

METRO VISION ISSUES COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY
April 2, 2014

MVIC Members Present: Doug Tisdale – Cherry Hills Village; Bob Roth – Aurora; Sue Horn – Bennett; Suzanne Jones – Boulder; Cathy Noon – Centennial; Robin Kniech – Denver; Jack Hilbert – Douglas County; Todd Riddle – Edgewater; Marjorie Sloan – Golden; Don Rosier – Jefferson County; Phil Cernanec – Littleton; Jackie Millet – Lone Tree; Hank Dalton – Louisville; Val Vigil – Thornton.

Others present: Jeanne Shreve – Adams County; Crissy Fanganello – Denver; Art Griffith – Douglas County; Gene Putman – Thornton; Ken Lloyd – RAQC; Ted Heyd – Bicycle Colorado; Will Toor – SWEEP; and DRCOG staff.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:05 p.m.; a quorum was present.

Public Comment

Will Toor, Southwest Energy Efficiency Project (SWEEP) spoke in favor of the staff recommendation to remove the Strategic Corridor designation from the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) criteria. He encouraged members to establish a policy for including an HOV component in all future managed lanes.

Gene Putman, Thornton staff, spoke in opposition to one of the criterion included for consideration, the requirement for Roadway Capacity Projects to have a NEPA disclosure document already signed, or expected to be signed within the TIP cycle. He noted that if a project doesn't receive funding, the NEPA document will expire, placing an additional burden on the project sponsor.

Summary of March 5, 2014 Meeting

The summary was accepted as submitted.

Move to recommend to the Board of Directors proposed amendments to Metro Vision 2035

The chair outlined proposed amendments to Metro Vision 2035.

Phil Cernanec **moved** to recommend to the Board of Directors proposed amendments to Metro Vision 2035. The motion was seconded and **passed** unanimously.

Move to recommend to the Board of Directors the 2013 cycle 2 Amendments to the Fiscally Constrained 2035 Metro Vision Regional Transportation Plan, and the associated 2013 Amendment Cycle 2 DRCOG CO and PM-10 Conformity Determination, and the 2013 Amendment Cycle 2 Denver Southern Subarea 8-Hour Ozone Conformity Determination, concurrently

The chair outlined proposed amendments to the subject documents and noted that all air quality requirements were met.

Jackie Millet **moved** to recommend to the Board of Directors the 2013 cycle 2 Amendments to the Fiscally Constrained 2035 Metro Vision Regional Transportation Plan, and the associated 2013 Amendment Cycle 2 DRCOG CO

and PM-10 Conformity Determination, and the 2013 Amendment Cycle 2 Denver Southern Subarea 8-Hour Ozone Conformity Determination, concurrently. The motion was seconded and **passed** unanimously.

Move to recommend to the Board of Directors the gap closure evaluation criteria for regionally funded roadway capacity projects for the 2040 RTP

At the March 5 meeting, members acted to modify the gap closure evaluation criteria to award points only to road widening projects, prohibiting new roadway projects from receiving points for closing missing segments in the Board-adopted Regional Roadway System. The Transportation Advisory Committee discussed the effect the gap closure modification would have on new roadway projects, and requested the MVIC members to reconsider its recommendation to allow the gap criteria to be applied to new roadway projects as well as widening projects.

Sue Horn **moved** to recommend to the Board of Directors the gap closure evaluation criteria for regionally funded roadway capacity projects for the 2040 RTP. The motion was seconded and **passed** unanimously.

Move to provide staff direction regarding the process to be used for developing the 2016-2021 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

At the last meeting, members discussed a TIP project selection concept that would be a departure from the current DRCOG TIP policy. The proposal would establish two pots of funds – one for projects defined as “regional” and one for “locally-selected” projects. Staff presented a summary of how one other area has employed this type of process for selecting projects. It was noted that a decision must be made today whether members want to pursue the concept for the upcoming TIP cycle. Members discussed the concept.

Val Vigil **moved** to maintain the current process for the upcoming TIP cycle and directed staff to look into different processes. The motion was seconded and **passed** unanimously.

Move to recommend to the DRCOG Board improvements to the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) as agreed to during the meeting

Staff discussed the Strategic Corridors map and the MVIC discussion at the last meeting. Staff’s recommendation was to remove the map, as this is not referenced or defined further in the TIP or mentioned in any other Board policy document or plan. Staff recommends removing all references to strategic corridors in the TIP scoring criteria and reallocate the points.

Jackie Millet **moved** to remove all references to strategic corridors in the TIP scoring criteria and reallocate the points. The motion was **seconded** and passed with 2 opposed and 1 abstention.

Funding levels for set-aside programs were discussed. Staff recommends allocating a total of \$10 million per year (for FY 2016-FY 2019) among the following: Regional TDM Set-aside (\$1.6 million per year); Regional Traffic Signal System and ITS Set-aside (\$4.2

million per year, combined); Station Area Master Plan and Urban Center Planning Study Set-aside (\$600,000 per year); DRCOG Way to GO Program (\$1.8 million per year); and a new Air Quality Set-aside (\$1.8 million per year, with \$1.2 million for vehicle fleet technology programs, \$400,000 for the Ozone Aware program, and \$200,000 for other local projects such as PM-10 sweeper or other de-icer projects). These totals are approximately the same as the last TIP cycle.

Suzanne Jones **moved** to approve the staff recommended funding levels for set-aside programs. The motion was seconded and **passed** unanimously.

Guidance to staff was requested on several topics. Members expressed concern about the requirement for project sponsors to have a signed NEPA disclosure document prior to project submittal. Doug Rex noted the requirement for a signed NEPA document is a federal mandate, and has been a part of the TIP for some time. He explained the revised criterion is a result of the 2012 federal planning certification review. The language was updated and made more lenient by allowing the NEPA document to be signed at any time during the TIP cycle, which is four years. A question was asked about including Environmental Justice (EJ) criteria here as well as in the NEPA process. Staff noted that DRCOG's EJ criteria were included as a result of the 2008 federal planning certification review.

Staff will complete details of the criteria and provide the draft to members in advance of the May 7 meeting.

Regional Housing Strategy

It was noted this item will be covered at the April 16 Board meeting.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for **May 7, 2014**.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6 p.m.