

NATA Board Meeting Minutes

March 27, 2014

Metro North Chamber of Commerce

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Chair Erik Hansen called the meeting to order at 7:35 A.M.

Those in attendance include:

NATA Board Members/NATA Staff (who signed in):

Erik Hansen, Chair	AdCo Commissioner	Karen Stuart	SCMN TMO
Steve Durian	Federal Heights Staff	Gary Behlen	Erie Staff
Debra Baskett	Broomfield Staff	Shawn Lewis	Longmont Staff
Beth Martinez-Humenick	Thornton Council	Joyce Thomas	Federal Heights Council
Sean Ford	Commerce City Mayor	Phil Greenwald	Longmont Staff
Brook Svoboda	Northglenn Staff	Jeanne Shreve	Adams County Staff
James Hayes	Commerce City Staff	Herb Atchison	Westminster Mayor
Val Vigil	Thornton Council	Joyce Hunt	Thornton Staff
Joe Smith	Brighton Staff	Gene Putman	Thornton Staff
Barry Gore	ACED	Aric Otzelberger	Westminster Staff
Maria D'Andrea	Commerce City Staff	Lynn Baca	Brighton Council

SCMN Members (who signed in):

Wes Goff	Atkins	Bill Maestas	Maestas, Inc.
Tonya Sandman	Flatiron Construction	Denny McCloskey	DSC Home Solutions
Mark Shotkosk	Northwest Parkway		

Agency Partners and Others (who signed in):

Larry Hoy	RTD Director	Lindsay Smith	RTD Staff
Jane Donovan	RTD Staff	Ina Zisman	CDOT Staff
Myron Hora	CDOT Staff	Paul Solano	RTD Director

Unanimous approval of February 2014 Meeting Minutes (with change of date)

**NATA member updates on Congressional Meetings in D.C.**

Director Paul Solano of RTD mentioned his visit to Congressman Perlmutter's office to promote the completion of construction of NMRC to end line at 162<sup>nd</sup>. He also spoke about support for changing the definition of BRT language in reauthorization of the transportation bill so that Colorado BRT projects like US36 BRT qualify for federal funding.

Thornton Councilmember Val Vigil spoke about the upcoming reauthorization of the transportation funding bill which will provide more money for planning and more TIGER funding but the requirements are more onerous. Joyce Hunt mentioned there is only \$35M for all of U.S. in planning grants under

TIGER and the criteria seems focused more on inner cities projects. Thornton had discussions with Senator Bennett about increasing the trust fund to \$50B for funding that would work like TIFIA loans.

Westminster Mayor Herb Atchison went as part of the US 36 Coalition. He mentioned the North I-25 Coalition is looking for funds taking a page from 36 Commuting Solutions' lobbying efforts. He also talked about the P3 project with Plenary on US36 and noted that the Drive Sunshine Institute has recently filed a lawsuit against HPTE against P3 legislation. The lawsuit is currently in Court of Appeals.

### **Smart Commute Update**

- Status of startup grant - Original CMAQ grant administered by Thornton, will end next month.
- New CMAQ grant has begun reimbursement and will be used to support new TDM program for the I-25 Express Lanes Project.
- Requests for Proposals (RFP's) are in development for the creation of vanpool program and mobile app development as part of this TDM program.
- SCMN's second annual Transportation Forum is currently in development to take place June 26 at the Double Tree Hotel in Thornton. ACED and MNCC will co-sponsor the event.
- TDM Manager Paul DesRocher reported business outreach activities currently underway and requested additional participation from NATA members.

### **Standing Agenda Items**

RTD-RTD Director Larry Hoy

- North Metro Rail Line groundbreaking. Directors were pleased with the turnout and program. 300 attended
- Denver Union Station (DUS) opening festivities May 9-11.
- The Crawford Hotel at DUS will open July 12<sup>th</sup>.
- Six FasTracks projects under construction in Denver metro.
- New definition for BRT being negotiated with FTA in order for Denver area to better compete for funding.
- Director Paul Solano reiterated the NMRC line needs to be constructed to 162<sup>nd</sup>.

CDOT- Myron Hora

- US 85 Planning and Environmental Linkage (PEL) study currently underway. Scheduled as an 18-month process.
- Flood Recovery office in Loveland shutting down this week. Staff to be reassigned.
- North I-25 Segment 3 (between 120<sup>th</sup> and SH 7) – CDOT asking for extension of RAMP funding decision to end of year. CDOT needs scope and schedule of project strategies for I-25. \$4.5 M identified for pre-construction activities Segment 3.
- Ina Zisman is retiring after 30 years at CDOT. NATA recognized her work on N. I-25.

### **NATA Action Item: Request formation of subcommittee to review NATA By-laws**

Tasks for this committee will be: 1. Addressing membership, 2. Succession in leadership; 3. Staff support issues; 4. Appointments for influence and advocacy; and, 5. Policy and language consistency in By-Laws and supporting documents.

A by-laws subcommittee formation was approved with initial members: Herb Atchison, Joyce Downing, Randy Ahrens, Barry Gore, Erik Hansen, Jeanne Shreve and Karen Stuart.

Additional Comments on efforts to revised bylaws: 1. Are TMO members also individual members of NATA or is Smart Commute the member representing the TMO members; 2. RTD is not a member of NATA; NATA staff work currently falls to the jurisdiction of serving Chair, which results in smaller jurisdictions not having adequate staff resources to assist a NATA chairperson.

Comments regarding need for appointments for regional advocacy and influence: NATA representation on RTC- Discussion on whether Deb Obermeyer vacated seat can be filled with another north area representative. Barry Gore nominated. Shreve to make call to inquire whether seat is available or has already been filled. RTD and CDOT have appointment to RTC but they do not currently represent north area. Erik Hansen suggests that NATA must take initiative to both nominate and work to elect north area rep. Getting representation on RTC should be part of priorities for NATA.

### **Discussion and Associated Action Items on 2014 priorities**

1. Near-term Schedule-NATA not submitting I-25 for TIGER grant; instead will ask CDOT to apply for a planning grant for the 270 corridor.
2. Review summary of priorities, strategies and near-term Board ACTION ITEMS for each project
3. Discussion on additional network submittals for the DRCOG Fiscally Constrained Plan
4. Discuss when it is the appropriate time for RTD and CDOT to provide DRCOG an update on RAM and RAMP funding

### **NATA ACTION ITEMS:**

1. Approve staff moving forward with 2014 Strategies working with DRCOG, CDOT and RTD
  - a. Motion carries
2. Approve Draft Letter to Don Hunt to sever I-25 RAMP projects to move forward with next phase of I-25
  - a. Motion carries.
3. Approve Draft letter to Don Hunt to apply for TIGER VI planning grant for I-270 EA (contingent upon locals getting information to CDOT for April 4th deadline).
  - a. Motion carries.
  - b. Discussion: EA will not jeopardize previously agreed upon I-70 alignment. Letter should state EA to ensure appropriate connection to US 36 managed lanes. Managed lanes may be considered for I-270.
4. Direction on position for NAMS study
  - a. Discussion: NATA supports S.H. 119 as the top BRT priority and language that retains NWR in its entirety in the FasTracks plan. US 36 group will not support any plan that reduces funding for NWR commitment and has not agreed to support any other BRT investment beyond SH 119.
  - b. Beth: we should not have a priority order after S.H. 119, but should remain neutral.
  - c. Erik: 120<sup>th</sup> and S.H.7 are more important than U.S. 287.
  - d. Jeanne: Under our work plan, 120<sup>th</sup> and S.H. 7 are 'tier one' priorities while U.S. 287 is a 'tier two' priority.

- e. Gene Putnam: If BRT moves forward on 120<sup>th</sup> and SH 7, it should connect with NMR stations on those corridors
- f. FasTracks funding cannot be used for BRT without approval by voters.
- g. Shawn Lewis: – Motion to leave language as currently exists but move Hwy 287 BRT to “Tier one” priority.
- h. Not supporting SH 119 BRT will again signal that North Area is not in agreement.
- i. Erik Hansen: NATA and 36 Coalition don’t always have to agree. Groups have different priorities and this conversation is about the specific need to provide comment on NAMS and not our overall work plan, which all three priorities (287, S.H. 7 and 120<sup>th</sup>) are identified.
- j. Lewis disagrees; conversation is one in the same.
- k. Joyce Hunt: Importance of connectivity of transit to east side of I-25.
- l. Lewis withdraws earlier motion in light of motion for NATA to support US 36 Coalition priorities
- m. It is decided NATA staff will draft position on NAMS and circulate to Board members prior to April 8<sup>th</sup> NAMS meeting.

Chair Hansen adjourns meeting at 9:49 AM