



Community Planning & Permitting

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Boulder County DRCOG Subregional Forum July 6, 2026, 1 – 2:30 PM

Meeting Summary

1. Welcome and Introductions

- a. Attendees from Forum Agencies (bold indicates voting Forum member):
 - Boulder County: **Claire Levy**, Danny Herrman, Paul Kwiatkowski, Landon Hilliard, Gerardo Valenzuela
 - Boulder: **Nicole Speer**, Ryan Schuhard, Jean Sanson, Gerrit Slatter
 - Erie: **Emily Baer**, John Firouzi
 - Lafayette: **Jeff Arthur**, Michelle Melonakis
 - Longmont: **Cammie Edson**
 - Louisville: **Josh Cooperman**, Samma Fox
 - Lyons: n/a
 - Nederland: Cass Grady, Britt DeMinck
 - Superior: **Brannon Richards**
- b. Attendees from Other Agencies:
 - Commuting Solutions: Audrey DeBarros
 - CU Boulder: Clark Rider
 - DRCOG: Todd Cottrell, Jacob Riger
 - Nelson Nygaard (consultant team for Linking Boulder County): Jennifer Wieland, Paul Lutey
 - RTD: Chris Quinn, Doug Monroe, Kiernan Maletsky

2. Public Comment

- a. N/A - no public comment provided.

3. Linking Boulder County (Countywide Strategic Transit Plan)

- a. Introductory comments by Kwiatkowski: Project team has developed draft transit improvement scenarios but is pausing this work as RTD begins their Comprehensive Operational Analysis (COA). RTD's COA will lead to service changes/reductions which necessitates a delay in continuing the county's scenario planning work until fall 2026 when more information is known about potential RTD service reductions.

b. Presentation by Wieland:

Over seven weeks of public outreach in spring 2026, the project connected with more than 600 people to fill gaps in participation from the first round of outreach. Successfully targeted college students, youth and non-English speakers. In this second round of outreach, surveys show strong support for the vision statement (75% indicated that it reflects their hopes) and three goals of the plan (80%). “Dependable and reliable” is the most important goal of the three according to survey respondents.

Improvement strategies fall into four groups:

1. Transit Services (ex. rapid routes, on-demand zones)
2. Supportive Transportation Services (ex. shared mobility options)
3. Capital Projects (ex. exclusive transit lanes and transit priority)
4. Program and Policies (ex. pass program)

Budget assumptions for scenarios:

Assumed an annual budget of \$40 million. Project team is not proposing a funding source at this time, but to put this amount into context: equivalent to a property tax of \$1.20 on \$1,000 of assessed value or a sales tax of \$0.32 on a \$100 purchase.

Three scenarios:

Each scenario would layer \$40M of annual new service on top of existing services:

1. “Grow Ridership” in high-demand travel markets and corridors; focus on regional routes
2. “Cover the County” by expanding the reach of the transit network with focus on local services
3. “Support Daily Life” to make transit more useful for more people and more trips to daily destinations

Questions and comments:

- Schuchard: What is the relationship of the \$40 million to the scenario?
 - Wieland: An investment of \$40M would be used to implement an individual scenario.
- Levy: Surprised by the decision to pause the development of the plan without first consulting the Forum, although the same outcome would have been likely.

- Levy: Keep the momentum of the plan and use recommendations to inform development of the RTD COA. We need local agencies to adapt to the changing funding and shifting service landscape.
 - Herrmann: Use scenarios as a basis to evaluate the scenarios brought by the RTD COA.
- Firouzi: If we assume a 20% decrease in baseline service, then re-build scenarios, would this be valuable planning path for Linking Boulder County?
 - Wieland and Herrman: Difficulty with modeling the service options without knowing both the transit routes and extent of service reductions. Before continuing the analysis, the idea is to wait for a clearer picture from RTD to form.

4. RTD Comprehensive Operations Analysis (COA)

- a. Presentation by Monroe, project manager and Maletsky, deputy project manager.

Expected Outcomes:

- Early in the planning process, started in March with Jarrett Walker + Associates.
- Look at short term service (five-year horizon) plan and transit network and long-term growth (30-year horizon) assuming additional revenue with a possible ballot measure.
- Baseline scenarios based on visions for transit on spectrum of Frequency and Coverage. Initial balance will be informed by public outreach to learn the needs and wishes. Not a binary outcome but rather a blend of the two approaches.
- Remember that 2300 sq mile service area is a challenge to cover.
- Expects clear direction of the RTD BOD on service adjustments.

Project Timeline:

Project flow is current conditions assessment > network alternatives analysis > public outreach > draft plans > final recommendations.

Community conversations will happen in second half of 2026 and 2027 with aim for RTD Board to approve service changes to be implemented in January 2028. [RTD Media Release](#).

Questions and discussion:

- Firouzi: Could the Linking Boulder County planning process help with the COA work?
 - Monroe and Maletsky: Yes, identify priority to corridors during alternatives analysis. Hope for full collaboration between RTD and Subregional Forum members.

- Schuchard: Favor developing an independent scenario by means of Linking Boulder County and then give meaningful comment to the RTD.
 - Maletsky: RTD would find the transit scenarios to be valuable. There is an opportunity to shape the conversation.
- Baer: Focus on ridership raises a red flag because Erie is an underserved community and cannot compete in this area. Can additional criteria be used that doesn't punish underserved communities for low ridership? Looking for innovative solutions to increase ridership and fill service gaps.
 - Monroe: Keep in mind there will be tradeoffs of Ridership/Coverage approaches. The final scenario will not be one or the other.
- Speer: How might the balance of Ridership/Coverage be applied to the the region.
 - Maletsky: Too early in the process to resolve the tradeoff at regional or local levels.
- Speer: What's the relationship of service cuts in 2027 and 2028 as they are naturally related?
 - Maletsky: RTD will think about possible 2027 cuts in the context of the 2028 service changes recommended by the COA.
- Speer: On-demand service has been wildly successful with Ride Longmont and expect the same for upcoming Erie Bee. This kind of service may be most appropriate for low density area, particularly for the disabled population.
 - Monroe: In a coverage scenario, the on-demand transit will be used.

5. CDOT, RTD, DRCOG Updates

- a. CDOT: N/A
- b. RTD: No additional updates
- c. DRCOG: Working on an operational analysis of micro-transit services that will be completed by end of year in advance of next TIP cycle with regional share call for projects coming in early 2027.

6. Municipal Updates

- a. [Erie Bee](#): Ridership is strong, growing and seeing more downloads of the app. The service is being used for special events.
- b. City of Boulder: [Broadway Transit Improvements Project](#) with construction expected to be completed by end of 2026.