

NATA Board Meeting Minutes

October 22, 2015

7:30-9:00am

Adams County Economic Development, 12200 Pecos Street, Westminster

Welcome by Chair Joyce Downing –Meeting called to order at 7:35.

Introductions

NATA Members (who signed in)

Val Vigil	Thornton Council		
Randy Ahrens	Broomfield Mayor	TJ Dlubac	Firestone Staff
Kevin Forgett	Thornton Staff	Kimberly Dall	Brighton Staff
Barbara Opie	Westminster Staff	Daniel Dick	Federal Heights Council
Shawn Lewis	Longmont Staff	Lynn Baca	Brighton Council
James Hayes	Commerce City Staff	Jeanne Shreve	Adams County Staff
Herb Atchison	Westminster Mayor	Kent Moorman	Thornton Staff
Steve O’Dorisio	Adams Cty Commission	Paul DesRocher	SCMN
Karen Stuart	SCMN	Erik Hansen	Adams Cty Commission
Barry Gore	ACED	Mark Gruber	Erie Council
Joyce Thomas	Federal Heights Mayor	Maria D’Andrea	Commerce City Staff

Smart Commute (who signed in)

Steve Kibbey	NES	Shoira Tahirova	Kiewit
Julie Skeen	Jacobs	Mark Shotkoski	NWP
Bob Sakaguchi	HDR	Rick Plenge	
Denny McCloskey	D&C Home Solutions		
George Tsiouvaras	TSH		

Agency Partners (who signed in)

Abra Geissler	CDOT	Jason Lucerna	CDOT
Myron Hora	CDOT	Paul Jesaitis	CDOT
Brenda Tierney	RTD		

Guests

Ina Zisman	PB		
Terri Blackmore	NFRMPO	Steve Linton-Smith	Rep Coffman

Approval of draft September 2015 Meeting Minutes by acclamation.

SCMN TMO Update: Paul DesRocher, TDM Manager

- TDM Program Update -Paul DesRocher
- DRCOG’s Go’Tober Campaign update
 - Three primary employers participating – Adams County, Digital Globe and Avaya.
 - Represents approximately 2,500 employees in Smart Commute’s service area.
 - “Surprise and Delight” element of the program brings interesting elements into businesses such as the “bike smoothie blender” at Avaya and Adams County

Transit Alliance Nomination for ‘Outstanding Leadership by an Organization’– Karen Stuart

Transit Alliance announced that NATA was nominated for ‘Outstanding Leadership’ by an Organization. The awards will be announced and presented at the 5th Annual Transit Event on Thursday, November 5,

2015 and feature outstanding leaders that are advancing community building, transit, transportation and mobility in Colorado.

Discussion:

Chair Joyce Downing asked for approval for Commissioner Hansen to accept the award as the immediate past chair of NATA since she will be unable to attend. Her suggestion met with approval. Commissioner Hansen asked for a show of hands of how many people were interested in attending the event from NATA. Five members indicated their interest. Mayor Randy Ahrens suggested sharing a table with 36 Commuting Solutions, also up for this award.

RTD Staff Update: Brenda Tierney

- **NMRL alternatives cost options and status of EOL Contract Cost Extension with RRP-RTD** is waiting for phased construction cost options from RRP up to 144th and then to 162nd. The phased options and their associated costs are anticipated to be provided in the next few weeks.
- **Presentation: Project update on North Metro Rail-** Project update on IGAs and Construction
 - Status of Bridges : Marion Street Bridge, Platte River Bridge, Skyway Bridge, 120th Avenue Bridge
 - Status of Utility Relocates
 - Station plans at 112th and at 124th
 - Station area grading, platforms and wall work

CDOT Staff Update:

- **Completion of Segment 2 Managed Lanes Update –Jason Lucerna**
 - Tolling equipment and signage going in Jan. 2016. Express Lanes will open to the public during toll testing but no tolls will be levied.
 - End of April Express lanes begin tolling. Sound walls will also be completed by this time.
- **Bus On Shoulder Feasibility Study/ Safety and Operations- Paul Jesaitis**
 - Legal issues need to be worked through. According to CDOT, it is not currently legal to allow buses to be run on shoulder in the State of Colorado. Only three other states allow buses on shoulder.
 - CSP brought this issue to CDOT's attention
 - Legislation is needed for the statutory authority to operate on shoulder

Discussion:

Brook Svoboda- How does that differ from I-70 project?

Paul Jesaitis-That project has an actual lane that is signed and striped whereas US 36/I-25 are not.

There was an opportunity to put together a TIGER grant for bus on shoulder on I-25, but CDOT felt the project needed further operational review. CDOT is working with staff at RTD/Boulder to put together a Scope of Work for a feasibility study. BOS could be a good FASTER transit grant candidate once the SOW is completed.

Commissioner Hansen – Is there enough space on shoulder to make it safe operationally?

Paul Jesaitis-There are space and safety concerns where the lane is 10.5 ft. and the vehicle is 8.5 ft. wide while operating on the shoulder.

Discussion to revise the NATA Letter of Support for BOS Feasibility Study- Jeanne Shreve

Jeanne Shreve will make some adjustments to the letter and send it around to NATA members for review before sending it to CDOT.

NATA Priority Projects Presentation- Jeanne Shreve

Jeanne Shreve- Would like to have a discussion on the current Priority Projects and determine if any tweaks need to be made. The Project and spread sheets are on the NATA website. In the beginning, Priority Projects were I-25 and North Metro Rail, but there are now a few more projects that are

identified in the “Tier 1” projects. Jeanne is meeting with DRCOG and will bring the final list back to NATA at the December meeting.

Discussion:

Commissioner O'Dorisio- Did we create more of a range of the projects instead of just a “check box”?
Jeanne Shreve- We are looking at project rankings at DRCOG and other places to determine how they evaluate projects and see if this can inform how NATA ranks our projects moving forward. No change has currently been made to the project rankings, however.

Commissioner O'Dorisio – Was congestion a factor in considering ranking?

Jeanne Shreve: It is very difficult to include congestion as a factor because for some projects – such SH7 BRT – there are no “baseline” measurements to compare it. Congestion primarily only works for capacity improvement projects (i.e. adding vehicle lanes).

Councilman Vigil- Referring to North Metro, doesn't taking SOVs and putting them in buses help congestion though?

Jeanne Shreve – It does help, but it doesn't significantly reduce congestion on I-25 because they are two distinct travel sheds. Studies have shown North Metro Rail reduced SOV's on I-25 by less than 5%.

Mayor Atchison- How will projects currently under construction on 120th at Lowell and Federal help with moving 120th BRT forward?

Jeanne Shreve – These are operational projects that have hopefully taken buses into consideration, but identifying 120th as a future arterial BRT may have occurred after the design was completed for the intersection improvements. For the future operational improvements at Pecos and Zuni, we should make sure accommodations for bus operations (such as queue jumps) are incorporated into these intersection's design.

Commissioner Hansen – Unclear on how bus on shoulder will help with congestion when I-25 is being given Express Lanes.

Paul Jesaitis – The concept is that the bus will use shoulder when reversible lanes on I-25 are being used in the opposite direction. Express Lanes conversion to bi-directional will be a hugely expensive project (est. \$250M). In the grand scheme of priority projects, funds could be used to complete other needed projects such as I-270.

Commissioner Hansen- Looking at all the projects listed, having the Bus on Shoulder study wouldn't change the project list at all.

Jeanne Shreve- The list is very dynamic. All of the projects in the Tier 1 list are being worked on in some shape or form. NATA will provide a status update on all these projects at the December meeting.

Paul Jesaitis- I-25 PEL contains elements that CDOT can break out into smaller projects. It carries a lot of weight for CDOT and is a great reference point.

Shawn Lewis - Will the project list be updated annually?

Jeanne Shreve – That is up to the NATA Board

Commissioner Hansen – I think the list should be updated annually. If money becomes available for some projects, those could be removed from the list and other projects could then move up.

Commissioner O'Dorisio- Concerned about I-270 and to the need to make sure it advances.

Jeanne Shreve- We plan to schedule a presentation on I- 270 and the Industrial Area Study at a future board meeting.

SH 7 Coalition Presentation- Mayor Randy Ahrens

- Boulder County also looking to advance BRT from downtown Boulder to downtown Brighton. Group should consider putting a large bike lane adjacent to SH7. This helped US 36 win a TIGER grant.
- SH 7 and I-25 is one of the most important intersections in the entire North area. Projected to be 55,000 new rooftops in that area. Equivalent to a new city.
 - SH 7 is one of the few continuous East/West corridors in the North Metro Area. Funding for the BRT feasibility study was awarded by DRCOG with selection of consultant by the end of the year.
 - Project expected to begin in 2016.

*******Please note: There will not be a NATA meeting in November*******

Proposed Items on December 10, 2015 NATA Agenda:

- **2016 Budget**
- **2016 Election of Officers**
- **Approval of Tier I Rankings**
- **Review of Leave Behind**

Meeting adjourned at 8:41 by Chair Downing.