

Board Work Session Summary

Wednesday, March 5, 2025

Meeting held via Zoom

Members/Alternates Present

Colleen Whitlow, Chair	Town of Mead
Kathy Henson	Adams County
Julie Duran Mullica	Adams County
Jodie Hartman-Ball	Clear Creek County
Rebecca Lloyd	Clear Creek County
Kevin Flynn	City and County of Denver
Kevin Van Winkle	Douglas County
Susan Berumen	Gilpin County
Andy Kerr	Jefferson County
Sharon Davis	City of Arvada
Brad Rupert	City of Arvada
Nicole Speer	City of Boulder
Greg Mills	City of Brighton
Deborah Mulvey	City of Castle Pines
Tammy Maurer	City of Centennial
Zane Plsek	City of Central City
Robert Eber	City of Cherry Hills Village
Steve Conklin	City of Edgewater
Emily Baer	Town of Erie
Ray Byrd	Town of Firestone
Windi Padia	Town of Frederick
Lynette Kelsey	Town of Georgetown
Lisa Vitry	City of Golden
Chuck Harmon	Town of Idaho Springs
Jeslin Shahrezaei	City of Lakewood
Stephen Barr	City of Littleton
Larry Strock	Town of Lochbuie
Marissa Harmon	City of Lone Tree
Judi Kern	City of Louisville
Hollie Rogin	Town of Lyons
Laura Dennis	Town of Mountain View
Richard Kondo	City of Northglenn
John Diak	Town of Parker
Justin Martinez	City of Thornton
Sarah Nurmela	City of Westminster
Bud Starker	City of Wheat Ridge
Bill Sirois	Regional Transportation District

Others Present: Douglas W. Rex, Executive Director, Melinda Stevens, Executive Assistant, DRCOG; Michele Riccio, Adams County; Bryan Weimer, Arapahoe County; Tom Worker-Braddock, Aurora; Kent Moorman, Thornton; George Lux, Citizens; and DRCOG staff.

Director Conklin filled in temporarily to chair the meeting and called it to order at 4:05 p.m.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Overview of Regional Housing Strategy Work Plan

Sheila Lynch presented an overview of the work plan to the members. The Regional Housing Needs Assessment initiated in October 2023 and formally accepted by the Board in October 2024. The next step is to create a Regional Housing Strategy over the following year, aimed at identifying region-wide solutions grounded in Metro Vision's objective of offering diverse housing options. The strategy will incorporate equity, flexibility, comprehensive approaches, and a strong data foundation. A steering committee including 4–6 board members will be formed to guide the process, along with an advisory group, focus groups, and public engagement exercises will further support development.

The strategy's framework is rooted in three phases: discovery (building on existing successes and transportation-housing linkages), strategy development (setting goals and best practices), and implementation planning (creating communication tools and community support). Key challenges identified include balancing local flexibility with regional coordination, securing funding, aligning diverse priorities, and ensuring local government participation. Desired outcomes for the strategy include creating an actionable framework for local governments, identifying funding and policy tools, ensuring adaptability for future needs, and fostering strong regional partnerships.

The directors participated in a Mentimeter poll exercise, which showed that directors stressed the importance of addressing barriers like funding shortages, community resistance, and differing regional goals. There was also emphasis on aligning housing strategies with transportation infrastructure, preserving existing affordable housing, and promoting homeownership opportunities. DRCOG assured that existing local efforts would be incorporated and that the regional work aligns with state compliance requirements, providing a platform for member governments to meet new housing legislation mandates.

2050 Regional Transportation Plan 2025 Mitigation Action Plan Report

Jacob Riger provided an overview of the plan report to the directors. DRCOG's annual report for the Mitigation Action Plan is a key part of the 2050 Regional Transportation Plan and is required by the state's Transportation Greenhouse Gas Planning Standard (not federal law). The Mitigation Action Plan was necessary to close remaining emissions reduction gaps after DRCOG made major project, modeling, and land use changes to comply with greenhouse gas targets for 2025, 2030, 2040, and 2050. The mitigation measures chosen are policy-based actions (like transit-oriented development and minimum parking requirements) rather than project-specific changes, and they are voluntary for local governments. DRCOG must report annually to the Transportation Commission, tracking implementation progress at the regional level, even though individual actions often happen locally.

Challenges highlighted include difficulty tracking land use-based mitigation measures (like rezonings) and questions about how future growth projections may impact compliance targets, especially as DRCOG updates the 2050 plan. While mitigation measures are

currently tracked based on rezoned acreage, DRCOG is exploring ways to improve tracking by focusing on actual development outcomes instead. Changes in state housing and transportation legislation could also influence future mitigation strategies. As part of the ongoing plan update, DRCOG is working with CDOT and other partners to determine how to re-baseline targets and ensure continued compliance through 2050.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:01 p.m.