Public hearings

**Draft fiscal years 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program and associated documents**

**Presenter:** Todd Cottrell, program manager, programming and project delivery, Transportation Planning and Operations

**Summary:** The purpose of the public hearing was to receive and consider public testimony on three draft planning documents: the fiscal years 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program, the Denver southern subarea 8-hour ozone conformity and the fiscal years 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program Greenhouse Gas Transportation Report.

This public hearing also served as the public comment process for the Federal Transit Administration Section Urbanized Area Formula Grants portion of the Regional Transportation District’s program of projects. The comment period concluded with the July 19 public hearing.

**Action items**

**Discussion on the fiscal year 2022-2023 Unified Planning Work Program amendment**

**Presenter:** Andy Taylor, manager, regional planning and analytics, Regional Planning and Development

**Background:** The Unified Planning Work Program is the two-year work program for DRCOG and serves as the management tool for scheduling, budgeting and monitoring the planning activities of participating entities. The fiscal year 2022-2023 Unified Planning Work Program was adopted in July 2021 and most recently amended in May 2023.

Amendments to the Unified Planning Work Program are periodically necessary to adjust work to comply with changes to federal law, unanticipated planning needs or new priorities.

The amendment included the addition of an objective for coordinating planning of housing and transportation in alignment with language added by new federal law that governs metropolitan planning organizations.

**Result:** The Board approved the amendment to the fiscal year 2022-2023 Unified Planning Work Program.

**Fiscal year 2022 Transportation Improvement Program delays**

**Presenter:** Brad Williams, planner, programming and project delivery, Transportation Planning and Operations

**Background:** As of July 2023, the following five Transportation Improvement Plan funded projects had phases delayed in fiscal year 2022-2023 and will continue to be delayed into fiscal year 2023-2024:

- Arapahoe County: Inverness Drive west bicycle and pedestrian facilities.
- Arapahoe County: Dry Creek Road operation improvements, I-25 to Inverness Drive east.
- City of Littleton: Santa Fe Drive and Mineral Avenue operational improvements.
- City of Longmont: St. Vrain greenway trail.
- Town of Lyons: St. Vrain trail extension.
The DRCOG Board has the authority and discretion to direct penalties or action related to twice-delayed projects. This can range from establishing a deadline to initiate the phase, canceling the phase and returning the funds to DRCOG for reprogramming or reprogramming the funds to a future year.

DRCOG staff recommended the Board allow the projects to continue while establishing new deadlines for upcoming phases.

**Result:** The Board approved continuing each project with new deadlines to initiate the project phases.

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**Informational briefings**

*Colorado Department of Transportation, Colorado*

*House Bill 23-1101 transportation planning region boundary study*

**Presenter:** Jamie Grim, local government liaison, Colorado Department of Transportation

**Background:** On April 28, Gov. Jared Polis signed Colorado House Bill 23-1101, The Ozone Season Transit Grant Program Flexibility bill. The bill includes a provision requiring the Colorado Department of Transportation to complete a study of the boundaries of the transportation planning regions, the membership of the Statewide Transportation Advisory Committee and the Special Interim Transit and Rail Advisory Committee and the consistency and transparency of the transportation planning process across the transportation planning regions.

While this work may result in recommendations to adjust transportation planning region boundaries, federal rules dictate metropolitan planning organization boundaries and this study cannot impact those boundaries.

Colorado Department of Transportation staff will continue to gather data, hold meetings with stakeholders and will provide the Board with information about the study process, progress to date, public engagement efforts and next steps.