

Board update

Board meeting: December 18, 2024

Action items



[Establishing an Economic Development District Advisory Committee](#)

Presenter: Flo Raitano, director of partnership development and innovation

Background: At its September 2024 meeting, the Board gave approval for Denver Regional Council of Governments staff to proceed with attaining an Economic Development District designation. To do so, DRCOG must set up an advisory committee that will be responsible for annual updates to the agency's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy, as well as helping to make progress on the strategy's numerous performance measures. The proposed Economic Development District Advisory Committee will provide policy oversight and recommendations to the Board and will serve as a forum for exploring technical issues and policy alternatives. It will also bring together diverse perspectives, foster public engagement, maintain a strong focus on equity and the economy, and ensure accountability.

The committee will have around 40 members representing a wide range of interests, including DRCOG's executive director and up to four Board members, along with local government economic development staff, regional economic development entities, workforce development organizations, and representatives from

education, the financial sector, large employers, labor and underserved communities.

Result: The Board approved the creation of the Economic Development District Advisory Committee.



[Discussion of fiscal year 2024 Transportation Improvement Program first-year delays](#)

Presenter: Brad Williams, planner, Transportation Planning and Operations

Background: The Transportation Improvement Program Policy requires Board approval for the continuation of any funded projects that were delayed in fiscal year 2024. Williams presented 22 projects that experienced delays in fiscal year 2024, with details on which project phase was delayed, the reason for the delay, the project's current status and the jurisdiction's plans for moving forward.

To be eligible for continuation, all projects must initiate the delayed phase by July 1, 2025; four have already begun work since being contacted by DRCOG staff in October about the delay. The total number of delayed projects for fiscal year 2024 was substantially lower than for the previous fiscal year.

Result: The Board approved the continuation of all 22 delayed projects.

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Informational briefings



[2023 Annual Report on Roadway Traffic Congestion in the Denver Region](#)

Presenter: Max Monk, assistant planner, Transportation Planning and Operations

Background: As part of the federally mandated congestion management process, DRCOG staff produce an annual report on roadway congestion in the Denver region. Monk shared highlights from the recently released 2023 report, including post-pandemic travel behavior trends, data on vehicle miles traveled as well as transit and shared micromobility ridership, and congestion projections for 2050.

Total vehicle miles traveled rebounded to pre-pandemic levels in 2023, although the increased prevalence of telework continues to affect travel behavior. Transit ridership has steadily risen since bottoming out in early 2020, although it is still well below 2019 benchmarks. Shared bike and e-scooter usage, meanwhile, more than tripled between 2019 and 2023.

By 2050, DRCOG staff expect total vehicle miles traveled to grow by 42% and project that one-third of lane miles will be congested for three hours or more, to the point where traffic at 2 p.m. in 2050 will resemble current 5 p.m. congestion. DRCOG and its partners are addressing these challenges in various ways, including transportation demand management through the Way to Go program and prioritizing projects that allow people to adapt to and avoid congestion.



[2050 Metro Vision Regional Transportation Plan scenario planning](#)

Presenter: Alvan-Bidal Sanchez, program manager, Transportation Planning and Operations

Background: For the next major update to the Metro Vision Regional Transportation Plan, which plans for a horizon year of 2050, DRCOG staff are working on a new scenario analysis to further refine the plan's investment priorities. After collecting internal feedback, as well as input from the Board, the Transportation Advisory Committee and the Regional Transportation Committee, staff identified several themes to incorporate into scenario planning: the region's growing older adult population and associated changes in needs and priorities, increasing disruptions and environmental impacts from climate change on the region's infrastructure, continued proliferation of new technologies such as artificial intelligence and autonomous vehicles, and the staying power of pandemic-era trends such as increases in telework and e-commerce.

The scenario planning will inform revisions to the 2050 Metro Vision Regional Transportation Plan's fiscally constrained list of investment priorities, provide additional information to include on current conditions and policy, offer new metrics for evaluating priorities, and provide guidance and direction for future planning activities. In the coming months, DRCOG staff will define potential scenarios, start modeling and testing, and share their results with the two transportation committees and the Board.

