

**Attachment A
Meeting Summary
Regional Transportation Committee
Tuesday, March 18, 2025**

***In-person meeting with Virtual Option for Public (Via Zoom)**

Members (or Voting Alternates) Present:

Debra Johnson	Regional Transportation District
Karen Benker	Regional Transportation District
Chris Nicholson (Alternate)	Regional Transportation District
Michael Guzman	Regional Transportation District
Darius Pakbaz (Alternate)	Colorado Department of Transportation
Shelley Cook	Colorado Department of Transportation
Eula Adams (Alternate)	Colorado Department of Transportation
Colleen Whitlow (Vice Chair)	Denver Regional Council of Governments
Jeff Baker (Chair)	Denver Regional Council of Governments
Doug Rex	Denver Regional Council of Governments
Deborah Mulvey	Denver Regional Council of Governments
Tammy Maurer	Denver Regional Council of Governments
Jeff Kullman	Michael Baker International
Mike Silverstein	Regional Air Quality Council
Skyler McKinley	Auto Club Group

Additional Alternates Present:

Claire Carmelia (Alternate)	Denver Regional Council of Governments
Ron Papsdorf (Alternate)	Denver Regional Council of Governments
Bill Sirois (Alternate)	Regional Transportation District

Public: DJ Beckwith, Oisin Carroll

DRCOG staff: Jacob Riger, Cam Kennedy, Josh Schwenk, Nora Kern, Emily Lindsey, Erik Braaten, Brad Williams, Zach Feldman, Max Monk, Steph Piperno, Todd Cottrell

Call to Order

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

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

February 18, 2025 Regional Transportation Committee Meeting Summary

The summary was accepted.

Discussion Items

2050 Regional Transportation Plan – Financial Plan and Regional Roadway System

Alvan-Bidal Sanchez, Regional Transportation Planning Program Manager, discussed how the financial plan will include all transportation revenues anticipated to be available

through 2050. Staff have contacted the Colorado Department of Transportation and Regional Transportation District to identify anticipated available revenues for inclusion in the financial plan.

The Regional Roadway System identifies the system of regional facilities for analysis and establishes project eligibility for the Regional Transportation Plan and Transportation Improvement Program. The system represents the most heavily traveled and important connecting roadways in the region.

Executive Director Doug Rex asked if any additional discretionary funding, such as local ballot initiatives, is anticipated. Mr. Sanchez replied that staff have looked at previous awards in the region for reference. The last update to the RTP included a regional funding measure, so that may be carried forward with this new plan.

Commissioner Shelley Cook asked how DRCOG is adjusting to the shift in the federal landscape regarding funding. Mr. Sanchez stated since this is a 25-year plan staff have accounted for the fact that there will be highs and lows in terms of federal support, so we are taking an annualized approach.

2026-2027 Unified Planning Work Program Kick-Off

Ron Papsdorf, Transportation Planning and Operations Director, and Josh Schwenk, Senior Planner, announced that staff have begun discussions around major activities to be conducted from October 1, 2025, through September 30, 2027, for the 2026-2027 UPWP. Many activities will continue from the current 2024-2025 UPWP. The total budget for the new UPWP will likely be comparable to the current two-year cycle, as DRCOG is currently engaged in drawing down its reserve balances to meet new state constraints on carryover funds. A Menti poll was conducted regarding the UPWP and the challenges and opportunities that are in store for the metropolitan planning process over the next couple of years.

Director Deborah Mulvey commented that it might be worth considering in the future to hide results for the Menti poll until everyone has finished, so people don't read replies live and potentially get influenced by those responses ahead of time. Mr. Schwenk agreed that it is a good idea that we could implement going forward.

Director Michael Guzman asked what languages the outreach was conducted in for this kickoff. Mr. Schwenk responded that for the development of this document, everything has been conducted in English since it primarily has just been disseminated among DRCOG's committees and staff, but when we get to the public comment portion it will be translated into other languages.

2050 Regional Transportation Plan 2025 Mitigation Action Plan Report

Jacob Riger, Multimodal Transportation Planning Manager, provided an overview of the requirements and initial work associated with developing the 2050 Regional Transportation Plan 2025 Mitigation Action Plan Report as required by the state's Greenhouse Gas Transportation Planning Standard. At the local government level, mitigation measures are voluntary, and the Mitigation Action Plan does not require any local jurisdiction to implement a mitigation measure in any specific location or within any specific timeframe. However, mitigation measures were specifically chosen to build on this region's foundation of integrated transportation-land use planning, particularly around the region's existing and planned rapid transit system and urban centers.

Commissioner Eula Adams stated the inherent difficulty of auditing and the accountability of an initiative such as this since it calls for voluntary self-adherence by all parties. Director Nicholson echoed that sentiment and inquired if a map could be created so both the public as well as policymakers can see if their jurisdiction is complying with these measures or if they are not helping the mitigation effort. Mr. Riger replied that DRCOG cannot create a map saying who is and who isn't complying with these measures since the measures are reported regionally and these measures are not parceled out by jurisdiction.

Director Skyler McKinley asked what separates residential density and mixed-use in terms of these mitigation measures. Mr. Riger replied that the numbers and thresholds for each are defined through CDOT's Policy Directive 1610 which spells out density thresholds.

Director Claire Carmelia inquired how is DRCOG gathering data from municipalities so we can accurately know who is and is not following this plan. Mr. Riger replied that DRCOG overall relies on reporting from local government staff, it is an ongoing process of outreach and staff have considered maybe doing a formal survey in the future.

Director Mike Silverstein stated that since these measures have an underlying theme of reducing vehicle trips is a link being made to lock these measures into DRCOG work on future VMT projections that go into long-range plans and TIPs. Mr. Riger replied that the link has been made but it's on a per-measure basis, it is connected but parallel to the other work DRCOG is doing.

Commissioner Cook asked how we will be able to measure the actual results of these mitigation efforts going forward. Mr. Riger stated that some of this is easier to evaluate, such as increasing residential density, but determining the precise amount of greenhouse gas emissions reductions resulting from these efforts is more complicated. Director Ron Papsdorf added that we can't measure exactly how much emissions are

coming from motor vehicles on the roadway system. Instead we use models to estimate the regional results of many actions taken together.

Director Guzman stated carbon capture, and the cleaning of the air should be part of the mitigation standards and asked if CDOT could add that going forward. Director Pakbaz replied that as per rules from Policy Directive 1610, there are ways for further mitigation measures to be recommended. First, the recommendation would need to be considered by CDOT staff and then considered and approved by the Transportation Commission.

Administrative Items

Member Comment/Other Matters

- Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) Report

Commissioner Eula Adams stated that the Transportation Commission is meeting this week and will be discussing Senate Bill 184. The Commission will also hear about the Safe Routes to School initiative, Green Valley will deliver their plan for their transportation report, and the budget for CDOT, which will come in at around \$3.1 billion, when factoring in projects that haven't been completed, also needs to be approved. Additionally, CDOT employees who intervened personally and assisted in the capture of someone evading apprehension by law enforcement back in January will be recognized and celebrated at the in-person Commission meeting this Thursday.

Director Pakbaz added that staff will be providing an update on the Statewide Transportation Plan and reminded the committee that the deadline to submit applications for the NAAPME CCTAP grant funding program is April 30.

- Regional Transportation District (RTD) Report

General Manager/CEO Debra Johnson stated that today is National Transit Appreciation Day, which recognizes frontline transit workers and later this week March Madness begins at Ball Arena and RTD is preparing for an increase in ridership during those games. On March 26, there will be a community listening session at the Center for People with Disabilities, which will allow that customer segment to engage and share vital input about how RTD can become more inclusive in-service delivery options. RTD has also launched its engagement process related to Title VI Enhancements and that will be discussed at the RTD Board next month. Lastly, General Manager/CEO Johnson will be providing testimony tomorrow in favor of HB-1290, which focuses on transit safety, fostering a welcoming transit environment, and additional protections for frontline transit workers.

Director Guzman added that the RTD Board has entered into an agreement with the Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 72 and last summer slow zones began to appear on RTD's light rail lines and now 24 of the 29 slow zones have been lifted. Yesterday, RTD welcomed its new Deputy CEO, Angel Pena, and finally, RTD has partnered with

multiple public libraries and encouraged regional partners to reach out for more information.

Director Karen Benker mentioned that progress has been made on Northwest Rail and the Front Range Passenger Rail and hopefully, a joint agreement will come before the RTD Board this summer.

Director Chris Nicholson added that on March 10, RTD rolled out its first scannable paper tickets, following the lead of other transit agencies around the country. This will allow RTD to see what bus someone took, did that person transfer, was the ticket used at all, etc. That, coupled with the impending rollout of RTD's Tap-to-Pay will help RTD get incredibly important data regarding the buses people use when they use them and can help create a much more detailed map of how people use RTD to get around.

- Regional Air Quality Control (RAQC) Report

Director Silverstein stated that RAQC has had a more mellow month than normal but did ask that when it comes to major events in the region, does RTD increase service for large events or does it simply take advantage of the existing network of services when advertising and marketing to encourage transit use. General Manager/CEO Johnson answered that it depends on the event, RTD has had additional operators on standby to assist in special assignments for major events. Additionally, RTD might stage vehicles for entry and exit, but generally, RTD uses existing resources and plans accordingly.

Director McKinley added that there is a bill that will be introduced tomorrow that will create a crash prevention enterprise in CDOT. It focuses specifically on wildlife crossings and vulnerable road user (VRU) safety improvements and will be funded most likely by a surcharge of car insurance rates. There has been a multiyear effort to get a dedicated state-level funding stream for VRU safety improvements and will pair with the current federal match for wildlife crossings.

Next Meeting – April 15, 2025

Adjournment

There were no additional comments and the meeting adjourned at 10:16 a.m.