

NATA Board Meeting Minutes

February 25, 2016

7:30-9:00am

Adams County Economic Development, 12200 Pecos Street, Westminster

Welcome by Chair Randy Ahrens and introductions

Meeting called to order at 7:31 AM by Chair Randy Ahrens

NATA Members (who signed in)

Eric Montoya	Thornton Council	Angela Habben	Metro North Chamber
Randy Ahrens	Broomfield Mayor	TJ Dlubac	Firestone Staff
Gary Behlen	Erie Staff	Lynn Baca	Brighton Council
Dave Downing	Westminster Staff	Jeanne Shreve	Adams County Staff
Kimberly Dall	Brighton Staff	Kent Moorman	Thornton Staff
Steve O'Dorisio	Adams Cty Commission	Paul DesRocher	SCMN
Karen Stuart	SCMN	Erik Hansen	Adams Cty Commission
Joyce Downing	Northglenn Mayor	Kevin Standbridge	Broomfield Staff
Jeff Moore	Longmont City Council	Jim Hayes	Commerce City Staff
Rick Teter	Commerce City Council	Debra Baskett	Broomfield Staff
Joe Jehn	Metro North Chamber	Shawn Lewis	Longmont staff
Brook Svoboda	Northglenn Staff	Kevin Forgett	Thornton Staff

Smart Commute (who signed in)

Tony Marcello	DEA	Bob Maursin	TSH
Ed Icenogle	ISP	Tim Harris	PB
Mark Shotkoski	NWP	Gina McAfee	HDR
George Tsiouvaras	TSH	Julie Skeen	Jacobs
Shoira Tahirova	Kiewit	Ryan Sisson	TSH
Jude White	Collins		

Agency Partners (who signed in)

Abra Geissler	CDOT	Paul Deeley	RTD
Richard Zamora	CDOT	Alan Brown	RRP
Brenda Tierney	RTD	Herman Stockinger	CDOT
Jane Donovan	CDOT	Aaron Greco	CDOT
Judy Lubow	RTD	Jason Lucerna	CDOT

Guests

Bill Ray	CCA	Linda Wilson	
Ben Stein	Rep Coffman staff	Jeremy Rodriques	Rep Perlmutter staff
Jorge Delgado	Senator Gardner staff		

Approval of January 28, 2016 Meeting Minutes- Mayor Randy Ahrens made a motion to approve draft minutes, Councilmember Lynn Baca seconded the motion and motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Update- Council Member Lynn Baca

Jurisdictions' Dues Invoices – Westminster will send out annual dues notices to member jurisdictions.

Quarterly Treasurer's Reports to NATA- The Treasurer will make quarterly reports to NATA because of the infrequency of transactions.

SCMN Update- Karen Stuart/Paul DesRocher

- Bike to Work Day Station Expansion at St. Anthony North and Digital Glove in addition to previous locations at Northglenn and The Orchard Town Center
- 4th Annual Trans Forum planning is underway and will focus on innovative transportation ideas, including driverless vehicles.
- Smart Commute is planning a Route 8 promotion event in association with business at the growing commercial district at 144th and Huron.

Mayor Ahrens: What are the expectations for Route 8 ridership?

Karen Stuart: It is expected that Route 8 will be used by people that will transfer at the Wagon Rd. Park-n-Ride for express services downtown or to local routes. Smart Commute hopes to promote the service to employers at The Orchard and St. Anthony North Hospital, and the new hotels with the planned event.

CCA Report on Transportation Funding and Proposed Ballot Initiative – Bill Ray

- Conducted statewide polling in July and December. Threshold was tight for both polls, but numbers indicated enough positive response towards primarily safety and road projects to move forward.
- For the July poll, gas tax not popular with voters but sales tax increase did have favorable polling. The July poll also revealed voters see transportation funding as a priority, particularly for safety and road projects.
- December polling focused on different sales tax measures. Thresholds were still tight but around 55%, which is still winnable.
- This is constitutionally protected money to fund HUTF where the majority would go to CDOT and the local jurisdictions for road and safety projects.
- CCA will be submitting ballot measure by Mar. 25 and building a campaign team and coalition to support the initiative.
- Increase would be ½ to ¾ cents to raise \$500M to \$750M.
- Would contain a roads and transit section; specific language will be developed in the next several weeks.
- Funding would be a sustainable funding source for the future of Colorado's needs

Commissioner Hansen: Will you have specific list of projects that to be funded?

Bill Ray: The polling did not indicate a specific list of projects needed to be included in the ballot measure.

Mayor Ahrens: Will you be referring the proposed measure to the Legislature instead of putting it on the ballot?

Bill Ray: CCA may take this proposal to the Legislature to carry it through as an alternative process. CCA is exploring all angles to get transportation funding in place.

Dave Downing: Where can the details of the polling be found?

Bill Ray: We can share that information individually, but CCA is going to poll again in the next couple weeks and we'd prefer to share those results.

Commissioner O'Dorisio: Picking up on Commissioner Hansen's point, I think having a list of projects might help your proposal.

Commissioner Hansen: I think it is a significant detriment to your proposal that there isn't a specific list of projects. There are many previous examples of ballot measures that failed because the funding wasn't tied to a specific list of projects. Voters want to know where the money will go. Two recent examples include Colorado Springs and Commerce City, which both included a list of projects.

Bill Ray: I don't think that CCA ever said we wouldn't do a project list. I think that CCA would be open to a discussion of that sort, if it helps the initiative pass.

Paul Jesaitis: CDOT has our list of projects already created for your reference, which includes \$8B of unfunded projects

Mayor Ahrens: Is there a sunset clause for this funding mechanism? That could help the polling and likelihood of passing because voters would know they have the opportunity to re-visit funding more projects in the future.

Bill Ray: Similar to project list, I don't think CCA has made a decision on having the funding sunset. We are going to include some language about a sunset in our next poll and see how it influences voter opinion.

Mayor Ahrens: I propose that Bill Ray comes back next month to give us an update.

The CCA Presentation will be posted on the NATA website.

Fix Colorado Roads- Sandra Hagen Solin

- Aim is to develop a range of funding options to address Colorado's transportation needs, including a permanent general fund allocation and a \$3.5B Bonding issue.
- Bonding allows for the fastest delivery of large-scale projects such as I-25 and I-70.
- The bonding program would need ~ \$250 m for annual payments. Fix Colorado is conversing with the JBC on identifying a portion of/all of the \$250 m/year needed.
- Fix Colorado is also working with CDOT to use a portion of their 10-year list of projects.

Commissioner Hansen: Will your proposal also support a sales tax increase?

Sandra Solin: Yes, but there two separate proposals involved. One is for a bond measure to support large-scale projects and another is for a sales tax increase to provide sustained general funding to CDOT.

Commissioner Hansen: NCLA's proposal and CCA's proposal may die if they are competing against one another. It may also be difficult to get a bonding proposal forward if it means cutting \$300M+ out of the general fund, which CDOT has told us they need.

Sandra Solin: The legislative body across the aisle is motivated to get something done with transportation funding. Bonding must be a part of large-scale transportation solutions in addition to the long-term sales tax solution.

Commissioner Hansen: How does your proposal reconcile the issue with CDOT's shortfall in the Asset Management Program?

Sandra Solin: CDOT has said that they are willing to sharpen their pencils to look at different ways to support this proposal. There aren't any immediate answers, but it is something they can examine further

The Fix Colorado's Roads Presentation will be posted on the NATA website.

Legislative Update on Transportation- Herman Stockinger (CDOT)

CDOT appreciates the efforts of CCA, NCLA and Fix Colorado's Roads because it is the support of the business community that gets funding packages passed.

- Even with \$736M projected allocation from increased funding, CDOT still about \$60-70M short of getting to modest Asset Management goals.
- Bus on Shoulder legislation for US 36 passed. Headed to the Governor for his signature.
- Transportation Commission Districts Study underway.
- The Bill to reallocate \$15M away from Bustang died last week.
- CDOT is considering a proposal to charge users of the Bustang PnR's after 24 hours.
- CDOT is requesting support to defeat a bill in which Express Lanes users will not be required to have a transponder (SB-123)

Discussion - Action Item: Draft Letter of NATA's Opposition to SB-123- Chair Ahrens

Bill Language: A Bill FOR AN ACT concerning free access for high occupancy vehicles to High Occupancy Vehicle and High Occupancy Toll Lanes on State Highways, and, in connection therewith, prohibiting the Department of Transportation and the High Performance Transportation Enterprise from requiring a vehicle owner to use a switchable transponder or other device in order to travel in a high occupancy vehicle on such a lane without paying a toll.

Commissioner Hansen: Motion to approve; seconded by Joe Jehn.

Dave Downing: Westminster City Council has taken a position to “Monitor” the bill and not to oppose.

Commissioner Hansen: Would a letter in opposition be a problem since “Monitor” does not mean oppose?

Dave Downing: The cost of the transponder is the main issue, but I don’t think that Westminster Council realized that the fee could be used for tolls.

Herman Stockinger: Believes \$15 transponder fee is applied to toll account to be bought down.

Commissioner Hansen: Would like to retract original motion and revise to draft a letter to defeat 123. Assuming they change their position to oppose and not monitor the bill, NATA would then send the letter in opposition of the bill.

Commissioner Hansen: The funding proposals presented today might be better combined than going forward independently. I think there is some synergy to combine them as a single proposal for funding on the 2016 ballot. I think we should send this discussion back to the SPC to determine a preferred funding package and potentially combine them.

Commissioner O’Doriso: Everyone will choose a pet project and it will be a situation of divide and conquer.

Mayor Ahrens: Agrees with Commissioner Hansen there needs to be a consolidation of proposals.

Commissioner Hansen : Motion to send discussion to SPC for position statement.

Mayor Downing: seconded motion; unanimous consent.

Herman Stockinger will get verification on Transponder fee question.

CDOT –I-25 Express Lanes Segment Two Update- Jason Lucerna

- Currently getting overhead signage, utility lines and tolling equipment installed.
- Toll testing will occur first with one week Lane Testing (NB/SB). Public will be able to use free of charge for one week and then lanes will close again for 30 days in order for E-470 to verify toll testing. Should conclude by end of April.
- Whole facility test will occur thereafter and end in June.
- Added sound walls will be installed between 92nd and 112th and projected to be done by end of April.

Kevin Standbridge: Expressed concern that I-25 commuters will be upset that you open the Express Lanes and then close them for 30 days.

Andy Stratton: We will definitely take that under consideration when we evaluate the opening of the lanes in our process.

Mayor Ahrens: I think in order to maintain credibility of the project and market the lanes, you could simply make them free while E-470 is evaluating data.

I-25 Express Lanes Segment Three Update- Abra Geissler

- Hamon Construction came in at 98% of the project budget
- Loan secured through HPTE for total project cost of \$97.5M which includes design, ROW, utility work and construction.
- Telephone town hall is TBD to discuss the project with the public.
- 503 day contract which translates into 3 paving seasons.

Commissioner Hansen: Hamon is an Adams County company, so thank you.

Barry Gore: What are the boundaries of the project exactly?

Abra Geissler: I-25, The project includes widening for the managed lanes from 120th to E-470 and then milling/overlay on existing mainline from E-470 to S.H. 7.

RTD- Brenda Tierney

**NMRL Construction update- Paul Deeley, RTD Construction Manager, and Alan Brown, RRP
Presentation available on NATA website.**

NWRL Westminster Station update-

- No exact opening date yet, but will hope to have that information soon, once `contactor provides the information.

Proposed agenda items for March , 2016

-Invitation to David Spector, Director of HPTE

-Presentation by CDOT – Education Roll Out on I-25 Express Lanes and Tolls