

**Attachment A**  
**Meeting Summary**  
**Regional Transportation Committee**  
**Tuesday, August 19, 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
Shelley Cook	Colorado Department of Transportation
Jeff Baker (Chair)	Denver Regional Council of Governments
Colleen Whitlow (Vice Chair)	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
Mike Silverstein	Regional Air Quality Council
Skyler McKinley	The Auto Club Group
Jeff Kullman	Michael Baker International

**Members Attending Virtually or Additional Alternates Present:**

Matt Larsen (Alternate)	Regional Transportation District
Bill Sirois (Alternate)	Regional Transportation District
Claire Carmelia (Alternate)	Denver Regional Council of Governments
Jacob Riger (Alternate)	Denver Regional Council of Governments
Elise Jones	Colorado Department of Transportation
Heather Paddock (Alternate)	Colorado Department of Transportation

**DRCOG staff:** Cam Kennedy, Kathryn Rush, Steph Piperno, Lauren Kirgis, Josh Schwenk, Mahmudul Chayan, Carolyn Klamm, Nora Kern, Erik Braaten, Brad Williams, Aaron Villere, Alvan-Bidal Sanchez, Ala Alnawaiseh, Todd Cottrell, Emily Lindsey, Sang Gu Lee

**Call to Order**

Vice Chair Colleen Whitlow called the meeting to order at 8:33 a.m.

**Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**July 15, 2025 Regional Transportation Committee Meeting Summary**

The summary was accepted.

### **Discussion Item**

#### *2050 Regional Transportation Plan Update – Solicitation Process*

Alvan-Bidal Sanchez, Regional Transportation Planning Manager, explained the two-track framework staff will use to develop the fiscally constrained project and program investment priorities for the 2050 RTP, which is essentially identical to the process used to develop the original 2050 RTP:

- County transportation forums: DRCOG would solicit investment priority projects through each forum.
- Interagency coordination process: DRCOG, CDOT, and RTD would similarly submit projects for evaluation for regional priorities. Additionally, they would develop draft regional investment priorities through a series of workshops based on the Policy Framework and Desired Outcomes foundation.

Candidate projects would be evaluated using criteria encompassing the existing six RTP priorities, Metro Vision objectives, and federal performance measure requirements.

Commissioner Shelly Cook inquired what is different this time around with the submittals compared to what has been seen previously. Alvan replied that the official submittal collection process hasn't occurred yet, but staff are encouraging our partners to consider and submit a diverse mix of project types.

Executive Director Doug Rex asked what was different from the last time this process was conducted. Alvan responded that staff are leaning on the adopted six RTP priorities that have been established but are also relying on MetroVision as well when needed for guidance. That said, the overall process is virtually identical to that used in developing the original 2050 RTP.

Director Claire Carmelia asked about the dollar amount for the projects that are being submitted and how much consideration is being given to projects of a certain dollar amount. Director Jacob Riger responded that there isn't a minimum or maximum dollar amount for the candidate project solicitations; the focus is on major multimodal projects and investment priorities. Once the fiscally constrained plan comes together, staff will look at the conceptual project costs and match them up with anticipated revenues.

Chair Jeff Baker arrived and thanked Vice Chair Whitlow for starting the meeting in his absence. Chair Baker also noted that attending virtually are CDOT Alternate Member, Heather Paddock, DRCOG Alternate Member, Claire Carmelia, and Elise Jones, who represents CDOT as the new District 4 Commissioner and is also a new member on this committee.

### **Action Items**

#### *2026-2027 Unified Planning Work Program*

Josh Schwenk, Senior Planner, discussed that the new 2026-2027 UPWP outlines activities to be conducted from October 1, 2026, through September 30, 2027, and was prepared through a cooperative process with the Colorado Department of Transportation, Regional Transportation District, and local governments. The UPWP includes anticipated revenues of nearly \$20 million in funding across over 100 deliverables. Based on feedback, key priorities emerged for staff to address over the coming two years: air quality and resilience, housing and land use, safety, transit, and transportation funding. Staff considered this feedback in the creation of this UPWP.

Director Tammy Maurer inquired about the dollar amount on Table Seven and stated that when looking at the Active Transportation Planning, the numbers don't seem to correlate. Executive Director Rex said after reviewing with staff, it appears that what is shown is a formula issue. Staff will work to correct it today, and will provide the updated and correct figures for the DRCOG Board meeting tomorrow.

Director Deborah Mulvey asked if the Front Range Passenger Rail, commonly referred to as FRPR, is included in the transit part of this program. Josh responded that activities associated with the FRPR aren't in the UPWP since that is being led by the district, but DRCOG will coordinate on those activities. This presentation covers mostly DRCOG-led activities, but a couple of activities shown are RTD-led. Director Riger added that the FRPR is part of the planning work and part of the transit work DRCOG does.

Director Mulvey asked if a presentation could be given regarding the development of the Joint Service Agreement from Denver to Fort Collins, since that will be getting off the ground soon. Director Riger responded that under Senate Bill-238, the FRPR Board must provide an annual briefing to DRCOG and that it will occur later this fall. Additionally, that briefing will include the Joint Service Agreement.

Director Karen Benker inquired if this was referring to one or two fiscal years. Josh responded that it is two fiscal years, October 1, 2025 – September 30, 2027.

Director Benker asked when DRCOG will come up with its estimates for how much it will be receiving in federal funds. Director Riger responded that the staff work program is funded through consolidated planning grant dollars from the federal government, which is what is powering this program. Federal and other funding for projects and other investments in the region's transportation system are included in the fiscally constrained 2050 RTP.

General Manager and CEO Debra Johnson moved to recommend that the Board of Directors approve the 2026-2027 Unified Planning Work Program for the Denver Region. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

#### *Public Engagement Plan Update*

Carolyn Klammer, Planner, discussed the updated plan, which was the subject of a public hearing on June 18, 2025. Through the public comment period, DRCOG staff received several comments that were addressed in the final version of the plan. DRCOG staff added a section on how to use community data, added clarity on how to solicit participation, and added some additional tips. There were no public comments shared at the public hearing.

Director Michael Guzman asked if translation or interpretation was provided for this public engagement plan. Carolyn responded that it is not a specific section of the plan, but it is referenced throughout the document, and incorporated by DRCOG in its engagement activities.

Director Carmelia asked where this engagement plan has been shared, and how the public is being informed about this information. Carolyn replied that it has been promoted on DRCOG's social media, through e-blasts, as well as DRCOG's engagement social pinpoint site. Lastly, when it's finalized, it will be posted publicly on the DRCOG website. Director Riger added that the toolkit approach structure of the plan allows it to be used by anyone for any public engagement effort.

Director Guzman moved to recommend that the Board of Directors adopt the 2025 Public Engagement Plan. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

#### *Corridor Set Aside Selection*

Jacob Riger, Division Director, Transportation Planning and Operations, discussed that staff recently conducted a call for letters of interest for the 2026 and 2027 funding for the program, anticipated to be \$1.5 million. Any local government or regional agency within the DRCOG Metropolitan Planning Organization boundary was eligible to submit a letter of interest. Five letters of interest were received. A selection panel reviewed the proposals. The panel considered six scoring criteria and scored all proposals on a scale of zero to five, with five being the highest possible score.

Chair Baker inquired if census block data is being used to determine marginalized communities. Director Riger responded that staff used DRCOG's Equity Index, which includes census and other data.

Vice Chair Whitlow commended the fantastic work done by Nora Kern and her team to get this initiative to where it is today, and the entire process has been a truly well-run operation.

Director Mike Silverstein moved to recommend to the Board of Directors the selection of the Speer/Leetsdale/Parker Study for the Corridor Planning Program for fiscal years 2026 and 2027. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

### **Discussion Item**

#### *Active Transportation Plan*

Aaron Villere, Senior Planner, discussed that DRCOG staff have been developing a major update to the regional Active Transportation Plan since May 2024. On August 1, 2025, DRCOG released a public draft of the next Active Transportation Plan, including revised networks and up-to-the-minute guidance on challenges and opportunities identified by local government staff and partner agencies. The draft plan will be open for public and stakeholder comment for 30 days, and feedback will be solicited through multiple avenues, including the project website, in-person events, and meetings with stakeholders and community advisors.

### **Administrative Items**

#### *Member Comment/Other Matters*

- Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) Report

Commissioner Cook stated that three of the new open commissioner seats have now been filled, and the remaining seat, District 1, will hopefully be filled in the near future. This month, the Transportation Commission has received a presentation from FRPR as well as Mountain Rail. CDOT will present to the Transportation Legislation Review Committee at the state legislature (General Assembly) later this week, and the commission is about to get an update on rural pavement conditions, which will include the news that the highway miles rated as poor in Colorado have dropped from 3.9% to only 2.3%.

- Regional Transportation District (RTD) Report

General Manager and CEO Debra Johnson stated that on August 31, the last of the triannual service changes will go into effect. A notable aspect of the change will be the reopening of Boulder Junction, where the AB2, the Flatiron Flyer 4, and the Boulder HOP will be operating out of. Additionally, RTD will be carrying out work related to the downtown rail reconstruction, so adjustments have been made to the schedule to minimize impacts on the trains that use Denver Union Station starting on September 2 and continuing to the end of November. Fare checks have been increased on both light and commuter rail by 500% compared to May 2024 and are part of a four-step plan to bring about a more welcoming transit environment. As of now, the entire RTD bus fleet

and 35% of the light rail fleet have live look-in cameras so RTD personnel can see what is occurring on a bus or a train live.

Director Guzman added that at the end of July, RTD's Board approved the union contract with ATU Local 1001. In September, the Board will start tackling budget and fiscal issues, operational updates, and service planning policies. Director Benker added that leadership officials from BNSF Railroad are in town to negotiate regarding the Northwest Rail and Front Range Passenger Rail, so RTD leadership is preparing for those meetings. General Manager and CEO Johnson added that the inaugural negotiation meeting with BNSF was yesterday.

- Regional Air Quality Control (RAQC) Report

Director Silverstein stated that the Governor's Office sent appointments to fill vacancies on the RAQC Board, and he's delighted that two members of this committee are on the Board. Returning to the Board is Doug Rex, and he will be joined by a new member, Skyler McKinley. This summer is on track to have the best summertime air quality the region has seen in the past 15 years, in large part due to the lack of significant wildfire smoke impacting the region as well as many good days from a meteorological perspective. On September 16, RAQC is hosting its Clean Air Champions Award Ceremony, and this committee, as well as its staff, has an open invitation to attend this event that will be hosted at the Denver Performing Arts Complex this year.

Executive Director Rex took the opportunity to remind the committee that DRCOG's own award ceremony is scheduled for August 27 and asked anyone on this committee who hasn't registered yet to please reach out to him directly, and he'll ensure they will be able to attend.

Next Meeting – October 14, 2025

*Adjournment*

There were no additional comments, and the meeting adjourned at 10:04 a.m.