

DRAFT  
AGENDA

**North Area Transportation Alliance**

December 8, 2010

6:00 PM

*City of Thornton*

*Training Room*

*9500 Civic Center Drive*

*Thornton, CO*

- I. Minutes:
  - a. Approval of Minutes from September 22, 2010 (attached)
  
- II. Presentations:
  - a. RTD FasTracks "Completing the Vision" (attached)
  
- III. Old Business:
  - a. 2012-2017 TIP application update – NATA area Transportation Management Organization
  - b. I-25 PEL update
  - c. Draft NATA By-Laws
  
- IV. 2011 Tentative Calendar:
  - a. January 26, 2011
  - b. April 22, 2011
  - c. July 22, 2011
  - d. October 28, 2011

## North Area Transportation Alliance Steering Committee

### Summary Minutes - Draft

August 25, 2010

Chair Erik Hansen welcomed everyone to the meeting and called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm at the Metro North Chamber of Commerce at 2921 West 120<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 210, Westminster.

Members and alternates attending were: Brighton – Mayor Dick McLean; Broomfield – Mayor Pat Quinn, Kevin Standbridge, Deputy City Manager; Commerce City – Mayor Paul Natale, Tom Acre, Deputy City Manager, Dacono – Bill Efting, City Manager; Erie – Trustee Cheryl Hauger; Firestone – Wes LaVanchy, City Manager; Frederick – Derek Todd, City Manager; Northglenn – Mayor Joyce Downing, Bill Simmons, City Manager; Thornton – Mayor Erik Hansen, Gene Putman, Transportation Manager; Westminster – Mayor Nancy McNally, Matt Lutkus, Deputy City Manager; Metro North Chamber of Commerce – Jonathan Perlmutter, Howard Gelt; Adams Co. Economic Development – Jeff Kullman. Also attending was: Noel Busck (RTD), Jane Donovan (RTD), Mike Turner (RTD), Julie Skeen (RTD), Jill Locantore (DRCOG), Erik Sabina (DRCOG), Daren Sterling (Commerce City), and XXXXX Pine Engineering.

**Minutes.** The May 17, 2010 minutes were approved unanimously.

### **Presentations**

- A. **Update on North Metro Corridor.** Jane Donovan, Mike Turner, Julie Skeen of RTD, and Erik Sabina of DRCOG, provided an update on the progress on the North Metro Corridor. The first item discussed was the results of the new commuter ridership numbers utilizing a new computer model “Compass 4” and new DRCOG population and employment numbers. This update was done at the request of the Federal Transit Administration in May. The results of this new update were that the North Metro Corridor ridership went 13,100 riders per day (Draft EIS) to 24,100 riders per day. Application of the new model also increased ridership numbers in all of the remaining corridors, by varying degrees.

Due to the increase in ridership, there is also an increase in parking demand at most of the stations. Additional analysis of how to accommodate the increases in parking and the review of environmental impact caused by the increase in parking has caused the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) to be delayed about six months while that analysis is undertaken. It is expected that a draft of the FEIS will be out for review in November or December of 2010 and a Signed Record of Decision would be completed in March of 2011.

RTD will continue working on the Environmental Document. Preliminary engineering will continue with meetings with associated communities in the next few months to discuss modifications to the station layouts.

Director Noel Busck stated that now that the Board has awarded the Eagle P3 to Denver Transit Partnership, with the ground breaking on the East Corridor this week, the major goal of the Board and staff at RTD is to complete the remaining corridors.

Chair Hansen turned over the meeting to Vice Chair Cheryl Hauger as he had to leave the meeting for a prior engagement.

- B. Sustainable Communities Planning Grant. Jill Locantore made a presentation on DRCOG's submittal of a Sustainable Communities Planning Grant to the Department of Housing and Urban Development's Office of Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant Program. The grant is a program that has brought together the Departments of Housing and Urban Development, Transportation, and EPA to offer grants for the planning to integrate housing, land use, economic , and employment with transportation, and infrastructure improvements.

The grant submittal was a collaboration headed by DRCOG with over 62 public, private, and other partners including: CDOT, RTD, RACE, COLA, CIPHER, University of Colorado; communities including Adams County, the cities of Brighton, Commerce City, Dacono, Erie, Federal Heights, Northglenn, Thornton, and Westminster; groups including the Colorado Environmental Coalition, Denver Public Health, Kaiser Permanente, and the Urban Land Institute. The local governments who passed resolutions of support represent 83% of the DRCOG region population.

The goal of this planning grant is to support multi-jurisdictional regional planning efforts that integrate housing, economic development, and transportation decision making. It is to empower jurisdictions to consider the interdependency and the challenges of economic growth, social and infrastructure impacts, along with the environmental impacts of growth.

The group requested that Jill come back to NATA when the outcome of the grant submittal is known.

### New Business

- A. 2012-2017 TIP Application – NATA area Transportation Management Organization (TMO) application to DRCOG. Gene Putman, Transportation Manager at Thornton, handed out information concerning the possible formation of a Transportation Management Organization for the NATA communities. Currently there are eight TMO or TMA (Transportation Management Association) in the Denver Metro Area. The best known of these eight is the **U.S. 36 Commuting Solutions** organization that has been very successful in getting the communities and businesses along the U.S. 36 corridor to work together on transportation needs and being a voice to major projects like the U.S.36 Bus Rapid Transit project, and the Northwest Rail Plan.

The TMO would set up a marketing and outreach campaign focused on citizens and businesses in the NATA area to improve transit usage; use of DRCOG Ride Arrangers for carpooling and van pooling; and the advocate for new and improved bus routes, bus shelters, and bus benches in the NATA area. In addition, the TMO would advocate for the funding of construction and completion of the North Metro Corridor.

The TMO project submittal would be a two-year and possibly a three-year program with annual funding of \$100,000 federal, and \$25,000 local funding each year. Since one local government needs to be the submitter of an application, Thornton's City Council has stated that they would use one of their eight possible applications for this TMO submittal.

Several NATA members made statements of support for the TMO submittal including Mayor McNally (Westminster), Mayor Quinn (Broomfield), Mayor Pro-Tem Hauger (Erie), Mayor Downing (Northglenn), and Deborah Obermeyer of the Metro North Chamber of Commerce. The group felt that NATA, with the assistance from the City of Thornton, should continue with documentation and submittal of a Transportation Improvement Program project submittal for a Transportation Management Organization for the NATA area.

- B. Draft NATA By-Laws. Matt Lutkus (Deputy City Manager, Westminster) handed out the draft North Area Transportation Alliance By-Laws. He stated that each member of NATA needs to review the draft and be ready at the next meeting to discuss, modify, and consideration acting on the NATA By-Laws.

### **Old Business**

- A. 2010 Work Plan Update. Kevin Standbridge (Deputy City Manager, Broomfield) handed out an updated 2010 Work Plan to the committee and stated that there had been some revisions to the plan and the major change was in the I-25 PEL (Planning and Environmental Linkage) Study. Gene Putman stated that there had been a case of musical chairs at CDOT Region 6 due to staffing changes. (Liz Kemp was appointed to the position of Planning and Environmental Manager; Jan Harris was promoted to Head Quarters in the Environmental Division, and two new staff needed to be hired.) All of this change in the Planning and Environmental section caused a delay in the drafting of the scope of work from September to November of 2010.
- B. 2010 Calendar.
  - September 22, 2010
  - November 24, 2010