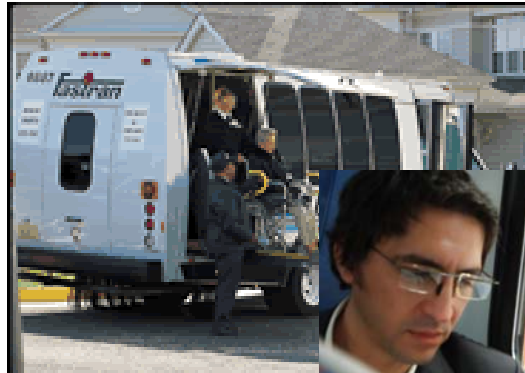


Annual Report 2007

DENVER REGIONAL MOBILITY & ACCESS COUNCIL

Mobility and access for all



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a project of the Colorado
Non-Profit Development
Center

2007 was a formative year for the Denver Regional Mobility & Access Council (DRMAC) and the organization is pleased to present its 2007 Annual Report. DRMAC is a project of the Colorado Nonprofit Development Center whose mission it is to assist entities within the Denver Metropolitan area in creating an accessible environment for all residents through appropriate planning and development of the transportation infrastructure and environment.

2007 was a formative year for the Denver Regional Mobility & Access Council. Decisions made and actions taken will set the stage for 2008 and beyond in its continued progress toward mobility and access for all.

This report will outline the five topic areas addressed by DRMAC in 2007:

1. Membership
2. Funding
3. Relationships
4. Advocacy
5. Information

Membership

DRMAC joined the Colorado Nonprofit Development Center as a project in 2006. In 2007, the organization modified its structure to allow for growth and as a result, the Council added seven members growing by almost 25% over the course of the year.

The Board voted to institute membership dues as a means of funding the infrastructure of the organization. These dues and other contributions by the membership allowed DRMAC to sponsor a transportation coordination symposium in November. This funding also allowed the Council to begin the process of applying for grants to further its mission.

In all, 2007 was a successful year for DRMAC in developing and broadening its membership.

Funding

While the establishment of membership dues aided the organization in managing basic infrastructure needs, significant funding was needed to begin the process of coordinating the challenges facing specialized transportation services in the Denver metropolitan region. With a list of projects in mind, the DRMAC Board of Directors began the process of applying for funding.

In October 2007, DRMAC was awarded a joint grant of \$138,000 from Rose Community Foundation and The Colorado Health Foundation to begin its transportation coordination mission. The grant was initially used to fund the position of Executive Director for the organization, to acquire office space, furniture and equipment and to turn DRMAC into a fully active organization.

DRMAC began the interview process in 2007, and selected Wendy Band for the position of Executive Director starting in early 2008.

The funding also allowed DRMAC to begin work on the Pedestrian Access study, a key project which had been under discussion for some time. As a result, a consultant was hired in late 2007, to begin the study for the Denver metro area..

DRMAC was also able to leverage this initial funding to use as matching funds for a federal grant program under the New Freedom initiative. DRMAC applied to the Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG) for Federal Transit Administration (FTA) funds distributed by the Regional Transportation District-Denver (RTD), the designated local recipient of the funds. The funds are to be used for the mobility management function and to advance additional projects identified by the Council for implementation.

In all, DRMAC was exceptionally successful in securing funding from local foundations in 2007. This success set the stage for additional funding opportunities in 2008.

Relationships

Members of the Denver Regional Mobility & Access Council have maintained a clear vision for the organization to become the regional coordinating council as outlined in the SAFETEA-LU authorization under the FTA. To ensure that the major partners in the region shared this vision, DRMAC held a series of meetings in 2007 between DRMAC and the three key partners: the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT), DRCOG and the Denver RTD.

The meetings with CDOT and RTD formalized the relationship with these entities and confirmed the Council's vision. DRCOG expressed some initial concerns regarding DRMAC's depth of membership and the organization's ability to fulfill its role as the regional coordinating council. In a series of meetings between DRMAC and DRCOG, the Denver Regional Mobility & Access Council clarified its roles and responsibilities, committed to expanding its membership and provided DRCOG with the reassurances it needed to move forward.

This resulted in specific language that identified DRMAC as the entity from which a local coordinating council would be developed and given support and assistance from DRCOG. With this support in hand, DRMAC was able to turn its attention toward the responsibilities of a regional coordinating council.

Advocacy

During 2007, DRMAC was able to move forward in its vision of becoming the voice for the coordination of mobility and access in the region. This was accomplished in two major ways.

First, DRMAC reviewed and developed a commentary response to DRCOG's Transit Element for the 2030 Transportation Plan for the region. The Council reviewed this document and a draft response was sent to DRCOG. As a result of our efforts, the Transit Element of the 2030 Plan was modified and its adoption delayed until a suitable response could be developed by DRCOG.

This led to some important negotiations between the two organizations and the development of a deeper relationship, with DRMAC assuming the mantle of responsibility as the regional coordinating council. By advocating for its members, DRMAC stepped forward to establish itself as a key player in specialized transportation for the region.

Information

One of the key elements of the Denver Regional Mobility & Access Council has always been the dissemination and sharing of information. 2007 was a clear example of this as some nine presentations were held during the regular monthly Council meetings. The topics were varied and comprehensive.

-The operator of the 211 information and referral line presented a report on its operation and structure. This will become important as DRMAC moves forward with assisting in the development of a centralized call center for transportation in the region.

-The Southeast Business Partnership came to describe their activities during the T-Rex project and demonstrated how groups could come together for mutual benefit.

-The Travel Training program developed and operated by Special Transit and the Volunteer Driver programs of the Seniors' Resource Center (SRC) were also presented and discussed. These are projects upon which DRMAC can build without having to reinvent the concept.

-The Transit Alliance presented on their Citizen's Academy. This effort at developing transit advocates within the community is a strong success and a model upon which DRMAC can build as well.

-In an effort to maintain an understanding of the various transportation elements within the region which impact DRMAC and its membership, we heard from ColoRail on its advocacy efforts relating to rail transportation in the state and region.

-Technology was also a key element in our presentations in 2007. RTD provided information on new table PC technology that could be used by other in the industry and demonstrated their automation efforts in the call-n-Ride program. Presenters from RouteMatch showcased the successes of implementing technology in transportation and discussed efforts both at a statewide level in Iowa as well as their work with RTD's access-a-Ride program.

The depth and breadth of the presentations that were made during the monthly Council meetings is a testament to the value of networking and the free flow of ideas across the industry. DRMAC's value to its members is only enhanced by this effort.

Summary

2007 was a noteworthy year for the organization. DRMAC received funding, held a transportation symposium that educated the community, provided an opportunity for networking, developed and began a Pedestrian Access study, established our relationships with the major partners in the region and cemented our role as the regional coordinating council for the Denver metropolitan area.

With this firm foundation, DRMAC is poised in 2008 to hire staff, secure additional funding, and begin the work that is at the heart of the vision and mission for the organization: ensuring mobility and access for all.