**NATA Board Meeting Minutes**

**October 22, 2020**

**7:30-8:30am *(shortened to accommodate 8th annual TransForum)***

**Zoom Virtual Meeting**

**Meeting Recording:** [**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dSoXAKvRNl0**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dSoXAKvRNl0)

**Welcome and introductions by Chair Julie Mullica. Instructions to sign-in via the Chat function.**

**NATA Members (who signed in)**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Bo Martinez** | ACREP | **Joan Peck** | Longmont Council |
| **Steve O’Dorisio** | Adams County Comm. | **Phil Greenwald** | Longmont Staff |
| **Chris Chovan** | Adams County Staff | **Julie Mullica** | Northglenn Council |
| **Greg Mills** | Brighton Mayor | **Sara Dusenberry** | Northglenn Staff |
| **Adam Cushing** | Brighton Council | **Brook Svoboda** | Northglenn Staff |
| **Liz Law Evans** | Broomfield Council | **Karen Stuart** | SCMN |
| **Sarah Grant** | Broomfield Staff | **Carson Priest** | SCMN |
| **Kevin Standbridge** | Broomfield Staff | **Tammy Herreid** | SCMN |
| **Nicole Frank** | Comm. City Mayor Pro Tem | **Jessica Sandgren** | Thornton Mayor Pro Tem |
| **Brent Soderlin** | Commerce City Staff | **Julia Marvin** | Thornton |
| **Joe Wilson** | Commerce City Staff | **Kent Moorman** | Thornton Staff |
| **Todd Fessenden** | Erie Staff | **Anita Seitz** | Westminster Mayor Pro Tem |
| **Malcolm Fleming** | Erie Staff | **John Voelz** | Westminster Staff |
| **Celeste Arner** | Federal Heights Council | **Debra Baskett** | Westminster Staff |
| **Tim Williams** | Federal Heights Staff |  |  |

**SCMN Members (who signed in)**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Joe Dudek** | Amazon DEN-3 | **Jennifer Carpenter** | Michael Baker Int’l |
| **Pat Monacelli** | Broomfield Chamber | **Gene Putman** | PTS |
| **Tim Stewart**  | E-470 | **Joe Jehn** | Rick Engineering |
| **Jessica Carson** | E-470 | **Michelle Martin** | RS&H |
| **Reza Akhavan** | HNTB | **Myron Hora** | WSP |

**Agency Partners (who signed in)**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Julie George** | CDOT | **Lisa Trujillo** | RTD |
| **Andy Stratton** | CDOT | **Christina Zazueda** | RTD |
| **Jamie Grim** | CDOT | **Paul DesRocher** | RTD |
| **Doug Rex** | DRCOG | **Troy Whitmore** | RTD Board |
| **Alex Gordon** | NFRMPO | **Vince Buzek** | RTD Board |
| **Pauline Haberman** | RTD |  |  |

**Guests (who signed in)**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Michael Gifford** | Associated General Contractors | **Randy Grauberger** | FRPR |
| **Celeste Stragand** | Ford Mobility | **Heather McDaniel** | Souder Miller & Assoc. |

* **Approval of September 23, 2020 NATA Meeting Minutes**

***Approval of September 24, 2020 Meeting Minutes:*** *Motion to approve minutes made by Thornton Mayor Pro Tem Sandgren, seconded by Councilwoman Law Evans and approved unanimously.*

* **Smart Commute update: Karen Stuart, Carson Priest, Tammy Herreid**

**Karen Stuart:** The 8th AnnualTransFourm event is coming up at 8:30 directly following this meeting with about 140 people signed up to attend. The good news is that there are some great international speakers that didn’t have to travel to be with us today, but the bad news is that we don’t have the opportunity to network with them at the event as we usually do. Karen announced that she will send out the final NATA “Leave Behind” document for each NATA member to use at their discretion. We have made the primary project list a lot less wordy, and have simply pointed people to a QR code and website at the bottom of the document for the complete project list with all project details included. Karen thanked Tammy Herreid for her great work on this. If changes need to be made to this document, please let us know but we believe that over the last 6 months we have captured jurisdictional input well. Next is an update on the 144th FlexRide ridership. The ridership numbers are very good, especially considering only 5 passengers per bus is allowed right now. In December 2019 ridership jumped due to retail work, and as essential workers came to the forefront in April ridership continued to rise. Thanks to Jeanne Shreve for her leadership on this FlexRide project, and her constant effort to bring superior customer service to the riders that work at these employers in the service area. CDOT updated Karen with a list of next steps for the I-25 project from US36 to 104th; there will be a list of traffic modeling options released by the end of October. CDOT’s team on I-25 is coordinating with the I-270 team to understand inter-functionality and connectivity between the two interstates. The CDOT team believes they will have some alternatives in spring of 2021.

* **RTD Directors Comments:** Director Vince Buzek, Director Troy Whitmore

**Director Vince Buzek:** We have a lot going on at RTD, as you all know. We are currently discussing how RTD plans to shift resources to match demand for the January service change. District J will have no impact from this change. We are looking forward to welcoming our new GM Debra Johnson on November 9th. The RTD Board and CDOT Commission held their annual virtual dinner on October 21st.

**Director Troy Whitmore:** The COVID service change that was discussed did not show much change in District J, nor did it show any negative impacts to my district, District K. I will credit the SCMN team with the FlexRide success having the ability to put their money where their mouths are in saying that a service was needed, then proving that to be the case. Many RTD board members are spending a good bit of time keeping up with the RTD Accountability Committees and their subsequent subcommittees focused on finance, governance and operations. In the governance committee there is a discussion on reevaluating the formulation of the RTD board, in the operations committee there is a discussion on optimization of service for serving those with disabilities. I am also looking forward to having our new GM on board as well.

**Director Vince Buzek:** Madam Chair, as you know the FISA account has been a topic of discussion among this group and I’m pleased to announce that we have been able to not only maintain the balance of the FISA account, but also introduce a proposal to add just over $17 million to the FISA account in the 2021 budget.

**Director Troy Whitmore:** Director Buzek, thank you for bringing up the FISA account. This is such an important issue and this is the first big hurdle we have now cleared on the topic. Madam Chair, I also want to say thank you for the backstop that NATA provides on this subject

**Chair Julie Mullica:** Yes, thank you directors for sharing this very exciting news.

**Mayor Pro Tem Sandgren:** Thank you directors for your updates. There is a lot of confusion around when the N Line was brought online and how it affected certain bus routes, specifically the 88, and I was hoping you all could share with me how to best find that scheduling information.

**Director Troy Whitmore:** We will have our staff follow up with you on this.

* **RTD Accountability Committee Update:** Chair Julie Mullica

**Chair Julie Mullica:** I wanted to discuss the work and direction that the Accountability Committee is going to take. The group has been meeting since August. One of the biggest hurdles is defining the charge for this group. So, the creation of these three subcommittees focused on finance, governance and operations will allow us to hone in on what some of the real tangible actions we can take as a group. Each committee will have a chair, and I am chairing the governance committee with Rutt Bridges chairing the finance committee and Deyaniria Zavala is chairing the operations committee. ([*Shared document: RTD Accountability Committee: Initial Subcommittee Focus Areas*](https://smartcommutemetronorth.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/RTD-Accountability-Committee-Agenda-10-19-20-1.pdf)*).* The core problems that RTD is facing that the Accountability Committee needs to address include financial stability, rebuilding trust and transparency, increasing ridership, ensuring service to venerable populations, strengthening partnerships, finishing FasTracks, encouraging innovation, refocusing of RTD on core mission, and addressing workforce challenges. I was in awe of how empty the 88th Park n Ride was when I drove by yesterday during morning commute times. For the governance subcommittee, the two main points we want to address are exploring and developing an alternative governance structure and deployment of transit services proposals that follow a regional/subregional model and partnership with local governments and exploring how to enable partnerships with other transit agencies.

**Councilmember Joan Peck:** I do like the idea of a TIP Forum process as an input tool for local governments. We don’t hear enough from local government elected officials in terms of boots-on-the-ground feedback for RTD.

**Malcom Fleming:** I think the most important core issue for this entire Accountability Committee is getting a handle on a stable funding source for RTD, because without it, much else listed in this document is a moot point. I would like to see a financial analysis of other comparable transit agencies.

**Mayor Pro tem Sandgren:** Julie, I am glad to have you as a representative on this committee and as a chair for the governance subcommittee. I really like the idea of community-based transit planning and believe that this is going to be very important in solving our own local issues. Is this document available?

**Chair Julie Mullica:** Yes, I will send this document out to you all following this meeting.

**Commissioner Steve O’Dorisio:** I just want to say that I am glad that you are there representing us, Julie. We know that you will watch out for equity for everyone.

**Chair Julie Mullica:** I see that Lisa Trujillo (RTD) has put a few links pertaining to N Line service changes in the chat so be sure to take a look at those. I am not as involved with the finance or operations subcommittees, but I wanted to share their work with you here today as well. For the operations subcommittee they are looking to work on a series of things, including optimizing RTD’s fares and pass programs.

**Director Troy Whitmore:** I am doing my best to attend all of these operations subcommittee meetings and Director Guissinger is covering the other two meetings. With the unveiling of this document, we have finally found some focus for this group. Any operations ideas that you all have, please send them to me and I will relay them to the group.

**Mayor Pro tem Sandgren:** Is this operations subcommittee where N Line regional vs. local fare conversations happening?

**Director Troy Whitmore:** The RTD Board and staff will be monitoring the ridership on the N Line for the 6-month period, but we do understand that COVID has had an impact on these ridership numbers.

**Director Vince Buzek:** The promotional fare pilot program sparked lots of conversations at RTD around how to make fare zones as simple as possible all based on the principle that if you make transit easier to ride, more people will ride it.

**Chair Julie Mullica:** Jessica, I will also be sure to send this topic along to the operations group for discussion.

**Commissioner Steve O’Dorisio:** We must stay aware of the differences in geography as we conduct these conversations and understand that we in the north are finally getting to the front of the line to get some of our projects completed but must not allow this group’s work to derail RTD’s work in reaching all of the folks in our community before they start on another project. All of these projects are legitimate, but we must stay focused.

**Chair Julie Mullica:** In terms of the finance subcommittee, they are focusing on how to make a recommendation for a more sustainable financial model for RTD as a whole. This is probably the most important subcommittee, since it’s work relays directly to the rest of this group’s work. I hear the distrust of RTD in many of my conversations with constituents, and see that this distrust is a vicious cycle. Should we need to raise taxes for more service, rebuilding that trust is essential.

**Councilmember Joan Peck:** My initial comment about the TIP format applies here because I believe that it is the role of local communities to step in and help RTD. For example, when we talk about fare levels, if local communities could step in and cover the cost of some of these fares it would allow more trust to be built. Buy-in for these big projects leads directly to a stronger relationship.

**Director Vince Buzek:** This financial subcommittee is an important one and I’m glad to see that a review of the statutory limitations that tie RTD’s hands in making money is up for discussion here. I am glad to see that the tide has turned in that some legislators are willing to examine their statues to help us at RTD. I also think cleaning up our fare structure is crucial to simplifying using RTD.

**Chair Julie Mullica:** With no other questions, I will just say thank you for the feedback here today. We will shuffle here in a few minutes over to the TransForum event.

**Karen Stuart:** I wanted to remind everyone that there is no NATA meeting in November, and the meeting in December is earlier than usual. In December we plan to have the new RTD GM Debra Johnson join us at NATA. In order to join TransForum, you will have to log out of this meeting and use the link provided when you registered to join that event. We have some wonderful content with N Line construction and groundbreaking videos and photos, and interviews with the artists at each one of the stations. Ray Lang from Amtrak and Karen Hedlund from WSP are going to discuss the future of rail. If you stick around to the end of TransForum we will announce a swag give away. I want to thank Tammy, Catherine and Carson on our staff for their wonderful work on this.

**Meeting adjourned at 8:21 a.m.**

Full meeting record is available: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dSoXAKvRNl0>