

# Board of Directors Meeting Summary

Wednesday, March 18, 2026

## Members/Alternates Present

Jeff Baker,	Arapahoe County
Julie Dran Mullica	Adams County
Claire Levy	Boulder County
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
Rachel Zenzinger, Alternate	Jefferson County
Alison Coombs	City of Aurora
Nicole Speer	City of Boulder
Greg Mills	City of Brighton
Deborah Mulvey	Castle Pines
Robert Eber	City of Cherry Hills Village
Steve Conklin	City of Edgewater
Emily Baer	Town of Erie
Josie Cockrell	Town of Foxfield
Gerchard Pfau	City of Golden
George Lantz	City of Greenwood Village
Chuck Harmon	City of Idaho Springs
Saul Tapia Vega	City of Lafayette
Jeslin Shahrezaei	City of Lakewood
Robert Reichardt	City of Littleton
Kat Bristow	Town of Lochbuie
Alecia Brown, Alternate	City of Lone Tree
Judi Kern	City of Louisville
Hollie Rogin	Town of Lyons
Colleen Whitlow (Chair)	Town of Mead
Kathleen Bailey	Town of Mountain View
Richard Kondo	City of Northglenn
John Diak	Town of Parker
Jay Whittaker	City of Sheridan
Neal Shah	Town of Superior
Sarah Nurmela	City of Westminster
Darius Pakbaz	Colorado Department of Transportation
Bill Sirois	Regional Transportation District

Others Present: Douglas W. Rex, Executive Director, Melinda Stevens, Executive Assistant, DRCOG; Michele Riccio\*, Adams County; DJ Beckwith\*, Douglas County; Tom Work-Braddock; Aurora; Rhonda Fields, Arapahoe County; Kent Moorman\*, Thornton; John Gardocki\*, Colorado Department of Transportation; Jennifer Cassell, Bowditch & Cassell; Laurie Anderson; Citizens; and staff.

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

### **Move to approve agenda**

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

### **Report of the Chair**

Chair Whitlow thanked the Board for allowing her to chair for the coming year.

- Director Shahrezaei reported that the Performance and Engagement Committee met prior to the meeting and received an update from staff on the peer exchange trip to Seattle from May 6–8 to meet with the Puget Sound Regional Council.
- Director Kern reported that the Finance and Budget Committee met on March 4, and received the FY 2024/2025 audit report from DRCOG’s independent auditor. Director Kern praised DRCOG’s finance team for the “amazing report”. Also on the agenda was a mid-year status report on the current budget and DRCOG is on track and looking good.

### **Report of the Executive Director**

- Seattle Peer Exchange: The event will take place from May 6 to May 8 and is limited to the first 30 participants that sign up. Until April 1, registration is limited to one participant per community to ensure an opportunity for geographic representation.
- Annual Awards Celebration: Nominations are being accepted through April 17. Executive Director Rex encouraged members to sponsor a table for the event as it is a good way to celebrate all the work their local staff are doing within the region.
- Executive Director Rex acknowledged that this was Director Bill Sirois’ last DRCOG meeting. He thanked him as a trusted partner through the years and wished him well on future endeavors.

### **Public Comment**

There were no comments.

### **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 February 18, 2026, meeting
- 2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program Policy Amendments

### **Discussion of the Jurisdictional Support Subaward Round Two Policy**

Greg Miao, Program Manager for DRCOG's Power Ahead Colorado program gave a briefing on the policy updates for the second round of funding. Staff sought feedback from local governments, as well as Power Ahead Colorado's technical and oversight committees on how best to use the remaining \$8.5 million budgeted for the Jurisdictional Support Subaward program. Mr. Miao said that there was a desire for some of the funds to be used for set-aside programs that would provide additional support to member governments participating in the Building Policy Collaborative. DRCOG staff proposed allocating \$2 million to create three new set-aside programs in facilitation and research services, utility engagement, and regional building operations and technology

Staff proposed using the remaining \$6.5 million for a competitive second round of subawards, with a goal of incentivizing new participation, increasing impact for existing awardees by allocating extra funding where needed, and allowing for more innovative and ambitious applications.

Staff hoped to open Round 2 to applications on April 1, convene a scoring panel to review applications in June, and present the panel's recommendations to the Power Ahead Colorado committees and Board in July.

Director Baer **moved** to adopt the Jurisdictional Support Round Two Policy. The motion was **seconded** and **passed** unanimously.

### **Discussion of the Power Ahead Colorado Incentives Policy**

Mac Prather briefed the Board on the contents of the policy. After researching the market and gathering feedback from stakeholders, DRCOG staff drafted an incentives policy to outline how to allocate and administer the \$40 million in financial incentives available through the Power Ahead Colorado program to encourage the adoption of high-efficiency electric building technology across the region. The proposed policy defined who is eligible to receive financial incentives, including residential property owners and renters, multifamily and commercial building owners, contractors and service providers, and distributors. It also established incentive ranges for three types of projects: cold-climate air-source heat pumps (\$300 to \$3,000 per unit), heat pump water heaters (\$300 to \$2,500 per unit) and installations (\$100 to \$500 per installation).

The policy outlined a process for adjusting incentive levels in response to factors such as utility or government rebate changes and fluctuating technology costs. Staff must submit proposed changes for approval by DRCOG's executive director, notify the Board and endeavor to give stakeholders at least 30 days of advance notice before the change takes effect.

Director Baer **moved** to adopt the Incentives Program. The motion was **seconded** and **passed** unanimously.

### **Status of bills on which positions have previously been taken**

The Board revised positions on two bills in response to amendments proposed by the Board having been incorporated.

- House Bill 26-1018 – Long-term Care Services for Nursing Home Residents
  - Director Levy moved the revised position of support. The motion was seconded and passed with 19 in favor, 1 opposed, and 5 abstentions.
- House Bill 26-1107 – Health Care in Regulated Facilities
  - Director Kern moved the revised position of support. The motion was seconded and passed with 19 in favor, 0 opposed, and 7 abstentions.

**Discussion of state legislative issues: New, bills for consideration and action.**

Rich Mauro and Jennifer Cassell provided an overview of new bills for consideration to the Board. The following bills were voted on separately:

- Transportation bills
  - House Bill 26-1102 – Funding for the Colorado Drives Account
    - Director Paul moved a position of oppose. The motion was seconded and passed with 23 in favor, 0 opposed, and 3 abstentions.
  - House Bill 26-1237 – Transportation Safety Modifications
    - Director Levy moved a position of support. The motion was seconded and passed with 16 in favor, 0 opposed, and 8 abstentions.
- Joint Budget Committee proposed bills
  - LLS NO. 26-0850.01 – Eliminate General Fund Transfer to Multimodal Transportation Fund
    - Director Levy moved a position of oppose. The motion was seconded and passed with 25 in favor, 0 opposed, and 3 abstentions.
  - LLS NO. 26-0849.01 – Retail Delivery Fee Revenue Allocation
    - Director Mulvey moved a position of oppose. The motion was seconded and failed with 17 in favor, and 4 abstentions.
    - Director Zenzinger moved a position of amend. The motion was seconded and passed with 20 in favor, 2 opposed, and 4 abstentions.

**Sheridan Corridor Safety Study Final Report**

Nora Kern provided an overview of the study to the Board. In October 2024, DRCOG staff initiated the Sheridan Corridor Safety Study to explore ways to reduce serious and fatal crashes along Sheridan Boulevard between Interstate 76 and U.S. Route 285. Staff and consultants worked with stakeholders along the corridor to conduct robust community engagement, analyze data on crashes and other existing conditions, collect traffic counts, and conduct site visits. The study's final report published in January encompasses both corridor-wide and location-specific recommendations. The corridor-wide recommendations include larger efforts such as adding new medians or hardened centerlines, repaving and restriping, installing traffic safety cameras, and widening or adding sidewalks. The study

team also developed targeted recommendations for 26 intersections along the corridor that have the highest number of crashes. All recommendations identify a lead agency for next steps, a general timeline and possible funding sources.

### **Ride Alliance Stage One Report Out**

Malorie Miller provided a briefing of the initiative to the Board. In July 2024, DRCOG received a Stage 1 grant through the U.S. Department of Transportation's Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation program to upgrade and pilot the Ride Alliance Trip Exchange hub. The Trip Exchange hub, initially developed under previous grant funding opportunities, makes it easier for older adults and individuals with disabilities to request and receive transportation by coordinating trip requests across the region, reducing trip denials, simplifying client access and streamlining providers' reporting processes.

The latest work on the Trip Exchange hub enhanced the platform and integrated four transportation providers. In late 2025, DRCOG staff piloted the Trip Exchange hub for the first time to test its functionality with actual clients, providers and trips. The pilot included more than 50 successful one-way trips; participating transportation providers included the DRCOG Area Agency on Aging, Via Mobility Services, the Regional Transportation District FlexRide and the North Front Range Metropolitan Planning Organization's RideNoCo project.

The U.S. Department of Transportation has given DRCOG approval to extend the project through June 30, with a goal of developing a public-facing interface where clients can book trips directly. Staff will continue to gather feedback from stakeholders and look for new funding opportunities to keep the project moving forward.

### **Committee Reports**

### **State Transportation Advisory Committee**

Director Baer reported at its March meeting, STAC received a presentation on the final draft FY 2026/2027 CDOT budget, presentation on the State Transportation Improvement Program's interactive project tracker, and a Bustang presentation.

### **Metro Mayors Caucus**

No report

### **Metro Area County Commissioners**

No report

### **Advisory Committee on Aging**

Jayla Sanchez-Warren reported that the committee heard a presentation from Ombudsman Manager, Shannon Gimbel. The committee also heard a primer on the upcoming development of the Area Plan on Aging, which is developed every four years.

### **Regional Air Quality Council**

Executive Director Rex reported that at its March meeting, staff highlighted the Mow Down pollution program. Also, the committee received a general air quality planning update from staff.

### **E-470 Authority**

Director Mulvey reported that at the March meeting the Board discussed a customer service survey that showed improved response. Also approved resolutions in support of the agency's administrative function.

### **Report from CDOT**

Director Pakbaz reported the Transportation Commission held its monthly workshop to discuss Bustang funding and long-term solutions, presentation on the draft final budget, and a presentation on the 10-year plan.

### **Report from RTD**

Director Sirois reported that RTD is testing the level boarding platforms for Colfax BRT. Director Sirois also noted that a consultant, Jarrett Walker and Associates, has been chosen for RTD's upcoming comprehensive operations analysis.

**Next meeting – April 15, 2026**

**Other matters by members**

No report

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 8:49 p.m.

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

ATTEST:

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Douglas W. Rex, Executive Director