

NATA Meeting Minutes
December 10, 2014

Meeting called to order by Vice Chair Val Vigil at 7:33 am
Introductions took place. Those in attendance were:

NATA Members (who signed in)

Val Vigil, Vice Chair	Thornton Council	Herb Atchison	Westminster Mayor
Joyce Downing	Northglenn Mayor	Eva Henry	Adams County Comm.
Randy Ahrens	Broomfield Mayor	Lynn Baca	Brighton Council
Mark Gruber	Erie Council	Daniel Dick	Federal Heights Council
Shawn Lewis	Longmont Staff	Preston Gibson	MNCC
James Hayes	Commerce City Staff	Russell Pennington	Erie Staff
Kevin Standbridge	Broomfield Staff	Kent Moorman	Thornton Staff
Aric Otzelberger	Westminster Staff	Joyce Hunt	Thornton Staff
Maria DeAndrea	Commerce City Staff	Kimberly Dall	Brighton Staff
Angela Habben	MNCC	John Pick	Northglenn Staff
Barry Gore	ACED	Jeanne Shreve	Adams County Staff
Karen Stuart	SCMN	Paul DesRocher	SCMN

Smart Commute (who signed in)

Julie Skeen	Jacobs	Christie DeLuca	Flatiron
Mark Shotkoski	NWP	Chris Primus	HDR
Shiley Johnson	HBA	Bryan Frantz	Collins
Wes Goff	Atkins	Bob Marusin	TSH
Shoira Tahirova	Kiewit	Ed Icenogle	ISP
Bill Maestas	Maestas Inc.		

Agency Partners (who signed in)

Susan Wood	RTD	Brenda Tierney	RTD
Larry Hoy	RTD Director	Jane Donovan	RTD
Andy Stratton	CDOT	Jason Lucerna	CDOT
Paul Jesaitis	CDOT	Jarod Esquibel	CDOT
Myron Hora	CDOT	Johnny Olson	CDOT

Guests

Tricia Allen	ACED	Debbie Tuttle	Northglenn ED
Bo Martinez	Broomfield ED	Adam Krueger	Thornton ED
Chris Gray	Westminster ED	Wendy Amann	Zuit-Zollars
Terri Blackmore	NFRMPO	Ina Zisman	PB
Jay Hardy	McWhinney	Tom Lagos	LSV Inc.

October 2014 Meeting Minutes-unanimous approval

Smart Commute Update:

- Adams County Commit to Commute Green 2015 kick-off event was held on Dec. 10 at Government Center for Adams County employees and was well attended with over 60 people signing up on mywaytogo.org for rideshare matches or to track their trips. This is one of 4 events we'll hold as part of Commit to Commute Green in 2015.
- Additional focus on employer outreach in 2015 and any members interested in Smart Commute services should contact them.
- Report on 2014 Activities and 2015 work plan will occur at Annual Meeting in January.

Election of NATA Board Officers for 2015 (Chair, Vice Chair & Treasurer)

- Commissioner Henry nominates Val Vigil for Chair
- Mayor Atchison nominates Mayor Downing for Chair
- Mayor Atchison nominates Mayor Ahrens for Vice Chair
- Mayor Downing nominates Mayor Atchison for Treasurer

Colored ballots were distributed and NATA members or alternates were eligible to vote. Eleven NATA members cast ballots. Results were tabulated and announced at the end of the meeting with the following results:

Mayor Joyce Downing voted in as Chair

Mayor Randy Ahrens voted in as Vice Chair

Mayor Herb Atchison was voted in as Treasurer.

Action Items:

- Consider and approve Smart Commute TMO as NATA Administrator for 2015
- Consider and approve bulk NATA membership for Smart Commute
- Funding Request: \$12,000 (payable in January)

Karen Stuart - The TMO proposes to handle the staffing activities that have traditionally been handled by senior staff of the Chair. Request is for \$12,000/year which includes a bulk membership for all NATA member jurisdictions and the staffing for NATA Administration for 2015.

Combined motion including all requests bulleted above passed unanimously.

RTD: Discussion on de-federalization of North Metro Corridor

Larry Hoy - Introduced Susan Wood from RTD staff who reported on the decision to rescind the Record of Decision (ROD). The decision was made by FTA, not RTD, because the District is not using federal funding to build segment I from Denver Union station to 124th Station and is not currently planning to federalize segment II from 124th to end of the line at 162nd. Susan noted that by not federalizing North Metro the project saves administrative costs associated with reporting, auditing, staffing, etc. to FTA. In RTD's estimation, because alternative funding was made available to complete the NMRL project to 124th, there was no need to continue with federal requirements of the ROD.

NATA discussion followed:

Jeanne Shreve – What is the process for re-federalizing North Metro if opportunities present themselves that require a ROD? Wood – Timing is a major factor – likely 6-8 months minimum. Many factors including environmental surveys have been done if the decision was made to get federal funding back, RTD would be able to use previous studies,.

Barry Gore – Does this eliminate us for future federal funding? Wood – Yes is simple answer, but RTD could re-apply to “federalize”. The process is not quick however.

Kevin Standbridge – What is cost to keep project federalized? Wood – Specific costs are not completely understood, but reporting, staffing to keep project federalized is a burden to RTD.

Val Vigil – Will RTD save money from this decision? Wood – Exact costs are not understood, but there is a need to be flexible in the future and staying involved with FTA would limit that.

Larry Hoy – Comparing SE corridor with NM corridor is difficult because SE corridor has so many different funding sources aiding its completion.

Jeanne Shreve – NATA would like the opportunity for RTD to collaborate with CDOT Division of Transit and Rail on potential partnering opportunities that capitalize on the environmental work that has been done for North Metro. There may be opportunities to also work with HPTE where a future project that combines I-25 and NM Rail might be considered. Jeanne reiterated that we simply see one less tool in the toolbox to complete North Metro. Wood – Great idea and RTD would be open to this relationship.

Val Vigil – Concerned about dropping the opportunity to seek federal funding, even with slight chance that federal funding is even there. Joyce Hunt – Also concerned, and recommends that RTD takes Jeanne’s advice in order to help complete project to 162nd.

Barry Gore – Where were we at in decision making process? Concerned about how the decision making process was done, particularly without NATA input.

Eva Henry – Also, concerned about the fact the NATA wasn’t notified before decision to rescind ROD made.

Susan Wood – The burden to report to FTA was seen as a deterrent to moving the project forward. Val

Vigil – The manner in which the decision was made was not favorable to NATA because we were not involved until decision was already made by RTD.

Kevin Standbridge- suggested a letter go to Phil Washington with a copy to FTA about NATA’s concerns for reinstating the ROD.

Special Presentation: ‘7 to 70’ Development is Accelerating Along the N I-25 Corridor!

Introduction to the topic and speakers:

- Debbie Tuttle, Director of Economic Development, Northglenn
- Bo Martinez, Director of Economic Development, Broomfield
- Adam Krueger, Asst. Director of Economic Development, Thornton
- Chris Gray, Business Development Officer, Economic Development, Westminster
- Tricia Allen, Vice President, ACED

These Economic Development professionals gave a presentation highlighting development opportunities along the I-25 Corridor. Retail, commercial and residential development, both planned and currently underway, will position this travel corridor as the next economic engine of the Front Range. The impact of this amount of development means planning for transportation infrastructure improvements and transit service expansion will be important necessities.

NATA discussion:

Herb Atchison – Number of residential developments? Debbie Tuttle – Approximately 65K under construction. Herb Atchison – Likely only a fraction of all development. Transportation must be upgraded so we can move people around. Johnny Olson – Resiliency is a very important issue and multi-modal networks are the only way to really facilitate that. Herb Atchison – In order to remain competitive in the future to attract and retain primary employers, transportation must be included in the process. Judy Lubow – Should probably consider a study to better understand how transit can be integrated with future development.

For a copy of this presentation contact Tricia Allen at ACED. 303.453.8520.

CDOT: Update on I-25 Managed Lanes Project

The NATA coalition is extremely important to moving the I-25 Express Lanes project further north. Andy Stratton introduced new Project Engineer Jason Lucerna who is taking over the day-to-day project management. Current work includes: Setting caissons at 104th, installation of traffic control devices, placing posts and sound walls at Thornton Pkwy and 104th. Contract time is at approximately 50%. Completion date is Dec. 2015.

Johnny Olson – Segment 3 is a federalized project. Cost savings came from paving innovations. \$55M HPTE dollars have been allocated to project. Because project assumed construction would start past 120th, segment 3 must now complete \$15M project for section at 120th. CDOT is experiencing increases in contractor costs of 15-20%. All these factors have limited the length of the project.

Myron Hora – CDOT needs to figure out how to “help ourselves” because the number of projects far outstrips the amount of funding available. Myron has requested DRCOG consider providing \$5M in additional funding towards Segment III. Project extent is likely 120th to 136th based on available funds. A crucial part locals can play is to work with CDOT on needed ROW dedication along the corridor.

NATA Comments:

Val Vigil - \$7.8M leftover from DRCOG funding allocation that can be rolled over to Phase II. Important that NATA representatives participate in the regional committees on DRCOG, RTD, etc. to receive funding.

Jeanne Shreve – DRCOG Board needs to have a conversation to clarify that TAC and DRCOG staff need to incorporate CDOT’s \$5M for Phase II funding.

Herb Atchison – How does this group work together to get North I-25 project as far north as possible? CDOT must impress upon DRCOG the number of projects that are coming in over bid and exceeding budget expectations.

Jeanne Shreve – A contingent is getting together from around the region(south, NW, north metro) in order to put together scenarios to move I-25 and NM Rail projects forward.

NATA's next meeting will be held January 22nd and will be NATA's Annual Organizational Meeting and Smart Commute's Annual Membership Meeting.