

Draft NATA Meeting Minutes
 April 23, 2015
 7:30 am – 9:00 am
 Adams County Economic Development

Those in attendance:

NATA Members (who signed in)

Val Vigil	Thornton Council	Herb Atchison	Westminster Mayor
Joyce Downing	Northglenn Mayor	Joyce Thomas	Federal Heights Mayor
Randy Ahrens	Broomfield Mayor	Lynn Baca	Brighton Council
Mark Gruber	Erie Council	Daniel Dick	Federal Heights Council
Shawn Lewis	Longmont Staff	Brook Svoboda	Northglenn Staff
James Hayes	Commerce City Staff	Erik Hansen	Adams Cty Commission
Gary Behlen	Erie Staff	Kent Moorman	Thornton Staff
Aric Otzelberger	Westminster Staff	Paul DesRocher	SCMN
		Joe Smith	Brighton Staff
Karen Stuart	SCMN	John Pick	Northglenn Staff
		Jeanne Shreve	Adams County Staff

Smart Commute (who signed in)

Julie Skeen	Jacobs	Chris Primus	HDR
Jeff Kullman	Atkins	Mark Shotkoski	NWP
Ed Icenogle	ISP	Jude White	Collins
Tony Marcello	DEA	Bob Marusin	TSH
Denny McCloskey	D&C Home	Ken Rudolph	PMC
Bob Sakaguchi	.RSC Consulting	Gene Putman	Putman Trans Solutions
Bill Maestas	Maestas Inc.		

Agency Partners (who signed in)

Abra Geissler	CDOT	Jason Lucerna	CDOT
Andy Stratton	CDOT	Jane Donovan	RTD
Myron Hora	CDOT	Brenda Tierney	RTD
Johnny Olson	CDOT	Don Marcucci	CDOT
George Jones	FHWA	Ashland Vaughn	RTD
Larry Hoy	RTD	Judy Lubow	RTD
Jane Donovan	RTD		

Guests

Paul Aldretti	DRCOG	Ina Zisman	PB
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Daniel Jerrett	DRCOG	Jeremy Rodriguez	Rep. Perlmutter
James Thompson	Sen. Bennet		

The meeting was opened at 7:33 by Chair Joyce Downing, followed by the introduction of members and guests.

Chair Downing moved to approve of March NATA Meeting Minutes and motion passed unanimously

Smart Commute Update-Paul DesRocher, TDM Manager

Our “Concierge Commute” vanpool program now has three new vanpools on I-25 as a result of changes to marketing the program. Primary changes include the ability to start a vehicle alone as “seed van”. Smart Commute acts as “concierge” to fill remaining seats. The driver rides free once three additional passengers join the vanpool.

Community and employer outreach update- Water World/RTD partnership – RTD will expand current hours of Call-n-Ride operation for one hour Monday through Friday evenings to allow Water World employees to ride home after the last shift. Smart Commute will underwrite the Call-n-Ride fare for Water World employees through the summer. The program will be a pilot for the first two weeks to gauge ridership interest.

June 24th Bike to Work Day update- North Metro/ EB Rains Park Regional Breakfast Station –Smart Commute is working in partnership with Google, Avaya, City of Northglenn to promote it as a regional breakfast station for all businesses in the 120th Business District. It’s a continuation of the Avaya breakfast station they sponsored annually at their former location at 120th and Pecos.

The Orchard Family Bike Party – This will be the third year for this event. The focus is on teaching kids fundamentals of safe biking in partnership with the Westminster Fire Dept and Safe Kids Foundation. Orchard Town Center merchants participate with give-aways and activities. Last year we had about 100 participants and hope for more this year.

CDOT Update:

Segment 3 Update –Johnny Olsen

CDOT has been working to get the project as far north as possible. The existing budget is \$73M; \$133M is needed to get the managed lanes project to SH 7. CDOT is looking at money saving measures that include things like reducing the overall ROW cross-section from 72 ft to 65 ft.

Discussion: Jeanne Shreve- Getting the managed lanes to SH7 is a NATA priority. Is there opportunity to reduce ROW cross-section to 61 feet and achieve greater cost savings? This is the cross-section in the more southern part of I-25.

Myron Hora – Although 61 foot ROW makes sense in an urban environment, FHWA standards indicate a minimum 65 foot cross-section for the highway template.

Karen Stuart- I-25 north of 120th may not seem urban now it will be in the very near future. The Adams County Economic Development (ACED) presentation in December showed incredible growth north of 120th up past SH7.

Myron Hora- Current thinking is to build the footprint out as far as possible while the ROW is available.

Johnny Olsen- NATA should write a letter to FHWA supporting the reduced ROW to achieve a lengthier project.

FHWA representative George Jones- NATA should write a support letter to FHWA. It's normally very important to follow existing policies and procedures without request for variances. FHWA is very much in support of getting project as far north as possible.

Gene Putnam-I-25 near Thornton was recently ranked the 47th most congested corridor in the US, according to a recent study.

Colorado Transportation Commission Update-I-25 Segment Three project has been "green-lighted" (approved) by Commission to use RAMP funds.

Segment Three Open House-A public open house was held April 9th in Thornton. It was attended by 25-30 people. There were only two comments from public. People in attendance were primarily in support of the project.

CDOT TIGER VII application- CDOT is currently working on a bus on shoulder application for bus travel into downtown Denver from US 36 and I-25. Operational issues are still being worked out before submitting application in June. NATA approves sending a letter in support of project.

SB 272 Proposal - \$3.5B funding would be generated from this legislative proposal but to fund it, \$250M annually would come from asset management program and reduce CDOT's ability to maintain existing roadways.

Johnny Olsen -Moving money away from existing programs in order to fund future capital projects at the expense of other programs like asset management is perhaps not the best strategy.

Discussion: Erik Hansen- The original Senate Bill 228 showed \$2.2B in projects. Why is there a change to \$3.2B? How were projects prioritized?

Herb Atchison-Money for SB 272 was allocated for projects independently. Municipalities and CDOT were not consulted in placing projects in the bill. This will pose a problem in getting local jurisdictions to support this bill moving forward.

Jeff Kullman-Move Colorado will stand strongly against this bill because it doesn't address the foundation of CDOT's funding problems. We must address the foundation of CDOT's funding issue's before "slicing the pie" up further.

Erik Hansen-Citizens are not interested in voting in favor for a bill that adds additional debt load to the state. They have a history of not supporting bills like this. In 2004, when FasTracks was passed, parties crossed lines to support that bill. That doesn't seem to be true with SB 272 which will likely cause its downfall.

Herb Atchison -This bill will not get support from municipalities because they do not agree with identified projects list.

Val Vigil - This is like another T-REX with a lack of projects for our region.

RTD Update

North Metro Rail Update : Ashland Vaughn-Utility relocation is currently underway. They've received delivery of the new rail and will recycle old rail into guard rails where rail line is elevated. 90% design

complete on multiple elements of this phase I project. Work on “Skyway” bridge at National Western Stock Show site will begin soon. At two miles long, this will be the longest bridge in CO.

NMRL Phase 2 Update – Completion of NMRL to EOL. Once RTD has completed their financial analysis, RTD should have news for NATA about RTD’s ability to complete NMRL to EOL.

North Metro Rail station names were recently passed by RTD Board and reference the jurisdiction or landmark near the station and closest major cross street (Eastlake at 124th Station, etc.)

Eagle P3 Project update-Testing has begun with electrification of rail and rolling stock. Rail cars currently being constructed in Philadelphia and will be shipped to CO over the next year. The same cars will be used for NMRL.

Discussion: John Pick-Has project timeline slipped from spring to summer for the bridge over 120th? Ashland Vaughn- Yes, due to design slippage. RTD prefers to keep conservative time estimates, but it could be moved up faster.

Randy Ahrens-Will slippage in achieving major project milestone change the deadline for executing contract extension to get project to SH 7?

Ashland Vaughn-No. It will actually help because it will maintain the design team at the project office for a longer period of time.

Erik Hansen- The most important timeline right now is the current RTD financial analysis. This will determine how much money is available.

Fare Study: Recommendations will be taken to Board in April and Board action is expected to be taken in on May 26th.

Discussion: Aric Otzelberger-Within the US 36 Mayors and Commissioners group, there are major concerns with both the US 3 BRT Operations Plan and Fare Study. These include:

- Some areas, particularly in Westminster and Broomfield, where there is actually a loss of service. Chief among these is direct airport service from the Broomfield/Westminster Park-n-Rides. US 36 MCC will send a letter to the RTD Board requesting they preserve direct airport service from Broomfield/Westminster, amongst other concerns.
- US 36 MCC does not believe it is simple or fair. For example, for two separate service classes at the same station, cost will be less for a bus going to the same location. People will therefore not take “higher” service class because it costs more and would impact ridership and could lead to service cuts

Jeanne Shreve-RTD needs to determine what constitutes a “significant travel savings”. It needs to be made clearer what the time savings is between service classes to incent passengers to pay higher fare for better service.

NATA will send letter to RTD Board stating concerns highlighted above.

New RTD General Manager Search : Judy Lubow- the RTD Board is focusing on Jan. 1 to have GM position permanently filled. David Genova has been appointed to interim GM role. A 5-member committee of RTD Board Members will be in charge of a nationwide GM search. Public is very interested in process, particularly the desired qualifications. RTD will engage public by surveys to be sent out to

organizations to request feedback on desired qualifications and by creating a focus group for CEOs and one for community groups. The RTD website will have a new section devoted to the GM search process.

NATA will submit a letter to request involvement throughout the GM search process.

NATA approved request letter with inclusion that NATA requests opportunity to be involved in all avenues for input, including those stated above.

Sustainable Communities Initiative (SCI) Update: Paul Aldretti

SCI work is largely complete, however, some remaining funds can be used to move recommendations forward and further engage the North Metro Rail corridor. Previous work that went into other corridors will feed into NMRL station planning. By participating, certain areas will achieve Preferred Sustainability Status (PSS) which will allow communities priority if/when they apply for HUD grant dollars in the future. The remaining SCI planning work needs to be completed by July 2015.

Discussion: Jeanne Shreve – This is a great opportunity for NATA to partner for work not only on N. Metro but also I-25. NATA will achieve the following tasks by participating:

- Achieve regional consensus on corridor vision
- Build corridor “profiles” for station areas
- Apply lessons learned from other corridors to N. Metro.
- Preferred Sustainability Status (PSS)
 - US DOT/HUD needs to provide further guidance of points assessed to applications, so NATA can understand the benefits better
 - Future TIGER grant for “Bus on Shoulder” would be benefitted by PSS

Herb Atchison- What do you need from NATA? How much money is available?

Paul Aldretti- Direction is needed to DRCOG staff from interested NATA jurisdictions. \$150K potentially.

Jim Hayes- There are plans that already exist at station areas. How would these studies change them?

Paul Aldretti- SCI would provide further analysis for demographics and “tie in” corridor wide visions for N. Metro Rail with all station area plans.

Erik Hansen- NATA should allow Jeanne Shreve to coordinate with member communities and then provide direction to DRCOG staff on moving SCI work forward.

Closing Comments: Joyce Downing-reminder of April 30th reception for new CDOT Executive Director Shailen Bhatt.

April NATA Board Meeting adjourned at 9:10 AM by NATA Chair Joyce Downing.