



Community Planning & Permitting

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Boulder County DRCOG Subregional Forum

Virtual-only Meeting

September 12, 2025, 1 – 2:30 PM

Meeting Summary

1. Welcome and Introductions

- a. Forum Agency Attendance (voting members in bold)
 - i. Boulder County: **Claire Levy**, Danny Herrmann, Alex Hyde-Wright, Landon Hilliard, Akia Pichon, Paul Kwiatkowski
 - ii. Boulder: **Nicole Speer**, Ryan Schuchard, Danny O'Connor, Jean Sanson
 - iii. Erie: **Emily Baer**, Johnn Firouzi
 - iv. Lafayette: Jeff Arthur, Michelle Melonakis
 - v. Longmont: **Joan Peck**, Cammie Edson, Alex Donaldson
 - vi. Louisville: **Judi Kern**, Samma Fox
 - vii. Lyons: **Victoria Simonsen**, Kim Mitchell
 - viii. Nederland: n/a
 - ix. Superior: Brannon Richards
- b. Other Agency Attendance:
 - i. CDOT: Dee McIntosh
 - ii. Commuting Solutions: Audrey DeBarros
 - iii. DRCOG: Jacob Riger, Josh Schwenk, Alvan-Bidal Sanchez
 - iv. RTD: Chris Quinn
 - v. CU Boulder: Clark Rider
 - vi. Nelson-Nygaard: Jennifer Wieland

2. Public Comment

- a. No public comment provided.

3. Action Item: Appointment to the DRCOG Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) of a new alternate for the Boulder County Subregional Forum Delegation:

- a. Boulder County Subregional Forum TAC has recommended Cammie Edson, City of Longmont
- b. Appointment approved by the Forum with all in favor (6-0).

4. Action Item: Approval of DRCOG Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) Update project submittals from the Boulder County Subregional Forum.

- a. Sanchez presented RTP call for projects. DRCOG looking for a broad range of multimodal and safety projects to be included in the RTP that are “Regionally significant” for roadway capacity and rapid transit capacity
 - i. Current projects in the 2025 RTP sorted into three categories:
 - 1. Completed projects
 - 2. Automatically included in revised RTP if under construction or in NEPA review
 - 3. Eligible projects are included in planning and pre-NEPA studies, “other 2025 projects” and “locally funded projects.”
 - ii. Screen project proposals by regional and local priorities with six-part evaluation criteria with Metro Vision objectives. A regional review panel ranks projects low, medium, and high with points assigned to each. Project submittal period ends Oct. 17, 2025.
- b. Hyde-Wright: Boulder County Subregional Forum may submit up to ten projects for consideration. Of the 15 recommended projects, up to five of which will be removed from the Forum list and instead submitted by CDOT.
 - i. Attachment 1: Recommended Prioritized List of Projects from the Boulder County Subregional Forum TAC
 - ii. Attachment 2: Map of Recommended Prioritized List of Projects from the Boulder County Subregional Forum TAC
- c. Question: What is the appropriate strategy to coordinate with CDOT and have the greatest number of projects implemented? Response: Any project within the top ten list will make the cut. It is the projects outside of the top ten that could be put in priority order.
- d. Discussion: Request the Forum members discuss the ranking and suggest adjustments to the order or approve the list as written.
 - i. Firouzi: Suggestion to consider the long-term cost of projects and rank accordingly
 - ii. Peck: Longmont working to increase regional trail connectivity with interest to link to Town of Lyons
 - iii. Speer: Appreciate the ranking system and the evaluation criteria used by the Subregional Forum TAC
- e. Forum approves (6-0) the Forum TAC’s recommended corridor list in order from #1-#15 as shown in Attachment 1.

5. Action Item: Approval of Boulder County Subregional Forum representative and alternates for the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) Regional Review Panel

- a. Boulder County Subregional Forum TAC has recommended Alex Hyde-Wright, Boulder County as the representative; Jean Sanson, City of Boulder as the first alternate, and Michelle Melonakis, City of Lafayette as the second alternate.

- b. Forum approves Forum TAC recommendation 6-0.

6. Introduction to the Boulder County Strategic Transit Plan (“Linking Boulder County”)

- a. Jennifer Wieland leading a national team of consultants with broad set of partners brought together to work towards a shared set of goals for an 18-month timeline in 2025 and 2026. Funded by grant in most recent round of TIP Call 4 funding.
- b. Presentation outline: Project overview, Early learning, Fall 2025 priorities
 - i. Project overview of upcoming tasks. Build on previous planning and fill in the gaps and enhance transit connections. Ask how to people pick up information about transit. First and final mile connections.
 - ii. Define transit as buses, shared rides, shuttles, with a variety of services
 - iii. Four-point outline of Linking Boulder County project:
 - 1. Vision for transit
 - 2. Strategy to address needs and opportunities
 - 3. Develop a plan as a road map
 - 4. Grounded in desires and needs of the community
 - iv. BOCC conversations
 - 1. Plan should be realistic and identify funding for recommendations
 - 2. Advance three priorities of GHG reduction, more affordable transit, and equity
 - v. Plan will be carried out in three phases
 - 1. Listen & learn discovery
 - 2. Create an equitable evaluation framework for projects programs, and policies
 - 3. Integrate a sustainable funding model and an achievable plan
 - vi. Want to hear from as many people as possible of the community with four advisory bodies:
 - 1. Community Advisory Committee (English)
 - 2. Community Advisory Committee (Spanish)
 - 3. Boulder County Subregional Forum
 - 4. Boulder County Subregional Forum TAC
- c. Questions for the Forum
 - i. What are the biggest challenges and opportunities for this project?
Who is important to reach as the work begins?
- d. Challenges and Opportunities?
 - Boulder (Speer): thinking about how people move throughout their day... home, work, childcare; last mile. Like the focus on smaller options (shuttles/on-demand) also. Consider the obstacles of reaching transit.

Tie in housing issues. Find local sources of funding given the uncertainty at the federal level.

- Erie (Firouzi): proactive vs reactive approach to transit. How can locals support the pro active. TSP. different levels of service. Support to get high quality product.
- Erie (Baer): Erie is Underserved community. Investments in Erie will have big impact. What investments will have biggest ROI? Anything focused on youth trying to get from school to jobs/sports. Erie has a youth council. Longmont and Lafayette do as well. People are excited about Erie Bee. Could we tie Erie bee into Ride Longmont, Ride Free Lafayette. Lunch every Thurs for “active adults.”
- Louisville (Kern): connecting microtransit. Louisville doesn’t have it. People who need transit (transit-dependent). People who want transit (choice rider). Also want to attract people who want it. Need more frequent transit. How to connect Louisville to Erie quick and easy. Fixed route is not frequent enough for spontaneous trips of the “casual user.”
- Boulder (Schuchard): opportunity to be proactive. We have instinctive focus on what is realistic building on current thinking. Hope we can start with blank slate... be visionary with desired end state. What would success look like in our wildest hopes and dreams (15 min service for X % of population). Being audacious is easier because it gets people excited. With tech, lots of changes. Can use smaller more efficient vehicles. Automated world has new opportunities and explore operating and economic efficiencies.
- Boulder County (Levy): what should we be asking of RTD, vs what should be wanting/expecting from a county system. Is a county system a system of last resort for people who really depend on it, or is it a catalyst for people who want to live car free life
- Longmont (Peck): when routes are cut based on funding, this is frustrating to riders. Need to continue routes that are in service. People rely on these routes for their daily life patterns. When routes change, this upends people’s lives. Don’t base everything on ridership, or making it as free as possible. Paying (fares) might be okay if we are getting 15 min service/ high quality service.
- Boulder County (Levy): aging communities in the mountains. Get a sense of who lives there, can they drive, do they hope to age in place, what kinds of service would help them do that. People who are transit dependent should be a priority. We have people who want easier connections between communities. Major challenge will be funding, and competition for scarce dollars. This stuff isn’t free, it’s a question of who pays, and how to do that equitably. What are our main goals here? Mobility? Reducing auto dependence? Diversity of terrain, different levels of density across the county.

- Louisville (Kern): Appreciate the initiative of County to add housing and recognizes need to provide transit across communities to jobs, schools, day-care. Connect people across the County that's linked to housing.
- e. Who is important for us to reach?
 - Boulder: lower income, the people who are harder to reach. People struggling with cost of living.
 - The "active adult" groups in Erie and Louisville for example.
 - Youth councils and school-aged children through the school districts.
 - Special effort for populations in the mountains, especially those wishing to age in place.
 - People living a long distance from work, school, and day-care caused by dislocation within the county (for example, the Longmont to Louisville commute).
- f. Early learning
 - i. Think about the County as a whole with high-mobility needs. Keep in mind diverse land use and great area of coverage.
 - ii. Themes: reliability, non-work trips, reach transit, equity and economic development, funding remains a challenge, continue regional coordination (Key slide)
- g. Fall 2025 priorities
 - i. Build on stated goals of Boulder County
 - ii. Create a vision for transit
 - iii. More to come with community conversations

7. CDOT, RTD, DRCOG Updates

- a. CDOT (McIntosh): CO 7 5% design, I-25 mobility hub, CO7/95th project will begin fall 2026.
- b. RTD (Quinn): Completing the FasTraks report on Sept 30 to RTD Board, Oct 28 final review by Board to turn into legislature with comments from the public in October
- c. DRCOG (Schwenk): A TIP shared call for projects with three set-aside programs opens October 1, 2025

8. Municipal Updates

- a. Tabled until future meeting.

Attachment 1:

Recommendation from the Boulder County Subregional Forum TAC for a Prioritized List of Projects for the Boulder County Subregional Forum to submit to DRCOG as part of the current update to the 2050 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP):

Projects that are complete or will be carried forward automatically (Forum does not need to resubmit)

- A. CO 66: Hover St to US 287 (Main St)
- B. CO 7 Business Access & Transit (BAT) Lane conversion within the City of Boulder
- C. CO 7 Boulder to Brighton Multimodal Corridor
- D. CO 119 Bus Rapid Transit (BRT)
- E. CO 119 Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Extension from Longmont to I-25

Projects that must be (re)submitted by other agencies:

- F. NW Rail (must be submitted by RTD)

Projects for the Boulder County Subregional Forum to Submit:

Northwest Area Mobility Study (NAMS) Corridors:

- 1. US 287: Larimer to US 36 (previously submitted by CDOT R4)
- 2. US 36 (28th St) & CO 93 (Broadway) Transit Improvements in Boulder
- 3. CO 42 (previously submitted by CDOT R4)
- 4. South Boulder Rd

Other key regional corridors

- 5. US 36 / North Foothills
- 6. CO 66 Lyons to Hover (previously submitted by CDOT R4)
- 7. CO 66 Main St/US 287 to East County Line Rd (previously submitted by CDOT R4)

Regional Trails:

- 8. Boulder to Erie Regional Trail (BERT)
- 9. St Vrain Greenway Trail
- 10. McCaslin Regional Trail: Rock Creek Pkwy to CO 128

Other Projects:

- 11. CO 93: CO 58 to CO 170 (previously submitted by Jefferson County)
- 12. 120th St Bridge over Coal Creek

13. Boulder Canyon Dr/Sugarloaf Rd Uphill Shoulders (CO 119 from Fourmile to Sugarloaf, Sugarloaf from CO 119 to end of pavement)
14. La-Lou-Bo Regional Bike Connection (linking Lafayette-Louisville-Boulder)
15. Valmont/Isabelle Corridor Improvements (61st St - Erie Town Limits)

From the above list of 15 projects, projects that may be submitted by CDOT Region 4

- CO 66: Lyons to Hover St
- CO 66: US 287 to East County Line Rd
- CO 42
- US 36 / North Foothills
- US 36 / CO 93 Transit Improvements within the City of Boulder

Attachment 2:

