

Attachment A
Meeting Summary
Regional Transportation Committee
Tuesday, October 15, 2024
Virtual Meeting Only – Hosted on Zoom

Members (or Voting Alternates) Present:

Bill Sirois (Alternate)	Regional Transportation District
Vince Buzek	Regional Transportation District
Michael Guzman (Alternate)	Regional Transportation District
Yessica Holguin	Colorado Department of Transportation
Shelley Cook	Colorado Department of Transportation
Karen Stuart	Colorado Department of Transportation
Eula Adams (Alternate)	Colorado Department of Transportation
Colleen Whitlow (Vice Chair)	Denver Regional Council of Governments
Randy Weil	Denver Regional Council of Governments
Doug Rex	Denver Regional Council of Governments
Greg Mills	Denver Regional Council of Governments
Jeff Baker (Chair)	Denver Regional Council of Governments
Jeff Kullman	Michael Baker International
Mike Silverstein	Regional Air Quality Council
Skyler McKinley	Auto Club Group

Additional Alternates Present:

Ron Papsdorf (Alternate)	Denver Regional Council of Governments
Deborah Mulvey (Alternate)	Denver Regional Council of Governments
Darius Pakbaz (Alternate)	Colorado Department of Transportation

Public: Alyssa Herrin, Dee Beckwith, Alison Cutting

DRCOG staff: Jacob Riger, Cam Kennedy, Josh Schwenk, Kellsie Forfar-Jones, Nora Kern, Erik Braaten, Lauren Kirgis, Byron Schuldt, Cole Neder, Carolyn Klamm, Alvan-Bidal Sanchez, Todd Cottrell, Ala Alnawaiseh, Emily Lindsey, Sang-Gu Lee

Call to Order

Chair Jeff Baker called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

September 17, 2024 Regional Transportation Committee Meeting Summary

The summary was accepted.

Discussion Items

DRCOG Crash Data Dashboard Demonstration

Byron Schuldt, Senior Geographic Information System Analyst, discussed that staff developed the Crash Data Dashboard in 2024 to provide the public, local governments, and other stakeholders with the ability to visualize and analyze crash data through a

free-to-use web-based platform. The data underlying the dashboard covers a rolling five-year period of crash data for the Denver region and will be updated annually as new data is made available. The current data is for the years 2018 through 2022. Every data point in the dashboard reflects one or more human lives impacted by a crash, a reminder that behind the statistics are real people and real communities. A goal of this effort is to increase access to regional crash data and reduce serious crashes through positive behavioral and institutional shifts informed by data-driven analysis.

Chair Jeff Baker inquired who is anticipated to be the primary user of the dashboard. Mr. Byron Schuldt replied that most likely planners at local governments within the region will use it the most to help identify priority locations and trends in crashes, though it is intended as both a technical and public resource.

Commissioner Eula Adams asked about the need to double-check data from CDOT and what are some issues that staff have noticed. Mr. Schuldt stated that there are errors with the location of points being misplaced or having the wrong latitude or longitude as well as occurrences where an officer doesn't fill out a full report, so information is missing that is needed for proper analysis. Mr. Jacob Riger clarified that the inaccuracies are not because of CDOT but due to the complicated process of how crash data is collected and processed in Colorado.

Director Jeff Kullman inquired about how the data identifies problem locations where repeat crashes happen and if that is based solely on the number of crashes or if it is proportional to the traffic volume on a particular corridor. Additionally, he asked how data is segregated in terms of various crash types? Mr. Schuldt replied that a user can filter at an intersection, and it will show the breakdown of the road descriptions which will explain the various crash types. Regarding the proportion of crashes to traffic volume, that wasn't able to be included in this first version of the dashboard. There is a reference layer that includes traffic volumes to provide a sense of the relationship between crashes and traffic volumes by location.

Commissioner Shelley Cook asked about the efficacy of countermeasures and how a jurisdiction could go about analyzing this. Mr. Schuldt replied that the data range filter can be used to filter crashes before and after a countermeasure project that has been implemented.

DRCOG Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Overview

Cole Neder, Senior Transit Planner, discussed that DRCOG has developed a DBE Program Plan that applies to Section 5310 grant program funding. In addition, the policies and strategies from the plan can ensure businesses owned by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals have an opportunity to compete for contracts in a wide range of DRCOG projects and programs. As part of implementing the DBE Program Plan, DRCOG staff will monitor DBE participation and report DBE goal progress to the Federal Transit Administration.

Director Deborah Mulvey inquired if the utilization of a DBE in a plan proposal or a project by a sponsor in the DRCOG region would be part of the scoring criteria to enhance a project. Director Ron Papsdorf replied that the DBE requirement only applies to DRCOG's use of funds for DRCOG-sponsored projects. It does not extend to a local agency that receives federal funds and then proceeds with the project.

Director Mulvey asked if it is worthwhile for a project sponsor to mention that a DBE is involved in a particular project as something that might be considered in the scoring process. Director Papsdorf stated that the concept has not been incorporated nor is it anticipated to be incorporated into the TIP scoring criteria.

Public Engagement Plan Update

Kellsie Forfar-Jones, Public Engagement Planner, mentioned that since the plan was last amended in 2021, DRCOG has developed new plans and programs, refined existing strategies, and explored equitable engagement strategies. The update is planned to include:

- Information on virtual strategies, enhanced following the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Evaluation of piloted innovative public engagement strategies.
- Additional content regarding requirements and engagement techniques for Regional Planning and Development and the Area Agency on Aging.
- Minor revisions to increase readability and usability.

Administrative Items

Member Comment/Other Matters

- Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) Report

Commissioner Adams stated that on Thursday this week, the Transportation Commission will discuss the budget for 2025 and 2026, as well as the 10-year plan for bridge and enterprise funds. Additionally, Gary Beedy, who has served as the Transportation Commission Chair and Vice-Chair, is now the Chair of the Statewide Transportation Advisory Committee. Commissioner Karen Stuart added that last month, the Transportation Commission traveled from Denver to Grand Junction and visited several major project sites. Last month, in Fairplay, Colorado, CDOT opened its first employee housing site so that first responders, maintenance workers, and essential personnel now have housing accommodations so they can more rapidly respond to storm-related and crash-related issues in the mountains.

Commissioner Yessica Holguin added that the Transportation Commission will be looking at upcoming legislative issues this week. Mr. Darius Pakbaz stated CDOT is working with local partners as part of the development of regional plans and the Statewide Transportation Plan, which CDOT expects to complete in August 2025.

- Regional Transportation District (RTD) Report

Director Michael Guzman stated that planned service disruptions are coming for the E and the R lines from October 15 through October 17 and shuttles will be provided. Additionally, service changes will be coming again starting in January, with the anticipation of expanding some services. Additionally, the draft budget for RTD is available on its website. Mr. Bill Sirois stated that as of last Sunday, the 16th Street Mall buses are now running between Curtis and Union Station again directly on the 16th Street Mall.

- Regional Air Quality Control (RAQC) Report

Director Mike Silverstein stated that during the summertime ozone season, there were over 40 days of noncompliant ozone violations in the Denver Metro Front Range region, which help to illustrate the scope of the problem and the challenges of reducing our emissions in our region to meet ozone standards. RAQC is also developing its work plan and budget currently and the next State Implementation Plan states the region must be in compliance by 2027, which will be a daunting challenge. RAQC is also preparing applications to the EPA for significant funding to help with electrification efforts for lawn and garden equipment, which is a significant contributor to our summertime ozone issue. This funding will help provide incentives for governments, private contractors, and individuals to go electric.

Next Meeting – November 19, 2024

Adjournment

There were no additional comments and the meeting adjourned at 9:43 a.m.