

**Attachment A
Meeting Summary
Regional Transportation Committee
Tuesday, April 15, 2025**

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

Members (or Voting Alternates) Present:

Debra Johnson	Regional Transportation District
Matt Larsen (Alternate)	Regional Transportation District
Chris Nicholson (Alternate)	Regional Transportation District
Michael Guzman	Regional Transportation District
Shelley Cook	Colorado Department of Transportation
Eula Adams (Alternate)	Colorado Department of Transportation
Colleen Whitlow (Vice Chair)	Denver Regional Council of Governments
Claire Carmelia (Alternate)	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:

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

Public: DJ Beckwith, Taylor Flanagan, Ryan Arthur, Mike King

DRCOG staff: Jacob Riger, Cam Kennedy, Travis Noon, Erin Iserman, Josh Schwenk, Nora Kern, Erik Braaten, Kathryn Rush, Brad Williams, Alvan-Bidal Sanchez, Ala Nawaiseh, Steph Piperno, Todd Cottrell

Call to Order

Vice Chair Colleen Whitlow called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

March 18, 2025 Regional Transportation Committee Meeting Summary

The summary was accepted.

Discussion Item

Corridor Planning Program Update

Nora Kern, Subarea and Project Planning Program Manager, explained that the goal of this program is for DRCOG to take a more direct role in advancing planning for projects

and priorities contained in the 2050 Regional Transportation Plan (2050 RTP) and move them towards implementation. As part of this program, DRCOG is funding and leading planning studies to advance infrastructure investment priorities along regional arterial corridors identified in the 2050 RTP. \$3,000,000 is available for the full four-year set-aside program, with \$1.5 million expected to be allocated each two-year cycle. Nora then summarized the studies completed so far and the two currently underway, as well as noting the current open solicitation for the next funding cycle.

Director Chris Nicholson inquired if there were projects already in the pipeline to get funding for the 2026-2027 Call for Projects. Nora Kern stated that is the case with some projects: BRT, transit, and arterial safety are on the horizon, which will require the most regional collaboration. Overall, staff have already spoken to several jurisdictions about funding, and regarding other projects, staff have been keeping their eyes on them.

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.

Director Ron Papsdorf inquired about what it means for Eden to be a "closed-door facility." Travis Noon responded that Eden has a closed-door policy of only serving the people who live at their low-income housing facilities.

General Manager/CEO Debra Johnson moved to recommend that the Board of Directors 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 unanimously.

Fiscal Year 2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program

Todd Cottrell, Project and Program Delivery Manager, explained that 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.

Director Mike Silverstein inquired about what is classified as active transportation compared to transit and road projects, and why it received the majority of funding. Todd Cottrell replied that active transportation would include projects focusing on bike paths, widening of a bike path, creation of a new bike path, etc. Todd added that historically active transportation projects usually receive around 35%-40% of funding, so the graph showing 2022-2023 Calls for Projects, which depicts 62% of funding for active transportation, is an outlier. Director Papsdorf explained that this outlier was driven by SB-260. Wherein the legislature allocated a significant increase in multimodal options funds using state and federal funds.

Director Michael Guzman asked about Project Number 2018-001 and noted that it states that one pool project is being removed. If a project is being removed and that money is being reallocated, how can we trace the pathway where that money is redirected? Todd Cottrell replied that that project was part of the March administrative modifications. This situation happens when managing an active TIP and a draft TIP at the same time. This action was part of the 2024-2027 TIP and the document was released for public comment. Some of these actions from the previous TIP were recorded on amendments, so this is noting that this action has already taken place.

Commissioner Shelley Cook moved to recommend to the Board of Directors 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.

Transportation Advisory Committee Environmental Special Interest Seat

Jacob Riger, Multitmodal Transportation Planning Manager, explained that the environmental special interest seat is currently vacant due to a recent retirement. This seat focuses on the formal project development aspects of environmental transportation planning and is typically filled by a private sector consultant with this expertise. DRCOG staff conducted a competitive recruitment in partnership with the American Council of Engineering Companies of Colorado and selected a preferred candidate. The preferred candidate has been nominated by Board Chair Jeff Baker as is Colleen Kirby Roberts, co-founder and principal of Peak Consulting Group.

Commissioner Eula Adams moved to approve the appointment of Colleen Kirby Roberts as the environmental special interest seat member of the Transportation Advisory Committee as nominated by the DRCOG Board Chair. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Administrative Items

Member Comment/Other Matters

- Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) Report

Commissioner Cook stated that the Transportation Commission is meeting on Wednesday to discuss the Bustang program which will include new information on ridership as well as results on the significant doubling of service in one quarter and a tripling of service in another quarter. USDOT is resuming typical grant operations, however, it appears there is a lag in the discretionary grant announcement and grant agreement review timelines. CDOT is not pursuing the SS4A grant opportunity but CDOT staff can assist local partners upon request. CDOT is also getting a better picture of what funding will look like going forward. It appears there will be a reduction of \$64 million for FY2026 and another \$22 million reduced from the FASTER Fees program. Additionally, the legislature is seeking a sweepback of local MMOF funds of \$71 million.

- Regional Transportation District (RTD) Report

General Manager/CEO Johnson stated that today RTD is launching its application period for the third year of the Partnership Program which provides an opportunity to support local mobility programs to provide greater linkage with the RTD network. On April 21, RTD will be holding a virtual Q&A session to provide insights and answer additional questions on this program and the application window is open from today through May 14.

Additionally, RTD is accepting comments through May 14 for its draft Title VI program for 2025-2028 and RTD has now implemented real-time tracking in its light rail vehicles using GPS. This tracking feature has been incorporated into the RTD trip planning application as well as in digital signage. RTD also plans to lift its current speed restrictions on the light rail network within the coming weeks. Lastly, RTD remains committed to ensuring a welcoming transit environment, and due to the implementation of several strategies, security-related calls have decreased by 60% between the first quarter of 2022 and the first quarter of 2025.

Director Guzman stated that this upcoming Friday from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. the Silent Pages Book Club will be taking the A Line from Denver Union Station to DEN and back. Those interested are asked to please register in advance.

- Regional Air Quality Control (RAQC) Report

Director Silverstein stated that RAQC is working to develop a new air quality plan to reach federal standards for summertime ozone. Current technical analysis indicates our region won't make it by the federal deadline of 2027, so the result will be that the state will request a voluntary downgrade of the region from serious to severe. Meaning the region will not have to present a full air quality plan to the state this fall, and the EPA will give us a six-year extension to 2033 to work towards attaining all ozone standards.

Additionally, tomorrow afternoon, RAQC will host the Air Quality Forum, and those interested in attending can go to RAQC's website for more information.

On April 22, Earth Day, RAQC will host a demonstration event spotlighting an electric food truck. This is because RAQC helps fund food truck electric retrofits, and this demonstration will help bring greater awareness to the fact that more efficient and cleaner food truck alternatives already exist in the industry and will hopefully replace the current gas generators soon.

Lastly, RAQC is currently recruiting new members for its Board of Directors, so if anyone on this committee is interested or knows anyone who might be interested in serving on the Board, please reach out directly to Director Silverstein.

Next Meeting – June 17, 2025

Adjournment

There were no additional comments, and the meeting adjourned at 9:20 a.m.