operations Working Group

DRCOG, 1:30 p.m.





Denver Regional Council of Governments  
1290 Broadway, Suite 100, Denver, CO 80203

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