

Board of Directors Meeting Summary

Wednesday, May 21, 2025

Members/Alternates Present

Jeff Baker, Chair	Arapahoe County
Julie Duran Mullica	Adams County
Claire Levy	Boulder County
Austin Ward	City and County of Broomfield
Rebecca Lloyd	Clear Creek County
Adam Paul	City and County of Denver
Kevin Flynn	City and County of Denver
Kevin Van Winkle	Douglas County
Susan Berumen	Gilpin County
Brad Rupert, Alternate	City of Arvada
Nicole Speer	City of Boulder
Greg Mills	City of Brighton
Deborah Mulvey	City of Castle Pines
Tammy Maurer	City of Centennial
Robert Eber	City of Cherry Hills Village
Steve Douglas*	City of Commerce City
Steve Conklin	City of Edgewater
Emily Baer	Town of Erie
Rachel Binkley	City of Glendale
George Lantz	City of Greenwood Village
Chuck Harmon	City of Idaho Springs
Brian Wong	City of Lafayette
Jeslin Shahrezaei	City of Lakewood
Kat Bristow	Town of Lochbuie
Joan Peck	City of Longmont
Judi Kern	City of Louisville
Hollie Rogin	Town of Lyons
Colleen Whitlow	Town of Mead
Kathleen Bailey	Town of Mountain View
Richard Kondo	City of Northglenn
John Diak	Town of Parker
Neal Shah	Town of Superior
Justin Martinez	City of Thornton
Claire Carmelia, Alternate	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; Kathy Henson*, Michele Riccio*, Adams County; Bryan Weimer, Arapahoe County; Art Griffith, Douglas County; Mac Callison, Aurora; Larry Strock, Lochbuie; Shannon Lukeman-Hiromasa, Northglenn; Jennifer Cassell, Bowditch & Cassell; Randle Loeb, Citizen; and DRCOG staff

*Participated via Zoom

Chair Jeff Baker called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. with a quorum present.

Move to approve agenda

Director Starker **moved** to approve the agenda. The motion was **seconded** and **passed** unanimously.

Report of the Chair

Chair Baker announced the Denver Regional Council of Governments has scheduled a public hearing for June 18, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. to receive comments on the 2025 Public Engagement Plan: People Centered Projects and Services. Additionally, the Chair invited Mayor Hollie Rogin to present to DRCOG a handcrafted art piece, made of wood and metal melted in the Stone Canyon Fire, to thank Dr. Flo Raitano for facilitating at the Town of Lyons' board retreat last winter.

- Director Kondo reported that the Performance and Engagement Committee met and selected a recipient for the John V. Christiansen Memorial Award.
- Director Shahrezaei reported the Finance and Budget Committee met and approved nine contracts related to partnerships, incentives, and energy programs, and discussed moving future committee meetings to follow Board work sessions to improve attendance and address quorum challenges.

Report of the Executive Director

- 2025 Awards Celebration: The annual awards celebration will take place on August 27 at the Sewell Ballroom and is free for board members, with guest tickets available for \$49. The John V. Christensen award winner has been selected, Distinguished Service award recipients are being contacted, and the Metro Vision Awards review committee will evaluate 26 applications. Sponsorship levels are currently lower than last year, so board members were urged to speak with city or county staff about sponsorships and to share any business leads with DRCOG staff for follow-up.
- Regional Housing Needs Assessment Approval: The Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) has approved DRCOG's regional housing needs assessment as substantially conforming to state methodology. It will be available for local governments to use, with a 60-day public hearing period beginning July 14.
- Executive Director Rex wanted to update the Board on an upcoming change in personnel: Ron Papsdorf, Director of Transportation Planning and Operations, is leaving DRCOG to join the Houston-Galveston Area Council.

Public Comment

Randle Loeb emphasized the need for local governments to develop creative strategies to help struggling families navigate economic hardship, including inflation and basic needs. He urged leaders to take responsibility in ensuring the well-being of communities during challenging times.

Move to approve consent agenda

Director Kondo **moved** to approve the consent agenda. The motion was **seconded** and **passed** unanimously.

Items on the consent agenda included:

- Summary of the meeting April 16, 2025

Discussion on approval of the DRCOG Fiscal Year 2025/26 Budget.

Jenny Hunnings provided an overview of the new fiscal year budget to the Board. The budget process for the organization begins in February with staff drafting the budget based on projected work tasks, revenue, and expenditures. After review and input from the Finance and Budget Committee in April and May, the budget is brought to the Board for approval. This year's budget reflects significant growth due to the decarbonization grant, nearly doubling the total to \$103 million compared to past years' averages of \$56 - 58 million. Despite this growth, member contributions will remain the same, and the organization will remain budget neutral with a stable beginning and ending fund balance of approximately \$13.5 million.

Director Shahrezaei **moved** to approve the DRCOG Fiscal Year 2025/26 Budget. The motion was **seconded** and **passed** unanimously.

Discussion of the Building Policy Collaborative Jurisdictional Support Subaward Program.

Gregory Miao presented an overview of the program to the Directors. The Jurisdictional Support Subaward Program is a \$34.8 million initiative under the \$200 million Building Decarbonization Program awarded to DRCOG in July 2023. The program will support member jurisdictions over the next four years in developing and implementing building decarbonization policies, such as updated energy codes, performance standards, and benchmarking, to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The initiative includes a peer network for local staff, funding for staff capacity, training, permitting tools, technical assistance, and community engagement. To be eligible, jurisdictions must submit a letter of commitment and participate in the peer network. Subawards range from \$50,000 to \$2 million, depending on jurisdiction size and emissions impact, and will be awarded using a formula based on current and projected population and job data.

The policy, developed with significant input from local government workshops, was designed to be equitable, flexible, and easy to administer. Ineligible uses include infrastructure, solar, incentives, or workforce programs already covered by other parts of the decarbonization effort. DRCOG will handle all reporting to the EPA and provide application support resources by June 2, 2025, which is the planned launch date for the subaward application window that will run through October 31. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis, with awards expected by the end of the year. A second, competitive round is anticipated to take place in spring 2026 with priority given to jurisdictions that didn't participate in the initial round to encourage broader regional engagement.

Director Speer **moved** to approve the Building Policy Collaborative Jurisdictional Support Subaward Program. The motion was **seconded** and **passed** unanimously.

Transportation Improvement Program: Potential programming year adjustments.

Todd Cottrell provided an overview of the potential adjustments to the Board. DRCOG staff proposed a one-time adjustment to the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) schedule to better align with the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), shifting the next TIP cycle to cover Federal Fiscal Years (FFY) 2029–2032 instead of 2028 - 2031. This change would help avoid an overlap in adoption timelines and ensure that TIP investments are based on the most current RTP priorities. However, this adjustment would leave FFY 2028

temporarily unprogrammed, prompting a proposed interim two-step process to allocate funds. First, programming existing projects from the TIP waitlist with updated cost estimates, followed by a short, targeted call for new projects to allocate any remaining fund, estimated at \$90 million, pending federal funding certainty.

The call for new projects would be brief, approximately two weeks, and jurisdictions could resubmit previous projects or propose new or phased efforts. Funding will follow the current 80/20 subregional/regional split, with \$11.5 million set aside for continuing programs. Staff are currently seeking feedback and expects to return in a few months with a finalized proposal for Board action.

Regional Multimodal Freight Plan Update

Cole Neder presented the plan update to the Directors. Originally developed in 2020, the plan addresses freight needs across multiple modes and aligns with federal and state freight goals, including the statewide freight plan recently updated by CDOT. The current plan supports infrastructure investment decisions, identifies bottlenecks and safety concerns, and guides DRCOG's role in helping member governments plan effectively for freight movement. Key goals include stakeholder engagement, improving local planning capacity through data and coordination, supporting funding opportunities, and maintaining consistency with federal requirements.

The 2025 update will expand on existing work by incorporating more detailed performance measures, evaluating local freight policies, and placing a greater emphasis on implementation strategies. New areas of focus include the impact of last-mile freight delivery and emerging technologies, particularly as freight movement patterns evolve post-pandemic. A major objective of the update is to shift from a purely planning document to a more actionable tool that guides how freight-related projects are prioritized and funded. DRCOG is currently in the data collection phase, with stakeholder outreach and policy evaluation planned for the coming months, culminating in the finalized plan and implementation recommendations by 2026. Feedback from local stakeholders is welcomed to help shape the direction and effectiveness of the updated plan.

Bike to Work Day 2025 Update

Nisha Mokshagundam shared details about the upcoming Bike to Work Day on Wednesday, June 25. This event, designed to promote sustainable commuting and reduce single-occupant vehicle use, is the second largest of its kind in the U.S. Way to Go supports this initiative through regional marketing, event coordination, and employer engagement. The 2025 theme, "Ace Your Ride," highlights the fun and approachable nature of the event while encouraging new and returning participants to bike for work, errands, or recreation. Registration is already underway with over 2,300 riders, 94 stations, and 553 businesses participating in the Business Challenge. The goal is to surpass last year's 19,000 participants, grow station presence, and attract first-time riders, who already make up 25% of this year's registrants.

Staff is asking member governments to promote the event by distributing posters, organizing ride stations, encouraging businesses to participate, and sharing event details via social media. DRCOG is also offering personalized support to employers, community groups, and station organizers, including help with route planning and group rides. A special group ride will take place on the evening of June 25, ending at Emporium Brewing,

which will donate proceeds from their Bike to Work Day beer. Free promotional materials and merchandise are available for board members and their alternates, with sponsorship and T-shirt artwork deadlines approaching quickly.

Committee Reports

State Transportation Advisory Committee

Ron Papsdorf stated the committee recommended approval of CDOT's draft FY 2026-2029 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program, which includes the regional TIP unchanged, while also addressing concerns about state budget impacts, particularly to the Multimodal Options Fund, and the elimination of the Revitalizing Main Streets grant program.

Metro Mayors Caucus

Director Starker stated they did not meet.

Metro Area County Commissioners

Executive Director Rex stated the commissioners met on May 16 and received a presentation from Arapahoe County, a legislative wrap up from Rich Mauro of DRCOG, and an update from Mark Ruzzin and Heidi Grove of Boulder County on the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH).

Advisory Committee on Aging

There was no report.

Regional Air Quality Council

Executive Director Rex stated that at its May 2 meeting, the council reviewed required state implementation plan chapters, despite the state's voluntary reclassification to severe nonattainment, and also discussed how indirect sources impact regional air quality, potentially leading to a future rule.

E-470 Authority

Director Mulvey stated their last meeting included recognizing a heroic individual who stopped to help someone in crisis on the highway, updates on the 104th Avenue road widening to three lanes, new travel plazas planned for Commerce City, Aurora, and Parker, and the opening of the 48th Avenue interchange with tolls waived until June 6, all contributing to regional connectivity and safety.

Report from CDOT

There was no report.

Report from RTD

Bill Sirois reported that within the next week, the RTD Board will consider updates to its Equitable TOD policy in response to recent state legislation expanding flexibility for affordable housing discounts. Additionally, the RTD Partnership Program received 10 project applications totaling \$6.5 million, with awards expected by August, and the E and R line slow zones are expected to be completed by May 23.

Next meeting – June 18, 2025

Other matters by members

There were no other matters by members.

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Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:07 p.m.

Jeff Baker, Chair
Board of Directors
Denver Regional Council of Governments

ATTEST:

Douglas W. Rex, Executive Director