

North Area Transportation Alliance Board

Summary Minutes

August 23, 2012

Chair Nancy McNally called the meeting to order at 7:30 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	Wayne Dodge	Northglenn
James Hayes	Commerce City	Kevin Standbridge	Broomfield
Howard Gelt	Metro North Chamber	Gene Putman	Thornton
Nancy McNally	Westminster	Jeanne Shreve	Adams County
Pat Quinn	Broomfield	Jonathan Perlmutter	Metro North Chamber
Jim Benson	Commerce City	Heidi Williams	Thornton
Joyce Hunt	Thornton	Aric Otzelberger	Westminster
Phil Greenwald	Longmont		

Others in Attendance:

Monte Whaley	Denver Post	Julie Skeen	RTD FasTracks
Jane Donovan	RTD	Larry Hoy	RTD Board of Directors, District J
Mike Turner	RTD	Michelle Brier	RTD
Guillermo Serna	Commerce City Resident	Ed Icenogle	ISD
Anne Callison	American Mag-Lev Transit	Tony Morris	American Mag-Lev Transit
Kirk Webb	CDOT, Region 6	Rebecca White	CDOT, HQ

I. Minutes

- a. The summary of the minutes for June 28 and July 19, 2012, were reviewed. No changes were necessary and the minutes were approved.

II. New Business

- a. Strategies for Priority Transportation Projects – Ed Icenogle delivered a special guest presentation on the C-470 Coalition’s process to select options and funding strategies for potential capacity projects on the corridor. Mr. Icenogle discussed the benefits and drawbacks of different governance structures for transportation funding entities and shared a matrix that compares powers, funding options, etc. for these different

governance structures. Mr. Icenogle also discussed public private partnership (P3) agreements and considerations.

- b. RTD FasTracks Update – The Board discussed the NATA Resolution on regional equity that was considered, amended and passed by the DRCOG Board of Directors (27-13). Board members stated that the successful passage of this resolution is a repudiation of the RTD Board’s current policy of “build as much as you can, as fast as you can.” Commissioner Hansen stated that “equity” should be defined by transit service overall, not just dollars spent through FasTracks. This recognizes significant investments in other projects in other regions, such as T-REX. Mayor McNally stressed that NATA needs to emphasize how much NATA communities are paying and will pay into FasTracks. Mayor Quinn stated that the key issue needs to be that the Southeast Extension project should not go next and NATA should make that clear. Discussion ensued regarding speculation on the amount of funding capacity RTD might have left in the future following the commitment to I-225. There is great uncertainty, but it is very likely that there is little debt capacity left for the future. The NATA Board agreed that RTD’s highest priority should be getting rail service to 72nd Avenue so RTD could pursue federal funding opportunities for the rest of the line. RTD Director Hoy stated that he believes RTD’s focus is turning to 72nd Avenue and Julie Skeen stated she would discuss this in more detail with senior staff. Mayor McNally asked if RTD has been talking with CDOT about a potential ballot issue. Julie Skeen stated that RTD is waiting for CDOT to work through their process and considerations, but RTD is willing to work with CDOT. Rebecca White stated that CDOT is looking at a variety of considerations involving a potential statewide ballot issue (gas tax) and also a metro-wide issue to address congestion.

- c. Update on I-70 (East) EIS – Rebecca White and Kirk Webb from CDOT were present to provide an update on the I-70 (East) EIS process. CDOT is planning to re-issue the EIS and two years of environmental work is anticipated. CDOT hopes that construction would begin in four to five years. The primary consideration for NATA is a proposal by private interests to re-route I-70 (east) along I-270 and I-76. This would require a 12-14 lane facility and cost \$4 billion, compared to \$2 billion for maintaining the existing alignment under the option currently being considered in the draft EIS. The option under consideration includes lowering the highway and putting “caps” on the highway in certain areas. The NATA Board directed NATA Staff to draft a letter for the Chair’s signature opposing a potential re-route and supporting the option currently being considered in the draft EIS.

- d. NATA Resolution for RTD – The NATA Board considered the resolution that was prepared for RTD. The resolution asks RTD to acknowledge its commitment to the DRCOG Resolution on regional equity, that RTD include (in its Annual Report) building the North Metro Rail Line to 72nd Avenue by 2018 and completing the line by 2025, that RTD engage stakeholders and the private sector to look at “out of the box” options and that RTD continue to work with stakeholders in the Northwest Corridor on BRT and rail segmenting cost estimates by the end of 2012. Mayor Quinn moved for approval. Commissioner Hansen seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously. The NATA Board then discussed getting representatives to the upcoming RTD Board meeting and potential strategies to communicate NATA’s interests, concerns, etc. with the RTD Board.

- e. Smart Commute Metro North (NATA TMO) Executive Director’s Report – Karen Stuart – Karen shared highlights of her work activities and highlighted the Smart Commuter Metro North TMO Strategic Task Force.

The group is meeting with a variety of private construction firms that are interested in a potential partnership for the North Metro Commuter Rail project. The Task Force has already met with several firms and is continuing to meet with others. The Task Force will vet the firms and then engage the NATA Board on considerations moving forward.

The next NATA meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 27, starting at 7:30 am at Metro North Chamber Offices.

The meeting adjourned at 9:13 am. Thank you to Metro North Chamber of Commerce for hosting the meeting.