

BOARD UPDATE



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SAVE THE DATE: AWARDS CELEBRATION IS WEDNESDAY, APRIL 25

[Registration is now open](#) for the Denver Regional Council of Governments annual awards event, Wednesday, April 25, at the Hyatt Regency Denver at Colorado Convention Center. Celebrating the regional partnerships and community accomplishments that result in a vibrant, connected region, the event will feature emcee Amelia Earhart and the Penepain Jazz Trio. Social hour begins at 6 p.m., program and dinner begin at 7 p.m.

BOARD RECEIVES STRATEGIC INFORMATIONAL BRIEFING FROM OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC EXPLORATORY COMMITTEE

At its February meeting, DRCOG's Board of Directors received a strategic informational briefing from Bruce James of Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck in his capacity as a member of Denver's Olympic and Paralympic Exploratory Committee. James provided an overview of the committee's charges to:

- determine if hosting a future Winter Games would benefit metro Denver and the state.
- identify ways for the games to be financed privately.
- to determine the legacy of hosting the games for Denver and Colorado, as well as establishing forums for community input.

James' presentation identified the National Western Stock Show and the 2008 Democratic National Convention as events that demonstrate the region's capacity to host the volume of participants and spectators who attend the Winter Games. He identified opportunities to address affordable housing and congestion along the Interstate 70 mountain corridor as potential benefits to the region, as well as the opportunity to raise the region's profile as an international travel destination.

BOARD ELECTS OFFICERS

DRCOG's Board of Directors elected its officers for 2018-19, approving the slate of candidates put forth by the nominating committee. No nominations were received from the floor. For the year to come, the Board's officers are:

Chair – Herb Atchison, Mayor, Westminster
Vice Chair – Bob Fifer, Council Member, Arvada
Secretary – John Diak, Council Member, Parker
Treasurer – Ashley Stolzmann, Council Member, Louisville

Bob Roth will serve as Immediate Past Chair for the coming year.

BOARD APPROVES GOVERNANCE CONCEPTS FOR TIP SUBREGIONAL FORUM FORMATION

At its February meeting, the Board of Directors approved foundational governance concepts for the Transportation Improvement Program subregional forums, which will coordinate the project and program prioritization process at the county level and will make project and program funding recommendations for the Board's consideration. All DRCOG member municipal and county government entities with corporate limits wholly or partially within a subregion will be invited to participate in the project/program prioritization process.

BOARD ADOPTS FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE POLICY STATEMENT

At its February meeting, the Board accepted the *2018 Policy Statement on Federal Legislative Issues*. Each year, the Board adopts a policy statement on a range of federal legislative issues. The policy statement provides the DRCOG Board, staff and lobbyists with policy direction on federal legislative issues. The Board received the draft policy statement at its January meeting.

BOARD TAKES POSITIONS ON STATE LEGISLATION

Board members were updated on current state legislative issues and bills of regional concern or interest and gave direction to staff regarding DRCOG positions on specific bills. More information on the specific legislation and positions taken by the Board since the General Assembly convened is available in the "[2018 February Legislative Summary](#)."

BOARD RECEIVES INFORMATIONAL BRIEFING ON METRO VISION STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

At the February Board meeting, Brad Calvert, director of Regional Planning and Development for DRCOG, provided an overview of regional initiatives since the Board unanimously adopted Metro Vision, the region's aspirational plan for the future, in January 2017. The presentation included brief summaries of initiatives related to the following six of Metro Vision's 14 outcomes:

- The region is comprised of diverse, livable communities.
- The regional transportation system is well-connected and serves all modes of travel.
- The built and natural environment supports healthy and active choices.
- The region's residents have expanded connections to health services.
- The region values, protects and connects people to its diverse natural resource areas, open space, parks and trails.
- Investments in infrastructure and amenities allow people and businesses to thrive and prosper.

RIGER BRIEFS BOARD ON SOUTHWEST CHIEF AND FRONT RANGE PASSENGER RAIL COMMISSION

In 2017, Senate Bill 17-153 reconstituted the existing Southwest Chief Commission to establish the Southwest Chief and Front Range Passenger Rail Commission. The bill charged the commission with continuing to oversee the preservation and expansion of Amtrak's Southwest Chief rail service in southeastern Colorado, and facilitating the development and operation of a Front Range passenger rail system along the Interstate 25 corridor from Fort Collins to Trinidad.

Jacob Riger, DRCOG's long-range transportation planning manager, serves as the commission's vice chair. At the February Board of Directors meeting, Riger delivered a presentation on the submittal the commission delivered to the General Assembly on Dec. 1, 2017 regarding development of a Front Range passenger rail system. For the first of five phases (Phase 1), the commission recommended that it would need to secure \$8.7 million over three years (\$2.9 million a year) to conduct public and stakeholder engagement, prepare a service development plan, and hire an executive director or project manager and support staff.

Additional phases would include forming a governing authority, participating in a federal project development process, design and construction and commencing service.