

Durango-La Plata County Airport

- Frontier Airlines canceled twice-weekly nonstop flights between Las Vegas' Harry Reid International Airport and Durango-La Plata County Airport. Frontier will continue to offer twice-weekly nonstop flights between Denver International Airport and DRO. Flights to Denver will operate two days per week as of March 6, with departures on Thursday and Sunday.

La Plata County Land Use Code Update

- Staff has identified 31 code revisions. For example:
 - No sewer demand = no proof of sewer required
 - River/wetland setback – add criteria that would allow an alternative to the 50' as approved by the BOCC. Similar to all other setbacks.
 - 500' setback from residential use for recycling processing facility, salvage yard, junk yard – consider measuring from the dwelling, not the property line.
 - Sketch plan – explicitly call out compliance with compatibility in LUC Sec. 70-5.
 - Sketch plan – Consider ability for Master Planned projects with Conceptual Development Plans to skip sketch plan, go right to prelim plat.
 - Temporary Uses – required to meet all standards of the code unless exempted (water and LOS). Consider also exempting paving, parking, sewer...
 - Building envelope – as defined it includes all improvements. Consider exempting sheds, driveways, septic fields, etc.
 - Special events – consider allowing camping as part of the event and compliance with 73-20 standards
- Staff and the County Attorney's Offices are drafting the changes which are expected to be released in the coming months.

Durango Code Update

- The City of Durango has posted a survey to gather residents' input on standards regulating Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs). Staff is concerned that restrictive code requirements may play a role in limiting the number of homeowners pursuing the option to add an ADU to their property.
- The short survey is available to the public until March 16 at DurangoGov.org/VCH.

Downtown Durango Update

- [Downtown's Next Step](#) is an effort to shape a renewed vision for the streetscape and public spaces along Main Avenue between 5th and 14th streets, including patios, sidewalks, street trees and other landscaping, bicycle facilities, vehicle lanes and parking crosswalks.
- The community is invited to provide feedback on four design concepts for Downtown Main Avenue via an [online questionnaire](#) available through Friday, March 18.

Broadband Update

- The Southern Ute Indian Tribe has developed a strategic fiber and wireless network plan for improving broadband infrastructure on the Southern Ute Indian Reservation, using a license from the Federal Communications Commission for the 2.5 GHz spectrum.
- Once fully deployed, the Tribe's plan will provide high-speed internet connections to 85 percent of the households on the Reservation and 95 percent of all tribal member homes.
- The Tribe has completed an environmental analysis of Phase I of its plan and is in the process of completing the necessary permitting.

LPEA 2022 Election

- Directors are elected for three-year terms. Incumbent directors up for re-election in 2022 are:
 - District 1 – Archuleta County: Holly Metzler
 - District 2 – South and West La Plata County: Dan Huntington
 - District 3 – City of Durango: Joe Lewandowski
 - District 4 – North and East La Plata County: John Witchel
- To be eligible to run for the LPEA Board of Directors, candidates must:
 - be a member of LPEA for at least one year immediately prior to becoming a director;
 - be a bona fide resident of the district you plan to represent for at least 120 days prior to becoming a director and;
 - not be employed by, or have a spouse or child employed by, LPEA in any position.
- [Candidate Packets](#) are due by March 14 at 1 pm.

Election Information (Primary Election 6/28/22)

LPC Treasurer Candidates

- Allison Aichele, (D) incumbent - contributions \$0, expenditures \$0
- Erin Hutchins, (I) - contributions \$830, expenditures \$100 <https://www.facebook.com/Erin2022Treasurer>

LPC Commissioner, District 1

- Clyde Church, (D) incumbent - contributions \$0, expenditures \$0
- Brad Blake, (R) - contributions \$2500, expenditures \$3690 <https://electbradblake.com/>
- Jack Turner (I) - contributions \$2063, expenditures \$515 <https://electjackturner.com/>

3rd Congressional District

- Lauren Boebert, (R) incumbent - contributions \$3.9M, expenditures \$1.9M
- Don Coram (R) - information not available
- Debby Burnett (D) - contributions \$178K, expenditures \$121K
- Naziha In'am Hadil (D) - contributions \$0, expenditures \$0
- Susan Martinez (D) - contributions \$0, expenditures \$0
- Kellie Rhodes (D) - contributions \$12K, expenditures \$12K
- Sol Sandoval (D) - contributions \$535K, expenditures \$478K
- Donald Valdez (D) - contributions \$285K, expenditures \$263K
- Colin Wilhelm (D) - contributions \$305K, expenditures \$222K
- Scott Yates (D) - contributions \$0, expenditures \$0

US Senate Colorado

- Michael Bennet (D) incumbent - contributions \$8.7M, expenditures \$5.7M
- Eli Bremer (R) - contributions \$407K, expenditures \$229K
- Gino Campana (R) - contributions \$955K, expenditures \$171K
- Deborah Flora (R) - contributions \$304K, expenditures \$32.6K
- Ron Hanks (R) - contributions \$28K, expenditures \$14.7K
- Juli Henry (R) - contributions \$0, expenditures \$0
- Joe O'Dea (R) - contributions \$1.04M, expenditures \$153K
- Peter Yu (R) - contributions \$204K, expenditures \$47.3K
- Karen Breslin (D) - contributions \$0, expenditures \$0
- Gregory Moore (R) - contributions \$0, expenditures \$0

Legislation - Sales Tax

- SB 32 - Concerning simplification of local sales and use tax compliance and administration for retailers that make retail sales in local taxing jurisdictions where they have limited physical presence.

<https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/sb22-032> (**CO Chamber of Commerce supports**) Sent to Senate Appropriations Committee.

- HB 1039 - Concerning simplification of the means by which proof of eligibility for sales and use tax exemptions is established. <https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/hb22-1039> (**CO Chamber supports**) Passed the House on the Third Reading.
- HB 1118 - Concerning limitations on purchasers' claims for sales and use tax refunds. <https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/hb22-1118> (**CO Chamber Opposes**) House Finance Committee.

Legislation - Lodging Tax

- HB 1117 - Concerning the use of revenue from a local tax on lodging. <https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/hb22-1117> Senate Finance Committee. (**CO Association of Realtors supports**)

Legislation - Housing

- HB 1051 - Concerning modification of the Colorado affordable housing tax credit, and, in connection therewith, extending the time during which the credit may be claimed and increasing the yearly amount of credits that can be allocated. <https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/hb22-1051> (**CO Association of Realtors supports**) House Committee on Transportation & Local Government Refer Unamended to Finance.
- SB 60 - Concerning limiting increases in homeowner association fees associated with the use of common elements in a common interest community. <https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/sb22-060> (**CAR Supports**) Senate Committee on Local Government - Postponed indefinitely.
- HB 1082 - Concerning the enforcement of state housing laws by the department of law, and, in connection therewith, establishing a fair housing unit within the department of law. <https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/sb22-072> Sent to the House Appropriations Committee.
- HB 1102 - Concerning protected classes in fair housing practices, and, in connection therewith, including a veteran or military status as a protected class. <https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/hb22-1102> Senate Judiciary Committee. (**CAR Supports**) Hearing March 10.
- HB 1006 - Concerning the property tax exemption for property used as an integral part of a child care center. <https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/hb22-1006> (**CAR supports**) (**CO Chamber Supports**) Assigned to House Committee on Public & Behavioral Health & Human Services and Refer Unamended to Appropriations.

Legislation - Wildfire Mitigation

- SB 7 - Concerning outreach to the public relating to wildfire risk mitigation practices. <https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/sb22-007> (**CAR Supports**) Assigned to Senate Appropriations Committee.
- HB 1011 - Concerning the establishment of a state grant program that provides funding to local governments that dedicate resources for wildfire mitigation purposes. <https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/hb22-1011> House Appropriations Committee. (**CAR Supports**)
- HB 1007 - Concerning wildfire mitigation assistance for landowners. <https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/hb22-1007> House Finance Committee. (**CAR Supports**)
- HB 1012 - Concerning healthy forests, and, in connection therewith, creating the wildfire mitigation and recovery grant program. <https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/hb22-1012> House Appropriations Committee.

Legislation - Oil & Gas

- SB 26 - Concerning an oil and gas operator's sole ability to review and protest property tax. <https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/sb22-026> Senate Judiciary Committee. Hearing March 10.

Legislation - Energy/Environment

- HB 1018 - Concerning a state regulated utility's practices regarding a customer's ability to pay the customer's utility bill. <https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/hb22-1018> (**CO Chamber supports**) House Appropriations Committee.
- HB 1026 - Concerning the replacement of the income tax deduction for amounts spent by an employer to provide alternative transportation options to employees with an income tax credit for amounts spent by an employer for that purpose. <https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/hb22-1026> (**CO Chamber supports**) House Appropriations Committee.

- HB 1138 - Concerning the creation of programs to reduce the number of single-occupancy vehicle commuter trips by improving access to alternative transportation options. <https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/hb22-1138> (CO Chamber Opposes) Assigned to House Finance Committee.

Legislation - Broadband

- SB 83 - Concerning a broadband provider's use of the public rights-of-way. <https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/sb22-083> Senate Committee on State, Veterans, & Military Affairs Refer Amended - Consent Calendar to Senate Committee of the Whole.

Legislation - Healthcare

- HB 1008 - Concerning the federal requirements for the implementation of fertility coverage under health benefit plans. <https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/hb22-1008> (CO Chamber Opposes) To Senate Health and Human Services Committee for a hearing March 7.
- HB 1199 - Concerning visitation requirements for health-care facilities. <https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/hb22-1199> (CO Chamber Opposes) House Health and Insurance Committee for a hearing March 9.
- SB 40 - Concerning actuarial reviews of proposed legislation that may impose a new health benefit mandate on health benefit plans. <https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/sb22-040> (CO Chamber Supports) Senate Appropriations Committee.

Meetings attended February 8 - March 8

2/8 - 10 am BOCC Meeting	2/16 - 5:30 pm Downtown Next Steps Meeting
2/8 - 4 pm SUIIT Broadband Work Session	2/17 - 6 pm Joint Planning Commission
2/9 - 8:30 am BOCC Discussion Time	2/22 - 10 am BOCC Meeting
2/10 - 1 pm Regional Broadband Meeting	2/24 - 6 pm LPC Planning Commission
2/10 - 6 pm LPC Planning Commission	2/28 - 5 pm Durango Planning Commission
2/11 - 8:30 am BID Meeting	3/1 - 10 am BOCC Planning Meeting
2/14 - 7:30 am Joint BOCC/Bayfield Meeting	3/1 - 1 pm BOCC Work Session on ARPA
2/14 - 4:30 pm Durango URA Meeting	3/2 - 8:30 am BOCC Discussion Time
2/15 - 10 am BOCC Meeting	3/2 - 2:15 pm Durango Council Study Session
2/15 - 2 pm Durango Council Study Session	3/2 - 5:30 pm Durango City Council Meeting
2/15 - 5:30 pm Durango City Council Meeting	3/8 - 9:15 am LAC Meeting
2/16 - 8:30 am BOCC Discussion Time	