

Board update

Board meeting: April 17, 2024

Public hearing



[Proposed amendments to Metro Vision and the 2050 Metro Vision Regional Transportation Plan](#)

Presenters: Alvan-Bidal Sanchez, Regional

Transportation Planning program manager, Transportation Planning and Operations; and Zachary Feldman, Data Science and Analytics program manager, Regional Planning and Development

Background: The purpose of the public hearing was to receive and consider public testimony on cycle amendments to Metro Vision and the 2050 Metro Vision Regional Transportation Plan. DRCOG staff proposed amendments to five projects, including adding four new projects and making one staging period change to an existing project. The draft amended Regional Transportation Plan has passed pollutant emission tests for regional air quality conformity and meets the state greenhouse gas emission reduction levels.

The proposed amendments to Metro Vision's performance measures and targets include updates to baselines and targets for housing and employment in high-risk areas based on new fire risk data from the Colorado State Forest Service. DRCOG staff also updated the baselines and targets for traffic fatalities to reflect the goals of Taking Action on Regional Vision Zero.

There were no public comments during the hearing.

Strategic informational briefing



[Regional Transportation District briefing](#)

Presenter: Erik Davidson, board chair, Regional Transportation District

Background: Davidson gave an update on RTD's financial outlook and highlighted recent successes and potential challenges ahead. Following the COVID-19 pandemic, RTD's mid-term financial outlook is strong. However, RTD's board of directors is concerned that the majority of the agency's revenue comes from a single source, sales and use tax, which is subject to consumer spending volatility. In addition, the exemption from the Taxpayer's Bill of Rights (known as TABOR) RTD has had in place since 1999 is set to end in 2025, at which time approximately half of RTD's revenues will be subject to TABOR growth limits. Davidson reviewed mitigation options RTD's leadership is considering, including the possibility of seeking voter approval to extend RTD's TABOR exemption. He also highlighted a few of the agency's recent successes, including an updated and simplified fare structure and the one-year Zero Fare for Youth pilot.

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Action items



Discussion of the update to Taking Action on Regional Vision Zero

Presenter: Emily Kleinfelter, safety and Regional Vision Zero planner, Transportation

Planning and Operations

Background: DRCOG staff drafted a strategic update to Taking Action on Regional Vision Zero to ensure its relevance and consistency with emerging best practices in transportation safety. The update adjusts the implementation plan with measurable goals, timelines and the stakeholders responsible for implementation, with the ultimate goal of zero deaths and serious injuries on the region's roadways. The updated plan also includes a new executive summary, a letter of commitment from DRCOG's executive director and revisions to safety countermeasures to bring them in line with the Federal Highway Administration's Proven Safety Countermeasures initiative.

A public comment period concluded on February 27, 2024. DRCOG staff reviewed feedback from member jurisdictions and the public and addressed it in the updated draft as the scope allowed. Comments not addressed in the most recent update have been noted for future updates. Staff have also been working to ensure the plan meets upcoming state accessibility requirements.

Result: The Board unanimously approved the update to Taking Action on Regional Vision Zero.



Discussion of state legislative issues: new bills for consideration and action

Presenter: Rich Mauro, legislative affairs director

Background: The 2024 Colorado General Assembly convened on January 10. DRCOG staff compiled bills of interest with staff comments and recommended positions (relative to the Board-adopted [Policy Statement on State Legislative Issues](#)) for Board consideration. Throughout the legislative session, Mauro offers opportunities for the Board to provide feedback on established and new positions the Board may take.

Result: The Board took positions on the following bills:

Senate Bill 2024-184 | Support Surface Transportation Infrastructure Development
Position: Amend
Current status: House Transportation, Housing and Local Government

Senate Bill 2024-195 | Protect Vulnerable Road Users
Position: Amend
Current status: Senate Floor

House Bill 2024-1447 | Transit Reform
Position: Amend
Current status: House Transportation, Housing and Local Government

Bills on which positions have previously been taken:

Senate Bill 2024-040 | State Funding for Senior Services
Position: Support
Current status: Senate Appropriations

House Bill 2024-1211 | State Funding for Senior Services Contingency Fund
Position: Support
Current status: Governor signed

House Bill 2024-1322 | Medicaid Coverage Housing and Nutrition Services
Position: Support
Current status: House Appropriations

Senate Bill 2024-032 | Methods to Increase the Use of Transit
Position: Support
Current status: Senate Appropriations

Senate Bill 2024-036 | Vulnerable Road User Protection Enterprise
Position: Amend
Current status: Lost

Senate Bill 2024-065 | Mobile Electronic Devices and Motor Vehicle Driving
Position: Support
Current status: House Appropriations

Senate Bill 2024-165 | Air Quality Improvements
Position: Amend
Current status: Senate Finance

House Bill 2024-1304 | Minimum Parking Requirements
Position: Oppose
Current status: House Floor

House Bill 2024-1313 | Housing in Transit-Oriented Communities
Position: No position
Current status: House Floor

House Bill 2024-1341 | State Vehicle Idling Standard
Position: Support
Current status: Senate Floor

Senate Bill 2024-174 | Sustainable Affordable Housing Assistance
Position: Support with amendments
Current status: Senate Floor

House Bill 2024-1152 | Accessory Dwelling Units
Position: Oppose unless amended
Current status: House Floor

House Bill 2024-1366 | Sustainable Local Government Community Planning
Position: Amend
Current status: House Appropriations

House Bill 2024-1083 | Construction Professional Insurance Coverage Transparency
Position: Support
Current status: House Appropriations

Senate Bill 2024-106 | Right to Remedy Construction Defects
Position: Support
Current status: Senate Floor

Senate Bill 2024-112 | Construction Defect Action Procedures
Position: Monitor
Current status: Senate Local Government and Housing

Informational briefings



[Bike to Work Day 2024 update](#)

Presenter: Nisha
Mokshagundam, Way to Go
manager

Background: Bike to Work Day will take place this year on June 26. The annual celebration for the Denver region is organized by DRCOG's Way to Go program and is the second-largest event of its kind in the country. In 2023, Bike to Work Day participants in the region eliminated 216,908 vehicle miles traveled on the day of the event.

Organizations, including local governments and other public-sector employers, can join the [Bike to Work Day Business Challenge](#) and earn recognition each time their employees pledge to ride on the [BikeToWorkDay.co](#) website. Member governments can also host rider appreciation stations on the day of the event, which provide an opportunity to present planned or ongoing projects, solicit public feedback and engage with the community.

