



**Agenda**  
**Special Finance and Budget Committee**  
**Wednesday, April 29, 2026**  
**5:30 p.m.**  
**Video/Web Conference**  
**Denver, CO**

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1. Call to order

**Consent agenda**

2. Move to approve Consent agenda
  - A. Summary of April 1, 2026, meeting  
(Attachment A)

**Action items**

3. Discussion of recommending approval of the DRCOG Fiscal Year 2026/2027 Budget to the Board of Directors.  
(Attachment B) Jenny Hunnings, Chief Operating Officer
4. Discussion of a resolution authorizing the Executive Director to amend the contract with Kearns & West for community engagement services for Power Ahead Colorado to increase the contract amount by \$323,824 for a total contract amount not to exceed \$2,623,824 through August 1, 2027, with the option to renew for an additional amount not to exceed \$1,700,000 through October 16, 2029 upon satisfactory performance, for a total contract amount not to exceed 4,323,824.  
(Attachment C) Chris Selk, Program Manager, Power Ahead Colorado
5. Discussion of a resolution authorizing the Executive Director to accept funds from the Colorado Department of Local Affairs' Housing Planning Grant Program, in the amount of \$525,000 for a performance period of April 2, 2026 through January 31, 2028, to support the development of Metro Vision regional plan updates and housing action plan components.  
(Attachment D) Sheila Lynch, Director, Regional Planning and Development

## **Administrative items**

6. Report of the Chair
7. Report of the Executive Director
8. **Next meeting – June 3, 2026**
9. Other matters by members
10. Adjourn



**ATTACH A**

# Finance and Budget Committee Meeting Summary

Wednesday, April 1, 2026

Meeting held via Microsoft Teams

## Members Present

Judi Kern, Chair	Louisville
Claire Levy	Boulder County
Andy Kerr	Jefferson County
Sharon Davis	Arvada
Marissa Harmon	Lone Tree
Justin Martinez	Thornton

Others Present: Douglas W. Rex, Executive Director; and DRCOG staff.

Chair Shahrezaei called the meeting to order at approximately 5:31 p.m. with a quorum present.

## Move to approve consent agenda

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

Items on the consent agenda included:

- Summary of the March 4, 2026 meeting.

## Election of Vice Chair

Chair Kern **moved** to elect Justin Martinez of the Finance and Budget Committee as Vice Chair. The motion was **seconded** and **passed** unanimously.

## Discussion of a resolution authorizing the Executive Director to execute an agreement with the Colorado Department of Transportation for \$500,000 to support the Choice Services Transportation Program for the period ending June 20, 2027.

Travis Noon provided an overview of the agreement to the committee. The agreement will support the AAA's Choice Services Transportation program, funded through the Human Services Transportation set-aside after being recommended through a call for projects. This program partners with transportation network companies and non-emergency medical transportation providers to give older adults access to free rides across the region. Participants can choose from a vetted list of providers and receive up to \$250 per month in ride vouchers. The funding will support the program through the remainder of the current fiscal year and into the next.

Director Harmon **moved** to approve **Resolution Number 20, 2026**, authorizing the Executive Director to execute an agreement with the Colorado Department of Transportation for \$500,000 to support the Choice Services Transportation Program for the period ending June 20, 2027. The motion was **seconded** and **passed** unanimously.

## DRCOG Fiscal Year 2026/2027 Draft Budget

Jenny Hunnings presented the draft to the members. DRCOG's budget is proposed to increase from approximately \$103 million this fiscal year to \$110 million in FY 2026/2027, with most of the growth driven by the Power Ahead Colorado program. A 3.5% merit pool is being proposed to stay competitive with the Denver market, and health insurance rates are budgeted to rise by about 12%. Additionally, the federally approved indirect cost rate from the Federal Transit Administration decreased from 48.5% to 33.7%, and the organization continues to maintain a strong general fund balance.

**Report of the Chair**

There was no report.

**Report of the Executive Director**

The Executive Director brought up the possibility of having the next committee meeting on April 29, due to the Peer Exchange taking place during their normal meeting schedule.

**Next meeting – Tentatively scheduled for April 29, 2026**

**Other matters by members**

The Chair wanted to remind everyone to register for the Peer Exchange prior to the deadline.

**Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at approximately 5:46 p.m.

**ATTACH B**

## Special Finance and Budget Committee

Meeting date: April 29, 2026

Agenda Item #: 3

### Discussion of recommending approval of the DRCOG Fiscal Year 2026/2027 Budget to the Board of Directors

Agenda item type: Action item

#### Summary

The 2026/2027 budget is a fiscal guide for the operation of DRCOG from July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027. The budget highlights work activities in DRCOG’s Work Plan for the Denver metropolitan region.

#### Background

Each year the Finance and Budget Committee reviews and recommends approval of a proposed budget to the Board of Directors for the coming year. Attached is the draft budget for the new fiscal year of July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027.

DRCOG staff presented the draft budget to Finance and Budget committee on April 1, 2026. No revisions were requested by the Committee.

#### Action by others

None

#### Previous discussion/action

[April 1, 2026](#) – Finance and Budget Committee meeting

#### Recommendation

Move to recommend approval of the DRCOG Fiscal Year 2025/26 Budget to the Board of Directors.

#### Attachments

Link: [Draft Fiscal 26/27 Budget](#)

#### For more information

If you need additional information, please contact Douglas W. Rex, Executive Director, at 303-480-6701 or [drex@drcog.org](mailto:drex@drcog.org); or Jenny Hunnings, Chief Operating Officer, at 720-635-5733 or [jhunnings@drcog.org](mailto:jhunnings@drcog.org).



**ATTACH C**

## Finance and Budget Committee

Meeting date: April 29, 2026

Agenda Item #: 4

**Discussion of a resolution authorizing the Executive Director to amend the contract with Kearns & West for community engagement services for Power Ahead Colorado to increase the contract amount by \$323,824 for a total contract amount not to exceed \$2,623,824 through August 1, 2027, with the option to renew for an additional amount not to exceed \$1,700,000 through October 16, 2029 upon satisfactory performance, for a total contract amount not to exceed 4,323,824.**

Agenda item type: Action item

### Summary

This action is requesting approval to amend the contract with Kearns & West increasing funds to provide staffing for event tabling and a direct mail campaign for Power Ahead Colorado.

### Background

DRCOG entered into a Contract with Kearns & West to design and implement Power Ahead Colorado Community Engagement activities in November 2025.

As implementation has progressed, several administrative and budget refinements have been identified to ensure adequate implementation of community engagement needs. After careful discussion with Kearns & West, it was determined that additional funds are needed to more adequately support the program's community engagement needs, particularly staffing events throughout the DRCOG region and direct mail campaigns. Current staffing is inadequate to provide coverage for the amount of events needed to effectively spread awareness about the Power Ahead Colorado program in its first two years. The direct mailer campaign is another effective way to reach specific audiences that was not originally budgeted.

### Contract Amendment

This amendment will add items to the existing Kearns & West contract task 4.5. These are:

- Event Management;
- Event Support; and
- Post-Event Coordination.
- Direct mail material and coordination.

These tasks include identifying and managing an event list, managing a staffing plan for event attendance, developing talking points for events, staffing events, debriefing after events, and other related work to coordinate all aspects of representing the Power Ahead Colorado project at events around the DRCOG region.



These additional funds will also add a direct mail campaign where Kearns & West will be charged with developing print materials (in consultation with Power Ahead Colorado's marketing vendor, Karsh Hagan), securing lists of desired audiences, such as pragmatic homeowners, and overseeing the dispersal of mailers to priority audiences to effectively reach our intended audiences.

The funds for this amendment will be drawn from previously unallocated Communications and Marketing funds budgeted in the Power Ahead Colorado work plan.

**Action by others**

None

**Previous discussion/action**

[August 6, 2025](#) – Finance and Budget Committee

**Recommendation**

Move to adopt a resolution authorizing the Executive Director to amend the contract with Kearns & West for community engagement services for Power Ahead Colorado increasing the contract amount by \$323,824 for a total contract amount not to exceed \$2,623,824 through August 1, 2027, with the option to renew through October 16, 2029 upon satisfactory performance, for a total contract amount not to exceed \$4,323,824.

**Attachment**

Draft resolution.

**For more information**

If you need additional information, please contact Douglas W. Rex, Executive Director, at 303-480-6701; or Chris Selk, Program Manager (Communications), at 303-350-5465 or [cselk@drcog.org](mailto:cselk@drcog.org).



Denver Regional Council of Governments  
State of Colorado

Finance and Budget Committee

Resolution No. 21, 2026

**A resolution authorizing the Executive Director to amend the contract with Kearns & West for community engagement services for Power Ahead Colorado increasing the contract amount by \$323,824 for a total contract amount not to exceed \$2,623,824 through August 1, 2027, with the option to renew through October 16, 2029 upon satisfactory performance, for a total contract amount not to exceed \$4,323,824.**

**Whereas**, DRCOG received a \$199.7 million grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Climate Pollution Reduction Grant program to implement a regional building decarbonization initiative; and

**Whereas**, the program needs a robust approach to community engagement, educating the public about the benefits of Power Ahead Colorado; and

**Whereas**, DRCOG awarded Kearns & West a community engagement contract because they submitted the best overall proposal that demonstrated their experience, capability, understanding and resources to successfully deliver the required services; and

**Whereas**, the funding for this amendment will be drawn from previously unallocated Communications and Marketing funds budgeted in the Power Ahead Colorado work plan; and

**Whereas**, to achieve program engagement goals, the optimal number of community events and outreach opportunities exceeds the capacity of Power Ahead Colorado staff and requires assistance of additional trained community engagement professionals.

**Now, therefore, be it resolved** Move to adopt a resolution authorizing the Executive Director to amend the contract with Kearns & West for community engagement services for Power Ahead Colorado increasing the contract amount by \$323,824 for a total contract amount not to exceed \$2,623,824 through August 1, 2027, with the option to renew through October 16, 2029 upon satisfactory performance, for a total contract amount not to exceed \$4,323,824.

**Resolved, passed, and adopted** this 29th day of April 2026, at Denver, Colorado.

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Judi Kern, Chair  
Finance and Budget Committee  
Denver Regional Council of Governments

ATTEST:

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Douglas W. Rex, Executive Director

**ATTACH D**

## Finance and Budget Committee

Meeting date: April 29, 2026

Agenda Item #: 5

### **Discussion of a resolution authorizing the Executive Director to accept funds from the Colorado Department of Local Affairs' Housing Planning Grant Program, in the amount of \$525,000 for a performance period of April 2, 2026 through January 31, 2028, to support the development of Metro Vision regional plan updates and housing action plan components.**

Agenda item type: Action item

#### **Summary**

DRCOG staff recommends that the Finance and Budget Committee authorize the Executive Director to accept \$525,000 from the State of Colorado's Housing Planning Grant Program to develop Metro Vision regional plan updates and Housing Action Plan components.

#### **Background**

On February 24, 2026, the Department of Local Affairs informed DRCOG that the application to the Housing Planning Grant Program, which is funded by the Local Government Severance Tax Fund and the Local Government Mineral Impact Fund, for \$525,000 to support the development of Metro Vision regional plan updates and housing action plan components was awarded. The Housing Planning Grant Program provides grants to local governments and regional entities to help them better understand their housing needs and develop actionable and compliant housing needs assessments, housing action plans, and comprehensive plans.

The Housing Planning Grant Program requires a match and this funding will be aligned with Metropolitan Transportation Planning funding through the Unified Planning Work Program to support the development of Metro Vision regional plan updates and regional Housing Action Plan components with a total estimated cost of \$700,000. The funding will allow for the hiring of a consultant team through a Request for Proposal process. By adopting this resolution, the Finance and Budget Committee is authorizing the Executive Director to accept the funds of \$525,000 from the Department of Local Affairs to support the development of Metro Vision regional plan updates and housing action plan components.

#### **Action by others**

None

#### **Previous discussion/action**

None

#### **Recommendation**

Move to adopt a resolution authorizing the Executive Director accept funds from the Colorado Department of Local Affairs' Housing Planning Grant Program, in the amount of \$525,000 for a performance period of April 2, 2026 through January 31, 2028, to support the development of Metro Vision regional plan updates and housing action plan components



**Attachment(s)**

Draft resolution

**For more information**

If you need additional information, please contact Douglas W. Rex, Executive Director, at 303-480-6701; or Sheila Lynch, Director, Regional Planning and Development, at 303-480-6839 or [slynch@drcog.org](mailto:slynch@drcog.org).



Denver Regional Council of Governments  
State of Colorado

Finance and Budget Committee

Resolution No. 22, 2026

**A resolution authorizing the Executive Director to accept funds from the Colorado Department of Local Affairs' Housing Planning Grant Program, in the amount of \$525,000 for a performance period of April 2, 2026 through January 31, 2028, to support the development of Metro Vision regional plan updates and housing action plan components.**

**Whereas**, the Denver Regional Council of Governments, as the regional planning council, is responsible for the adoption of a regional plan, Metro Vision; and

**Whereas**, the Denver Regional Council of Governments, as the Metropolitan Planning Organization, is responsible for carrying out and maintaining the continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive transportation and housing coordination planning process in the Greater Denver Transportation Management Area; and

**Whereas**; Metro Vision, which was unanimously adopted by the DRCOG Board in 2017, serves as the Denver region's vision for growth and development; and

**Whereas**; the Colorado Sustainable Affordable Housing Assistance Act (also referred to as Colorado Senate Bill 2024-174) requires regional entities to develop and adopt a strategic growth element and water element as a part of their regional plan; and

**Whereas**, the Colorado Sustainable Affordable Housing Assistance Act requires local governments to develop and adopt local housing action plans every six years; and

**Whereas**, the Regional Housing Needs Assessment includes important data and information that can advise future housing planning and strategy development; and

**Now, therefore, be it resolved** that the Executive Director is authorized to accept funds from the Colorado Department of Local Affairs' Housing Planning Grant Program, in the amount of \$525,000 for a performance period of April 2, 2026 through January 31, 2028, to support the development of Metro Vision regional plan updates and housing action plan components.

**Resolved, passed, and adopted** this 29th day of April, 2026 at Denver Colorado.

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Judi Kern, Chair  
Finance and Budget Committee  
Denver Regional Council of Governments

ATTEST:

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Douglas W. Rex, Executive Director