



# Northwest Colorado Council of Governments

## NWCCOG Council Meeting

September 5, 2024

### **Board Members:**

Alyssa Shenk – Town of Snowmass Village  
Tim Redmond – Routt County  
Kristen Brownson – Town of Breckenridge  
Randy George – Grand County  
Patti Clapper – Pitkin County  
Michael Buccino – Steamboat Springs  
Jeannie McQueeney – Eagle County  
Britta Gustafson – Town of Snowmass Village  
Jonah Glassman – Silverthorne  
Geoff Grimmer – Town of Eagle Trustee  
Dan Sullivan – Town of Keystone  
Sara Nadolny – Town of Basalt  
Ashley McDonald – Town of Kremmling  
Diane McBride – Town of Frisco  
Jacob Zook – City of Glenwood Springs  
Rick Stevens – Town of Basalt  
Jena Skinner – Town of Avon  
Melissa Matthews – Town of Redcliff

### **NWCCOG Staff:**

Jon Stavney  
Erin Fisher  
Dana Wood  
Nate Walowitz  
Jonathan Godes  
Rachel Tuyn  
Greg Ociepka  
Maira Vander Meer  
Doug Jones  
Becky Walter

### **Others Present:**

Carolyn Tucker – SBDC  
Melissa Matthews  
Corry Mihm  
DiAnn Butler  
Thayer Hirsch  
Chris Romer – Vail Valley Partnership  
Erin McCuskey – SBDC  
Kris Mattera – Basalt Chamber of Commerce  
John Bristol – Routt County

### **ACTION Call to Order**

Alyssa Shenk, NWCCOG Council Chair, called the Northwest Colorado Council of Governments (NWCCOG) meeting to order at 10:04 am. Roundtable introductions were completed, and a quorum was present for the group.

### **ACTION Approval of July 2024 Council Meeting Minutes**

***M/S: Alyssa Shenk made motion to approve*** made the motion to approve, seconded by Jon Stavney the July 2024 Council Meeting Minutes as presented.

***Passed: Yes***

### **ACTION COG 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Financials**

This Action did not take place as Financials were not presented.

### **Strategic Planning Steps for 2025**

Proposal for the 2025 Budget Workshop dates in October. taking place October 15, 16, or 17, 2024 or October 23, 2024, the day before the October 2024 Council Meeting. The Executive Director Review also needed to be scheduled before the Budget Meeting or before the Council meeting on October 24.

### **Wellness and Culture Survey and Committee at NWCCOG**

Erin Fisher presented on the Wellness and Culture Survey that the staff at NWCCOG completed. This survey has led to the formation of the Wellness and Culture Committee to work on the satisfaction and cohesion of the staff of NWCCOG to combat silos occurring with multiple locations and programs.

### **ACTION Simulation and Testing Exhibit**

Doug Jones presented a proposal to build an energy simulation house that would serve as a training center for new employees and a facility to obtain certifications for the energy program. The unique facility on the Western Slope could potentially generate income by offering training to other entities. Furthermore, there is a discussion about the possibility of expanding the facility to provide training for other technical areas such as smoke detectors and sprinkler systems. The proposal aims to address the growing need for certified professionals in various technical fields and reduce the need for extensive travel for training purposes. The participants, including Doug, Geoff Grimmer, and Carolyn Tucker, engaged in a detailed discussion about the funding and plans for a tiny homes project. They considered the use of budgeted funds, the potential workforce development opportunities, and the impact on the organization's programs. Additionally, they explored the possibility of retrofitting the tiny homes for residential use and discussed the expansion of similar programs in other areas.

*Alyssa Shenk made motion to approve* made the motion to approve, seconded by Geoff Grimmer

### **NWCCOG Project THOR Update**

Nate Walaowitz presented on Project THOR. Many, many states across the entire nation are moving into the state-owning Open Access Middle Mile, which is what Project THOR is. And the state is going to be releasing a request for proposal looking for a consultant / partner to help them figure out exactly what Middle Mile looks at for the state of Colorado, what the requirements should be and how they can best operate the network. And also specifically in there is how they work with Project Thor and the stakeholders of Project Thor to move the network forward with Project Thor being the tip of the spear, as it were, for the state getting fully engaged. This project having been fostered by our region and regions 9 and region 10 following along in our footsteps. There are other regions that are also moving forward in the Middle Mile Broadband space and they will be integrated as well. The discussion focused on the State of Colorado's interest in assuming responsibility for the Middle Mile network, with Project Thorne as the initial focus. There was mention of the state's plan to release a request for proposal to find a consultant/partner and the integration of other regions into the network. Additionally, there are concerns about Nate's capacity and the potential transition of the network's management to a more sustainable long-term approach.

### **Grant Discussion on Charging and Infrastructure Grant**

Jonathan Godes provided an overview of the Charging and Infrastructure Grant, emphasizing the decision to submit in both to maximize flexibility. Also discussed was the grant breakdown, including the allocation for grant administration, partnership coordination, and education outreach, and emphasis on the importance of not overburdening Northwest COG with an unfunded, large-scale federal grant.

### **RTCC and I-70 Coalition Updates**

Dana Wood promoted the upcoming RTCC Summit, September 12 at the Senior/Community Center in Frisco, CO from 9am – 3pm. 40 confirmed participants and the Mobility Panel from across the State. The Vail project, the I-70 project for West Vail and how it's part of it has been defunded and the I-70 coalition's efforts to secure federal funding for the Vail project were outlined, along with the involvement of various jurisdictions and the push to protect local projects from funding impacts.

### **Discussion on Real Estate Transfer Tax and Carbon Emissions Fee**

Points were made around the ongoing discussions and challenges related to the real estate transfer tax and carbon emissions fee. Participants highlighted the efforts of specific jurisdictions, such as Pitkin County and Carbondale, in pushing for these taxes and fees, and the potential legislative actions required to make them a reality. The conversation also touched upon the differences between taxes, assessments, and fees, and the legal considerations associated with each.

### **Discussion on ADU Legislation and HOA Regulations**

Jeanne McQueeney raises concerns about HOAs preventing the implementation of ADUs and seeks potential legislative solutions with Representative Lukens. The discussion also references previous legislation addressing HOA discrimination and the limited control homeowners have over their properties due to HOA regulations.

**Updates from Breckenridge, Basalt, Frisco, and Steamboat Springs**

Kristin Brownson of Breckenridge announced the upcoming launch of an e-delivery program and its potential impact on reducing traffic and improving air quality. Rick Stevens of Basalt provided updates on projects such as the Midland Avenue Improvement Project, a new childcare center, and affordable housing initiatives. Diane McBride of Frisco discussed budget season, multimodal transportation, fiber connectivity, and affordable housing covenants, while Michael Buccino of Steamboat Springs expressed appreciation and interest in inviting Jon to a council meeting.

**Routt County Updates**

Tim Redmond shared updates on forest health, wildfire mitigation, and economic development projects, highlighting partnerships with various organizations and agencies. He also addressed controversial issues, such as the Steamboat Gravel Race, and discussed the potential impact of rail in the area to diversify the economy and reduce commuting traffic.

**Update on Avon's Construction Use Tax and Land Pursuit**

Jena Skinner, Planning Manager of the Town of Avon, shared updates on the construction use tax, highlighting the shift towards allocating generated funds for community housing. She also discussed the pursuit of a piece of land for potential development, expressing enthusiasm about the opportunities it presents. The meeting participants expressed support and appreciation for the progress made.

**ACTION Adjournment**

***M/S: Alyssa Shenk*** asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting, Patti Clapper made the motion, it was seconded by D. Clapper. NWCCOG Council meeting adjourned at 12:15PM

***Passed: Yes***

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Alyssa Shenk, NWCCOG Council Chair

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Date