

**Attachment A
Meeting Summary
Regional Transportation Committee**

Tuesday, October 14, 2025

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

Members (or Voting Alternates) Present:

Karen Benker	Regional Transportation District
Debra Johnson	Regional Transportation District
Michael Guzman	Regional Transportation District
Bill Sirois (Alternate)	Regional Transportation District
Darius Pakbaz (Alternate)	Colorado Department of Transportation
Shelley Cook	Colorado Department of Transportation
Colleen Whitlow (Vice Chair)	Denver Regional Council of Governments
Doug Rex	Denver Regional Council of Governments
Tammy Maurer	Denver Regional Council of Governments
Jacob Riger (Alternate)	Denver Regional Council of Governments
Mike Silverstein	Regional Air Quality Council
Skyler McKinley	The Auto Club Group (American Automobile Association)
Erin Clark	Denver Housing Authority
Jeff Kullman	Michael Baker International

Public: Ryan Arthur, Randy Islington, Jesse Maruschak, Elizabeth Young-Winne, Menelik Gemechis

DRCOG staff: Cam Kennedy, Steph Piperno, Alvan-Bidal Sanchez, Sheila Lynch, Josh Schwenk, Mahmudul Chayan, Nisha Mokshagundam, Cole Neder, Malorie Miller, Steve Erickson, Pavlo Krokidis, Carolyn Klamm, Erik Braaten, Aaron Villere, Ala Alnawaiseh, Todd Cottrell, Emily Lindsey, Sang Gu Lee

Call to Order

Vice Chair Colleen Whitlow called the meeting to order at 8:32 a.m.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

August 19, 2025 Regional Transportation Committee Meeting Summary

The summary was accepted.

Action Items

Amendments to the 2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program

Josh Schwenk, Senior Planner, stated that the region's transportation planning process allows for Board-approved amendments to the current TIP on an as-needed basis.

Typically, these amendments involve the addition or deletion of projects, or adjustments

to existing projects, and do not impact funding for other projects in the Transportation Improvement Program. The proposed amendments to the 2026-2029 TIP have been found to conform with the State Implementation Plan for Air Quality.

Director Michael Guzman asked that the Central Corridor be defined. Josh responded that the corridor is today's L line, with the planned extension to the 38th and Blake Station.

General Manager and CEO Debra Johnson moved to recommend to the Board of Directors the attached project amendments to the 2026-2029 TIP. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Transportation Demand Management Set-Aside

Steve Erickson, Division Director, and Nisha Mokshagundam, Way to Go Manager, informed the committee that in May 2025, after conducting a workshop for potential applicants, DRCOG issued a call for Letters of Intent, followed by a call for applications. Applications and Letters of Concurrence were due July 3, 2025. A Project Review Panel made up of DRCOG staff and external partners such as CDOT, RAQC, and Ride NoCo reviewed and rated each of the seven applications received. After discussion, the Panel recommended funding all seven projects.

Director Karen Benker asked for additional information on existing Transportation Management Association partners. Nisha replied that the Way to Go Partnership consists of DRCOG and 8 TMA partners, who represent geographically specific areas within the DRCOG region. They add strong community ties to the conversations since they understand the neighborhoods they work in.

Director Benker also asked about the accountability of this program. Nisha responded that all project partners send high-level monthly updates as well as mid-project reports in addition to closeout reports.

Director Guzman moved to recommend to the Board of Directors that the recommended projects be funded through the TDM Services Set-aside of the DRCOG 2026-2027 Transportation Improvement Program. The motion was seconded and passed with one abstention from Director Skylar McKinley since he is on the Board of Transportation Solutions, which will receive some of these funds.

Transportation Improvement Program – Programming Year Adjustments

Todd Cottrell, Project and Programming Delivery Manager, discussed that as a result of several factors, the normal schedule for developing the next TIP for Fiscal Years 2028-2031 overlaps the current 2050 RTP Update. That overlap does not give the region the opportunity to align TIP investment priorities with the priorities of the updated RTP. To

remedy this situation, DRCOG is recommending two one-time exceptions to policy to offset the regular every-four-year TIP schedule to account for the current 2050 RTP major update schedule.

Director Mike Silverstein inquired about when the additional year of funding would be carried forward. Todd responded that CDOT won't have access to those funds until July 1, 2027, so only after that date could contracts be amended to add that extra year of funding.

Commissioner Shelley Cook recommended to the Board of Directors exceptions to the adopted Policies for TIP Program Development document to shift the future Fiscal Years 2028-2031 TIP to 2029-2032, and to allocate future Fiscal Year 2028 funding as noted. The motion was seconded and passed with one abstention from Mike Silverstein since RAQC is a recipient of some of the funds.

Discussion Items

Multimodal Supportive Local Development Toolkit

Cole Neder, Senior Planner, discussed that DRCOG is currently developing Built to Move: A DRCOG Toolkit for Multimodal-Supportive Local Development Standards. This implementation-based project will provide local governments with strategies and standards that advance multimodal connectivity and access within urban, suburban, and rural community contexts.

Director Guzman inquired whether considerations were made for language and cultural sensitivities. Additionally, who are the peers that were referred to in the presentation? Cole replied that given the diversity that exists in the region, staff ensured that our materials and our engagement were done in a way that was equitable and accessible to local communities. Regarding the peers, this was in reference to local member governments that participated.

Commissioner Cook asked how the corridors are defined. Cole responded that the corridor typology is used to align it with the Complete Streets Toolkit, so our toolkits align. That being said, it's more of a community-wide look at what characteristics and development patterns a community currently has and what methods could be used to improve multimodal access where needed.

Director Erin Clark asked if the goal for the toolkit is to provide elements for existing transit-oriented developments to improve them, or if it is to increase transit-oriented development in its entirety. Cole replied that this toolkit is multimodal in nature and applies to more than transit corridors. This is a resource for both developers and local government staff to use to determine the best course of action moving forward.

Jacob Riger provided the clarifying example of the shared experience of not being able to “get there from here,” even when the origin and destination are in close physical proximity, and that the toolkit is intended to identify strategies and best practices to help make our corridors and communities more connected.

Ride Alliance Stage 1 Project Update

Malorie Miller, Senior Project Manager, stated that DRCOG received a grant award through the Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation (SMART) Stage 1 grant in July 2024. This project builds off previous work completed by DRCOG and others in the region to develop the initial Trip Exchange Hub. The purpose of the Trip Exchange Hub is to coordinate human service transportation requests across the region, reduce trip denials, create a no-wrong-door approach for clients seeking services, and streamline reporting processes across human service transportation providers. The Ride Alliance project has made significant progress in achieving the goals outlined in the SMART application.

Director Benker inquired if this is an app or what form it will take. Malorie responded that currently it is just a website that providers log into, and a potential Stage 2 grant would provide the potential of a client-facing website option so clients could directly book their trips.

Administrative Items

Member Comment/Other Matters

- Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) Report

Commissioner Cook stated that the 2050 Transportation Plan was adopted last month and there was over a year's effort of work to develop it, so it is exciting to see it completed. CDOT is currently looking at new developments in the budget, and this week's Transportation Commission will be held at Glenwood Springs, and they will arrive there via Amtrak, in part to trace where Mountain Rail could go. Mr. Pakbaz added that CDOT is now moving onto the last step of the planning cycle of the 10-Year Plan, which will take the next several months.

- Regional Transportation District (RTD) Report

General Manager and CEO Debra Johnson discussed RTD's commitment to asset renewal and state of good repair. The work is continuing on the light rail system downtown, and this phase is anticipated to be completed by the end of November. The grand reopening of 16th Street occurred last Saturday, and the historical path of the 16th Street Mall Ride (now Free Ride) has now returned to operation between Denver Union Station and Civic Center Station. Additionally, RTD has released the draft of the Finishing FasTracks Report. Notable takeaways include that completion costs have increased substantially, so increased partnerships will be more important than ever. RTD's deadline to submit the report to the General Assembly is December 1.

Director Benker stated that the Accountability Committee is making progress on deciding on the future makeup of the RTD Board, and that recommendation will go before the General Assembly in January. Director Benker also encouraged those in attendance to submit their own suggestions, recommendations, and changes to the Finishing FasTracks Report, and the comment period is open until November 14.

- Regional Air Quality Control (RAQC) Report

Director Silverstein stated that RAQC's Board of Directors is now in the consideration step for the Emission Control Strategy Blueprint that the staff has proposed to the Board. This blueprint is a strategic plan for the RAQC and the region to evaluate new emission control strategies to improve summer air quality ozone concentrations. This was an excellent year, thanks in large part to favorable weather conditions, which resulted in some of the lowest ozone concentrations the region has experienced in a long time.

Next Meeting – December 16, 2025

Adjournment

There were no additional comments, and the meeting adjourned at 9:51 a.m.