



Seeing the big picture

I just got back from a trip to Washington, D.C., after attending the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging's policy briefing. DRCOG's counterparts from across the U.S. gathered to discuss how the political and policy landscape affects older adults and caregivers; the Older Americans Act reauthorization; health care policy priorities; and administration plans for federal programs that serve older adults.

The trip also provided an opportunity for representatives of our state's AAAs to meet with members of Colorado's congressional delegation about the services provided and the issues we're confronting, especially related to our rapidly growing aging population.

So often, our work for older adults — or any of our region's residents — takes place at the local, even individual, level. But my journey to our nation's capitol reminded me that by working with others on behalf of older adults we can effect lasting, positive change in our communities.

Douglas W. Rex
Executive Director



THRIVE!
BOLD VISIONS. BRIGHT FUTURES.

Register to celebrate with us on April 10!

Speaking of lasting, positive change, please plan to join us to celebrate the best of our region's efforts to make life better the evening of Wednesday, April 10, at the Hyatt Regency Denver at Colorado Convention Center.

We are excited to announce that Gov. Jared Polis will deliver our keynote address.

At our annual awards event, the Board of Directors hosts 400-plus 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

The celebration begins with a social hour at 6 p.m., then continues with dinner and the awards program at 7 p.m.

Board directors and alternates: Use coupon code BOARD19 to register yourself; or BOARDGST19 for your complimentary admission and one guest for **\$49**.

[Register](#)

Want to attend with others from your community?

Member governments may [sponsor a table](#) for \$900.

How to use your promotional codes:

Attending without a guest? Use code BOARD19 to get your free admission!

Attending with a guest? Use code BOARDGST19 to get your admission free and a discounted guest registration.

Note: Attempting to use two codes in one transaction will result in an error. Email receipts are not issued for transactions for which no payment is required. Questions? Email [Connie Garcia](#) or call 303-480-6701.



Bike commuters propel the region to the top of Winter Bike to Work Day standings

Even though the morning started with temperatures in the single digits, more than 3,000 metro area commuters participated in the international Winter Bike to Work Day on Friday, Feb. 8. Riders braved bitter cold and snow-packed streets to demonstrate their commitment to winter cycling. Fueled by the hot beverages and breakfasts offered by bike-friendly organizations and companies throughout the region, they catapulted Denver and Boulder to first and second place, respectively. Several other Colorado municipalities outdid participation by their global counterparts. DRCOG's Way to Go program estimates that many commuters fulfilled their pledges by riding other days due to the weather.

In recognition of its work to coordinate participation in the region and support statewide efforts, DRCOG won an international **Winnie Award for Winter Cycling Excellence** in the best organization category. Way to Go worked with the Colorado Department of Transportation to coordinate the statewide effort.



DRCOG and partners convene to 'Imagine a Great Region'

About 80 business, community and civic leaders gathered at the University of Colorado Denver's Lawrence Street Center on Feb. 26 to learn about a multiyear initiative to foster cross-sector, regional conversations on growth and related issues. A partnership among DRCOG, the University of Colorado Denver CityCenter, the Gates Family Foundation, Denver7 News and the Denver Metro Chamber Leadership Foundation, the Imagine a Great Region initiative will bring together community partners from across the Front Range for dialogue and knowledge-sharing about managing urban growth deliberately, sustainably and equitably.

For DRCOG, the event represented its first-quarter Metro Vision Idea Exchange. After introductory remarks from Herb Atchison (Westminster mayor and the Board of Director's immediate past chair), state demographer Elizabeth Garner provided an overview of Colorado's economic and demographic trends. Other speakers included Austin Troy of CU Denver, Holly Gauntt of Denver7, Dan Lewis of the Denver Metro Chamber Leadership Foundation and Brad Calvert, DRCOG Regional Planning and Development director.



Congratulations on five years of service, directors Atchison and Baca!

Congratulations to Herb Atchison, immediate past chair, who was recognized at the February meeting for five years of meritorious service on the DRCOG Board of Directors. Also recognized was Lynn Baca, who was unable to attend the meeting. We appreciate the regional commitment demonstrated by all Board directors. Thank you, Herb and

Lynn, for your dedication to your communities and our region!



DRCOG offers free advice to Medicare beneficiaries in three counties

Since late 2017, DRCOG has been the designated State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) for Arapahoe, Douglas and Jefferson counties. Through the program, certified counselors provide enrollment assistance to eligible people and help current Medicare beneficiaries with information, counseling and fraud prevention. They also are available to lead classes, train volunteers and deliver presentations to community groups. Visit [DRCOG's SHIP page](#) to learn more.



Bustang expands service with Colorado Springs to Denver Tech Center route

The Colorado Department of Transportation has recently expanded Bustang service by adding a route to and from Colorado Springs and the Denver Tech Center. Fares are \$9 each way between Colorado Springs and the Tech Center. Bustang offers riders the opportunity to jump-start their work day with onboard Wi-Fi, power outlets and USB outlets. The new service will help reduce commuter stress and traffic congestion through the Tech Center and southern metropolitan area.

Commuters who are interested in a free trial commute using Bustang through the I-25 South Gap may request tickets from [I-25 MyWay](#), a two-year partnership between Way to Go and the Colorado Department of Transportation to provide transportation demand management services through the Gap.



DRCOG hosts first quarterly forum for city and county managers

On Thursday, Feb. 21, DRCOG hosted the first Quarterly Managers Forum for our member governments' city and county managers. I am delighted to report that we had great participation from managers from throughout our region.

The session started with introductions and a discussion of the newly formed forum's purposes:

- build stronger working relationships with DRCOG staff
- explore upcoming Board discussions and actions
- learn about the products and services DRCOG offers our member governments
- interact and learn from each other

DRCOG staff delivered a presentation on connected cooperation and evolving partnerships within the region. Attendees received a briefing and discussed upcoming DRCOG Board of Directors topics of interest, including the 2050 Regional Transportation Plan, specifically related to population and employment forecasts; the Mobility Choice Blueprint; and regional transportation funding options. The forum concluded with a roundtable discussion.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

We make life better!
drcog
DENVER REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

Our new public engagement plan is now available for your review and comment.

Send us your comments by March 20!

Reminder: Comment period on draft public engagement plan closes March 20

There's still time for residents to tell us what they think about the draft public engagement plan! The document will guide DRCOG staff in planning, implementing and evaluating their public outreach efforts to ensure effective and meaningful engagement.

Please **help us promote the plan** by encouraging others to review the draft plan and contact us with recommended changes, opportunities for improvement or any aspects of the plan that they particularly like. The public comment period will close on Wednesday, March 20. A public hearing will be held as part of the March 20 Board of Directors meeting.

[Draft plan](#)

[Learn more](#)

Reminder: We previously sent you a [toolkit](#) for promoting the plan's public comment period.

Calendar

March 13

[2020-2023 TIP Process - Arapahoe County Transportation Forum - Executive Committee](#)

Arapahoe County-Lima Arapahoe Board Room,
2 p.m.

March 14

[2020-2023 TIP Process - Denver Subregional Forum- Technical Committee](#)

Webb Municipal Building,
1 p.m.

[2020-2023 TIP Process - Douglas County Subregional Forum-Technical Committee](#)

City of Lone Tree Office Building, 1:30 p.m.

[2020-2023 TIP Process - Southwest Weld County Subregional Forum](#)

Southwest Weld County Services Complex, 2 p.m.

[2020-2023 TIP Process - Adams County Subregional Forum -Technical Committee](#)

Adams County Pete Mirelez Human Services Complex, 2 p.m.

March 15

[Advisory Committee on Aging](#)

DRCOG, noon

Public hearing on Area Plan on Aging

DRCOG, 12:30 p.m.

March 19

RTC Agenda Briefing

DRCOG, 8 a.m.

Regional Transportation Committee

DRCOG, 8:30 a.m.

2020-2023 TIP Process - Jefferson County Subregional
Forum-Technical Committee

Jefferson County Courts and Administration Building, 1 p.m.

March 20

2020-2023 TIP Process - Douglas County Subregional
Forum -Steering Committee

The Lone Tree Hub, 1:30 p.m.

Executive Committee

DRCOG, 4:30 p.m.

Finance and Budget Committee

DRCOG, 6 p.m.

Board of Directors

DRCOG, 6:30 p.m.

Public hearing on DRCOG public engagement plan

DRCOG, 6:30 p.m.

March 21

Veterans Transportation & Community Living Initiative
(VTCLI) Stakeholder Meeting

DRCOG, 10 a.m.

2020-2023 TIP Process - Denver Subregional Forum

Denver City and County Building, 1 p.m.

2020-2023 TIP Process - Adams County Subregional Forum
-Technical Committee

Adams County Pete Mirelez Human Services Complex. 5:30
p.m.

March 22

2020-2023 TIP Process - Broomfield Subregional Forum

George Di Ciero City and County Building, 8 a.m.

March 25

Transportation Advisory Committee

DRCOG, 1:30 p.m.

March 27

ACT (Agency Coordination Team) / ICG (Air Quality
Interagency Consultation Group)

DRCOG, 9 a.m.

Regional Transportation Operations Working Group

DRCOG, 1:30 p.m.

March 28

2020-2023 TIP Process - Douglas County Subregional
Forum-Technical Committee

City of Lone Tree Office Building, 1:30 p.m.



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

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