



## Above and beyond

Two Saturdays ago, I was among 26 DRCOG employees and family members planting trees in Denver's Cheesman Park. Their commitment to teamwork made quick work of the project.

Although DRCOG staff work across a range of disciplines, one thing that unites them is a desire to make life better in our region. And while their daily work does just that, I thought it was important that DRCOG provide staff with the opportunity to give back on their own time. The next scheduled opportunities include volunteering at a food bank and trail maintenance — activities that go beyond any employee's professional focus but which are closely aligned with our communities' local commitments to Metro Vision.

Want to join us or suggest a volunteer opportunity in your community? [Let me know!](#)

Douglas W. Rex  
Executive Director



## Cathy Noon receives John V. Christensen honor at annual awards celebration

A hearty thanks to all of those who were able to join us for the awards celebration on Friday, May 3. You certainly made our celebration one to remember!

Under the theme of "Thrive!" and emceed by Amelia Earhart, DRCOG's annual awards celebration honored the people, programs and plans that contribute to quality of life in the Denver region. Lt. Gov. Dianne Primavera provided the keynote address.

With its John V. Christensen Memorial Award, the DRCOG Board conferred its highest honor upon Cathy Noon, who was not only twice elected mayor of the City of Centennial – but who was instrumental in its formation and establishment as a home rule municipality. During her tenure as mayor, the city widened East Arapahoe Road and constructed Centennial Center Park. Noon established the Centennial Innovation Team, facilitated the installation of fiber internet infrastructure and championed public-private transportation and public works partnerships. Noon served on DRCOG's Board of Directors, chaired the Metro Mayors Caucus and continues to serve on DRCOG's Advisory Committee on Aging.

Also recognized were:

#### **Way to Go Award:**

- Workplace Champion: **Julia Richards, DaVita**
- Community Champion: **Eleanor Needy**
- Employer Champion: **Soledad Villarruel Larre, Western Union**
- Commuter of the Year Champion: **David Kimmitt, Juwi Inc.**

#### **Distinguished Service Award:**

- Stuart Anderson
- Mac Callison
- John P. Cotten
- Susan Daggett
- Karie Erickson
- Don Hunt

- Michael P. Lewis
- Sheila Lynch
- Carrie Makarewicz
- Kent Moorman
- Dr. Margaret Tomcho

### **Metro Vision Award:**

- Athmar Park Active Living Coalition
- Adelante Home Improvements Program for the Central 70 Project
- Alzheimer's Association Promotores Project
- Buckley Air Force Base Compatible Use Buffer Project
- Denver Dockless Mobility Pilot Permit Program
- Festival Park Reimagined
- Lyons Neighborhood Licensure Program and Handbook
- Metro Denver Impact Facility
- Reconstruction of Colorado Boulevard: The Construction of a Main Street in Idaho Springs

[Event Photos](#)



# 2018 aerial photography project concludes

The 2018 Denver Regional Aerial Photography Project recently wrapped up. DRCOG has been facilitating the project since 2002. Acquiring high-resolution imagery for our entire region is no small feat — each project cycle takes two years to plan and execute. Staff from 47 participating partners determined project requirements and shaped final deliverables. In 2018, the consortium pooled its resources to purchase 6,000 square miles of imagery. Through new specifications and processes, it increased the high-resolution capture area while simultaneously reducing costs.

Planning is underway for the next round of data projects, which will include elevation, infrastructure and land cover data. Your organization's guidance and funding continue to be essential. For more information, [contact Ashley Summers](#), DRCOG's information systems manager.



# DRCOG employees plant trees during inaugural COG Cares volunteer project

DRCOG employees gathered at Cheesman Park in Denver on Saturday, April 27, to plant trees as part of the City and County of Denver's annual Arbor Day commemoration. After greetings by city officials and demonstrations by parks and forestry employees, 26 employees and family members planted 19 trees of various species in the park's northwest section.

The tree-planting service project was the first quarterly opportunity for staff to participate in the newly formed, employee-led COG Cares volunteer program. DRCOG staff will next have the opportunity to volunteer on June 8 at Food Bank of the Rockies.



## Metro Vision Idea Exchange participants explore tools for

# imagining a great region

The collaborative Metro Vision Idea Exchange and Imagine a Great Region series continued May 8 at the University of Colorado Denver Lawrence Street Center.

"Communities in transition: Tools to predict and respond to gentrification" addressed new models for understanding how people, place and policy shape neighborhood change.

University of Colorado Denver faculty described how publicly available data can be used to predict whether a neighborhood may be affected by gentrification, establish early warning systems and help develop prevention strategies. Speakers included: Irene Aguilar, director, Denver Neighborhood Equity and Stabilization Team; Deyanira Zavala, executive director, Mile High Connects; and Jeremy Németh and Carrie Makarewicz, associate professors at the University of Colorado Denver.

This event is part of an ongoing series presented in partnership with University of Colorado Denver's CityCenter.

## Denver Regional Accountable Health Community completes second analysis

DRCOG's Area Agency on Aging recently submitted its second gap analysis report to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services — the entity responsible for the \$5.4 million funding opportunity through which DRCOG is

collecting data and analyzing the effects of community-based care on the health of vulnerable residents.

The gap analysis describes how the Denver Regional Accountable Health Community consortium identified target and focus areas in the region, and collaborated across clinical health care and nonprofit sectors to collect data on screening Medicare beneficiaries and their access to community-based services.

[Read the report](#)

A big thanks to John Diak, vice chair of the Board of Directors, for his service on the Denver Regional Accountable Health Community advisory board. His executive perspective is critical to the success of the initiative, and ensures project alignment with Board priorities.



City and county managers  
convene for second quarterly



# forum

Today's city and county managers forum was well attended by representatives from your communities. At the meeting, Ashley Summers, DRCOG's information systems manager, introduced the organization's regional data acquisition initiative.

Participants discussed the formation of a work group by DRCOG and Metro Mayors Caucus to explore possible regional funding solutions to address the region's growing infrastructure investment needs. The meeting also included time for insights, questions and suggestions for future discussion topics from participants.

Through the quarterly city and county managers forums, your jurisdiction's manager:

- builds stronger working relationships with DRCOG staff
- explores upcoming Board discussions and actions
- learns about the products and services DRCOG offers our member governments
- interacts with and learns from other managers

Want more information about how your community can participate? [Contact Flo Raitano.](#)

CDOT and DRCOG issue joint call for transit capital, operating

# and mobility management projects

The Colorado Department of Transportation Division of Transit and Rail and the Denver Regional Council of Governments have opened a call for projects for 2020 transit capital, operating and mobility management projects in the greater Denver region.

Visit the [CDOT website](#) for the Notice of Funding Availability application guidance document for information on applicant eligibility, project eligibility, deadline, available funding amounts and completing an application. CDOT and DRCOG are [co-hosting a workshop](#) for interested applicants at CDOT headquarters on May 15.

Applications are due to CDOT through the Division of Transit and Rail's awards management system (COTRAMS) by 5 p.m. Monday, June 10. [Contact Matthew Helfant](#), DRCOG senior planner, Long Range Transportation Planning, for more information.

[More Information](#)

[Workshop](#)

[Calendar](#)

# May 9

Citizens' Academy

DRCOG, 6 p.m.

# May 13

Vision Zero Stakeholder Committee

DRCOG, 2 p.m.

# May 14

Regional Transportation Committee Agenda Briefing

DRCOG, 8 a.m.

Regional Transportation Committee

DRCOG, 8:30 a.m.

# May 15

CDOT/DRCOG Notice of Funding Availability workshop

CDOT Headquarters  
10 a.m.

## Regional Multimodal Freight Plan Stakeholder Forum

DRCOG, 1 p.m.

### Executive Committee

DRCOG, 4:30 p.m.

### Performance and Engagement Committee

DRCOG, 5:15 p.m.

### Finance and Budget Committee

DRCOG, 6 p.m.

### Board of Directors

DRCOG, 6:30 p.m.

## May 16

### Citizens' Academy

DRCOG, 6 p.m.

## May 17

### Advisory Committee on Aging

# May 20

Transportation Advisory Committee

DRCOG, 1:30 p.m.

# May 22

Agency Coordination Team/Air Quality Interagency  
Consultation Group

DRCOG, 9 a.m.

Regional Transportation Operations Working Group

DRCOG, 1:30 p.m.

# May 23

2020/2021 DRCOG Data Acquisition Projects

DRCOG, 10 a.m.

# May 27

Memorial Day

DRCOG offices closed



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