

Attachment A
Meeting Summary
Transportation Advisory Committee
Monday, March 24, 2025

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

Members (or Voting Alternates) Present:

Kent Moorman	Adams County – City of Thornton
Chris Chovan (Alternate)	Adams County – City of Westminster
Bryan Weimer	Arapahoe County
Jeff Dankenbring	Arapahoe County – City of Centennial
Brent Soderlin	Arapahoe County – City of Littleton
Michelle Melonakis (Alternate)	Boulder County – City of Lafayette
Alex Hyde-Wright	Boulder County
Jean Sanson	Boulder, City & County
Amy Saxton	Clear Creek and Gilpin Counties (non-MPO)
Justin Begley	Denver, City & County
David Krutsinger (Alternate)	Denver, City & County
Jonathan Webster (Alternate)	Denver, City & County
Tom Reiff (Alternate)	Douglas County – City of Castle Rock
Justin Schmitz (Vice Chair)	Douglas County – City of Lone Tree
Larry Nimmo (Alternate)	Douglas County – City of Castle Pines
Mike Vanatta (Alternate)	Jefferson County
Mike Whiteaker	Jefferson County – City of Lakewood
Maria D’Andrea	Jefferson County – City of Wheat Ridge
Hilary Simmons	Older Adults Special Interest Seat
Jeff Boyd	Housing Special Interest Seat
Angie Rivera-Malpiede	Equity Special Interest Seat
Frank Bruno	Via Mobility Special Interest Seat
Jordan Rudel (Alternate)	Colorado Department of Transportation Region 1
Ron Papsdorf	Denver Regional Council of Governments
Kyra Reumann-Moore (Alternate)	Regional Air Quality Council
Chris Quinn (Alternate)	Regional Transportation District
James Eussen (Alternate)	Colorado Department of Transportation Region 4
Carson Priest	Transportation Demand Management Special Interest Seat

Members Attending Virtually or Additional Alternates Present:

Brodie Ayers	Aviation Special Interests Seat
Wally Weart	Freight Special Interest Seat
Phil Greenwald	Boulder County – City of Longmont
Tom Moore	Regional Air Quality Council
Evan Pinkham (Alternate)	Southwest Weld County
Mac Callison (Alternate)	Arapahoe County – City of Aurora
Victor Rachael (Alternate)	Arapahoe County – City of Englewood
Aaron Bustow (Alternate)	Federal Highway Administration (ex-officio)

Public: Shawn Poe, Camilla Soechtig, Robert Simmons, George Gromke, Jeanne Shreve, Ryan Arthur, Cory Schmitt, Joellen Meyer, JoAnn Mattson, DJ Beckwith

DRCOG staff: Nora Kern, Cam Kennedy, Cole Neder, Travis Noon, Kathryn Rush, Alvan-Bidal Sanchez, Malorie Miller, Josh Schwenk, Emily Lindsey, Carolyn Klamm, Jacob Riger, Brad Williams, Steph Piperno, Erik Braaten

Call to Order

Vice Chair Justin Schmitz called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

Public Comment

Jacob Riger announced that the Southwest Weld Forum has appointed Helen Migchelbrink to fill the vacant membership position on the TAC. Additionally, this month, DRCOG welcomed Kathryn Rush as a new Senior Safety Planner to the Transportation Planning and Operations Division.

February 24, 2025 Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting Summary

The summary was accepted.

Action Items

Federal Transit Administration Section 5310 and Human Services Transportation Set-aside Recommended Projects

Travis Noon, Program Manager, Administration and Finance, explained that DRCOG released a call for projects in the Fall of 2024 for projects beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2026. In addition to the typical yearly available funds, there was approximately \$500,000 in carryover funding from prior years. The total funding available for this call was roughly \$5.3 million. DRCOG received requests from 10 organizations requesting over \$5.8 million in support. Proposals were reviewed by a committee of five individuals who recommended projects for funding.

Tom Reiff inquired about how the funding will be distributed among the applications. Travis Noon replied that for the most part, applicants are recommended to receive what they requested. DRCOG doesn't have the full apportionment yet, so funding is still subject to change and applicants are aware of that.

Ron Papsdorf asked Travis to clarify how 5310 funding allocations for areas outside of the Denver-Aurora Urbanized Area are handled. Travis Noon answered that 5310 funds for areas outside the Denver Auroral urbanized area are apportioned directly to CDOT, which manages those funds for smaller urbanized areas across the state through their own competitive call for projects.

David Krutsinger moved to recommend the Regional Transportation Committee approve the Federal Transit Administration Section 5310 and Human Services Transportation Set-aside projects for the period beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2026, as recommended by the review panel. The motion was seconded and passed with Frank Bruno and Hilary Simmons abstaining.

Fiscal Year 2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program

Todd Cottrell, Project and Program Delivery Manager, explained the draft Fiscal Year 2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program, or TIP, adds two years to the previously adopted FY 2024-2027 TIP to align with the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). No new projects have been added to this version of the TIP.

Bryan Weimer moved to recommend to the Regional Transportation Committee the 2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program, including those adjustments contained within the errata sheet, and the associated air quality conformity document. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Discussion Items

Colorado Department of Transportation Transit Connections Study (TCS) Overview

Cole Neder, Senior Planner, introduced George Gromke, Transit Planner with the CDOT Division of Transit and Rail, who provided an overview of the TCS strategic vision for an interconnected statewide transit network. Major components of this study include an assessment of the current state of transit services, a service gaps analysis, and recommendations for service improvements. This includes improving and expanding Bustang services, adding passenger rail services, identifying transit gaps and needs, and fostering connections with intercity regional and local transit/mobility providers.

Bryan Weimer noted the gap on I-70 east of the metro area and asked what recommendations are being made to provide service in that area. George Gromke replied that there was a Bustang-focused component and a more statewide-focused gaps analysis that was conducted. Bustang Outrider could be used to close that gap in the state.

Mac Callison inquired about where the draft gap analysis is located on the CDOT website since he couldn't find it. George Gromke stated the draft isn't currently online, but it will be available hopefully within the next two weeks.

Jean Sanson asked if someone could send out the draft once it is ready for review. George Gromke replied that CDOT does have a list of who they have been working with which includes rural TPRs, different MPOs, and various transit agencies. Once the draft is ready CDOT will coordinate on how best to distribute it.

Jean Sanson asked how this study relates to or informs CDOT's 10-Year-Plan. George Gromke stated that CDOT is collaborating internally so both this effort and the 10-Year-Plan are in step together. As both plans advance, they inform each other's processes and decisions moving forward.

Michelle Melonakis asked how this process coordinates with partners such as RTD to address already known transit gaps. George Gromke replied that CDOT does outreach with transit providers across the state to understand how CDOT can best address known transit gaps by looking at various projects, proposals, plans, and studies.

Justin Schmitz asked if this study is going to provide recommendations on how to transfer across various systems to use transit options around the state, such as transferring from Bustang to a light rail system when necessary. George Gromke stated that CDOT is looking at service gaps and evaluating connection types to determine if there is a shared stop that could be better utilized. He added that hopefully, future iterations can focus more on first and last mile connections.

Ride Alliance Overview

Malorie Miller, Senior Project Manager, explained that DRCOG received a grant award of \$975,486 through the Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation (SMART) program in July 2024 to upgrade and pilot the Ride Alliance Trip Exchange Hub. This project builds off work from previous funding opportunities used to develop the initial Trip Exchange Hub. There is a significant need for Ride Alliance due to the rapidly aging population in Colorado. The demand for services is increasing astronomically as funding remains limited. Ride Alliance maximizes current resources and is a cost-effective solution to providing regional coordination.

Chris Chovan stated that residents have previously gamed the system in terms of making reservations ahead of time where they could get 6 or 7 stops out of one usage, which eliminates other people from using that service that day. Will there be backstops in place to prevent people from abusing this service? Malorie stated that the only trips being sent to the hub are trips that agencies can't provide so that should help limit potential abuse of the system. Frank Bruno added that Via Mobility has been working to prevent people from gaming the system, and changes were made last fall to prevent people from taking advantage of this program.

Justin Begley asked if there is an opportunity in the future to have greater regionally organized human service transportation to prevent users of this program from taking advantage of it. Malorie replied that currently, the focus is getting Ride Alliance off the ground, but in the future, there can be an opportunity to enhance the current structure to improve regional coordination. Additionally, better scheduling software could be used for greater route optimization. Those changes would have to occur during Stage II where the focus will be on how to best maximize this initiative. Jacob Riger added if DRCOG gets the Stage II grant it will come with a match requirement and that's something staff will need to figure out at that time since the current Stage I grant is 100% federally funded. Subsequently, DRCOG staff learned that Stage II grants may not require a non-federal match, though this will ultimately be determined when the Notice of Funding Opportunity is released later this year.

Informational Item

Metro Vision Awards Flyer

Ron Papsdorf, Transportation Planning and Operations Director, notified the committee that the DRCOG's Metro Vision 2025 Awards will be hosted on August 27 at the Denver Center for the Performing Arts and encouraged those interested to consider nominating people or projects in the region that demonstrate exemplary collaboration and innovation. The deadline to nominate someone to be recognized is April 18.

Administrative Items

Member Comment/Other Matters

Jacob Riger mentioned that an additional information form was submitted and sent out as an addendum to the packet regarding the Non-Attainment Area Pollution Mitigation Enterprise Community Clean Transportation Assistance Program and encouraged members to review it when they have time, so they are aware of potential projects going on in the region.

Ron Papsdorf stated that it appears that some previous USDOT discretionary grant awards that did not have grant agreements executed before January 20, 2025 have not been moving forward. On March 12, staff became aware of an internal USDOT memo laying out a process to evaluate unobligated discretionary grant awards and their review will likely go back to awards made since January 20, 2021. DRCOG will continue to keep its partners informed on any information we learn about USDOT's new policies and encourages everyone to share any information they have heard with their partners in the region so we can work together when engaging with USDOT.

Next Meeting – April 28, 2025

Adjournment

There were no additional comments and the meeting adjourned at 2:47 p.m.