

NWCCOG/OEDIT Colorado Blueprint Region 12 Meeting Held on October 24 at Dillon Town Hall

NWCCOG has been working with the Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade (OEDIT) over the last 2 years on developing a strategic summary for Region 12 to be incorporated into the Colorado Blueprint, the statewide economic development strategic plan. The NWCCOG Economic Development District's scope of work for 2013 is directly in line with OEDIT's Blueprint as the work plan will be based on the same 6 core objectives adopted by OEDIT which include the following: build a business friendly environment; retain, grow and recruit businesses; increase access to capital; focus on projects that bolster tourism (create and market a stronger Colorado brand); educate and train the future workforce; cultivate innovation and technology. The next regional blueprint meeting will be held on **Tuesday, December 11th** from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. at Vail Town Hall. For meeting summaries from all meetings held in 2012, visit the [economic development page of NWCCOG's website](#). For more information, contact [Rachel Lunney](#) 970.468.0295 x106.

Community Builders Summit

The Sonoran Institute held a Community Builders Summit on Friday, October 26th in Glenwood Springs. NWCCOG was a co-sponsor of the event, which was attended by town and county elected officials and staff, planners, developers, the business community, and a variety of economic development stakeholders from across the region. The Community Builders Summit was focused on ideas and strategies to create strong, vibrant communities in today's economy. Local and national experts provided insights on market and economic trends affecting the region, and shared practical tools communities can use to align community planning and economic development. Materials from the event will be available soon. For more information contact [Rachel Lunney](#).

Alpine Area Agency on Aging Awarded Grant from the Colorado Health Foundation

The Alpine Area Agency on Aging (Alpine AAA), through the NWCCOG Foundation, was awarded a one-year grant in the amount of \$65,000 from The Colorado Health Foundation for partnership engagement and consultation costs to facilitate the development of a business plan with partners in the region for a Region 12 Aging and Disability Resource Center (known in Colorado as ARCH). For more information on the award and on the Region 12 ADRC/ARCH please contact [Jean Hammes](#), Program Director, at 970.468.0295 x107.

I-70 Coalition Update: CDOT Proposed Boundary Changes

This information is provided by CDOT, and shared by [Margaret Bowes, I-70 Coalition](#).

The Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) is seeking feedback from stakeholders on a

proposed consolidation and redrawing of its statewide regional boundaries for the purpose of improving customer service and providing better continuity with existing Transportation Commission Districts and Transportation Planning Regions. CDOT has analyzed all of its six regional boundaries and is now seeking input on how this proposed change might increase efficiency and enhance stakeholder (especially city, county and transportation planning partners) and customer relations. The changes that would affect the NWCCOG area include:

- Merging a large portion of Region 1 with Region 6. The current Region 1 Director, Tony DeVito, would continue serving as the director of this newly drawn region eliminating the Region 6 Director position which is currently vacant.
- The new Region 1 western boundary would be the Eisenhower Johnson Memorial Tunnels along I-70 and the new eastern boundary would be the border of Adams, Arapahoe, and Elbert counties.
- Summit County would now be included in Region 3.

See proposed changes

here: <http://www.coloradodot.info/news/documents/CurrentProposedRegions>

Funding Clarification: Following this announcement, the Department received a number of questions about the impact of these boundary changes to regional transportation funding. CDOT wishes to clarify the following with regards to regional funding:

- Overall funding is not affected by this reorganization.
- For Fiscal Year 2013, no budgetary changes will occur.
- For Fiscal Year 2014, funds will have to be reconciled across regions to be budget neutral.
- Funding for the operation of Metropolitan Planning Organizations and Transportation Planning Regions is not affected.
- Historic funding levels for maintenance are, and will continue to be, tied to roadway segments and not to specific CDOT regions.

With or without regional boundary changes, the State Transportation Commission will begin a process early next year to reevaluate Resource Allocation for Fiscal Years 2015 and beyond. Resource Allocation is the process used to distribute estimated revenues to CDOT programs over a multiple-year period. This reevaluation is intended to align with new federal transportation legislation (MAP-21) and state priorities. These discussions will happen in full cooperation with all of our partners and is entirely separate from the proposed boundary changes.

The deadline for the review of proposed boundary changes, and discussion period is **November 2, 2012**. CDOT's goal is to implement and transition any changes by June 30, 2013. Any feedback on the proposal should be sent to: DOT_Feedback@state.co.us.

December NWCCOG Council Meeting: Thursday, December 6th at Minturn Town Hall

This will be the last NWCCOG Council meeting for Peter Runyon, NWCCOG Chair and Eagle County Commissioner, and John Rich, NWCCOG Executive Committee Member and Jackson County Commissioner. Both Peter and John will be leaving their posts as county commissioner at the end of 2012 due to term limits. Come join the council and staff to thank Peter and John for their service to NWCCOG.

Municipal-Councils of Government Relations: Working Better Together

Liz Mullen recently wrote an article with the above title for the October 2012 issue of *Colorado Municipalities*, the Colorado Municipal League's (CML) bimonthly magazine. In her article, Liz points out that regional organizations are the perfect vehicle to allow neighboring counties and municipalities to work together on issues that affect them all, such as transportation, natural resources, economic development, infrastructure, and planning. Regional organizations provide a means for information sharing and networking; consolidate efforts that can result in cost savings for all involved; establish a strong, united voice in conversations with state and federal agencies; and establish a single qualified, experienced organization to apply for, accept, and administer federal and state grant funds that are specifically designated for regional programs and projects - dollars that individual jurisdictions are not eligible for on their own. The entire article can be found on [NWCCOG's website](#) or in the October 2012 issue of *Colorado Municipalities*, a CML publication.

Colorado Bark Beetle Cooperative

Abbie Cobb, CBBC Coordinator

A meeting of all of the forest health collaboratives (including the CBBC) was held on October 11 in Denver. A brief review of the focus for each collaborative was done. The main focus of the discussion was an "overarching" way of bringing collaboratives together to share info on a regular basis. More discussion to be had on this issue.

A "2012 Forest Summit" was held in Denver on October 12. In addition to panels addressing topics such as industry, wood products, restoration, community efforts, and local, state & federal policy, speakers included Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack, Mayor John Hickenlooper, U.S. Senator Mark Udall, and U.S. Congressman Scott Tipton. Many CBBC members attended this summit.

Reminder: Medicare Open Enrollment Period is October 15 - December 7, 2012

It is that time of year again for people on Medicare to look at their current health and drug plans and learn if there are better options. There are Medicare counselors serving Region 12 who are ready to help Medicare beneficiaries find their best plan in a one-on-one conversation. To get one-on-one help from a Medicare Counselor you can contact the Colorado Division of Insurance to find the Regional SHIP Medicare Counseling Affiliate by calling toll-free 1-888-696-7213 or going

to the [Colorado Division of Insurance Website](#). You can also call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227) 24-hours a day/7 days a week to find out more about your coverage option.