

NATA Meeting Minutes
 March 26, 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	Steve O'Dorisio	Adams County Comm.
Randy Ahrens	Broomfield Mayor	Lynn Baca	Brighton Council
Gary Behlen	Erie Staff	Daniel Dick	Federal Heights Council
Shawn Lewis	Longmont Staff	Angela Habben	MNCC
James Hayes	Commerce City Staff	Alberto Garcia	Westminster Council
Kimberly Dall	Brighton Staff	Kent Moorman	Thornton Staff
Aric Otzelberger	Westminster Staff	Paul DesRocher	SCMN
Maria DeAndrea	Commerce City Staff	Joe Smith	Brighton Staff
Karen Stuart	SCMN	John Pick	Northglenn Staff
		Jeanne Shreve	Adams County Staff

Smart Commute (who signed in)

Julie Skeen	Jacobs	Gina McAfee	HDR
Christie DeLuca	Flatiron	Mark Shotkoski	NWP
Shoira Tahirova	Kiewit	Bryan Frantz	Collins
John Guenther	DEA	Bob Marusin	TSH
Denny McCloskey	D&C Home		

Agency Partners (who signed in)

Ron Papsdorf	CDOT	Jason Lucerna	CDOT
Debra Perkins Smith	CDOT	Jane Donovan	RTD
Myron Hora	CDOT	Phil Washington	RTD
Johnny Olson	CDOT	Don Marcucci	CDOT
Jerad Esquibel	CDOT	Lacy Bell	RTD
Rick Clarke	RTD	Judy Lubow	RTD

Guests

Terri Blackmore	NFRMPO	Ina Zisman	PB
David Lewis	S A Miro	Mike Peek	Triunity Engineering

Meeting Opened at 7:31 by Chair Downing

Smart Commute Update- Paul DesRocher, TDM Manager

- **“Rush Hour, Happy Hour” Ride Share Matching Event** scheduled for May 7th at the Wynkoop Brewery in partnership with DRCOG and Downtown Denver Partnership will focus on introducing possible carpool or van pool mates.
- Concierge Commute Promotion –Our ***Drive for Free OR Ride and Relax program offers a*** Chevy Traverse free to an individual willing to begin a “seed van” to market the program and gain exposure to commuters. Smart Commute has leased one van under this program as of 3/24.
- Community and Employer Outreach update – Staffed employer transportation presentation event for St Anthony North at their 84th Avenue location prior to their move to the new Westminster location, and will schedule an employee outreach event with Cummins Diesel in Henderson, Water World employees in Federal Heights in April and Digital Globe in Longmont in May, prior to move in June/July 2015.
- April outreach events will include Adams County Planet Party on the 16th, and Employee Transportation fairs for Avaya and Google.

CDOT Updates

RAMP Projects Update- Debra Perkins-Smith

There are 30 RAMP projects throughout the DRCOG region. CDOT has seen cost increases and on a project-by-project basis they've requested funding from local governments, combining projects, and reducing the scopes of projects to keep projects on budget. The two RAMP projects that are not funded within budget are the I-70E and the I-25 North projects.

I-25 North Segment III- Myron Hora

I-25 North, Segment III is not fully funded. \$55M is currently available through CDOT general funds. Additionally \$12M will come from resurfacing funds, \$3M from HSIP and another \$2M from CDOT's Water Quality Pool for a total of \$72M for the entire project.

This Identified funding will likely construct I-25 managed lanes from 120th to at least 136th; however, CDOT will bid the project to include options to build further to 144th and to E-470. Reaching /serving Hwy 7 is not a likely possibility given current funding.

The current project cost estimates are \$133M to get to E-470.

The deadline for Segment III project construction to begin in November. The ditch just south of 144th is a factor in beginning construction; November is when water is turned off for the season. CDOT cannot work while water is in ditch.

The Segment III project Open House will be held at the Thornton Maintenance and Construction facility on April 9th.

Discussion

Mayor Atchison – Asked if there are known cost estimates for getting to Hwy 7. It is unacceptable that project will not get there. CDOT needs to determine what local jurisdictions need to do in order to get project to Hwy 7 because stopping project at 136th is going to create more problems than solutions.

Johnny Olsen – North I-25 is high on the list for the Governor and new CDOT Executive Director for future projects. However, no additional funding is identified for North I-25 funding beyond the Segment III project. Unless a P3 company comes to the table with money, there are no additional I-25 projects on the horizon. Every project on the RAMP list has been reduced in scope.

Debra Perkins-Smith – Regarding SB 288, \$200M was originally allocated. It's now down to \$90M..

Jeanne Shreve – Right of Way (ROW) acquisition must be a part of the current I-25 project because future development could impede it.

Debra Perkins-Smith – Referencing TIGER funding- Colorado has not been successful in getting TIGER projects as compared to other states.

Ron Papsdorf – Highway projects specifically have not been successful in the TIGER grant process. There has been a greater focus on neighborhood scale, and multi-modal projects. It may not be a worthwhile use of time to submit a TIGER application for I-25.

Mayor Pro Tem Val Vigil– CDOT is not putting enough emphasis on the fact that I-25 is a major freight corridor. That emphasis could help make the case for additional funding by reducing freight demand on I-25.

Mayor Randy Ahrens – US 36 was a TIGER funded project. Is there an opportunity to get transit and bike/ped elements involved with the North I-25 projects to make it more TIGER friendly?

Myron Hora– Getting ROW donated to CDOT via local jurisdictions is helpful for reducing project costs.

North I-25, Segment II Project Update:

- Majority of sound walls should be completed by summer 2015 to 120th.
- Substantial Completion date is Dec. 2015.

RTD Update-Rick Clarke

FasTracks has \$5.76B in construction completed or currently underway. Five FasTracks projects will open in 2016. RTD and CDOT are working collaboratively on US 36 BRT. In 2009, when Phil Washington took over, RTD had no projects underway.

EAGLE P3 Project is RTD's largest, with \$2.2B budget, is on time and on budget.

April 2015 will begin dynamic testing for East Rail project to DIA and the new Flatiron Flyer for U.S. 36 BRT will debut to the public January 2016.

North Metro Rail will begin construction in Spring 2015.

Three corridors: Central Line, Southwest Rail and Northwest Rail are all awaiting funding/construction. The South West Corridor is likely the first in the cue. Federal grant money is \$92M. The City of Lone Tree, developers, and County will be providing \$42M including \$25M in cash. Only \$66M of RTD funds will be spent for the \$206M project. A contractor selection will occur in spring 2015.

The Central Corridor project did apply for a TIGER grant, but was not successful and remains unfunded.

The North Metro Rail Corridor to 162nd is estimated to be \$180M. The construction bid from the current contractor includes an option to complete the line to 162nd but will expire at the end of 2015.

All future funding is largely based on sales tax projections. RTD is working with CU's Leeds School of Business to get professional input on tax projections. Based on this, RTD will have better understanding of what additional projects can be completed. The Annual Program Evaluation (APE) will be before the Board of Directors in June.

Discussion

Mayor Pro Tem Vigil – 124th was not designed to be an end of line station. There is not enough room in that location to store trains and provide vehicular accessibility to the station.

General Manager Phil Washington – There are two targets for North Metro Rail. First, to pick up contractor option by end of 2015 to get to Hwy 7 and second, to work with the contractor before they “demobilize” from the project in 2018. RTD wants to get to the end of line for the NMRL.

Karen Stuart – “Extension” is not a word that NATA would use to characterize North Metro Rail to Hwy 7 because getting the project to Hwy 7 is a part of the original FastTrack's plan. If the option to complete the line is exercised by RTD, will that piece from 124th to 162nd be completed by 2018?

Rick Clarke- Probably not.

If option is not exercised, what is the likelihood of the project moving forward in the near future?

Rick Clarke –The current price for North Metro Rail completion is a good one that RTD would like exercise before it expires in 2015. The design for getting rail to Hwy 7 is an imminent issue now, because designers will wrap up soon.

RTD Fare Study –Lacy Bell

The fare study process began in 2014 in order to make the fare structure easier for public to understand and use. The Board policy is to evaluate fare costs every three years. In addition to fare simplification, the fare is also being increased in order to meet increasing costs of operation.

Ideas currently proposed are to eliminate transfers by making fare based on time rather than number of trips. A Day Pass will be based on the cost of two transit trips rather than the current structure, which is three transit trips. The cost will be based on the service type (regional, local, rail, etc.) rather than distance. The Smartcard will be rolled out in 2016 and will be slightly cheaper (.10c-.25c) than if paying by cash.

RTD will also be partnering with local non-profits to provide reduced fares to vulnerable populations. The public hearings are upcoming throughout Denver metro area. See the RTD website for information. The final recommendation to the RTD Board consideration is scheduled for April 2015.

NATA Board Recognition- RTD General Manager Phil Washington

NATA acknowledged Phil's outstanding leadership and service during his tenure at RTD as the general manager. Phil commented, “We will get North Metro Rail to Hwy 7.” He also reminded everyone about the upcoming Stand Up 4 Transportation, the national movement to bring visibility for a transportation

funding bill passed. He urged everyone to participate in the events scheduled throughout Denver metro area to highlight the importance of getting a long term bill passed.

Search Committee for new RTD GM

A request for NATA representation on the Search process for the new GM position.

Mayor Atchison – Spoke with Chuck Sisk and he mentioned possibility of getting involved as part of a citizen outreach effort.

Karen Stuart – Made a recommendation that Jeanne develop and send a letter to RTD that NATA be involved in the GM search and evaluation process. Recommendation was approved.

Sustainable Communities Initiative (SCI)

Jeanne Shreve – As part of NATA partnership with the SCI, NATA requests approval to ask DRCOG to use the remaining SCI funds into Aug 2015 and that funds be used for vision statements for the North Metro Rail Line and I-25 corridor.

Commission O’Doriso – Would it be helpful to have all local jurisdictions send a similar letter?

Jeanne Shreve – Will send out draft letter to DRCOG as a template.

Motion passes to send out letter to all jurisdictions and to DRCOG.

Reception for new CDOT Executive Director

Shalen Blatt will be introduced to the NATA membership at a scheduled reception at ACED on April 30th.

Karen Stuart – It is important to have a good attendance from members of ACED, Smart Commute, NATA, North Metro Chamber, and other businesses to show the new ED the representation of the North Area. Organizations are asked to send out information as far and wide as possible to get good attendance.

North I-25 Coalition Leave Behind

NATA has put together a “leave behind” for representatives to give to congressional members during a trip to Washington DC outlining NATA members and priorities

Additional Comments

Karen Stuart – RTD Director Larry Hoy will host a Stand Up 4 Transportation event on March 31 from 7-9a at the Wagon Rd. PnR as part of the Stand Up 4 Transportation tour. Attendees are asked to sign the bus to show support for a federal transportation funding bill.

Meeting adjourned at 9:06 by Chair Downing