



ARAPAHOE COUNTY

Carrie Warren-Gully, District 1
Jessica Campbell, District 2
Jeff Baker, Chair Pro Tem, District 3
Leslie Summey, Chair, District 4
Rhonda Fields, District 5

Arapahoe County

Board of County Commissioners Study Session

Meeting Minute Summaries

Tuesday, March 17, 2026
9:30 AM

Administration Building
5334 S. Prince St.
Littleton, CO 80120
West Hearing Room

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Commissioners Present

Carrie Warren-Gully
Jeff Baker
Jessica Campbell
Leslie Summey
Rhonda Fields

Others Present

Ron Carl
John Christofferson
Michelle Halstead
Cooney Sarracino
Callie Pecore
Becky Nelson
Mike Landes
Mara Sheldon
Allison Wright
Nico Johnson

Ed Bowditch
Jennifer Cassell
Lisa Knerr

STUDY SESSION TOPICS

9:30 AM Economic Development Overview

Attachments: [Board Summary Report Presentation](#)

The purpose of this study session was the County's Strategic Plan - Arapahoe Forward - emphasized Economic Resilience and Stability as a key focus area to strengthen the county's economic foundation by ensuring financial sustainability, housing security, and business growth. Investing in economic development activities can help advance the County's strategic plan by offering higher quality public services and more job opportunities for residents.

Partners from Denver South and the Aurora Economic Development Council provided an introduction to economic development, including strategies, tools, outcomes, and best practices. This will provide the BOCC with more insight into potential strategies to retain and attract businesses and leverage tools for economic growth and resilience in the County.

A PowerPoint presentation was presented, a copy of which has been retained for the record.

Background of the economic development for the County was presented as an overview of the investment.

Definitions of economic development, primary employers, and primary jobs were presented in context of Arapahoe County. An example of primary employers was reviewed.

Commissioner Campbell arrived at 9:40 a.m.

Staff presented an economic snapshot of Arapahoe County which are economic categories and statistics that are studied.

Tactics for business development were outlined. The first tactic was a focus of business retention, attraction, and expansion. Staff reviewed building relationships and providing support. The goal is to optimize primary jobs.

Commissioner asked for clarification regarding what the largest reason for businesses leaving the county. Commissioner also asked about ripple effects of business closures that could affect the Denver Metro area.

Location factors that business consider for counties were listed and reviewed.

Commissioner asked about concerns that are facing energy businesses. Commissioner also asked about business analysis while reviewing public policy. Follow-up was asked about alternative forms of energy. Commissioner asked staff about Arapahoe County's location factors.

Commissioner asked about legislation in Colorado when staff attempt to recruit businesses. Commissioner later asked about the opportunity pipelines that are can be utilized.

Commissioner asked staff about their feelings surrounding technical and industrial education.

Commissioner also asked about relationships with the county and Colorado state legislatures.

Staff presented incentives that states and local municipalities can provide and why they are important for retention and recruitment. Incentives can be prioritized and some incentives are more important than others. Staff also mentioned that businesses seek certainty.

Other tools at the BOCC's disposal were reviewed such as Enterprise Zones, County Revitalization Authority, Opportunity Zones, Community Revitalization Tax Credit, Childcare Tax Credit Bill, and Foreign Trade Zones. A map of Arapahoe County's Enterprise Zones was displayed and reviewed.

The importance for permitting and entitlements was discussed and why they are important for buildings. Staff's partnership with AD Works and Workforce Development was presented.

Commissioner asked about how Arapahoe County is situated when reviewing permits and entitlements.

Commissioner asked about how housing affects the businesses outlook.

Staff presented a cycle of impact that revolves enhanced commercial property values, improved tax base, outstanding quality of life, and job creation and investment.

Commissioner asked about the economic shifts and businesses response to these shifts.

Presentation concluded without a vote.

11:00 AM Federal Lobbyist Update

Attachments: [Board Summary Report Presentation](#)

The purpose of this study session was to provide an update on federal advocacy activities to the Board of County Commissioners and discuss details for the Board's upcoming advocacy trip to Washington D.C.

A PowerPoint presentation was presented, a copy of which has been retained for the record.

The current state of Congress was presented. The lobby team presented the partial shutdown of Homeland Security which is affecting other agencies. Current legislation was listed.

The current state of the Executive was presented. A presidential budget has not been presented. The different focuses of the administration were reviewed. Commissioners asked for clarification on the affordable housing initiative.

The 2027 appropriations update was presented. Lobby team reviewed the current timeline and steps of Fiscal Year 2027.

The 21st century ROAD to Housing Act was presented. Staff also reviewed different components of the bill. Discussion was held about Congress's stance on the ROAD to Housing Act and the SAFE Act.

The itinerary for the BOCC's trip to Washington D.C. was reviewed. Staff reviewed talking points and goals that will be discussed in Washington D.C. Commissioner asked about information and bios for personnel.

Discussion was held regarding TSA tolerance and funding.

Presentation concluded without a vote.

12:00 PM Administrative Meeting with HR

1:00 PM *Legislative Update

Attachments: [Board Summary Report](#)
[2026 Legislative Issues Guide](#)
[2026 Internal Legislative Report](#)
[2026 Public Legislative Report](#)

The purpose of this study session was to provide information on the status of Colorado's state legislative session, including potential impacts to Arapahoe County, and seek Board direction on legislative positions or specific advocacy activities.

Staff presented HB26-1298: Background Checks for Child Welfare Placements. The bill revises statutory provisions to give counties and the Colorado department of human services the statutory authority needed to conduct the required background checks in accordance with the FBI's standards. Staff recommended the BOCC take an amend position. The current provisions and recommended amendments were reviewed.

Commissioners asked about how the bill would impact Human Services.

5-0 in favor of amend.

Staff presented SB26-080: Cradle to Career Grant Program. The bill creates the cradle to career grant program in the state department of human services to provide grants that promote coordinated community-based supports and services that open opportunities for economic mobility from poverty. Staff recommended an amend position. The recommended amendments were reviewed. Some concerns were related to fiscal notes and the location where the funding will be held.

Commissioner asked about the matrix for the requirements for funding.

5-0 in favor of amend.

Human Services provided an update on their proposed bill. Negotiations are ongoing, but some

differences between counties were discussed. Concerns were raised related to error rates, and if error rates are below threshold, Colorado will be short \$120 million to \$140 million. This is the source of the need for this proposed legislation.

Commissioner asked about the automation and technology to reduce human error rate. Discussion was held as to technology funding that would go towards the project and those that are affected.

Commissioner asked staff to discuss the recent case decisions.

Other state human error rates were reviewed. Staff also requested a manager from the state level oversee the proposed legislation.

Joint Budget Committee updates were presented. There is currently an \$800 million shortfall with minor changes that can come. Committee members will make plans to attempt to balance the budget.

Staff asked about fraud and its impact on the budget.

The BOCC reviewed amendments on HB26-1276: Protect Safety of Individuals Who Are Immigrants. Amendments related to county liability were discussed. Concerns were raised regarding the County's authority to limit flight travel.

An update was presented for HB26-1317: Unified Postsecondary Talent Development System. Staff provided background to the request and wanted to testify in front of Congress for the bill.

5-0 in favor to have staff testify.

Commissioner asked if CCI and CCAT can work on the bill to see the effects on workforce centers.

Commissioner asked for an update on SB26-036: Prison Population Management Measures.

Updates for HB26-1301: Hospital Funding were presented. The lobby team discussed the process the bill went through, and staff discussed that it is unlikely to pass. Commissioner discussed her hesitation based on where the taxes are going.

Staff presented an update regarding HB26-1039: Adding Municipal Jails to County Jail Oversight Requirements that would affect people who have multiple failures to appear warrants. BOCC requested more information before voting on a position.

Presentation concluded without a vote.

2:00 PM Grading, Erosion, and Sediment Control (GESC) Manual Updates

Attachments: [Board Summary Report](#)
[DRAFT_GESC Manual COUNTY 3-3-26_redlined](#)
[DRAFT_GESC Manual COUNTY 3-3-26_clean copy](#)
[Appendix G - Engineer's Cost Estimate](#)
[Appendix K - Single Family Residential Lot Erosion Control Certificate](#)
[Appendix J - Hold Harmless Letter for Early Start of Grading](#)
[Appendix I - Low Risk Guidance](#)
[Appendix D - GESC Plan Checklist](#)
[Appendix C - Oil and Gas Construction Activity in Unincorporated AC Outside of the SEMSWA Svc Area](#)
[Appendix B - Utility Construction Activity in Unincorporated AC Outside of the SEMSWA Svc Area](#)
[Appendix A - GESC Program Permitting Matrix](#)
[Appendix F - GESC or ESC Standard Notes and Details](#)
[Appendix E - Narrative Template](#)
[Appendix H - ESC Permit Plan Template](#)
[AC Decision Support Framework-Review_GESC Manual](#)

The purpose of this study session was the Public Works & Development (PWD) discussed the changes to the County's Grading, Erosion, and Sediment Control (GESC) Manual, answer questions from the Commissioners, and seek direction on proposed changes to the County's GESC Manual.

A PowerPoint presentation was presented, a copy of which has been retained for the record.

The County's Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System was presented. Stormwater currently goes to the state, but covered county areas were listed. A map of the permitted areas in the county was displayed and reviewed.

The recommended changes to the manual were listed. Changes include formatting changes, permit types, costs, and other requirements such as topsoil.

Examples of the standard notes and detail changes were displayed.

Other changes would include delegating water authority to SEMSWA and other language related to county processes.

Commissioner asked about the extent of the changes and delegation of power to SEMSWA.

Commissioner asked about the next steps for the approval.

5-0 in favor of moving item to consent agenda.

Discussion was held as to the relationship with SEMSWA.

The meeting was adjourned.

**3:30 PM Detention Medical Center Expansion Tour
Arapahoe County Detention Center, 7442 S. Tucson Way, Centennial**

***Virtual/Streamed**