

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

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### The best of the West

Last week I had the opportunity to attend the Intermountain MPOs meeting in Phoenix, hosted by the Maricopa Association of Governments. The gathering convened metropolitan planning organizations and transit stakeholders from seven Western states. It's always great to talk shop, and while many of our peers are confronting similar challenges and opportunities, the Denver region continues to be among those setting the pace for regional innovation.

In formal presentations and casual conversations with those from around the West, I got to share some of DRCOG's great work, including our involvement in the [Mobility Choice Blueprint](#) and our always-innovative [Area Agency on Aging](#).

The range of programs, services and initiatives DRCOG offers is a testament to our Board's collaborative spirit and the get-'er-done attitude of DRCOG staff. Keep reading for more examples of how "we make life better:"

Douglas W. Rex  
Executive Director



## Welcome, Ron!

DRCOG welcomed Ron Papsdorf as director of the Transportation Planning and Operations division on Friday, March 16. Ron brings more than 25 years of transportation planning and government relations experience to the role, most recently as deputy director of the Colorado Department of Transportation Office of Policy and Government Relations where he managed federal affairs and local government relations. Prior to working with CDOT, Ron spent 17 years with the City of Gresham, Oregon, and seven with the City of Scottsdale, Arizona.

Please extend a warm welcome to Ron — no one is happier than I am that he has joined the DRCOG team.

## Federal omnibus bill increases funds for Area Agency on Aging

On March 23, President Donald Trump signed the federal 2018 omnibus bill, which includes significant increases for several Older Americans Act programs and continued funding for the State Health Insurance Assistance Program. Through the Older Americans Act, DRCOG's Area Agency on Aging provides direct services and coordinates with community providers for transportation, nutrition and in-home care. Last fall, DRCOG began providing State Health Insurance Assistance Program services for Arapahoe, Douglas and Jefferson counties.



# Bike to Work Day open house is Tuesday, April 10

Join Way to Go for this year's Bike to Work Day open house from 7:30 to 10 a.m. on Tuesday, April 10. Stop by Independence Pass at DRCOG's offices (1290 Broadway, Denver, CO 80203) for breakfast, networking and materials.

- Pick up Bike to Work day posters, station banners and wayfinding signs.
- Ask Way to Go staff any questions you may have.
- Share your best practices with other station organizers, company coordinators, partners and vendors.

RSVP

**Mark your calendar:** Bike to Work Day is Wednesday, June 27.



## Will you attend the April 12 aging and disability resources short course?

Plan to come to the aging and disability resources short course at 4 p.m. next **Thursday, April 12**. Jayla Sanchez-Warren, director of the Area Agency on Aging, will introduce Board directors and alternates to DRCOG's work on behalf of our region's residents 60 and older and individuals with disabilities, as well as its partnerships with nonprofit

organizations within your communities. Attendance is strongly recommended for new Board directors and alternates. Please [RSVP to Connie](#) (303-480-6701) by **Monday, April 9.**



## Save the date for Small Communities, Hot Topics III: Regional Economics

The successful Small Communities, Hot Topics series returns Wednesday, May 30, under the theme "Regional Economics 101: How to Run With the Big Dogs." Speakers will include Dan Jarrett, DRCOG chief economist, and Sam Chapman, associate economist at the Denver branch of the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City.

Next week Flo Raitano, DRCOG's director of partnership development and innovation, will be reaching out to communities whose population, sales tax revenue or median household income make them ideal candidates for participation. As spaces become available for slightly larger communities, we'll let you know.



# 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; to register yourself and a guest use BOARDGST18 (your registration remains complimentary, your guest's is \$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.



## Area Agency on Aging among inaugural NextFifty grant recipients

DRCOG's Area Agency on Aging is among the inaugural grant recipients of NextFifty Initiative, a nonprofit foundation focused on improving community services for older adults and their caregivers. The NextFifty Initiative's \$250,000 contribution over the next two years will help contracted community organizations provide essential nutrition, utility and transportation services to individuals 50 and older. The NextFifty Initiative grant will allow the Area Agency on Aging to bolster its efforts under the Accountable Health Communities model (a Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services program) to streamline referrals and collect data from clinical and community partners related to how social factors affect patients' health.

## Reminder: Citizen naturalists invited to showcase the region's wild side

Later this month, your community can help metro Denver prove it's the wildest region in the United States. Encourage your community's residents to participate in the international [City Nature Challenge](#) April 27-30 by:

- downloading the free iNaturalist smartphone app
- joining the [City Nature Challenge 2018: Denver Metro Area](#) project
- taking photos of the plants, animals, insects and fungi in parks, open spaces or backyards

Observations made in Adams, Arapahoe, Broomfield, Denver, Douglas, Elbert, Jefferson and Park counties count toward the metro area's total. The Nature Conservancy's Colorado Field Office, a partner with DRCOG in the Metro Denver Nature Alliance, is coordinating participation for the metro area.

## Wednesday, April 4

Board Work Session

Performance and Engagement Committee

DRCOG, 4 p.m.

DRCOG, 5:30 p.m.

## Tuesday, April 10

Bike to Work Day open house

DRCOG, 7:30 a.m.

Transportation Improvement Program Policy Work Group

DRCOG, 2:30 p.m.

## Wednesday, April 11

Medicare 101

DRCOG, 2 p.m.

## Thursday, April 12

Regional Transitions Committee

DRCOG, noon

Aging and disability resources short course

DRCOG, 4 p.m.

## Tuesday, April 17

Regional Transportation Committee

DRCOG, 8:30 a.m.

## Wednesday, April 18

Finance and Budget Committee

DRCOG, 5:30 p.m.

Board of Directors

DRCOG, 6:30 p.m.

## Friday, April 20

Advisory Committee on Aging

DRCOG, noon

## Monday, April 23

Transportation Advisory Committee

DRCOG, 1:30 p.m.

Transportation Improvement Program Policy Work Group

DRCOG, 2:30 p.m.

## Wednesday, April 25

Agency Coordination Team/Air Quality Interagency  
Consultation Group

DRCOG, 9 a.m.

Regional Transportation Operations Working Group

DRCOG, 1:30 p.m.

People. Place. Elevated.  
DRCOG's annual awards celebration



Hyatt Regency Denver at Colorado Convention Center,  
6 p.m.



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

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