

Board update

Board meeting: July 17, 2024

Public hearing



[Nondiscrimination program update](#)

Presenters: Alvan-Bidal Sanchez, program manager, and Cole Neder, senior planner, Transportation Planning and Operations

Background: As a recipient of federal financial assistance, the Denver Regional Council of Governments is required to comply with various nondiscrimination laws, statutes and regulations, including Title VI of the Civil Rights Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act. In addition, DRCOG staff are committed to engaging all residents of the Denver region, including those with limited English proficiency. DRCOG staff have initiated a required three-year update to three existing nondiscrimination plans — the Title VI Implementation Plan, Limited English Proficiency Plan and Americans with Disabilities Act Program Access Plan — and have developed a new Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Program Plan as part of the Federal Transit Administration Section 5310 grant program.

Sanchez gave an overview of the contents of each plan and highlighted changes made since the last update cycle before opening the floor to comments from the public. There were no public comments during the hearing.

Action item



[Discussion of fiscal year 2023 Transportation Improvement Program second-year delays](#)

Presenter: Brad Williams, planner, Transportation Planning and Operations

Background: In July, DRCOG staff, in conjunction with the Colorado Department of Transportation and Regional Transportation District, reviewed all Transportation Improvement Program projects that received funding in fiscal year 2023 and were delayed as of October 2023. The group determined whether the delays are ongoing and, if so, whether the project sponsor or another agency or outside factor is the cause of the delay. All delayed projects must receive Board approval to continue; the Board can also establish deadlines for project initiation or cancel or reprogram the project funding.

DRCOG staff and partners identified 14 projects that were delayed in fiscal year 2023 and will continue to be delayed in fiscal year 2024. Staff recommended that the Board approve the continuation of all 14 projects with updated initiation deadlines.

Result: The Board approved all projects to continue under staff-recommended deadlines.

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Informational briefings



[Land use and housing legislation](#)

Presenter: KC McFerson, senior planner, Division of Local Government, Colorado Department of Local Affairs

Background: The Colorado Department of Local Affairs' Division of Local Government is helping to implement legislation from several of the land use and housing bills that passed the Colorado General Assembly earlier this year. McFerson outlined the implications for and resources available to member governments in regard to House Bill 24-1313 (Housing in Transit-Oriented Communities) and Senate Bill 24-174 (Sustainable Affordable Housing Assistance).

Under House Bill 24-1313, 29 member governments will likely be designated transit-oriented communities and be required to create a housing opportunity goal at defined transit centers. Jurisdictions that don't qualify as transit-oriented communities can opt in to be eligible for related infrastructure grants. Department of Local Affairs staff are creating a map of transit areas (available in the fall) that will help jurisdictions determine whether they qualify as a transit-oriented community and calculate housing opportunity goals. Department personnel will also work with jurisdictions to create a process for reporting on housing opportunity goals.

Senate Bill 24-174 requires local jurisdictions with a population of 1,000 or more to either create a housing needs assessment or participate in a regional housing needs assessment such as the one undertaken by DRCOG. Local governments are also required to produce a housing action plan. The Department of Local Affairs will be developing resources and issuing grants to help communities create housing needs assessments and housing action plans.

More information on the implementation of both pieces of legislation is available on the [Department of Local Affairs website](#).



[Regional Housing Needs Assessment report](#)

Presenters: Sheila Lynch, director, Regional Planning and Development, and Tyler Bump, partner and project director, ECONorthwest

Background: In September 2023, DRCOG staff and consultants began developing a Regional Housing Needs Assessment to articulate the scale and scope of the region's housing needs, identify systemic barriers to addressing housing in the region and offer a framework for development of a regional housing strategy. The draft Regional Housing Needs Assessment report, now available, estimates that the Denver region will need 216,000 additional housing units by 2032 to meet current and future demand, and low-income households (below 60% of the area median income) have the greatest need for additional housing.

In the coming weeks, DRCOG staff and consultants will publish a dashboard that will allow member governments to access data on housing needs specific to their jurisdictions. DRCOG staff and consultants will also refine the Regional Housing Needs Assessment draft report to ensure compliance with the criteria outlined in Senate Bill 24-174 and kick off the development of a regional housing strategy under the framework established in the report.



[Northwest Rail Peak Service Study project update](#)

Presenters: Patrick Stanley, engineering programs manager, Regional Transportation District

Background: The Regional Transportation District launched the Northwest Rail Peak Service Study in 2022 to determine the feasibility of offering peak service (three southbound morning trips and three northbound evening trips) between Westminster and Longmont. Stanley gave an update on the study's status, outlined the infrastructure needed to provide peak service and offered an overview of community and stakeholder engagement efforts.

RTD and its partners are currently wrapping up the base configuration portion of the study and

exploring additional service options beyond the peak service concept. While the study focuses solely on RTD service along the corridor, RTD staff are working with the Front Range Passenger Rail District to identify opportunities for potential partnership. The infrastructure required to establish peak service includes six new stations, three sidings to allow freight trains to give priority to RTD trains during morning and evening service, track improvements to ensure speed and reliability, drainage upgrades, safety improvements at some street crossings, a rail maintenance facility in Longmont and a mid-day layover facility in Westminster. To date, RTD's public engagement efforts for the study include four open houses, 14 pop-up events and a self-guided online meeting that attracted more than 6,000 visitors and garnered around 400 survey responses.

