



Ambassadors for our region

One of the coolest things I get to do as DRCOG's executive director is represent what our member governments do — collaboratively — to audiences near and far. This past month I had the opportunity to present our region's perspectives and innovations related to resilience at the Sister Cities International annual conference in Aurora.

When I talk to DRCOG staff, I regularly hear that they, too, enjoy being ambassadors of what's going on in your communities, and how we're making life better for our region — together. As our examination of next year's proposed strategic initiatives demonstrated at the Board Workshop, everything we do is either because of your communities or on behalf of them.

Douglas W. Rex
Executive Director



Formerly a program of the Transit Alliance

Citizens' Academy application
deadline extended to Friday,
Sept. 7

The deadline to [apply for the fall 2018 Citizens' Academy](#) has been extended to tomorrow, Friday, Sept. 7. If you know of a candidate who is interested but can't quite make the application deadline, please contact [Brad Calvert](#), director of Regional Planning and Development. Ideal candidates are interested in increasing their knowledge of regional issues and enhancing their leadership capacity, and include prospective or current local government leaders.

As you know, Transit Alliance requested that we carry on the nationally recognized Citizens' Academy, and DRCOG will be hosting our first academy beginning Sept. 27. The class of Fall 2018 will learn from local experts and leaders, network with other residents, act on what they learn and – ultimately – join an 800-strong alumni network shaping Colorado's communities.

[Citizens' Academy Application](#)



Organizations throughout the region are preparing for Go-Tober, Way to Go's annual employer commuting challenge. The challenge promotes friendly competition among companies to inspire their employees to make the biggest change in commuting behavior.

We're just wrapping up the sign-up phase for companies that want to compete. Please contact [Steve Erickson](#), DRCOG's Communications and Marketing division director, to suggest we reach out to a company in your area, or if you'd like to know what companies are competing in your community.

[Learn more about Go-Tober](#)



Directors think big at Board Workshop

Representing 26 communities, along with the Colorado Department of Transportation and the Regional Transportation District, 32 Board directors gathered for the Board Workshop at Keystone Lodge and Spa Friday, Aug. 24, and Saturday, Aug. 25. I'm glad so many were able to attend.

The annual event provides directors and alternates the opportunity to socialize and network in a retreat-like setting. DRCOG staff presented program mini courses and introduced attendees to the strategic initiatives proposed for 2019, plus progress on initiatives underway for 2018. Chair Herb Atchison provided remarks highlighting the collaborative spirit of this Board, and I had the honor of sharing the past year's accomplishments and results from the recent Board collaboration assessment.

Guest speakers included **Ryan Rice**, director of the Colorado Department of Transportation's Division of Transportation Systems Management and Operations; **John Tolva**, co-founder of CityFi; **William S. Massey**, president and CEO of Peninsula Agency on Aging, Inc. and **Elizabeth Garner**, state demographer with the Colorado Department of Local Affairs.

Presentations are available below and on DRCOG's Board Portal ([log in](#), then choose "I'm interested in ..." then "Board Portal").

- [Area Agency on Aging mini course](#)
- [A vision for smart mobility](#)
- [Growing Colorado](#)

- [Growth with challenges](#)
- [Metro Vision mini course](#)
- [New models for aging services](#)

- [Regional growth initiative](#)
- [Strategic initiatives](#)
- [Transportation Planning mini course](#)
- [Year in review \(photos\)](#)

During breaks, directors and alternates had the opportunity to review 31 posters featuring member governments' community highlights.

[See the posters](#)

Area Agency on Aging announces mid-cycle request for projects

Thanks to increased funding for senior services from the State of Colorado for the fiscal year of July 1, 2018, to June 30, 2019, the Area Agency on Aging is accepting **mid-cycle grant proposals** for senior services for the period from Jan. 1, 2019, to June 30, 2019.

To be considered for funding, applicants are required to attend a [webinar training session](#) from 10 a.m. to noon, Wednesday, Sept. 12.

Visit the [RFP site](#) for services that are eligible for funding, the service area, proposal application and more information. Awards will be announced in December, and contracts will be valid for the six-month period from Jan. 1, 2019, through June 30, 2019. The deadline to apply is 5 p.m., Tuesday, Sept. 25.



Metro Vision Idea Exchange participants discuss school planning

On Aug. 15, 25 participants gathered for a Metro Vision Idea Exchange conversation about the intersection of regional and school district planning. The conversation ranged from the long-term role of schools in communities and neighborhoods to nearer-term limitations on funding and enrollment.

Panelists included Sara Baris, senior manager of planning and analysis for Denver Public Schools; Kerrie Monti, planning manager for School District 27J (which includes students from Adams, Broomfield and Weld counties); Scott Toillion, planning director for St. Vrain Valley School District and Josh Hensley, planning coordinator for Aurora Public Schools.

Big thanks to DRCOG's Regional Planning and Development team for coordinating such valuable quarterly opportunities for our member government planning staffs to learn from each other.



DRCOG shares the spotlight at Sister Cities annual conference

DRCOG has long embraced our sister region partnership with Baghdad, Iraq, through our Baghdad-Denver Regional Partnership. Many of you had the opportunity to meet the young adults shaping the future of Iraq's capital city earlier this summer. Our region's formal relationship with Baghdad is under the auspices of Sister Cities International, which invited

me to be part of a "Smarter, More Resilient Cities" panel at its annual conference in Aurora on Aug. 3.

My fellow panelists and I discussed how global relationships, such as those formed through sister city relationships, can help communities develop the resilience and sustainability necessary to overcome the physical, social and economic challenges that can threaten residents' well-being. I was especially excited to highlight how our region has earned a national reputation for coming together to solve some very real challenges.

Joining me on the panel were Mary Bean of FirstCarbon Solutions, Jandel Allen-Davis of Kaiser Permanente Colorado, Michelle Cross Fenty of Parsan Cross and Andreas Rechkemmer, professor at the University of Denver.

Reminder:

Transportation Improvement Program regional share applications due Sept. 21

Applications for eligible regional share projects for the 2020-2023 Transportation Improvement Program are due Friday, Sept. 21. The call for projects is for transportation funding for fiscal years 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023 through the federal Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (formerly STP-Metro), federal Transportation Alternatives, federal Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality, and state Multimodal Transportation Options Fund.

Approximately \$32.6 million in DRCOG-allocated funds will be available.

[Learn more and apply](#)

Calendar

Sept. 7

2020-2023 TIP Process - Boulder County Subregional

Forum

10 a.m., TBD

Sept. 10

2020-2023 TIP - Broomfield Subregional Forum

8 a.m.

Broomfield City Council

2020-2023 TIP Process - Arapahoe County Subregional
Forum (Technical Committee).

11 a.m.

Arapahoe County Lima Plaza

Sept. 12

Webinar for organizations submitting proposals for mid-cycle
senior services funding

10 a.m.

online only

2020-2023 TIP Process - Douglas County Subregional
Forum

1:30 p.m.

City of Lone Tree Office

2020-2023 TIP Process - Adams County Subregional Forum

5:30 p.m.

Adams County

Pete Mirelez Human Services Complex

Sept. 13

2020-2023 TIP Process - Southwest Weld County
Subregional Forum

2 p.m.

Weld County Southwest Services Complex

2020-2023 TIP Process - Arapahoe County Transportation
Forum

3 p.m.
Arapahoe County Lima Plaza

Sept. 17

2020-2023 TIP Process - Jefferson County Subregional
Forum

2 p.m.
conference call

Sept. 18

Regional Transportation Committee

8:30 a.m.
DRCOG

Sept. 19

Finance and Budget Committee

5:30 p.m.
DRCOG

Board of Directors

6:30 p.m.
DRCOG

Sept. 20

Veterans Transportation and Community Living Initiative
Stakeholder Meeting

10 a.m.
DRCOG

Sept. 21

Advisory Committee on Aging

noon
DRCOG

Applications due for Transportation Improvement Program regional share call for projects

3 p.m.
DRCOG

Sept. 24

2020-2023 TIP Process - Arapahoe County Transportation Forum (Technical Committee)

11 a.m.
Arapahoe County Lima Plaza

Transportation Advisory Committee

1:30 p.m.
DRCOG

Sept. 25

Request for Proposals for senior services closes

5 p.m.
DRCOG

Sept. 26

Agency Coordination Team/Air Quality Interagency Consultation Group

9 a.m.
DRCOG

Regional Transportation Operations Working Group

1:30 p.m.
DRCOG

Sept. 27

3 p.m.
Arapahoe County Lima Plaza

[Citizens' Academy](#) opening night

6 p.m.
DRCOG



Denver Regional Council of Governments
1001 17th St., Suite 700, Denver, CO 80202

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