

Annual Report

Denver Regional Council of Governments

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Highlights from 2006

Partnerships

Gubernatorial Forums

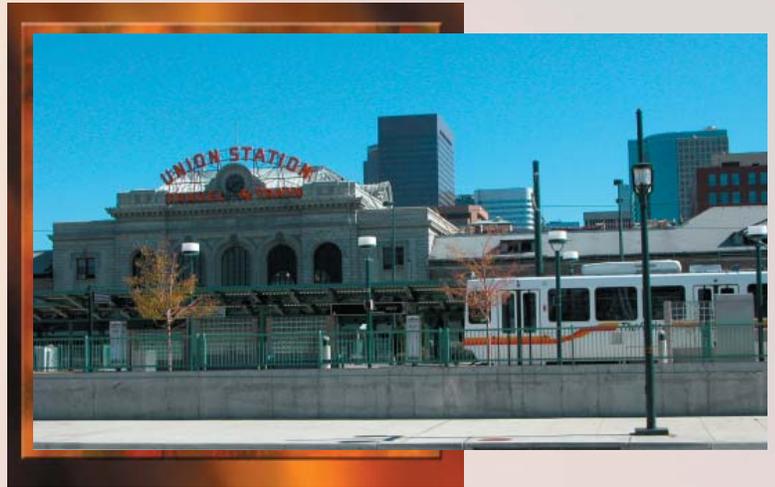
Common issues, concerns and goals led DRCOG to partner with the business community in August to host two well-attended gubernatorial forums. Candidates Bob Beauprez and Bill Ritter shared their views and ideas on a number of issues, including growth, transportation, education and economic development. The events, among the first to feature both major-party candidates, allowed DRCOG and the business community to share the vital message that the region's transportation situation directly affects economic development. DRCOG joined with the Aurora Economic Development Council, the Jefferson Economic Development Council and the West Chamber Serving Jefferson County on the first forum, held in Lakewood. The second forum in Westminster was hosted by DRCOG and the Metro North Chamber of Commerce.

The third forum, held in September, brought the candidates together to share their views on issues important to Colorado's older adult population. It was the only candidate forum to focus solely on aging issues. The candidates squared off on funding for senior services, funding for Medicaid, cost of prescription drugs, and the effect the rising costs of utilities, housing and transportation have on seniors. DRCOG joined with AARP, the Arapahoe County Council on Aging, Colorado Association of Area Agencies on Aging, Colorado Commission on Aging, the Colorado Federation of Chapters of the National Association of Retired Federal Employees, Colorado Gerontological Society, Colorado Senior Lobby, the Older Americans Coalition and the White House Conference on Aging Delegates and Alternates.



Denver Union Station

A cooperative effort between DRCOG, the City and County of Denver, the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) and the Regional Transportation District (RTD) resulted in the selection of Continuum East West as the master developer for Denver's Union Station. The collaborative process involved the funding partners and the community, bringing in innovative ideas and approaches for the station's redevelopment and preservation. Ultimately, Denver Union Station will become the multimodal hub of the regional transportation system envisioned in Metro Vision, and the crown jewel of a public-private multimodal system that will serve the state and the larger Rocky Mountain Region.



Coordinated planning with Weld County and its municipalities

DRCOG once again focused on building relationships with the region's northern neighbors, Weld County and the southwest Weld County communities (Mead, Dacono, Frederick, Firestone, Fort Lupton and Lochbuie). Efforts continued to work with Weld County communities to modify DRCOG's MPO boundary. The federal government notified DRCOG that it is failing to meet a mandate to include in its planning efforts those areas expected to be urbanized and contiguous (in the next 20 years) to the existing planning area.

In August 2006, DRCOG and the Upper Front Range Transportation Planning Region entered into a Memorandum of Understanding to jointly define the metropolitan planning area boundary before the adoption of the 2035 regional transportation plan.

Baghdad-Denver Region Partnership

The Baghdad-Denver Region Partnership continues its efforts to promote the exchange of ideas and understanding between government officials, citizens, college faculty and students, businesses and nonprofit organizations of the two regions. Through the partnership, the Baghdad region receives humanitarian aid and exposure to the systems of government, education, business and nonprofits in a democratic civil society. In cooperation with Families United Towards Universal Respect, the partnership welcomed and hosted a women's



delegation in May 2006. The delegation, led by the Iraqi Minister of State for Civil Society, focused on employment and family issues as it met with various governmental and educational organizations while in Denver. Other destinations for the delegation included Washington, D.C., and Salt Lake City. Plans were underway for future visits as well.

Transportation Partnerships

DRCOG was involved in three key transportation facility openings in 2006. They included the opening of the long-awaited T-REX project through the southeast metro area and the opening of the North I-25 Express Lanes. CDOT opened the North I-25 Express Lanes along seven miles of north I-25 between downtown Denver and U.S. 36 and RideArrangers produced and distributed a brochure giving background information on how to use the lanes and how HOVs could access the lanes. In addition, Adams County opened the extension of 120th Avenue, from Quebec to U.S. 85, a project funded, in part, through the Transportation Improvement Program.



Reauthorization of the Older Americans Act

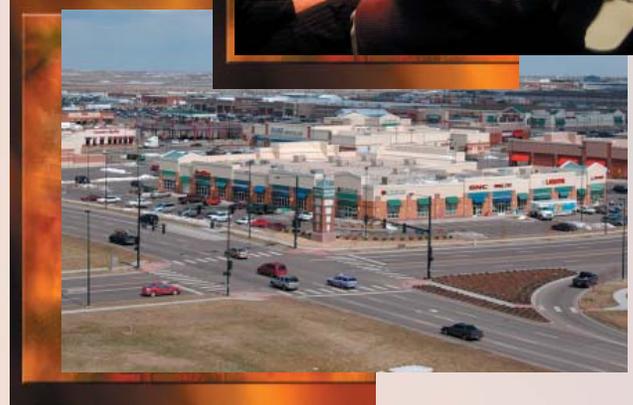
October saw the reauthorization of the Older Americans Act, great news for the regional, state and national partnership, including DRCOG, that worked hard to make that happen. The bill was signed into law by President Bush on Oct. 17, 2006, and was hailed as strengthening, modernizing and ensuring the long-term stability of the Older Americans Act. The Older Americans Act is the federal legislation that guides the work of the DRCOG Area Agency on Aging. DRCOG worked with federal and state organizations to ensure the act's reauthorization, adopting and revising reauthorization principles and meeting with the congressional delegation about the principles.

Legislative Issues Events

To partner with the business community and to educate state legislators about DRCOG issues, DRCOG co-hosted several legislative events in late fall. The main focus of the events was to link transportation and economic development, and to emphasize the importance of a stable funding stream for transportation. DRCOG worked with a number of partners on the legislative meetings, including the Aurora Economic Development Council, the Jefferson Economic Council and the Metro North Chamber.

Transit-Oriented Development

A key new initiative in 2006 was DRCOG's work in the area of transit-oriented development (TOD). TODs are pedestrian-friendly, mixed-use communities that encourage residents and workers to drive their cars less and ride transit more. At the Board's direction, DRCOG is partnering with a host of regional players to bring people together to define regional TOD successes as the region embarks on an ambitious transit expansion program. The TOD program took off running by creating a resource-filled, timely and relevant Web site for planners, developers, policy makers and citizens. In addition, DRCOG collaborated with a host of other regional entities, including RTD, the Metro Mayors Caucus, the Metro Denver Economic Development Corporation, the Colorado Municipal League, the Transit Alliance and ULI Colorado, to schedule and hold a series of workshops, peer-to-peer roundtable forums and lunch talks.



Denver Regional Aerial Photography Project

DRCOG just completed another iteration of its regional aerial photography project. In collaboration with its member governments and other public- and private-sector organizations, DRCOG routinely produces high-quality digital aerial photography for the Denver metro area. DRCOG just acquired nearly 6,000 square miles of aerial photography over its nine member counties, plus parts of southwestern Weld County.

Local communities use the imagery as a base to their mapping and planning activities. Having neighboring communities use the same base photography ensures that maps and plans are consistent across jurisdictional boundaries.



Through the project, each jurisdiction pays for and receives its square miles of imagery, and gains access to the nearly 6,000 square miles of regional coverage for broader planning purposes as a bonus of the shared project.

The consortium included 26 member governments, the Colorado Department of Transportation, RTD, the U.S. Geologic Survey, Xcel Energy, United Power, five special districts, and the University of Colorado Library System.

The imagery is available for sale to the general public through MapMart, Inc.

Planning

Tolling/Establishment of the 1148 process

In the last year, the DRCOG Board approved a process and evaluation measures to review proposed toll highway facilities, familiarly known as the 1148 process. In 2005, the Colorado General Assembly passed house Bill 05-1148 that stated: "The Board (Colorado Tolling Enterprise – CTE) shall take no action relating to the construction of a toll highway until after the toll highway system that includes the toll highway has been reviewed by every metropolitan planning organization or regional planning commission that is located in whole or in part within the toll highway system." DRCOG is the designated metropolitan planning organization for the Denver region.

To orient local governments and other planning organizations about the process, DRCOG held a summer workshop on the 1148 process. The process is very similar to the responsibility given to DRCOG to review and assess rail transit proposals from RTD before they are taken to the voters.

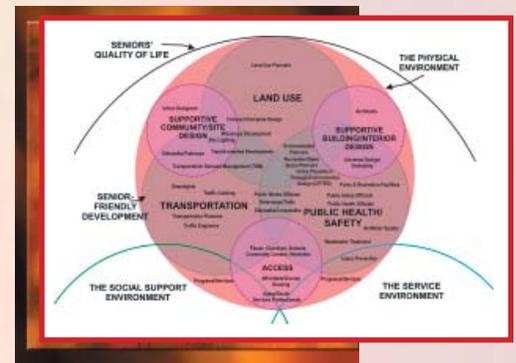
Pedestrian and Bicycle Element

At year's end, the Board adopted a new Pedestrian and Bicycle Element of the 2030 Metro Vision Regional Transportation Plan. It provides a plan and guidance for quality facilities and for encouraging pedestrian and bicycle travel in the Denver region.



Aging EPA Grant

Metro Vision 2030 takes a proactive approach to accommodating the needs of a growing senior population, adopting policies concerning housing types/locations, development patterns, pedestrian connections and transportation. With a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, DRCOG researched in 2006 how local zoning and development could better meet the needs of older adults. Aging baby boomers will bring about changes in all facets of community life and local communities need to be prepared. A Senior-Friendly Regulatory Guidelines workshop conducted by DRCOG for local government staff in the summer covered the preliminary findings of the work effort. More is scheduled for 2007 when the grant effort concludes.

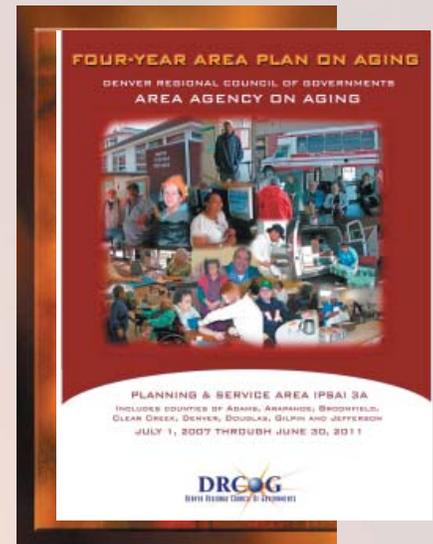


Metro Vision Update

Efforts began in 2006 to update Metro Vision 2030. The 2035 Metro Vision Update Ad Hoc Committee was appointed and began its work to assess and evaluate potential changes to Metro Vision. A Metro Vision plan for 2035 is expected to come before the Board for adoption late in 2007. As part of the update, DRCOG completed a reassessment of the Urban Growth Boundary/Area, with changes in the definition of urban and the development of targets for 2035 urban and semi-urban development. DRCOG also initiated a scenario planning effort.

Adoption of new four-year plan on aging

In November, the Board adopted a new four-year plan on aging services for the region. DRCOG serves as the designated Area Agency on Aging for the counties of Adams, Arapahoe, Broomfield, Clear Creek, Denver, Douglas, Gilpin and Jefferson. The plan assesses the needs of older adults and provides strategies to meet them, including legislative advocacy, public education for seniors and their caregivers, Ombudsman Program operation and compliance, in-home services, family caregiver support, transportation, health promotion, mental health, safety promotion, livable communities, public education and outreach, rural services, care coordination and management. DRCOG has served as the region's Area Agency on Agency since 1974.



Legislative Policy Statements

To prepare for 2007, the Board adopted two legislative policy statements to guide DRCOG's advocacy efforts on a number of fronts. One policy statement addressed issues expected to come before the Colorado General Assembly in 2007, while the other focused on pending federal legislation.

Congestion Management Planning Program

DRCOG created a new section, the Congestion Mitigation Program, to take a new look at congestion – considering where, when and why the roadways in the Denver region become congested. The program includes three subprograms: travel demand management, including RideArrangers; traffic operations, including traffic signals; and intelligent transportation systems management and operations. It will focus effort on managing the system's travel demand, reducing miles traveled by vehicles in the Denver region, improving the system's carrying capacity and constructing new roadways (toll or free).



Issues Papers

DRCOG developed issues papers to provide background on some of the region's key issues. The issues include transit-oriented development, the transportation funding crisis, Metro Vision 2035 Update, transportation planning boundaries, the Lowry Range and the State Land Board proposal, planning and funding for aging services, the Older Americans Act, highway tolling, outreach to the business community,



semi-urban development, the urban growth boundary/area, Front Range transportation planning, senior-friendly design and communities, and other planning issues.

Funding

Creation of the Ad Hoc Committee on Transportation Finance

The DRCOG Board, reflecting its firm commitment to transportation funding alternatives, created and appointed an Ad Hoc Committee on Transportation Finance in 2006 and the group began meeting to explore a variety of transportation funding mechanisms. The ad hoc committee also was charged with developing recommendations on preferred funding mechanisms, the types and priority of projects, the timing and scale of a funding proposal, the administration of allocations and next steps. Committee membership included Board members, representatives from DRCOG's planning partners, the business community and environmental groups. The group looked to have its recommendations completed after the first of the year, in time for a new gubernatorial administration.



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With the passage of Referendum C in November of 2005, DRCOG – along with the Older Americans Coalition, AARP and other senior advocacy groups – collaborated on an effort to restore “State Funding for Senior Services” to the levels that existed before the cuts of recent years. These funds are allocated to the Area Agencies on Aging to use for programs such as home delivered meals, in home services, and transportation services. As a first step in this effort, HB 06-1018, by Representative Riesberg and Senator Hagedorn, was introduced and ultimately passed to restore the Older Coloradans Fund (which is a key component of the state funding) to the \$3 million funding level it was given when it was created in 2000. The Joint Budget Committee also decided to provide \$250,000 for senior services in the FY 05-06 budget with additional Referendum C monies. This was annualized to an additional \$1 million for the FY 06-07 budget

Recognition

Awards

In July, DRCOG received a Transportation Planning Excellence Award for Metro Vision 2030. The award was one of 12 presented by the Federal Highway Administration in conjunction with the Federal Transit Administration and the American Planning Association. Awards were presented to projects, processes or groups that have made outstanding contributions to the field of transportation planning in 12 award categories. DRCOG received the award in the Transportation and Land Use Integration category.



The RideArrangers Mighty Motorin' print, broadcast and billboard ad campaign unveiled in early 2006 garnered national recognition from the Association for Commuter Transportation (ACT) awards. The campaign carries the message "Drive less and be a hero" and depicts the villains of driving: the Cone Zoneheads, Evil Stop-n-Go, the Nasty Brown Cloud, Pumpzilla, and the Road Rager. The alternative transportation services offered by DRCOG have each been given a superhero form to battle the villains.



Mile High Compact Signatories

In 2006, three more communities signed the Mile High Compact, indicating their commitment to working together to manage and direct growth throughout the metro area by adhering to the principles outlined in Metro Vision. Morrison signed the Compact in January, while Arapahoe County signed in May. The Town of Nederland signed in October.



Board Members Honored for Service

Service awards were presented to several DRCOG Board members in 2006. Arvada Council Member Lorraine Anderson was honored for 15 years of service as a DRCOG Board member in November. Jack O'Boyle was recognized for his 10 years as a Board member in September, while Broomfield Mayor Karen Stuart noted her fifth anniversary as a DRCOG Board member in December.



Local Elected Officials Recognized for Short Course Completion

Four local elected officials were recognized by the Board for their successful completion of DRCOG's 2006 Short Courses on regional issues. Receiving certificates were Arapahoe County Commissioner Rod Bockenfeld, Castle Rock Council Member Ryan Reilly, Superior Trustee Lisa Skumatz and Federal Heights Council Member Joyce Thomas. The short courses explored the topics of Metro Vision and transportation, water supply and water quality, and older adult issues.



Did You Know?

In 2006,

The average price for DRCOG members participating in the 2006 aerial project was 89 cents/square mile. The overall average, including underwriters and “non-member” participants, is about \$10/square mile.

DRCOG debuted the Quarterly Regional Economic Report for the second and third quarters of 2006. The publication is available at www.drcog.org.



Population and household estimates prepared by DRCOG for the region placed the nine-county metro area’s population at 2,711,338.

Employment in the region was estimated at 1,559,506, according to DRCOG estimates. The estimates included the portions of Brighton, Erie, Longmont and Northglenn located in Weld County.

Besides serving its member governments, DRCOG gets a variety of data requests from external clients, such as consultants, the business community, public sector agencies and the general public. These requests average about two per day.

Sixteen different workshops with member government attendance were offered and handled by DRCOG during 2006. The program changed orientation in the fall of 2006 from professional development to programs tied to the core business of DRCOG’s member governments. The kick off Community Issues Workshops were in the areas of elevator recall for fire emergency and transit-oriented development.

Tests were administered to a total of 994 firefighter candidates throughout the region for the Firefighter Intraregional Recruitment and Employment program.

Candidates posted a 94 percent pass rate creating a strong applicant pool for the 12 participating jurisdictions.



More than 3,000 elevators and/or escalators in 23 participating jurisdictions were inspected semiannually by the Elevator/Escalator Safety Inspection Program in 2006. A computerized inspection system also was created by DRCOG’s IT department and scheduled to go online in 2007.

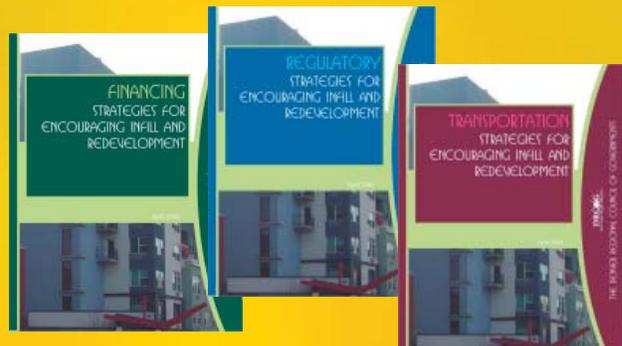
Planning assistance was provided to Clear Creek County, Edgewater, Georgetown, Idaho Springs and Lyons by DRCOG as part of the Small Community Technical Assistance program. Annually, DRCOG, as the regional planning organization for the Denver region, receives funding from the Colorado Department of Local Affairs to allocate to small communities to assist them with their planning projects. These projects can range from conducting research on economic or demographic issues to reviewing zoning codes to providing mapping assistance. Through the program, DRCOG provides additional staff and expert resources for planning projects.

DRCOG's efforts in the area of transit-oriented development got underway with a phasing workshop in December, and more slated for 2007. DRCOG jointly hosts these workshops as well as best practices workshops with ULI Colorado.



Through the DRCOG Web site, member governments can now share information about equipment they'd like to borrow or equipment they have available for loan.

Various aspects of infill are covered in three papers published by DRCOG on the topic in 2006. The papers, available on the DRCOG Web site, look at infill from the perspectives of financing, transportation and regulatory strategies.



DRCOG prepared traffic signal timing plans for 18 corridors affecting more than 200 signals, which eliminated more than four million pounds of air pollutant emissions and saved 1.3 million gallons of fuel.



RideArrangers programs reduced the region's vehicle miles of travel by nearly 25 million and eliminated more than 529,000 pounds of air pollutant emissions. All this was accomplished at a cost of under six cents per mile.

- Bike to Work Day 2006 in late June drew 20,000 participants, nearly 50 percent of whom said it was their first time participating. It is estimated that the event and follow-up bike commutes reduced vehicle travel in the region by more than two million.



- RideArrangers was a major sponsor of the RideSmartThursdays campaign in the fall of 2006 when 1,073 pledged to use alternative modes of transportation for the first time. Overall, 6,300 metro area residents participated – 44 percent used alternatives to driving alone more frequently than before and 39 percent said they'd continue to do so after the campaign.



- The vanpool program expanded from 66 to 80 vehicles and use of the fleet saved about six million vehicle miles of travel. Interested motorists can now find a vanpool online.



- More than five million vehicle miles of travel were saved by carpool program passengers.

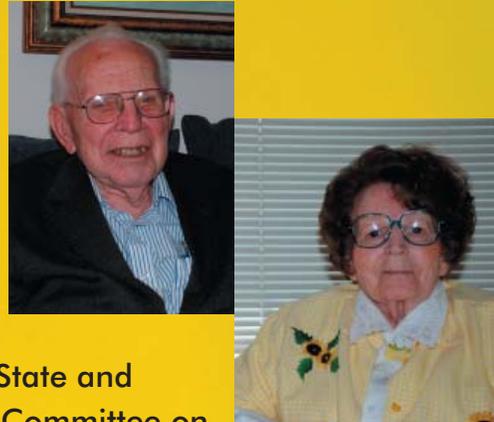
- The SchoolPool program added 3,784 new families to its database, made easier by a new Web-based sign up. All totaled, the program saved about 1.2 million vehicle miles of travel.

DRCOG's Area Agency on Aging allocated more than \$7 million in 2006 to organizations and agencies providing direct services to older adults in the areas of nutrition, transportation, mental health, legal services, and home and respite care. These funds come to the region through the federal Older Americans Act.



In addition, the Area Agency on Aging allocated \$1.9 million to senior service agencies through the State Funding for Senior Services.

The DRCOG Ombudsman Program was found in full compliance. That program protects the rights of the more than 16,500 residents in the 335 nursing homes and assisted living facilities in the region.



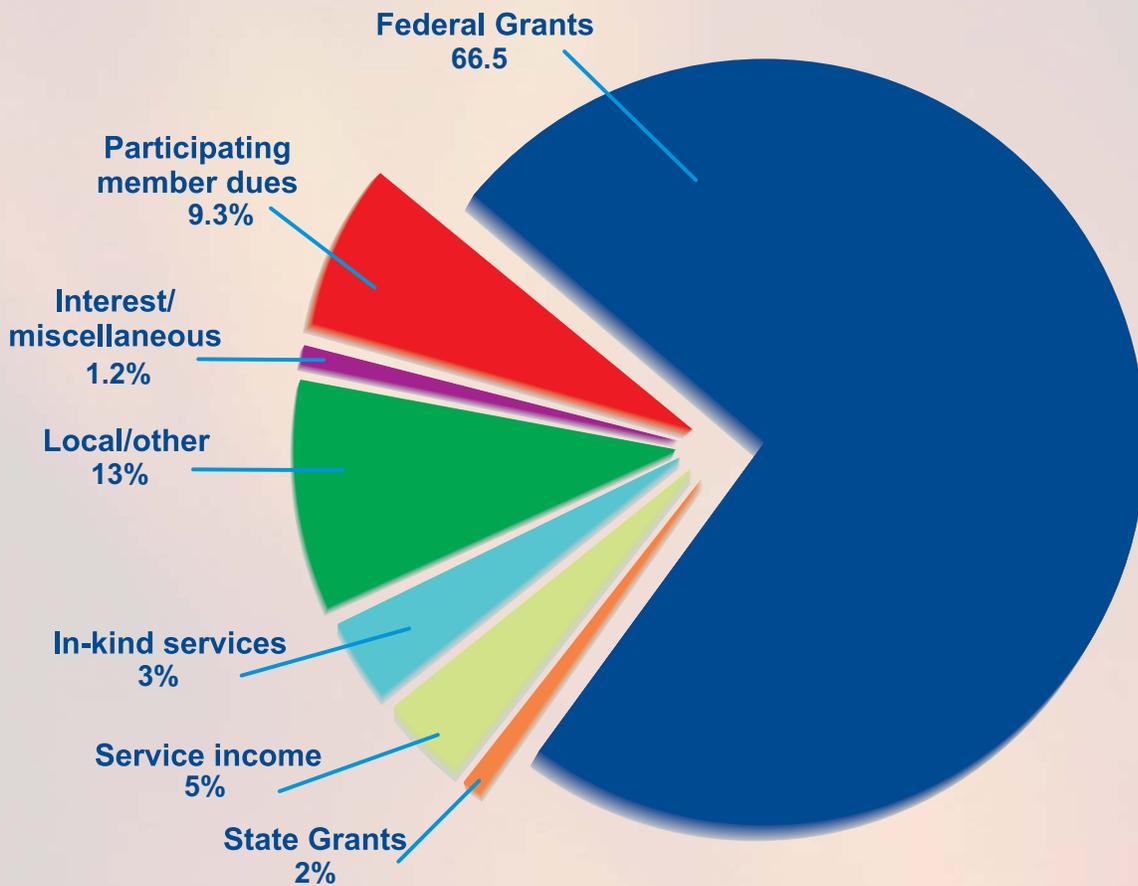
The Area Agency on Aging was represented on several statewide long-term care systems change efforts, including the Governor’s Commission on State and Veterans Nursing Homes and the Senate Bill 131 Committee on Medicaid Reimbursement to Nursing Homes.

DRCOG prepared technical appendices to the Clean Water Plan for the Big Dry Creek, Cherry Creek and Upper Clear Creek watersheds. These appendices provide the detailed information about the steps being taken or anticipated to protect and preserve water quality.

Two water treatment plans were added to the Clean Water Plan (Parker West and South Santa Fe), while the decommissioning of the Conifer Sanitation Association plant was recognized in the plan.



2006 Budget



Federal grants	\$ 7,636,378
Service income	\$ 612,621
Participating member dues	\$ 1,066,500
Local/other	\$ 1,488,307
In-kind services	\$ 296,115
State grants	\$ 229,290
Interest/miscellaneous	\$ 141,907

2006 Revenues \$ 11,471,118

Denver Regional Council of Governments Board of Directors

(December 31, 2006)

Nancy N. Sharpe, Chair
Rick Garcia, Vice Chair
Pat Cronenberger, Secretary
W.R. "Skip" Fischer, Treasurer
Will R. Toor, Immediate Past Chair
Jennifer Schaufele, Executive Director

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Adams County – W.R. "Skip" Fischer, Commissioner
Arapahoe County – Susan Beckman, Commissioner
Boulder County – Will R. Toor, Commissioner
City and County of Broomfield – Karen Stuart, Mayor
Clear Creek County – Harry Dale, Commissioner,
City and County of Denver – John Hickenlooper, Mayor
Rick Garcia, Council Member
Douglas County – Melanie Worley, Commissioner
Gilpin County – Jeanne Nicholson, Commissioner
Jefferson County – Dave Auburn, Commissioner

Cities and Towns

Arvada – Lorraine M. Anderson, Council Member
Aurora – Bob Broom, Council Member
Bennett -- Sue Horn, Mayor
Black Hawk – David Spellman, Mayor
Boulder – Jack Stoakes, Council Member
Bow Mar – Garrett Baum, Trustee
Brighton – Dick Hodge, Mayor Pro Tem
Castle Rock – Doug Lehnen, Council Member
Centennial – Todd Miller, Council Member
Central City – Ron Slinger, Alderman
Cherry Hills Village – Doug Tisdale, Mayor Pro Tem
Columbine Valley – Gale Christy, Trustee
Commerce City – René Bullock, Council Member
Deer Trail – Vacant
Edgewater – David Cooke, Council President
Empire – Mike Spies, Trustee
Englewood – Olga Wolosyn, Mayor

Erie – Andrew Moore, Mayor
Federal Heights – Richard Steele, Council Member
Foxfield – Aimee Svenneby, Trustee
Georgetown – Ernest Dunn, Selectman
Glendale – Larry Harte, Mayor
Golden – Jacob Smith, Mayor Pro Tem
Greenwood Village – Nancy N. Sharpe, Mayor
Idaho Springs -- Dennis Lunbery, Mayor
Lafayette – Chris Berry, Mayor
Lakewood – Ed Peterson, Council President
Larkspur – Sherilyn West, Mayor
Littleton – Pat Cronenberger, Council Member
Lone Tree – John O'Boyle, Mayor
Longmont – Doug Brown, Council Member
Louisville – Don Brown, Jr., Council Member
Lyons – Vacant
Morrison – Kathleen Dichter, Trustee
Nederland – Laura Farris, Mayor
Northglenn – Kathleen M. Novak, Mayor
Parker – David Casiano, Mayor
Sheridan – Cliff Mueller, Council Member
Silver Plume – Fred Lyssy, Mayor
Superior – Karen Imbierowicz, Trustee
Thornton – Rebecca Cavanaugh-Miller, Council Member
Westminster – Nancy McNally, Mayor
Wheat Ridge – Larry Schulz, Councilor

Governor's Non-Voting Appointees to the DRCOG Board

Jennifer Finch
Colorado Department of Transportation

Angie Binder
Colorado Department of Local Affairs