

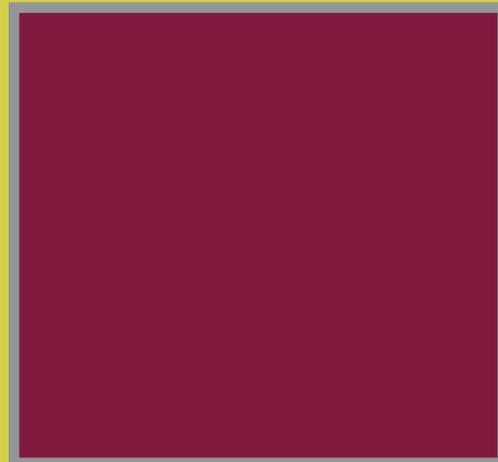
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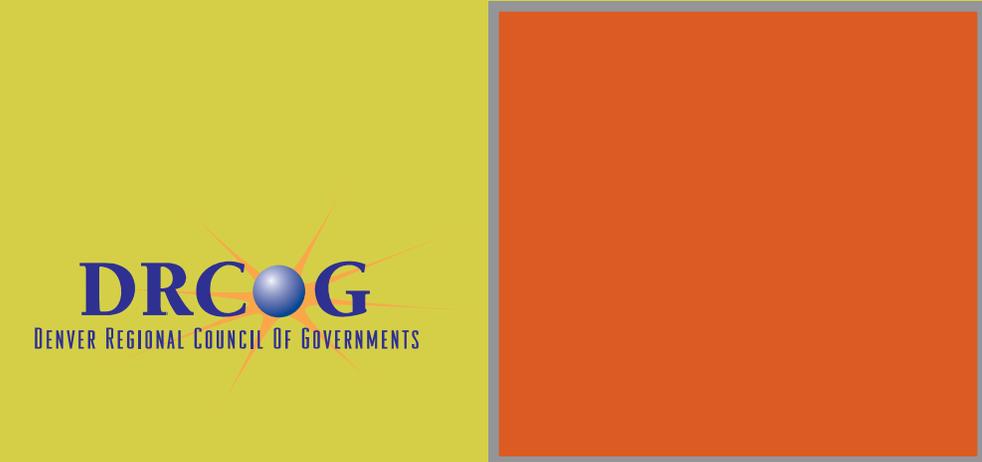
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**Annual  
Report**

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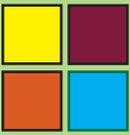


2008



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You could say it was business as usual for the Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG) in 2008, but then again . . . it definitely wasn't. It is never really business as usual at DRCOG because DRCOG continually adapts to respond to emerging issues and concerns, while performing important ongoing work.

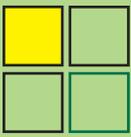
In 2008, DRCOG's members totaled 56, ranging from small communities to large. The region is home to 55.8 percent of the state's total population, and 52.5 percent of its 60-plus population.

DRCOG covers a big region, with big issues. And, we discuss a few here.

DRCOG's activities reinforce its operating principles:

- Recognizing the importance of every member
- Resolving regional challenges
- Making local government voices heard
- Achieving clout in the state and Washington
- Providing valuable services and information to help decision-making
- Assisting local governments in achieving objectives

We invite you to take a look at our accomplishments and achievements in 2008.



## Highlights from 2008

### Every member has a voice

From small to large, urban to rural, every DRCOG member government had a seat at the table during DRCOG Board meetings and public hearings, and at the annual Board workshop. Fifty-six local governments from 10 counties participated in DRCOG in 2008. Each local government brings a valuable perspective to Board discussions and deliberations. Each community's outlook and experience give DRCOG a stronger composite regional view.

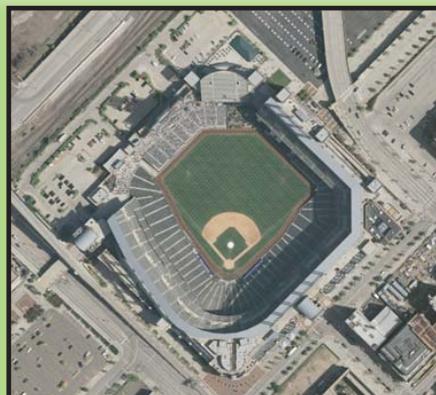


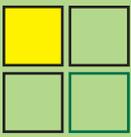
### Denver Regional Aerial Photography Project

One of DRCOG's most successful cost-sharing programs for local governments entered its seventh year in 2008. The 2008 Denver Regional Aerial Photography Project (DRAPP) was the largest yet, featuring higher-resolution images and quicker delivery than in previous years. The imagery provides a single base map for the Denver metro area that all consortium members map their data onto. In total, the project covers an area of nearly 7,000 miles. The 52 participants contributed a total of about \$1.1 million to the project, up from 44 participants and \$600,000 in 2006. Participants got discounts of around 90 percent of the true cost of the imagery. Participants included nine member counties, 25 member cities, 13 non-member special districts and jurisdictions, as well as five underwriters (CDOT, RTD, Xcel Energy, USGS and Denver Water). DRAPP participants requested earlier access to data, and the project delivered interim data within just two months, using a new Web-based system. The final processed digital photography was delivered in December. The DRAPP

imagery is used by DRCOG members and partners in the following ways, to name a few.

- Public works asset management and mapping
- Public safety – police and fire mapping
- 911 dispatch mapping
- Drainage, stormwater, impervious surface and flood control mapping
- Electric and gas utility mapping
- Facilities and property management
- Parks and open space management
- Water conservation planning
- Road/street/highway design and mapping
- Economic development and planning
- Land use and transportation planning
- Environmental change detection/vegetation mapping
- Hazards mitigation and planning
- Urban, community and neighborhood planning





### Advocating for vulnerable seniors

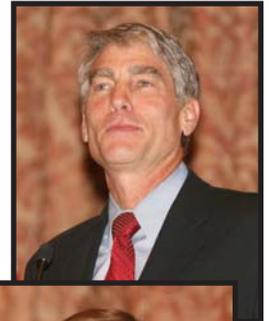
DRCOG's aging-related issue in 2008 was resolved in our favor. The state's Center of Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) reversed its decision regarding the classification of alternative care facilities in Colorado as Institutions for Mental Disease. The earlier decision could have meant the relocation of 150-200 residents with mental illnesses, an extremely difficult situation. Staff from DRCOG's Ombudsman Program and the Policy Development and Communications Division worked closely with care providers of these residents, Colorado Legal Services, the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman Office and the Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Finance (HCPF) to ensure this positive outcome that protects some of the most vulnerable populations in facilities throughout the state.

### Tackling I-70 congestion

A partnership in 2008 between DRCOG, the I-70 Coalition and CDOT helped address traffic concerns along the I-70 Corridor. The coalition selected Tad Kline to become the coalition's first-ever I-70 Transportation Demand Management Program Manager. With a long-term solution for the corridor likely years away, he will explore travel demand management (TDM) actions or programs that can have an impact on congestion now, such as ride-sharing, transit use and travel outside peak periods. CDOT is providing the grant to fund the program and DRCOG is providing the office and professional resources for Tad. I-70 is a vital corridor for the Denver region, and DRCOG is excited to work with the coalition, CDOT, and other partners on short- and long-term solutions to the corridor's congestion issues.

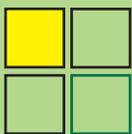
### Senate debate

DRCOG partnered with the Metro North Chamber of Commerce to host a well-attended debate in August between U.S. Senate candidates Mark Udall, Bob Schaffer and Bob Kinsey. Moderator Ron Zappolo posed questions of the candidates on transportation, an aging population, immigration, energy and other issues.



### Congestion mitigation/air quality best practices

DRCOG shared its congestion mitigation/air quality (CMAQ) expertise with transportation projects as part of a national effort by the Federal Highway Administration to examine best practices. Representatives of the Volpe National Transportation Center visited DRCOG in September as part of its preparations for a report on CMAQ practices around the nation. DRCOG was among a number of Colorado agencies the contingent visited. DRCOG shared information about how CMAQ projects are selected, how the air quality analysis is done, what funds are typically used and how this focus fits into our overall project selection process.



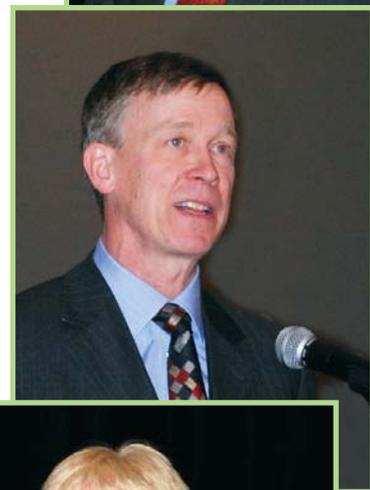
### Supporting transportation investment

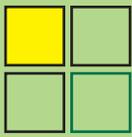
The Board also lent its support to the work of the Governor's Transportation Finance and Implementation Panel by supporting the panel's report and funding recommendations. The recommendations provided policy guidance for focusing transportation investments and raising revenues. The Board urged the governor and the Colorado General Assembly to provide leadership and bipartisan support for transportation solutions. Board members Melanie Worley, Douglas County commissioner, and Will Toor, Boulder county commissioner, both served on the panel. DRCOG has long called for additional funds to address Colorado's and the Denver region's transportation needs. The work of DRCOG's Ad Hoc Committee on Transportation was used extensively by the panel.



### The green benefits of commute options

Colorado Gov. Bill Ritter and Denver Mayor John Hickenlooper were among the speakers at DRCOG's Commute Options/Air Quality Conference in February. Cosponsored with the Regional Air Quality Council, RTD and the Denver Business Journal, DRCOG's goal for the conference was to help businesses save money while helping to save the earth. DRCOG Chair and Westminster Mayor Nancy McNally opened the session, with Gov. Ritter sharing information about green initiatives at the state level and Mayor Hickenlooper discussing transportation elements of the city's plan, Greenprint Denver. Guest speakers, panel discussions and information-sharing on a host of issues and ideas were featured at the conference, which drew 200 attendees.





### RideArrangers offered prescription to fight pain at the pump

Pain at the pump focused media and commuter attention on DRCOG's RideArrangers program in 2008. Excellent print and broadcast coverage of the assistance RideArrangers provides to commuters generated nearly 30 calls to RideArrangers daily during the height of the gas price climb in early summer. A concurrent ad campaign centered around the real solutions RideArrangers offered for high gas prices. The gas price crisis showed how helpful RideArrangers can be to commuters in offering alternatives to solo driving, continuing in the role it began when created in 1975 in response to the oil embargo.

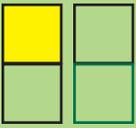


### Partnering with the Home Builders Association

DRCOG partnered with the Home Builders Association of Metro Denver in early August to hold Rooftops and Retail: How These Two Land Uses Work Together for Successful Infill and Redevelopment. A record number of people attended the workshop. The workshop was the second the two entities collaborated on to focus on issues of infill and redevelopment. The goal was to provide busy elected officials and members of the home building industry a great deal of practical "take home" information in a short amount of time.



In a second workshop, the Home Builders Association of Metro Denver joined DRCOG in exploring the topic of senior-friendly community development. About 55 people attended the June meeting to achieve consensus on a list of six-month and 18-month action items. The meeting was a great one in finding common ground and in determining future actions to actively pursue to benefit both the public and private sectors. In addition, DRCOG and the Home Builders Association's 50+ Housing Council jointly sponsored an all-day rolling workshop and tour of six active lifestyle/senior-friendly communities in October. The tour showcased the latest building and development practices in senior housing and active lifestyle communities. The tour was designed to help decision makers, planners and service providers respond to the needs of a growing senior population. More than 40 people, representing local governments, nonprofits, and the builder/developer community boarded the bus for the tour.



### Transportation draws a crowd

DRCOG joined with a number of public and private partners to host a breakfast for nearly 250 people in



October on transportation reauthorization. The featured speaker was Tom Skancke, member of the National Surface Transportation Policy and Revenue Study Commission, who shared the commission's recommendations. Established by Congress, the commission was

charged with examining the condition and future needs of the nation's surface transportation system and revenue

sources. Colorado congressional delegation members and candidates, and state legislators also shared their thoughts on the commission's recommendations. Joining DRCOG in sponsoring the breakfast were CASTA, CDOT, the I-70 Coalition, Move Colorado, Patton Boggs, Port-to-Plains, Progressive 15 and RTD.

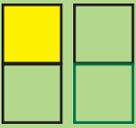


### Pedal power

High gas prices are thought to be behind a 62 percent growth rate in the number of Bike to Work Day participants. An estimated 35,000 Denver and Boulder area commuters tried commuting to work by pedaling on June 25, Bike to Work Day. DRCOG is the driving force behind the annual event, but partners with local governments, community organizations, companies and others to encourage metro area residents to bicycle to work as a healthy commuting alternative that benefits the rider and the community by reducing pollution and

traffic congestion. In 2008, more than 10,000 first-time riders gave Bike to Work Day a try – very positive when considering that experience shows first-time riders are apt to continue using bicycling as a commute option if they have a positive experience. DRCOG's event partners included Panera Bread, KUSA 9News, RTD, Noodles & Company, Westword, Comcast, CDOT, REI, Dick's Sporting Goods, Larabar, Colorado Athletic Club, the Yellow Scene, the Regional Air Quality Council and Eldorado Springs Water.



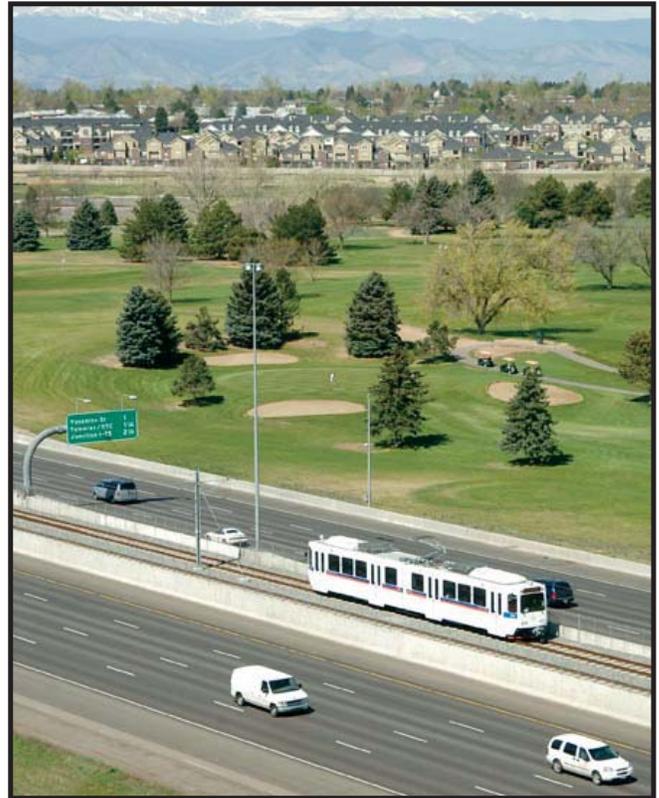


### A look at travel

Another major study project got a big boost in late 2008 when the Colorado Transportation Commission



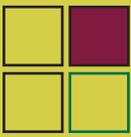
voted to help fund the Front Range Travel Behavior Inventory. Chair Nancy McNally sent a letter to the commission, highlighting just how important this cooperative data-collection project is to the Front Range. Data collected will support transportation engineering, design, planning and policy development. The surveys will cover the entire Front Range, from Pueblo to Fort Collins and update data that is 12 or more years old. The four Front Range metropolitan planning organizations have contributed approximately \$3.2 million in federal funding between them, and RTD will fund one element of the study. This is the first time the Travel Behavior Inventory has been conducted for the entire Front Range. The expanded scope will yield better information on travel patterns and behavior.



### Helping the DNC go green

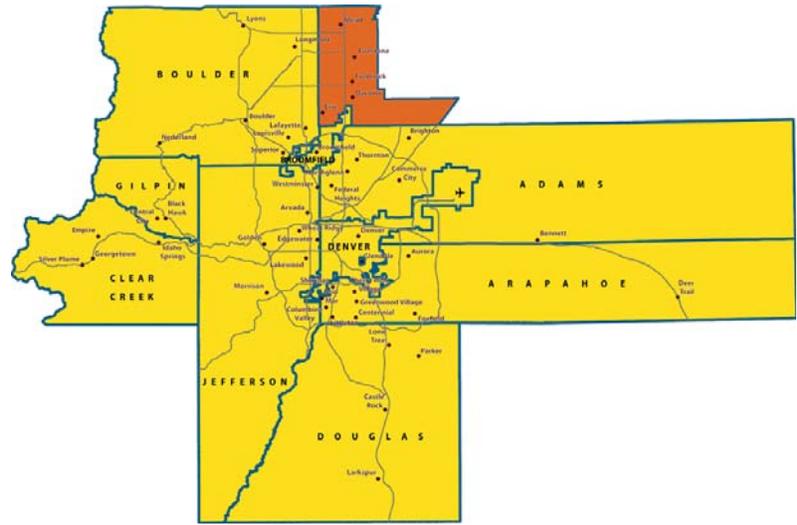
August's Democratic National Convention was an opportunity for Denver and the entire region to shine, and DRCOG did its part. DRCOG RideArrangers, along with the software developer Trapeze, provided a free ridematching service for DNC volunteers. Volunteers registered on the site for assistance in sharing the ride to their orientation classes and to the venues where they worked. RideArrangers' assistance was geared toward making the DNC greener by reducing traffic and air pollution caused by driving alone. It also saved green for volunteers. The City and County of Denver also used DRCOG's aerial photography images for public safety and planning needs, as explained in the spring 2009 issue of *Imaging Notes* magazine. In addition, the Area Agency on Aging worked with the state on contingency planning to make sure that disruptions didn't keep older adults from getting the services they needed. Transportation Planning and Operations also participated in pre-convention transportation planning.





### Welcoming our southwest Weld neighbors

The decisions by Dacono, Firestone, Frederick and Mead to join DRCOG late in 2007 were accompanied by their agreement to modify DRCOG's MPO boundary. This change was prompted by increasing urbanization in southwest Weld County and DRCOG's federal requirement to plan for those areas expected to become contiguous to its border and urbanized in the next 20 years. Once the communities themselves agreed to change the boundary, the Weld County commission, the Upper Front Range Transportation Planning Region, and the DRCOG Board followed suit. The change was also approved by the Colorado Department of Transportation and Colorado Gov. Bill Ritter.



### Efforts to comply with ozone standards

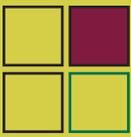
DRCOG, the Regional Air Quality Council, the North Front Range Transportation and Air Quality Planning Council, and the state's Air Pollution Control Division worked together in 2008 on the region's ozone problem. Ozone pollution is a persistent problem in the region, including a portion of Weld County. Ozone emissions are associated with motor vehicles, gasoline-powered equipment, and industry, and are worst on summer's hottest, sunniest days. High ozone levels can impair breathing and respiratory health, primarily for children, the elderly and physically active people.

The partners prepared a State Implementation Plan, adopted at year's end by the Air Quality Control Commission, outlining how the region will demonstrate compliance with federal air quality standards, listing strategies and control measures that will be implemented. These include restrictions for oil and gas condensate on storage tanks, removal of exemptions on point sources of pollutants, and the expansion of the inspection and maintenance program in Weld County. The implementation plan also sets motor vehicle emissions budgets to which DRCOG's Regional Transportation Plan and Transportation Improvement Program must conform. Work will continue in 2009.

### FasTracks review

The Board held a public hearing on RTD's 2007 report on FasTracks and issued a review and determination report. The Board approved RTD technology and financial plan changes in several corridors. Most important, the Board called on RTD to include less optimistic, more conservative financial assumptions of capital costs, revenues, sales and use tax estimates, and costs and benefits of public-private partnerships. The Board's action is tied to the oversight role the Colorado General Assembly gave metropolitan planning organizations in 1990 with the passage of Senate Bill 208. The legislation vests DRCOG, as the region's Metropolitan Planning Organization, with the authority to approve the method of financing and technology selected for rapid transit facilities. DRCOG has performed this role for individual light rail corridors and in 2004 when FasTracks went to the voters.





### Union Station support

Related to FasTracks, the Board approved the Denver Union Station Master Plan Supplement, which guides the future development of Union Station. Union Station is a key facility in DRCOG's Regional Transportation Plan, linking seven major rapid transit corridors and providing transfers and interconnections between them. DRCOG, the City and County of Denver, RTD and the Colorado Department of Transportation are joint partners in the master planning activities undertaken for Union Station. Later in the year, the Board appointed Executive Director Jennifer Schaufele to serve on the Denver Union Station Project Authority board of directors. The Denver Union Station Project Authority is a nonprofit corporation

established to finance, acquire, own, equip, design, construct, renovate, operate and maintain Denver Union Station.



### Seeing the future

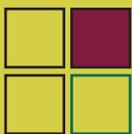
What will the Denver region look like in the year 2040? DRCOG teamed up with MetroQuest in 2008 to create an interactive tool to allow policy makers, business leaders and the general public to explore these questions by visualizing future growth scenarios for the region. The Denver region faces many challenges in planning for the future, such as managing increasing roadway congestion, preserving air quality and protecting open space for recreation, agriculture and wildlife. Policy decisions that DRCOG and local governments make about where and how to grow will play a large role in meeting these challenges. The MetroQuest planning tool allows users to explore the impact of different policy options in real time. DRCOG will use the tool with various stakeholder groups in 2009.



### Urban growth boundary/area

The Board continued to work out the kinks of implementing the urban growth boundary/area (UGB/A). Before leaving office as DRCOG chair, Denver Councilmember Rick Garcia pulled together a small but diverse group of Board members to consider a number of growth boundary issues raised by county members. Facilitator Joe McMahon helped aid the conversations. At the invitation of the working group, more than 25 planners met at DRCOG in October to comment on the group's work to date, contributing to a solution that works for Board members and planners and will guide how UGB/A will work into the foreseeable future.

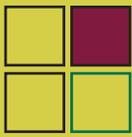




### Regional Sustainability Series

At year's end as part of DRCOG's Regional Sustainability Series, a special forum focused on issues related to climate change. At its workshop early in 2008, Board members directed staff to provide opportunities for education and discussion about the topic of climate change and DRCOG delivered. In November, speakers shared insight on how climate change might impact Colorado and the Denver region. Their remarks included possible strategies for managing carbon and other greenhouse gas emissions at the regional and local levels, and potential costs, benefits and impacts of policy proposals. DRCOG will continue to host events that examine sustainability issues. A new section of the DRCOG Web site also went live at year's end as yet another way to keep Board members up to date on the issue and share best practices.





### Transit-oriented development

Gearing up in 2008 was an effort to shed light on Who is TOD? in metro Denver. The study was developed to respond to information needs expressed by DRCOG member governments. The study will collect information on existing demographics, behaviors and perceptions of residents, employers and employees who live and/or work near existing rail-transit stations in metro Denver. The results promise to build on other national studies, conducted in regions such as San Francisco, Portland, Washington, D.C., and New Jersey, and will help inform the region's investment and policy decisions. The study also will establish a benchmark for later comparisons on the demographics, attitudes, travel behaviors and perceptions of people living near and far from rail stations. DRCOG was working with local governments to raise funds to implement the plan.



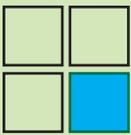
### Transportation Improvement Program

In February, the DRCOG Board adopted the 2008-2013 Transportation Improvement Program and its air quality finding. The TIP is a short-term policy document that shows how federal funding is programmed to transportation projects in the region. The 2008-2013 TIP funded 27 new projects around the region totaling more than \$53 million. Major new projects included:

- A bike/pedestrian bridge over I-25 at Colorado Center in Denver;
- A regionwide new energy fleet collaborative project (diesel retrofit); and
- The funding of five station area master plan studies, plus the creation of reserve funds for future studies.
- The Parker/Arapahoe interchange;
- 120th Avenue Connection (Broomfield); and
- RTD FasTracks

In addition, the Board adopted policies for implementing TIP projects and rules for delays on TIP projects. The rules help avoid tying up scarce federal funds for delayed projects that could have been programmed to other projects in the region.





### Small Community Technical Assistance Program

Planning assistance of approximately \$30,000 was provided to Arapahoe County (for Strasburg), the Town of Firestone, the Town of Morrison, the Town of Nederland and the City of Sheridan by DRCOG as part of the Small Community Technical Assistance program. Annually, DRCOG, as the regional planning organization for the Denver region, receives funding from the Colorado Department of Local Affairs to allocate to small communities to assist them with their planning projects.

The 2008 projects included:

- conducting a community assessment,
- assisting with a parks design criteria manual,
- developing a parks and open space connectivity plan,
- completing a parking study for a downtown area, and
- updating a zoning map.

Funds are typically used by the communities to hire consultants to assist them with their projects.

### Committed to FasTracks

Reflecting its belief that FasTracks is the region's transportation priority, the Board in July doubled its funding

commitment through the TIP to FasTracks corridors, from \$60 million to \$120 million. As part of the original 2004 FasTracks review, DRCOG established a commitment to direct \$60 million



of federal Transportation Improvement Program funding to FasTracks during the FasTracks construction period. The action showed members' strong support of implementation of FasTracks. As Chair Nancy McNally said, "This action reflects a long tradition of local governments coming together through DRCOG to support programs that will improve our quality of life. The DRCOG Board believes FasTracks is vital to serving the region's needs in the future and we want to help ensure the voters get the project they expect."

### Funding for senior services

Money in the Older Coloradans Fund was allocated to Area Agencies on Aging, including DRCOG, for programs that help seniors live independently, including home-delivered meals, in-home services and transportation. DRCOG received approximately 40 percent of the funds in 2008. DRCOG also supported several bills that dealt with quality of care and consumer protections for long-term care facility residents and caregivers.

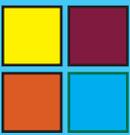


### Legislative Activities

From January to May 2008, the Board took positions on 21 bills during the Second Regular Session of the 66th General Assembly. Highlights included

- legislation that increased by \$3 million (to a total of \$8 million) the statutory appropriation to the Older Coloradans Fund and
- continuation of a \$2 million General Fund appropriation to the Older Coloradans Fund (for a total of \$10 million).

In addition, DRCOG followed and monitored several transportation bills, including several bills designed to increase transportation funding, but none generated broad support. DRCOG successfully amended a bill requiring the Colorado Tolling Enterprise to evaluate any toll highway by consulting with appropriate regional and local transportation agencies when assessing impact on regional and local plans.



### Boards of Adjustment workshop

A special workshop for members of boards of adjustment was held in May to help them function more effectively. DRCOG was joined by the Colorado Chapter of the American Planning Association and the Colorado Department of Local Affairs Smart Growth Division in hosting the event.



### AICP credits

As a continuing service to local governments, DRCOG offered a number of American Institute of Certified Planners Webinars throughout 2008. The courses cover a variety of current planning topics and count toward AICP certification.

### Sharing our TIP

Information from DRCOG’s Transportation Planning in the Denver Region and the Policy on Transportation Improvement Program Preparation, Guidance for Preparing the 2008-2013 Transportation Improvement Program has been shared with transportation professionals throughout the nation and world. The Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE) recently asked for permission to use material from our reports in its new publication, the Transportation Planning Handbook. ITE promotes the sharing of technology and scientific principles on transportation research, planning, functional design, implementation, operation, policy development and management.

### Metro Vision updated

The Board amended regional plans in August, when changes to Metro Vision 2035, the 2035 Metro Vision Regional Transportation Plan and the Metro Vision 2020 Clean Water Plan were made. The Board has a biannual schedule to examine regional plans for currency.

### International visitors

DRCOG hosted a delegation of visitors from Russia in September. The visitors came to the United States through the congressionally sponsored Open World Program, which gives emerging leaders from Russia and other post-Soviet states firsthand exposure to the American system of participatory democracy and free enterprise. The visitors listened to a presentation on the work of the regional council and its role in bringing various local government entities to the table together, and asked questions following an open exchange.



A three-member delegation of high-level staff members for the Parliament of the Republic of Georgia attended the December Board of Directors meeting. The delegation was in the Denver area to learn about committees comprising different governmental entities and interest groups.





### Signal timing plans bring big results

DRCOG prepared and evaluated traffic signal timing plans for 12 corridors affecting nearly 200 signals, which eliminated more than 1.4 million pounds of carbon monoxide emissions and saved more than 512,500 gallons of fuel. The projects reduced travel time for motorists on these corridors by more than 1.2 million hours.



### Policy statements

In 2008, the Board adopted separate policy statements on state and federal legislative issues, in keeping with its responsibility to identify and promote regional interests. The statements gave policy direction to Board members, staff and lobbyists as they addressed key issues with state and federal lawmakers and officials.



### RideArrangers' programs make an impact

DRCOG RideArrangers programs reduced the region's vehicle miles of travel by more than 51.2 million miles (30 percent more than in 2007) in 2008. More than 1,250

area businesses and almost 66,000 people participated in RideArrangers programs. These accomplishments were achieved at a cost of four cents per mile.



#### WE OFFER

- Free Consultation
- Transportation Fairs
- Online Surveys
- GIS Maps
- Telework Implementation
- Rideshare Matching
- Parking Management

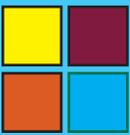
#### SERVICES:

- CARPOOL
- VANPOOL
- TELEWORK
- GUARANTEED RIDE HOME
- SCHOOLPOOL
- BIKE TO WORK DAY

#### BENEFITS

- Reduced Congestion
- Employee Savings
- Tax Benefits
- Increased Productivity
- Less Stress





### Elevator Inspection Program

More than 2,600 elevators and/or escalators in 20 participating jurisdictions were inspected semiannually by the Elevator/Escalator Safety Inspection Program in 2008. Data from inspections is collected using DRCOG-developed software on tablet computers and reported to the jurisdictions and state regulators. DRCOG inspectors also performed acceptance inspections for more than 150 conveyance installations throughout the participating jurisdictions.



### Short courses

Short courses giving a detailed look at DRCOG program areas were once again offered in 2008. The topics concerned Metro Vision, transportation, water supply and quality, and aging. Short courses are offered annually.



### Firefighter testing

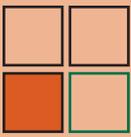
Tests were administered to a total of 895 firefighter candidates throughout the region for the Firefighter Intraregional Recruitment and Employment or FIRE program. Candidates posted a 94 percent pass rate creating a strong applicant pool for the 14 participating jurisdictions.



### Ombudsman Program

The DRCOG Ombudsman Program continued its efforts in 2008 to protect the rights of the more than 16,900 residents in the 334 nursing homes and assisted living facilities in the region. On average 70 volunteers work in the program.





Erie Trustee Cheryl Hauger and Littleton Council Member Jim Taylor received certificates from Chair Nancy McNally recognizing their completion of DRCOG's short course series.



Boulder County Commissioner Will Toor was honored in August for 10 years of service to the region on the DRCOG Board. Chair Nancy McNally presented him with a desk clock for his efforts.



Aurora Council Member Bob Broom was honored in December for serving five years as a member of the Board of Directors. Vice Chair Ed Peterson presented him with a plaque in recognition of his service to the region.



A five-year DRCOG Board service milestone was presented to Denver Council Member Rick Garcia. He received a plaque from Chair Nancy McNally in August.



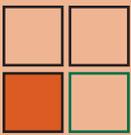
DRCOG celebrated regionalism at its annual dinner in April at the Belmar Center with more than 400 guests in attendance.

- DRCOG's highest honor, the John V. Christensen Memorial Award, was presented posthumously to Civic Results Co-founder John Parr for his efforts to build a better region. Gov. Bill Ritter and Civic Results Co-founder Peter Kenney accepted the award from DRCOG Chair Nancy McNally.



- Outgoing DRCOG Chair Rick Garcia was honored for his service in 2007.
- Eight individuals received Distinguished Service Awards for their service to regional programs and activities. Recipients included Doug Aden, Cary Kennedy, Bob Tointon, Debra Baskett, Ellen Ittelson, the late Robert Hite, Mark Schaefer, and the late Olga Wolosyn.
- Outstanding programs were honored with the presentation of Local Government Awards in three categories.





DRCOG's RideArrangers Telework service was recognized as tops in the nation for creative excellence by the Association for Commuter Transportation (ACT). ACT is a national association for Transportation Demand Management professionals. RideArrangers' one-of-a-kind IT Consultation Services for employers received first place. Through a partnership with Swanson-Rink, RideArrangers helps businesses overcome technical obstacles to

telework, such as connectivity and security, and easing their concerns about working out of the office. We've given companies the assistance and ideas they need to put telework in place for the first time or to build on current programs. The program has saved almost 1.9 million vehicle miles of travel at a cost of about 0.0007 cents per mile.

### RideArrangers

A program of Denver Regional Council of Governments

**The Challenge**  
Information technology (IT) concerns are often the biggest impediment for companies considering a telework program. Issues that cannot be addressed may delay or prevent a company from implementing a program.

**The Goal**  
RideArrangers' goal was to offer free consultation services via a highly qualified IT company that could answer questions, provide solutions and lead to the successful implementation of a telework program.

**The Program**  
**Free Technical Assistance**  
Swanson Rink was selected from a pool of consultants based on experience, availability and personal support of teleworkers.

To date, RideArrangers and Swanson Rink have met with more than 20 IT departments of prospective companies expressing interest in the telework program. The goal of each meeting is to:

- Learn about the company's IT system.
- Gather information regarding concerns and challenges.
- Ask and answer technical questions.
- Provide a written report with ideas and suggestions for implementation.

In a few cases, companies have had everything well in place and just needed extra assistance that a telework program was possible and practical. Other companies required more technical assistance.

**Free IT Toolkits**  
Swanson Rink developed and produced two types of telework toolkits to assist in the successful implementation of the telework program. The "telework IT toolkit" is provided to IT department staff and contains a manual and tools. The "teleworker toolkit" is a backpack containing a USB drive with a Password Management Tool and tips and suggestions on being a successful teleworker.

**The Results**  
Of the more than 20 companies that were provided with technical assistance, 4% decided to try the telework program. The goal of providing a "lump sum" for companies with questions or roadblocks has been a success.

The Colorado Department of Labor and Employment (CDLE) is one example of how this type of technical assistance can jump start a telework program. Prior to meeting with the department's executive manager, RideArrangers and Swanson Rink met with the IT department staff for several hours. A report with suggestions and solutions was produced. One of the concerns of the executive manager dealt with IT. RideArrangers was able to assist in the report and say with confidence that the department's IT division was ready to handle any contingencies that might arise. The executive manager then called to meet Swanson and CDLE now has a pilot program in place.

**Summary**

- Technical assistance makes a significant impact in helping companies to implement or enhance a telework program.
- Technical consultations can remove roadblocks to implementation.
- Providing the right tools for success can impact a telework program.

**Contact Information**  
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Denver Regional Council of Governments  
(303) 460-6729  
ddoherty@drcog.org

These are just a few of the companies this program has assisted:

- J2T Recruiting
- Frontier Airlines
- Jefferson County
- Land America
- State of Colorado, Dept of Labor and Employment
- Weld County
- Delta Dental
- Mental Health Center of Denver
- Xanterra Parks and Resorts
- Alta Colleges, Inc.

**SWANSON RINK**  
TECHNOLOGY RESPONSIBILITY

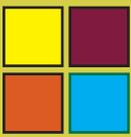
**RideArrangers**  
A program since 1973  
DENVER REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

Area Agency on Aging Director Jayla Sanchez-Warren received the 2008 Vesta Bowden Award, the highest honor presented by the Colorado Health Care Association, at the association's fall convention in September. She was honored for her 20-plus years of service to long-term care residents and the long-term care community to ensure better care and an enhanced quality of life for residents.

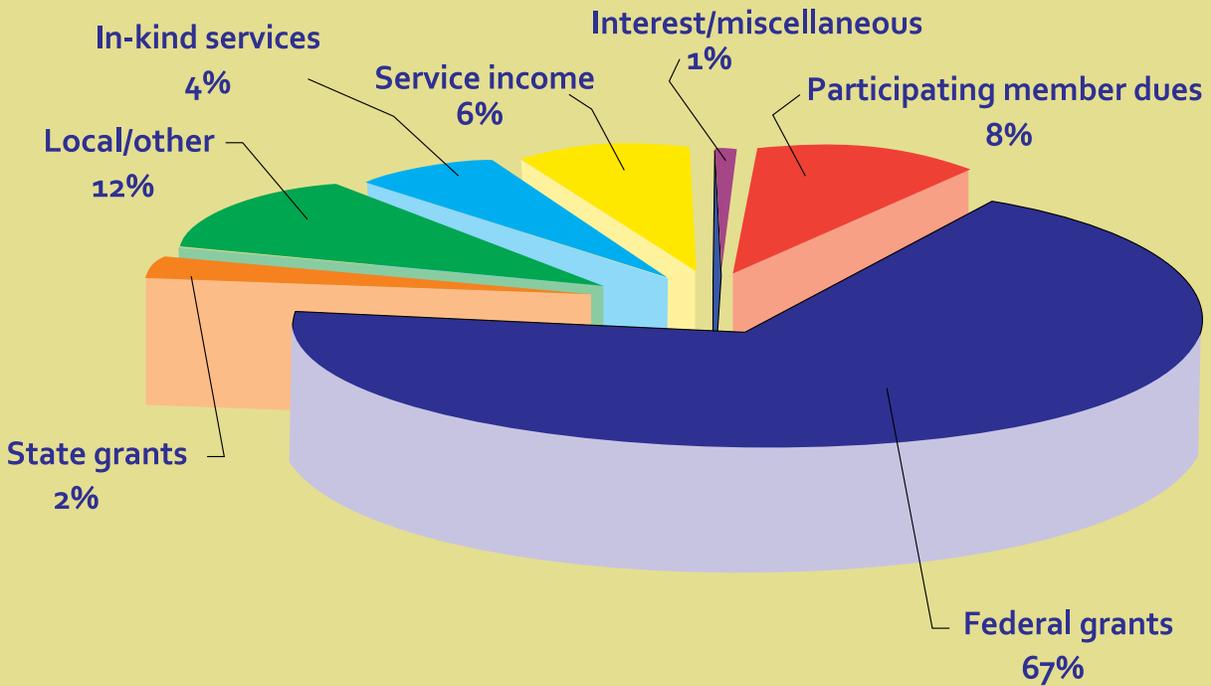


The first of what are intended to be regular Board social events debuted in December when Board members got together to visit and get to know their colleagues in a more informal setting.



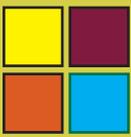


## 2008 Budget



Federal grants	\$9,997,648
Service income	\$ 879,736
Participating member dues	\$1,188,600
Local/other	\$1,788,794
In-kind services	\$ 634,929
State grants	\$ 301,770
Interest/miscellaneous	\$ 140,000

**2008 Revenues** **\$14,931,477**



# Denver Regional Council of Governments Board of Directors

(December 2008)

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- Ed Peterson**, Vice Chair
- Rod Bockenfeld**, Secretary
- James Taylor**, Treasurer
- Rick Garcia**, Immediate Past Chair
- Jennifer Schaufele**, Executive Director

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Commerce City	Scott Jaquith		Cavanaugh-Miller
Dacono	Wade Carlson	<b>Westminster</b>	Nancy McNally
Deer Trail		<b>Wheat Ridge</b>	Karen Berry
Edgewater	Andrew Bertapelle		
Empire	Richard Sprague	<b>Governor's Non-voting Appointees</b>	
Englewood	Wayne Oakley	<b>to the DRCOG Board</b>	
Erie	Cheryl Hauger	Jennifer Finch, Colorado Department of Transportation	
Federal Heights	Richard Steele	Carla Perez, Governor's Office of Policy and Initiative	
Firestone	Kelly Morgan	Susan Kirkpatrick, Department of Local Affairs	
Foxfield	Lisa Jones		



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