

NATA BOARD MEETING MINUTES

March 28, 2013

Chair Erik Hansen called the meeting to order at 7:35 am. Those in attendance:

NATA Board Members/NATA Staff (who signed in)

Karen Stuart	SCMN TMO	Phil Greenwald	Longmont
Aric Otzelberger	Westminster	Bob Briggs	Westminster
Sharon Richardson	Federal Heights	Denny McCloskey	Broomfield
Barry Gore	ACED	Jim Hayes	Commerce City
Gene Putman	Thornton	Kevin Standbridge	Broomfield
Joe Smith	Brighton	Joyce Hunt	Thornton
Nancy McNally	Westminster	Katie Witt	Longmont
Jim Benson	Commerce City	Sean Ford	Commerce City
Steve Durian	Federal Heights	Erik Hansen	Adams County
Gary Behlen	Erie	Val Vigil	Thornton
Heidi Williams	Thornton	Matt LeCerf	Frederick
Shawn Lewis	Longmont	Lynn Baca	Brighton
Lynn Baca	Brighton	Pat Quinn	Broomfield
Jeanne Shreve	Adams County		

SCMN TMO/Others in Attendance (who signed in)

Gina McAfee	HDR	Mike Turner	RTD
Reza Akhavan	Jacobs/FasTracks	Matt Christensen	Kiewitt
Tony Marcello	David Evans	Paul Solano	RTD Director
Bob Sakaguchi	Jacobs	Carrie Wallis	Atkins
Rebecca White	CDOT	Mark Shotkoski	Northwest Parkway

Administrative Items

1. Because of the large attendance and lengthy agenda, Chair Hansen suggested individual introductions be skipped.
2. The minutes of the January 2013 meeting were unanimously approved. The February 2013 meeting minutes were amended to properly reflect Reza Akhavan was in attendance, then approved unanimously.
3. The City of Federal Heights was welcomed as a new member of NATA after a motion by Nancy McNally and a second by Denny McCloskey to include Federal Heights in NATA membership was unanimously approved. Sharon Richardson from Federal Heights commented that she will be representing Federal Heights at the NATA meetings and was pleased to have her community be part of the coalition.
4. NATA board expressed appreciation to the Metro North Chamber for the use of their facilities and further acknowledged both the Chamber's outgoing representative Howard Gelt, and announced Preston Gibson as the Chamber's new representative on NATA.

Update on Members' trips to D.C. and the NATA 'Leave behind' for North Metro

(NATA staff provided member jurisdictions with a leave behind brochure with facts and updated information on the North Metro Rail Corridor.)

Mayor Quinn of Broomfield reported their delegation met with Congressmen Polis and Perlmutter. He felt the leave behind was well-received. Mayor Heidi Williams of Thornton reported their delegation dropped off the leave behind at the Congressional offices they visited.

Commissioner Hansen commented NATA should formulate a more strategic plan for lobbying in the future. Mayor Quinn followed up making the comments the U.S. 36 has successfully developed a strategic lobbying process and supports NATA pursuing a process as well.

Smart Commute Metro North TMO Update.

Karen reported the TMO organization has received the 501(c) 3 non-profit tax designation from the IRS. She introduced Smart Commute's new intern, Michelle Caprioli, a graduate student in urban planning at UCD and shared with everyone that Michelle is enthusiastic and talented. Karen welcomed new TMO members Northwest Parkway, Urban Frontier, Kiewit and the law offices of Icenogle, Seaver and Pogue. The first edition TMO quarterly e-newsletter will be coming out in a few days, and festivals and community events are going onto the outreach calendar.

Save the Date: June 27th for a Transportation Forum breakfast co-sponsored by Smart Commute, Adams County Economic Development and Metro North Chamber!

CDOT Updates.

Myron Hora, Steve Olson, Rebecca White of CDOT and Mike Cheroutes of HPTE provided the CDOT update.

The RAMP is a onetime fund of \$1.5B. Funding will be a competitive application process, similar to TIGER with 4 categories for projects: operations, devolution, public/public, and public/private. Preliminary applications are due May 1st. Final applications are due July 1st. Final decisions will be made by the CDOT Commission in September. To keep up to date on RAMP, Myron suggested NATA frequently visit CDOT's website on the process.

[Click here for link to CDOT's RAMP information.](http://www.coloradodot.info/programs/RAMP/weekly-update)
<http://www.coloradodot.info/programs/RAMP/weekly-update>

NATA vice Chair Val Vigil asked how new projects will be dealt with in the DRCOG Fiscally Constrained Plan. Myron commented there are two parts: first, CDOT will hold existing TIP/STIP projects for FY 2014-2015 and not change these program years; second, new projects can be submitted because additional funds are being made available through budgeting process. CDOT will consider new projects that are not in Metrovision.

I-70 EIS

CDOT's Rebecca White talked about upcoming corridor wide public meetings for I-70 East which will address the section from Brighton Blvd. to Tower Road. The preferred alternative is to remove the

viaduct, lower the highway, and partially cover the opening. This preferred alternative will be officially addressed in public meetings on April 10th and 11th. A supplemental draft of the EIS is expected in late summer/ early fall, with a ROD in 2015 and construction in 2016.

Jim Hayes commented that by making this announcement at the public meetings, it will finally, “put to bed” the idea of re-routing I-70 via I-270”. Rebecca expressed CDOT’s appreciation for the letter of support last year on the preferred alternative and said it was “very helpful”.

HPTE

Mike Cheroutes of HPTE talked about options to fund and finance congestion relief projects like 270. HPTE is looking at new capacity managed lanes.

Mike commented HPTE will be evaluating various options over the next few months on how to fund I-70 and I-270. I-270 is a key part of the evaluation as it may be utilized for diverting construction traffic on I-70. HPTE anticipates having some additional information on this in the early fall 2013.

Commissioner Hansen asked if there’s a desire for managed lanes north of 120th. Mike said, “Yes”. Commissioner Hansen then emphasized NATA’s interest in using excess revenues generated on corridors and there is a need for these funds to stay within their respective corridors. Mike confirmed this is the case and that HPTE will maintain a collaborative process to determine how to spend excess revenue within the corridor it is generated. Mike also mentioned the I-70 east toll & revenue (T&R) evaluation is underway as well as a T&R for the North I-25 interim managed lanes project to 120th. T&R studies will be conducted on a case-by-case basis.

Steve Olson gave an update on the I-25 Managed Lanes project. The FOR is at 90% design. The project will go to ad late May or June. The 18-month construction is expected to start in October of this year. CDOT will maintain 3 lanes of traffic peak hours and weekdays, with the expectation of some limited lane reductions on nights/weekends. Commissioner Hansen encouraged CDOT to work with Smart Commute to assist with public outreach. Mayor Quinn mentioned the CDOT mobile app launched in February for I-25. Rebecca said she will have an update for us on this app next month.

Myron Hora talked about using RAMP funding to do a design to extend the managed lanes from 120th to SH-7, then moving those managed lanes further north from SH-7 to SH-66. CDOT Has sent a letter of interest to FHWA to investigate the potential of converting one general purpose lane in each direction into HOV /managed toll lanes; the third lane was constructed with the anticipation of change to managed lanes eventually.

Kevin Standbridge mentioned we expect to see toll lanes in the south area of Denver as well as everywhere in the north. Erik Hansen said he is not in favor of turning general purpose lanes into managed lanes; *adding* toll lanes is a different issue. Gene Putman commented the managed lanes should be modeled to S.H. 52 to determine if both general purpose improvements as well as managed lanes will be needed in the future. Commissioner Hansen then stated NATA supports the 2035 vision that includes both general purpose and managed lanes and understands CDOT is looking to tolls as a way to help pay for needed improvements; however, even though MAP-21 allows it, CDOT needs consensus from local jurisdictions before moving forward with this concept.

Myron thanked everyone for their feedback.

Myron Hora announced FHU and Atkins will be doing a kick-off meeting for US-85 PEL soon.

RTD Updates.

Julie Skeen gave an update of the NAMS. RTD will issue a notice to proceed any day now. They are setting up a kick-off meeting; and are establishing the policy committee and the technical committee.

Julie gave an update on the North Metro Unsolicited Proposal. RTD has determined the proposal has merit and so will move forward with the competitive procurement process. The RFP will be accelerated to this summer. RTD will stop design on the AECOM contract in mid-April. There was a brief discussion on NATA representatives being included in the drafting of the RFP.

The Parity bill passed out of the House committee. Erik Hansen and Larry Hoy gave supportive testimony on the bill. There was discussion on further support by NATA for parity. Additionally the Chamber voted on Marcy 27th to support the Parity Bill.

RTD District K Director Paul Solano mentioned a non-profit group will purchase RTD property in Ft. Lupton.

Julie Skeen asked NATA to be a signatory as part of the Regional Working Group (RWG) for FTA on New Starts guidance. Mayor Quinn made the motion and Councilmember Katie Witt seconded the motion followed by a unanimous vote to approve.

NATA 2013 Work Plan Update

Erik Hansen gave an overview of the Strategic Planning Committee (SPC) meeting earlier in the month. The SPC discussed expanding the focus and vision for NATA, embedding members into committees that have regional influence. The committee discussed what is the appropriate jurisdiction expansion for NATA membership. As part of the opportunity to influence Lynn Baca suggested NATA should do a press release acknowledging our milestones. The SPC supports asking to be part of creating the North Metro RFP with Jeanne Shreve as the NATA rep. Nancy McNally made the motion, Barry Gore seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

Discussion and Action on Potential RAMP Projects

Staff first compiled a 'wish list' of projects from NATA jurisdictions. The wish list was then generally prioritized using the base questions for RAMP with two additional questions: 1. is the project on a NATA strategic corridor; 2. Are the projects geographically equitable. Using this criteria, NATA staff identified 5 projects. The process for selecting projects for NATA to endorse was simply based on answering "yes" to all the questions. Jim Hayes asked what if a jurisdiction's project is not on a NATA strategic corridor? Jeanne replied, this was the simple process that was developed based on the priority corridors NATA had previously identified. Joyce Hunt suggested we identify priority project using the RAMP categories. Erik Hansen stated we should focus on a priority list to be effective in our endorsement. He then asked staff to reconvene to develop a recommendation to the Strategic Planning Committee (SPC). Jeanne said meetings with both CDOT Regions will be set up to discuss the projects, as well as reviewed at the NATA staff meeting on the 11th to develop the recommendation to the SPC on the 19th. The revised list will then be brought back to NATA for Action at the April meeting on the 25th.