

NATA Board Meeting Minutes

September 24, 2015

7:30-9:00am

Adams County Economic Development, 12200 Pecos Street, Westminster

Welcome by Vice Chair Randy Ahrens and introductions – Meeting called to order at 7:35

NATA Members (who signed in)

Val Vigil	Thornton Council	Kevin Standbridge	Broomfield Staff
Randy Ahrens	Broomfield Mayor	TJ Dlubac	Firestone Staff
Kevin Forgett	Thornton Staff	Kimberly Dall	Brighton Staff
Gary Behlen	Erie Staff	Daniel Dick	Federal Heights Council
Shawn Lewis	Longmont Staff	Joe Smith	Brighton Staff
Maria D' Andrea	Commerce City Staff	Jeanne Shreve	Adams County Staff
Herb Atchison	Westminster Mayor	Kent Moorman	Thornton Staff
Steve O'Dorisio	Adams Cty Commission	Paul DesRocher	SCMN
Karen Stuart	SCMN	Erik Hansen	Adams Cty Commission

Smart Commute (who signed in)

Steve Kibbey	NES	Jeff Kullman	Atkins
Christie De Luca	Flatiron Construction	Mark Shotkoski	NWP
Bob Sakaguchi	RSC Consulting	Angela Habben	MNCC
Tony Marcello	DEA	Craig Mundt	NES
George Tsiouvaras	TSH		

Agency Partners (who signed in)

Abra Geissler	CDOT	Jerad Esquibel	CDOT
Myron Hora	CDOT		

Guests

Dick Jonsen	Anthem Ranch	Jeremy Rodriguez	Rep Perlmutter
Mike Peek	Triunity Eng	Steve Linton-Smith	Rep Coffman
Randy Grauberger	PB		

Treasurer's Report - Mayor Atchison reviewed the past quarter's revenue and expenses.

Approval of August 2015 Meeting Minutes – Motion for approval by Mayor Ahrens, Second by Commissioner Hansen; passed unanimously.

SCMN TMO Update: TDM Program Update -Paul DesRocher

Paul described DRCOG's Way To Go Go'Tober Campaign:

SCMN announced some of Adams County's largest employers, Digital Globe, Adams County and Avaya will be participating. Program participants are required to commute a different way at least twice a week to be eligible for prizes such as a \$500 Ikea gift card. Employers can win a \$10k paid media campaign advertising them as a "commuter-friendly business". It's a Metro wide competition that will hopefully create an awareness of commuting options through the significant media exposure. This program is funded by DRCOG; there will be little cost to SCMN to promote and participate in this.

September Outreach Update:

SCMN has staffed information booths at Thornton Harvest Fest, Brighton Eco Fair, and S. Westminster Orchard Festival where we promote commuting options like ridesharing and transit. We are especially promoting RTD Call n Ride services at these events. We have employer events scheduled at Adams County, Tri-State and Digital Globe.

I-25 Commuter Incentive Program:

Our RTD 10-Ride Ticket book program will end at the end of September (ozone season) and we will focus exclusively on our Concierge Commute ridesharing program through the end of the year. We'll continue to promote other RTD services like Call n Ride.

NATA Priority Projects Discussion- Jeanne Shreve

Jeanne reviewed the priorities list and requested NATA members to send her any updates to the list. She presented the draft criteria for ranking Tier I Projects for group discussion.

Comments included the importance of including projects that could reasonably be moved forward to the next phase into the queue. Jeanne would like feedback before the next meeting on defining the ranking criteria for Tier I Projects, for a subsequent review at the October meeting, with the goal to have the Tier I Project rankings approved at the December meeting.

Discussion:

- Val Vigil – What's the definition of 'Economic activity center'? We should focus more on 'economic generators'.
- Shawn Lewis – there needs to be some way for projects to be consistent with studies. If NATA endorses a project or study, we should then be consistent and follow through. What happens if we disagree with findings of a study? We need to add other studies in addition to PELs and NEPA. Tier I projects need to be added to any future TRANS I and federal reauthorization.
- **Randy Ahrens** – Reported attending a meeting with Congressman Cory Gardener who noted adding capacity to I-25 from 120th to Hwy 14 is the highest priority for him.
- **Erik Hansen** – NATA might have an information problem, because there are project priorities north of I-70 that are included in the I-25 PEL. We as a group need to make sure we communicate these important projects to our federal partners.
- **Val Vigil** – The 88th Street Bridge is a federal project; so local jurisdictions cannot touch the project without federal money.
- **Kent Moorman** – Clarified that the 88th Avenue bridge clearance was too low and it kept getting hit. The bridge itself wasn't deficient for the federal TIGER money could not be used for reconstruction.
- **Herb Atchison** – The meeting with Congressman Gardner and the projects identified in the I-25 PEL were discussed. A similar meeting is being set up with Senator Bennett. Long-term viability is compromised on many of Colorado's major roadways. There needs to be an additional funding stream. Also, partners need to be ready for federal money when it becomes available by having projects "shovel ready". Douglas County is a good example of a jurisdiction that has 'shovel ready' projects.
- **Erik Hansen** – Getting projects ready is a good idea and that's why Adams County put \$500k into designing Hwy 7/I-25 Bridge this year. NATA might consider creating a marketing piece that highlights NATA Tier 1 Projects, and possibly include Tier 2 and 3 projects. The North I-25 Coalition group has put together a similar piece. It shows that the group speaks with a singular voice and can leave behind something that decision makers can see.
- **Karen Stuart** – We will need some assistance creating a marketing piece. It needs to be done professionally; in house staff does not have this skillset.

- **Erik Hansen** – ACED’s “7 to 70” presentation could play into this piece because it ties potential land development to transportation.
- **Val Vigil** – The piece needs to have some context/content because we need to answer the questions of why we need this level of transportation. The “7 to 70” presentation suggested another 60k people in the area in the next several years.
- **Erik Hansen** – Made motion “to authorize up to \$5k for the design and printing of marketing piece to highlight Tier 1 projects”. Herb Atchison seconded motion; passed unanimously.
- Several private sector attendees volunteered to assist with a leave behind.
- **Jeanne Shreve**– There are 6 Tier 1 projects included currently that were approved in February.
- **Erik Hansen** – Would like to caution against adding more than six projects. At one time there were only two I – 25 and North Metro.
- **Shawn Lewis** – Is the purpose of finalizing the criteria to then come back and finalize the projects that are part of the Tier 1 priorities? **Jeanne Shreve** – Yes
- **Myron Hora** – Does the cost of the project factor into how they are allocated points in the criteria? If not, it becomes more of a political decision then.
- **Erik Hansen** – Jeanne is trying to remove the politics out of the decision. The criteria need to be objective enough so politics are less of a determining factor on how projects are chosen.
- **Val Vigil** – The managed lanes on I-25 were not intended to solve congestion. It’s one part of a larger project.
- **Erik Hansen** – Congestion is not currently on the criteria list.
- **Jeanne Shreve** - All of these projects have already been ranked with a process that incorporates congestion.
- **Shawn Lewis** – Does the NATA ranking process coincide with DRCOG’s ranking process?
- **Erik Hansen** – We’re not necessarily in agreement with DRCOG’s ranking process. Their ranking process has not been favorable to NATA in the past.

Legislative Update – Rich Mauro, Senior Legislative & Policy Analyst, DRCOG

Status of MAP-21 Reauthorization

MPO Funding Impacts

There is some concern about funding levels. Currently 45% federal allocation and 55% regionally.

Federal BRT Definition

Senator Bennet and Congressman Gardner are working to revise BRT language in the DRIVE Act to Colorado’s needs.

DRIVE Act

In DRIVE act, some of the projections have used 2000 census information. This disadvantages regions that are fast growing and impacts funding levels. DRCOG is working on getting that corrected.

There is an effort by EPA to reduce the ozone standards but that could affect Colorado’s allocation of funding. The real calculation of ozone should include other factors outside of transportation including cumulative impacts of other areas drifting into Colorado. DRCOG with other MPOs are lobbying hard to get the ozone standards changed. If standards aren’t changed, state funding could be reallocated further around the state.

- **Randy Ahrens** – Stations that monitor ozone have been a factor in how they determine compliance or not.
- **Rich Mauro** – The science of monitoring ozone has improved; it is now understood that air quality can be impacted by neighboring states and even outside of the county. DRCOG has long been an advocate for increased transportation funding and will continue to lobby for it with MAP-21 Reauthorization.

Update on State Initiatives to identify additional transportation funding opportunities including SB 228, Hospital Provider Fee, etc.

Discussion about Revenue forecasts for TABOR Rebates, TRANS Bonds II update. Building a Better Colorado, Tabor fix could be on the 2016 ballot.

Trans Bond II Discussion- Erik Hansen

Trans Bond II legislation came out at the end of the last session and it caught us off guard.

NATA will need to have a conversation in the near future about its position on Bonding or Increasing Revenues.

What projects do we want to see included?

- Randy Ahrens – It will be interesting to see which projects are included and how the legislation proceeds in the next session.
- Erik Hansen – There tends to be two camps (more revenue vs. bonding) and it tends to be partisan. Some people would like to see this issue go to the ballot but it's not understood if that will happen at this point.

1A on DIA – Erik Hansen

The presentation included a brief video explaining the ballot issue. It would provide revenue sharing agreement around DIA development between Adams and Denver counties. Erik Hansen gave a brief historical summary.

Request for NATA Letter to RTD in Support of Route #8 Bus Extension to 144th -Karen Stuart

Requested authorization to send a letter out to the group to ask for NATA support for Route 8 extension. At the time of the discussion, the NATA board did not have a quorum. Those still in attendance supported this request.

Vice-Chair Randy Ahrens adjourned the NATA meeting at 9:07.