

Colorado Legislature Update

- HOUSE: Recounts recently confirmed Republican candidates flipped two House seats initially thought to be retained by Democrats. These flips ended the Democrats' veto-proof supermajority in the chamber, which they had held for the past two years, though the party still maintains a strong 43-22 majority.
- SENATE: Democrats hold a 23-12 majority, one seat short of a supermajority. However, changes are on the horizon for the Senate's membership. In the past month, two Democratic senators have announced their resignations, and a Republican senator is stepping down after winning election to the Douglas County Commission.

Durango La Plata County Airport Update

- Durango-La Plata County Airport (DRO) wraps up its busiest year on record with a 15% increase in passengers and a successful new remote shuttle parking solution. Through October the airport is reporting a 15% increase in airline enplanements this year over 2023. Parking lot exit volume and rental car contract days are also up, indicating strong demand from local users and visitors. Terminal concession revenue has sharply increased, driven by strong food and beverage sales.
- United Airlines will expand its summer nonstop service between George Bush Intercontinental Airport (IAH) in Houston, Texas, and DRO from weekend only to daily frequency beginning in June 2025. United will initially operate the summer seasonal service on Saturdays between May 24 and June 21, increasing to daily service between June 26 and August 18.

La Plata County Oil and Gas Update

- La Plata County will begin charging oil and gas applicants for consultant fees as needed. Under an agreement between the County and the applicant, the applicant would submit a deposit which would be used to pay for consulting services.

La Plata County Budget Update

- La Plata County Commissioners adopted the \$135.8 million dollar budget for 2025 this month, noting that the process was especially challenging this year. Due to statewide property tax reductions, the County had to address a deficit of more than \$6 million dollars, leading to a conservative budget. There's only one new position added in 2025, there's been a significant reduction in capital projects and a decrease in operating expenses, among other reductions.

Durango Staff Update

- The Durango City Council granted a 3% cost of living raise to the city manager, the city attorney, and the municipal judge this month. In addition, the council approved high-performer raises at a rate of 2% for the city manager, 6% for the city attorney, and 9.5% for the municipal court judge.
- Council also approved the appointment of Jayme Lopko as the city's new Community Development Director. She will start on January 21st. Lopko is the long-range Planning Manager for the City of Clearwater, Florida. City Manager Jose Madrigal said she has over 23 years of professional experience in planning and has held various planning positions in communities across the country.
- Scott Shine, Durango's current Community Development Director, will step out of his position on the 21st to go back into a city planner and project management role.

Durango URA Update

- Currently there are 2 Urban Renewal Areas in Durango – one is MidTown, the other is the North Main Gateway. Durango staff is moving in the direction of a third URA at the site of the Durango Crossings project at the intersection of Florida Rd and CR 250. Durango Crossings is a 4-phase mixed use development that would

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supply a total of 154 units . The units are a mix of condos, townhomes, apartments - some for sale and some for rent. Without the URA, 93 of the 154 would be in the attainable range. With the URA and its associated Tax Increment Financing or TIF, there would be 126 attainable. The URA Board voted to support taking the next step in the process of creating the new Durango Crossings Partnership. That recommendation will next go to the Community Development Commission. If they approve, there are several additional steps to take before the URA would be officially adopted.

Durango Mesa Park Update

- The Durango City Council approved a long-term planning agreement with the Durango Mesa Park Foundation. The agreement outlines the city and the foundation’s commitment to work together on construction permits and develop an operations plan. When it’s completed, the park is expected to have a world-class bike park and trail system, an event space, campgrounds, a disc golf course, and a dog park among other amenities.

Planning Projects

- LPC Planning Commission approved the Rima UHaul Sketch Plan, a proposal to operate an outdoor storage area, shop building, and pick up/drop off location for UHaul moving vehicles. The project is located at 104 Chicken Hawk Ln, Ignacio - the Oxford area.
- LPC Planning Commission approved the Glacier Club Area R Phase 1 preliminary development plan to subdivide a portion of a parcel into 6 single-family residential lots.
- Bondad U-Store Preliminary Plan was approved by the La Plata County Board of County Commissioners on Dec 10th. The approval is for phase 1 of a 4 phase project, an 86,780 square feet building with 190 storage units located at CR 310 and Highway 550 in the Bondad growth hub.

Meetings attended November 28 - December 26

12/3 - 2:30 pm Durango Council Study Session	12/11 - 8:30 am BOCC Discussion Time
12/3 - 5:30 pm Durango City Council Meeting	12/12 - 2 pm RHA Meeting
12/6 - 8:30 am Four Corners AI Conference	12/17 - 10 am BOCC Planning Meeting
12/9 - 4:30 pm Durango URA Meeting	12/17 - 2 pm Durango City Council Meeting
12/10 - 10 am BOCC Business Meeting	12/19 - 10 am BOCC Special Business Meeting
12/10 - 2:30 pm BOCC Special Planning Meeting	12/23 - 1/1 Out of Office