

North Area Transportation Alliance Board

Summary Minutes
September 27, 2012

Chair Nancy McNally called the meeting to order at 7:32 am at the Metro North Chamber of Commerce. Introductions were made around the room. Those in attendance for this meeting were:

Katie Witt	Longmont	Erik Hansen	Adams County
Barry Gore	ACED	Brook Svoboda	Northglenn
Jeff Kullman	ACED	Bill Simmons	Northglenn
James Hayes	Commerce City	Kevin Standbridge	Broomfield
Deborah Obermeyer	Metro North Chamber	Gene Putman	Thornton
Nancy McNally	Westminster	Jeanne Shreve	Adams County
Pat Quinn	Broomfield	Jonathan Perlmutter	Metro North Chamber
Joe Smith	Brighton	Karen Stuart	Smart Commute Metro North
Val Vigil	Thornton	Aric Otzelberger	Westminster
Phil Greenwald	Longmont		

Others in Attendance:

Larry Warner	Parsons Brinkerhoff	Julie Skeen	RTD FasTracks
Jane Donovan	RTD	Cheryl Hauger	RTD Board Candidate Dist. I
Mike Turner	RTD	Michelle Brier	RTD
Gary Shea	Westminster Progressive HOA		

I. Minutes

- a. The summary of the minutes for August 23 were reviewed. Karen Stuart asked that the meeting minutes be updated to reflect her attendance. The minutes were approved unanimously with that correction.

II. New Business

- a. Status Update on NATA Resolution Passed by DRCOG Board – Gene Putman briefed the Board on the status of the NATA resolution. RTC tabled the resolution and the DRCOG Board approved a motion that does not approve of RTC’s action, so the resolution is going back to the RTC. NATA Staff is unsure of how RTC will respond. RTC recommended forming a committee with one member from each corridor to look at wordsmithing the resolution. Mr. Putman and Val Vigil offered to do research on what RTC’s role is in a broader sense and what happens when

RTC and the DRCOG Board are in disagreement. Jeanne Shreve pointed out that representation on the RTC is weighted more heavily with southern metropolitan area members. Ms. Shreve stated that NATA should work with CDOT and RTC to improve representation of the northern metropolitan area on the RTC. Erik Hansen recommended having a meeting with Governor Hickenlooper to discuss north metro concerns. The Board agreed it would be good to have a business person make the contact to the Governor's Office to set up the meeting that would include a couple of business people and elected officials. It was suggested that Howard Gelt could be a good individual to reach out on this meeting. Deborah Obermeyer offered to work with Mr. Gelt on setting up this type of meeting.

- b. NATA Transportation Task Force Update – Karen Stuart briefed the Board on the Task Force's recent activities, which included meeting with three different consortiums of private firms interested in the North Metro Commuter Rail project. All of the groups stated that getting to 72nd Avenue is a key stepping stone and are hopeful that RTD will be able to identify funds to help pay for construction of this segment of the line. Kevin Standbridge asked why the firm who submitted the unsolicited proposal did not get it. Ms. Stuart responded that their proposal was based on a successful sales tax issue. Brook Svoboda stated that a key consideration is whether private equity could help bridge the funding/debt service gap over the next 10-15 years. Pat Quinn stated that North Metro needs to be next in line and the Southeast Extension cannot get in front of North Metro. Ms. Stuart stated that it is clear that unsolicited proposals are a preferable way to do business for RTD and we should anticipate RTD receiving one or more in the future. Mr. Standbridge suggested that NATA make a request to RTD to ensure that a NATA representative has a seat at the table when an unsolicited proposal for North Metro Commuter Rail is received. Chair McNally and other Board members approved this

approach. Aric Otzelberger offered to draft a letter for Chair McNally's signature and to send it to RTD. Mr. Svoboda stated that NATA needs to look at special improvement districts or transit improvement districts, as these could help a New Starts application. Ms. Stuart offered to take a look at these.

- c. Tower Road to Pena Connection – James Hayes briefed the Board on the background of Commerce City's IGA with the City and County of Denver and the E-470 Authority as it relates to the Tower Road to Pena connection (last leg of the ramp). The E-470 Authority is willing to honor their commitment and pay for the design and construction of this last segment of ramp. However, the City and County of Denver has not been willing to honor their commitment from 1992, citing concerns about the FAA and non-airport traffic. Denver paid for a traffic study that showed no significant impacts. On behalf of Commerce City, Mr. Hayes asked the NATA Board to communicate with Denver to honor their commitment to the project. Erik Hansen suggested that NATA prepare a letter to the City and County of Denver. Chair McNally and the NATA Board agreed. NATA Staff will prepare this letter and send to Mayor Hancock.

- d. HOV2+ vs. HOV3+ for Managed Lanes – Aric Otzelberger and Kevin Standbridge briefed the NATA Board on discussions that the U.S. 36 Mayors and Commissioners Coalition have been having with HPTE (Mike Cheroutes) on HOV policies for the U.S. 36 Managed Lanes project. HPTE is interested in pursuing a policy where, in order to ride free in the managed lanes, a vehicle would have to contain three or more individuals (versus the current 2+ policy). Mr. Otzelberger and Mr. Standbridge discussed policy considerations with the anticipation that HPTE/CDOT will be engaging in these discussions with the NATA Board in the very near future for the I-25 Managed Lanes project.

- e. NATA Considerations for “NW Subarea Mobility Plan” – Kevin Standbridge and Aric Otselberger briefed the NATA Board on the latest discussions, scope considerations and other details related to the forthcoming Northwest Area Mobility Study (RTD). A key consideration for NATA is the possible connection to Longmont via the North Metro line (versus the Northwest). Julie Skeen stated that RTD legal counsel’s opinion is that such an alignment change would require a vote of the people. NATA will be engaged in this forthcoming study with much more to come.

- f. Letter of Appreciation for Reza Akhavan – Gene Putman highlighted Mr. Akhavan’s departure from CDOT to Jacobs Engineering and offered to invite him to the October NATA meeting and present him with a letter of appreciation for his service and work with NATA as Region 6 Director. The NATA Board agreed this was a good idea.

- g. Smart Commute Metro North (NATA TMO) Executive Director’s Report – Karen Stuart – Karen shared highlights of her work activities and highlighted the candidate forums for Districts I and K that Smart Commute Metro North coordinated, along with many other meetings and activities.

- h. Other Business – Jane Donovan provided an update on the North Metro Commuter Rail project. RTD is working on final design to 72nd Avenue and recently committed \$20 million to expansion of commuter rail maintenance facility to accommodate build-out of the line. Val Vigil asked why CDOT is resurfacing I-25 south of 84th Avenue. NATA Staff did not know and offered to look into this and respond to the Board. Joe Smith brought up the Northeast Area Transportation Evaluation and asked that NATA does not lose sight of this.

The next NATA meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 25, starting at 7:30 am at Metro North Chamber Offices.

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 am. Thank you to Metro North Chamber of Commerce for hosting the meeting.