



PROGRAM UPDATES

To: NWCCOG Council
From: NWCCOG Staff
Date: March 2025
Re: Program Updates

The following are events of note occurring since the January 2025 NWCCOG Council meeting.

Administration/Regional Business – *Jon Stavney, Executive Director*

A working group of Moira, Darcy, Doug, Becky and I have begun work with Brian Elms of Change Agents to improve our On Boarding process which is a top strategic goal for 2025. I contracted with Brian for this project after having been to a session a few years back in Cordillera Metro just after he left Denver Peak Academy which he founded. Funding comes from Indirect and Member Services budgets. The group is 5 meetings into an 8-session process.

The recent Managers Insights series was written following inquiries from Grand Lake and from SkyHi News about what I thought of the Town hiring Mayor Kudron to be Town Manager.

Rachel and I continue to scope the upcoming Economic Summit. She has secured most of the speakers. Please sign up.

Per NWCCOG Council, Barbara Green who will be at the March Council Meeting, I reviewed all of our guiding documents for our discussion on how to navigate existing laws and mandates coming from the Oval Office that are contradictory to those laws.

Immediately following the January Council meeting, I drove to the PNW to help my mother move out of their “retirement” home at the coast and visit my Dad who had needed to go into assisted living in early January because of a series of health incidents. It was gratifying to empty the home that had staged one act of their lives together and move them into a brand new Assisted Living floor in a Retirement high rise in Vancouver, Washington the city where they raised my sister and I. They are in good hands now, with plenty of professional support, meal plans & activities like a fancy college and many more visitors for being back in town. I was away for a little over two weeks and worked remotely during that time. I am grateful for the NWCCOG staff for being so supportive.

I’ve accepted an invitation to be a representative on the El Pomar Regional committee that reviews grants for our area, alongside some esteemed colleagues, Hannah Berman (Basalt Council), Millie Hamner, Christine Scanlon, Tim Mauck among others. <https://www.elpomar.org/programs/regional-partnerships/high-country-regional-council/>

Due to my January Newsletter story about Wildfire and Home Insurance, <https://www.nwccog.org/about/communications/e-news/> I’ve been asked to be a panelist for the Colorado Mt. Housing Coalition workshop along with Mark Novak, Chief Vail Fire and Meghan Wilson of Mtn West Insurance. Panel is April 15th from 10:45 to Noon.

Broadband Program – *Nate Walowitz, Regional Broadband Director*

This summary does hit the highlights from The Project THOR Stakeholder meeting yesterday.

1. The Colorado Broadband Office is making progress on middle mile internal processes however they are not ready to move forward talking with us as their RFP has not been released nor awarded.
2. My project with them to spec out a project to light up I-25 from Denver south to Trinidad helped them understand the scope of costs and the capabilities that can be delivered by a small middle mile project using CDOT fiber. They are not ready to move forward with this at this time due to a lack of budget.
3. Jon and Nate continue to talk with Regions 9 and 10 exploring how we could work together on an integrated operating and management structure. No progress or decisions can be made as there still is no clear path forward, beyond internetwork cooperation and interconnections to support resilient connectivity to Salt Lake City and to meet the needs of some communities to our west that have inquired about NWCCOG supporting them.
4. Gilpin County continues to be interested in working with NWCCOG and having Project THOR deliver resilient connectivity to them
5. Nate Walowitz would like to restart quarterly regional IT meetings to cover subjects of interest including Smart Cities and AI. Notices will be sent out in April to determine if we can meet in May.
6. Because funding for Nate's position is still year to year, Jon and Nate have started looking for additional funding streams (grants) and projects to Nate to pursue if the state matching funding for the position is not renewed. Some of these areas and how NWCCOG can support our members in the areas of AI and Smart Cities.
7. The new Extreme Networks equipment will arrive at NWCCOG on March 18. High Point Networks will work with NWCCOG to configure and pre-stage all the equipment before it is installed on site.
8. Once High Point Networks has completed their discovery phase of the project, they will work with all of us to create a deployment schedule and I will socialize it with you.

Mobility Program – Dana Wood, Mobility Manager

CAMP Grant:

-NWCCOG's Mobility Program is taking the lead (Dana Wood, with Jonathan Godes as co-lead) on the Community Accelerated Mobility Program (CAMP) Grant through the CO Energy Office. The goal is getting e-bikes (through our partner EQLX) into communities with lower income/workforce/affordable/employee housing (such as apartments, mobile home communities, Habitat for Humanity homes, etc.). The scope will be the NWCCOG service area as well as those that participate in the RTCC and IMTPR groups. The application is due May 9th and we will be applying for \$1.5M over 3 years. There is a 5% in-kind match required.

IMTPR:

-CDOT's Multimodal Planning Branch (who funds administration of the TPRs) will be adding an additional \$8K to the IMTPR's admin budget (Regional Planning Assistance funds) for 2025. This will hopefully be a permanent increase in the future, bringing the total each year to \$20K.

-Dana presented on her work with the IMTPR at the quarterly TPR Administrators meeting in February.

-The IMTPR will remain as one TPR as the Transportation Committee dropped this bill indefinitely. IGAs for voting jurisdictions are being signed and will be complete by the April 18th IMTPR meeting.

-The application deadline for MMOF (Multimodal Transportation and Mitigation Options Funding) applications for the group was extended to March 17th, due to only 2 being received by the December 2024 deadline. The fund still has \$959K available. The 2 projects awarded at the January IMTPR meeting were for the Town of Parachute (\$625K) and the Town of Avon/Eagle County (\$2M).

-The next IMTPR meeting is April 18th in Glenwood Springs and virtual.

RTCC

-The RTCC is working on project templates and moving work forward for 2025.

-A recent success is the planning of a Bustang Outrider rider training and train-the-trainer event that will be hosted in Craig sometime in June. This is in collaboration with CDOT, Bustang Outrider, and the Northwest Center for Independence. The goal of the training is to train older adults and those with disabilities on how to ride and navigate connections on the Craig to Denver bus route. The training will also offer a train-the-trainer segment, where trained community members can act as advocates on the process to continue to help others navigate the system in their area. CDOT will also be looking at updating their riders guide based off feedback from this training, as well as making it accessible in multiple languages and in print form.

-The next RTCC meeting is May 7th in Loveland (at the CASTA conference) and virtual.

Economic Development District (EDD) - Rachel Lunney, Director Program

2025 Regional Economic Summit

Thursday, May 1 | 8:30 a.m. - 3 p.m. | Silverthorne Pavilion

Registration Now Open! Register here: <https://www.nwccog.org/programs/nwccogeconomic-development-district/nwccog-regional-economic-summit-2025/>

Join us for a day of engaging speakers, information sharing, collaboration and networking. This event will offer sessions on key topics including economic trends in the region, initiatives to support our workforce including housing and childcare solutions, economic planning in uncertain times, trends/challenges/opportunities in our tourism-based economy, and more.

Opportunity Now Regional Talent Summit

The Vail Valley in the NWCCOG region is honored to have been selected as one of the seven Regional Hosts across the state for the upcoming Opportunity Now Regional Talent Summits. These summits, initiated by House Bill 24-1365, aim to address workforce shortages by convening regional stakeholders to discuss economic and workforce needs, as well as the programs and resources that can address those needs. Vail Valley Partnership is serving as the Northwest Regional Host, including the following counties: Eagle, Grand, Jackson, Pitkin, Summit, Routt, Park. NWCCOG is partnering with VVP to do outreach for this effort. Please share your business participant suggestions using this Regional Planning Document by March 24. Please add your representatives to the "Regional List" tab with name, organization, and email address. We will let you know who ends up on the final list, and invitations will go out soon after since the convening is slated to occur June 3 in Edwards, Colorado.

Presentations

Rachel gave a presentation on the EDD and CEDS to the VVP's Leveraging Local Leaders cohort on Friday, March 7 at CMC Edwards.

Elevator Inspection Program (EIP) - David Harris - Director

The EIP program has successfully transitioned to the new software platform this first quarter which has already improved productivity and accuracy leading to a higher service level to clients, and more precise pursuit of non-compliance. The administration staff worked with several household partners to scan eight four drawer file cabinets of records for each elevator location which are now available on-line. Cabinets are gone as are the physical files! I have employed the same team to scan DOLA grant files for Member Services. Becky may do the same with Finance files, and we have discussed delegating review/audit for completeness of all physical and scanned employee files.

Energy Program – Doug Jones, Program Director and Nate Speerstra, Manager

Expanding Energy Efficiency: NWCCOG Signs MOU with Tri-State Electric

The NWCCOG Energy Program is making a major leap forward in expanding energy efficiency services to underserved communities. Beginning in 2025, NWCCOG will provide additional weatherization services to low- and moderate-income (LMI) households in White River Electric territory, thanks to a new three-year Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Tri-State Electric. This is the first time NWCCOG Energy Program has partnered directly with a local utility for weatherization services.

“This partnership is a game-changer for families in the greater Meeker area,” said Doug Jones, NWCCOG Energy Program Director. “Historically, Rio Blanco County has been underfunded when it comes to weatherization, and this agreement allows us to serve more working families who need safe, energy-efficient homes.”

Until now, only about 1% of the families served by NWCCOG’s Energy Program have been in Rio Blanco County – roughly five homes per year. Under the new agreement, that number will jump to 35 LMI-qualified households annually, significantly increasing the program’s reach in the region. Families earning up to 150% of the area median income (AMI) – \$141,300 for a family of four – will now qualify for free weatherization services.

Beyond traditional weatherization, NWCCOG will also serve as a contractor for White River Electric’s On-Bill Repayment program, which offers financing for energy efficiency and electrification upgrades. “This is another step in diversifying our budget, increasing our impact, and helping more families,” Jones added. “By reducing energy waste and improving efficiency, we’re not just saving people money – we’re making real progress in cutting greenhouse gas emissions across the region.” For more information about NWCCOG’s Energy Program and how to qualify for services, visit <https://www.nwccog.org/programs/energy-program/>.

Northwest Loan Fund (NLF) – Anita Cameron, Director

Anita has travelled to all nine BOCC’s for each county in the NLF region and is now gathering the Grant Application attachments for the new CDBG Grant. While in each county, Anita meets with clients, prospects and bankers.

March 5, Anita attended the Regional Economic Development Conference in Craig.

Northwest Region Healthcare Coalition (NWRHCC) – Readiness and Response Coordinator

Update to be provided at future Council Meeting.

Regional Grant Navigator (RGN) – Jonathan Godes, Regional Grants Navigator

IIJA and IRA Grant Writing Assistance Program

Update provided in person at Council meeting.

Water Quality & Quantity Committee (QQ) – Torie Jarvis, Director and **Watershed Services & Summit Water Quality Committee (SWQC)** –

- The legislative session is underway, and QQ consultants continues to provide legislative monitoring and advocacy on behalf of members. The session is more than ½ way over! There are a handful of bills QQ is supporting related to, for example, turf grass limitations and efforts to address overlapping permitting for geothermal operations. QQ helped kill one bill is opposed and continues to work on one concerning bill related to tap fees.

- QQ continues to monitor the recent administrative changes that may impact water quality in the NWCCOG region, local ability to regulate for water quality protection, and key funding that impacts water quality in the region. Members will discuss at their upcoming meeting.
- Economic consultants continue to work on updates to the *Water and Its Relationship to the Economy of the Headwaters Counties* report commissioned by NWCCOG/ QQ in 2012.
- The Watershed Services Administrator continues to work on updating the NWCCOG *Regional Water Quality Management Plan*, also last updated in 2012.
- QQ will hold its next meeting on Wednesday, March 26th in Granby. Reach out to anna@nwccog.org for more information or to attend.

Vintage - Erin Fisher, Director

Revamped Vintage Program website: www.yourvintage.org

We're thrilled to discover the newly redesigned Vintage website!

Our fresh design features:

- **Enhanced Search Functionality:** Now you can easily find services and resources by county or directly search for specific services, streamlining your search and saving you valuable time.
- **Comprehensive Resource Directory:** Explore our expanded directory, offering a wide range of services designed to support healthy aging and well-being.
- **Improved Navigation and Accessibility:** We've prioritized a clean, modern layout with improved navigation, ensuring a seamless and accessible experience for all users.

We invite you to explore the new website and discover the wealth of information and support available to you. We believe these enhancements will significantly improve your ability to access the services and resources you need to age well.



Services for Aging Well in Colorado

Find Services & Resources: **Counties We Serve:**

Select a Topic ▾ Select a County ▾

**Your Connection to Information, Resources, and Advocacy
FOR OLDER ADULTS in Eagle, Grand, Jackson, Pitkin, Routt, and Summit.**
To us, Vintage means that we respect the passage of time and our lives within that passage.
We value the past but also treasure and cherish the future.