

Board of Directors Meeting Summary

Wednesday, May 15, 2024

Members/Alternates Present

Wynne Shaw, Chair	City of Lone Tree
Steve O'Dorisio	Adams County
Jeff Baker	Arapahoe County
Claire Levy	Boulder County
Austin Ward	City and County of Broomfield
Kevin Flynn	City and County of Denver
George Teal	Douglas County
Marie Mornis	Gilpin County
Andy Kerr*	Jefferson County
Angela Lawson	City of Aurora
Larry Vittum	Town of Bennett
Nicole Speer	City of Boulder
Deborah Mulvey	City of Castle Pines
Tammy Maurer	City of Centennial
Randy Weil	City of Cherry Hills Village
Steve Conklin	City of Edgewater
Ari Harrison	Town of Erie
Windi Padilla	Town of Frederick
Lynette Kelsey	Town of Georgetown
Rachel Binkley	City of Glendale
Paul Haseman	City of Golden
George Lantz	City of Greenwood Village
Jeslin Shahrezaei	City of Lakewood
Joan Peck	City of Longmont
Judi Kern	City of Louisville
Kat Bristow*	Town of Lochbuie
Hollie Rogin	Town of Lyons
Colleen Whitlow	Town of Mead
Paul Sutton	Town of Morrison
Nichole Sterling	Town of Nederland
Richard Kondo	City of Northglenn
John Diak	Town of Parker
Terrance Kelly	City of Sheridan
Neal Shah	Town of Superior
Justin Martinez	City of Thornton
Sarah Nurmela	City of Westminster
Bud Starker	City of Wheat Ridge
Darius Pakbaz	Colorado Department of Transportation
Brian Welch	Regional Transportation District

Others Present: Douglas W. Rex, Executive Director, Cam Kennedy, Division Assistant, DRCOG; Janet Lundquist, Adams County; Sarah Grant, Broomfield*; Art Griffith, Douglas County; Mac Callison, Aurora; Kent Moorman*, Thornton; Jennifer Cassell, Bowditch & Cassell; Jordan Rudel, Danny Herrmann, Colorado Department of Transportation; Michael Davies, Regional Transportation District; Jason Stone, Beckett Taylor, Citizen; and DRCOG staff.

*Participated via Zoom

Chair Wynne Shaw called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. with a quorum present.

Move to approve agenda

Director Teal **moved** to approve the agenda. The motion was **seconded** and **passed** unanimously.

Report of the Chair

Chair Shaw informed the Board that this would be her last meeting as Chair.

- Director Whitlow reported that the Performance and Engagement Committee met and chose the winner of the John V. Christensen award. They also received an update on the awards celebration taking place on August 28.
- Director Kondo reported the Finance and Budget Committee met prior to the meeting and approved five resolutions authorizing the Executive Director to:
 - continue a contract with the Colorado Department of Human Services for approximately \$432,000 for the period of July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025 to support DRCOG's Aging and Disability Resource Center.
 - continue a contract with the Colorado Department of Human Services for the Area Agency on Aging and to allocate and distribute approximately \$20.5 million in state and federal funds for the period of July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025 per the requirements set forth in the contract including contracting with local service providers.
 - enter into an agreement with the Federal Transit Administration and to negotiate and execute agreements for approximately \$650,000 to projects approved by the Board of Directors for the period beginning July 1, 2024 and ending June 30, 2025.
 - negotiate and execute agreements with subrecipients for approximately \$90,000 of Human Services Transportation TIP set-aside carryover to projects from the Federal Transit Administration Section 5310 call for projects pending approval by the Board of Directors for period beginning July 1, 2024 and ending June 30, 2025.
 - enter into an agreement with the Federal Transit Administration for approximately \$3.3 million and to negotiate and execute agreements with subrecipients for approximately \$2.5 million to projects pending approval by the Board of Directors for period beginning July 1, 2024 and ending June 30, 2025.

Report of the Executive Director

- 2024 Board Retreat: Executive Director Rex wanted to thank everyone who was able to attend this year's retreat. He also wanted to let people know that the slide deck from the retreat is located on the website on the calendar under the 2024 Board Retreat event page.
- Regional Housing Needs Assessment: An informational item included in the agenda packet is the technical background for data and information regarding the assessment that has been shared at previous Board work sessions.

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- Urban Land Institute: The institute is designing workshops specifically for elected officials. The Metro Mayors Caucus agreed to host these workshops and have one scheduled for July 26.
- Annual Awards Celebration: The Performance and Engagement Committee met and chose the winner of the John V. Christensen award. The event will take place on August 28 at the Seawell Ballroom. Registration is now open and directors are encouraged to reserve their spot. Staff is soliciting sponsorships for the event.
- Bike to Work Day: This year's event will take place on June 26. Over 400 businesses and employers are currently signed up for the event and directors will receive a piece of merchandise for free to assist in advertisement for the event
- Outgoing Board Chair Wynne Shaw: Executive Director Rex thanked Chair Shaw for her service on the Board and presented a Resolution, read by Vice Chair Baker, honoring her many years of service to Lone Tree and the greater Denver region.

Director Baker **moved** to approve **Resolution No. 8**, honoring the distinguished contributions of Wynne Shaw, expressing appreciation for her commitment to the community of Lone Tree, as well as to the Denver Metro Area through many years of service on the Denver Regional Council of Government's Board of Directors. The motion was **seconded** and **passed** unanimously.

- Executive Director Rex also thanked Trustee Ari Harrison from the Town of Erie for his service on the Board, as this will be his last meeting.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Move to approve consent agenda

Director Starker **moved** to approve the consent agenda. The motion was **seconded** and **passed** unanimously.

Items on the consent agenda included:

- Summary of the April 17, 2024 meeting.
- Metro Vision Plan Amendments.
- 2050 Metro Vision Regional Transportation Plan Amendments.
- Fiscal Year 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program Policy Amendments.
- Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Unified Planning Work Program Amendments.

Discussion on the approval of the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 budget.

Jenny Dock provided an overview of the budget to the directors. Each year the Finance and Budget Committee reviews and recommends approval of a proposed budget to the Board of Directors for the coming year. On April 17, 2024, the Finance and Budget Committee convened to review the draft Fiscal Year 2024-2025 budget prepared by staff. This meeting provided the opportunity for discussion and revisions if deemed appropriate by the

Committee. On May 1, 2024 a special meeting of the Finance and Budget Committee convened for final review of the Fiscal 2024-2025 draft budget and recommended it for approval to the Board of Directors.

Director Kondo **moved** to approve the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 budget. The motion was **seconded** and **passed** unanimously.

Discussion of the Federal Transit Administration Section 5310 Fiscal Year 2024 Funding Awards.

Travis Noon presented the awards to the Board. The Denver Regional Council of Governments is the designated recipient of Federal Transit Administration Section 5310 funding for the Denver-Aurora urbanized area. The program provides annual funding to support specialized transit services for older adults and individuals with disabilities. Approximately \$3.1 million is available for projects for the period beginning July 1, 2024, and ending June 30, 2025. DRCOG staff is recommending amending the awards recommended by the review panel to reduce the award amount to DRCOG from \$900,000 to \$516,346. All other projects will remain as originally recommended by the review panel.

DRCOG released a call for projects in November 2023 soliciting proposals for the section 5310 funding. DRCOG received requests from 10 agencies totaling over \$4.1 million for capital, operating and mobility management projects that benefit older adults and individuals with disabilities. Each proposal was reviewed and scored based on the criteria outlined in DRCOG's Federal Transit Administration Section 5310 Program Management Plan. The panel prioritized funding for ongoing operations and mobility management support over capital requests.

Director Ward **moved** to approve the Federal Transit Administration Section 5310 awards for the period beginning July 1, 2024 and ending June 30, 2025 as recommended by the review panel and adjusted by DRCOG staff. The motion was **seconded** and **passed** unanimously.

Active Transportation Plan Update

Aaron Villere provided an overview of the plan update to the directors. DRCOG's current Active Transportation Plan was adopted in 2019. The purpose of the regional Active Transportation Plan is to set a vision and goals for active mobility, envision a region-wide active transportation network, develop design and project delivery guidance, document emerging operational practices, analyze the economic impact of bicycling and walking investments and suggest policies to support active transportation in the Denver region. This plan will support Metro Vision outcomes and build from the region's 2050 Metro Vision Regional Transportation Plan and other related regional plans.

RTD FasTracks Annual Report

Brian Welch and Michael Davies of the Regional Transportation District presented the annual report to the directors. State legislation requires that any expansion of the RTD system must first receive approval from the DRCOG Board of Directors. This requirement is unique and was deliberately set by the state legislature to acknowledge the nature of the program. Annually, in compliance with this legislation, RTD provides an update on the program's progress, which has been active since 2004 with a voter-approved funding of

0.4%. Over its 20-year span, the program has achieved significant milestones, including the opening of the A-line to the airport and numerous completed projects totaling \$5.6 billion. Despite ongoing discussions about unfinished aspects of the Fast Tracks initiative, RTD remains committed to its completion and takes pride in the mobility improvements made across the region. Recent updates have highlighted substantial expenditures through 2020 and have addressed current challenges, such as fluctuating project costs influenced by economic changes, labor shortages, and supply limitations. These factors produce careful consideration as future expansions are contemplated amidst a challenging landscape for transit projects.

Michael Davies highlighted legislative updates relevant to RTD's FasTracks program. He discussed SB24-230, which introduced fees on oil and gas production to fund transit expansions, including a formula-based grant and competitive grant fund. Additionally, SB24-184 imposes fees on rental car purchases to support surface transportation projects, emphasizing passenger rail initiatives like Front Range passenger rail. Requirements include reports on corridor development between Denver and Fort Collins, aligning with RTD's Northwest Rail Fast Tracks project.

State Legislative Issues: Legislative Wrap-Up

Rich Mauro provided a brief summary of the legislative session to the directors. The Colorado General Assembly completed the 2024 legislative session on May 8. A ["Legislative Wrap Up"](#) with highlights of the most significant pieces of legislation for DRCOG was mailed separately to the directors before the meeting. The mailing included the [final list of the bills](#) on which the DRCOG Board took a position, with updated statuses.

Committee Reports

State Transportation Advisory Committee

Director O'Dorisio stated the committee met and reviewed the Colorado Department of Transportation's 2050 Statewide Transportation Plan. They also received a briefing on multimodal transportation and Multimodal Transportation and Mitigation Options Fund adjustments, where existing project commitments were preserved without altering their funding requirements.

Metro Mayors Caucus

Director Starker stated the caucus did not meet.

Metro Area County Commissioners

Director Teal stated at the last meeting on April 19, the group received an update on the migrant crisis, received a briefing from the Regional Transportation District, and received a legislative update.

Advisory Committee on Aging

Jayla Sanchez-Warren reported on their successful advocacy for an additional \$2 million in funding, thanking everyone who contributed through letters and contacts. The committee reviewed funding recommendations across various areas such as nutrition, transportation, and legal services, with the committee approving allocations and advancing them to the budget committee. They ended their meeting with a celebration of the Area Agency on Aging's 50th anniversary.

Regional Air Quality Council

Executive Director Rex stated the council met on May 3 and received a presentation by Dr. Anthony Gerber of National Jewish Health and the University of Colorado regarding the region's air quality and health status.

E-470 Authority

Director Mulvey stated the group met on May 9 and reviewed their annual audit. The board is getting closer to finding a new executive director and hopes to have that announcement in the coming month.

Report from CDOT

Director Pakbaz stated the Transportation Commission met for their May workshop and received an update covering topics such as the closure of the U.S. 50 bridge for safety issues, the initiation of the 2050 Statewide Plan with initial goal-setting discussions, and upcoming decisions on the Multi-modal Options Fund distribution formula and match reductions. They also discussed legislative changes affecting fund allocations and preparations for the Fuel Impact Enterprise's fund allocation to local governments in the near future.

Report from RTD

Brian Welch stated that last week, the Colorado Court of Appeals ruled in RTD's favor regarding the \$111 million claim filed by Denver Transit Partners over issues at the beginning of the A-line project, marking a significant victory for the FasTracks program.

Next meeting – July 17, 2024

Other matters by members

There were no other matters by members.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:46 p.m.

Jeff Baker, Chair
Board of Directors
Denver Regional Council of Governments

ATTEST:

Douglas W. Rex, Executive Director