**NATA Board Meeting Minutes**

**October 28, 2021**

**7:30-9:00am**

**Zoom Virtual Meeting**

[**Meeting Recording**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8cF2Mz5tqCA)

**NATA Members (who signed in)**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Lisa Hough** | ACREP CEO | **Joan Peck** | Longmont Council |
| **Lynn Baca** | Adams Cnty Commissioner | **Phil Greenwald** | Longmont Staff |
| **Steve O’Dorisio** | Adams Cnty Commissioner | **Julie Mullica** | Northglenn Council |
| **Janet Lundquist** | Adams County Staff |  |  |
| **Brian Staley** | Adams County Staff | **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 |
| **Nicole Frank** | Commerce City Mayor ProTem | **Tammy Herreid** | SCMN |
| **Brent Soderlin** | Commerce City Staff | **Jessica Sandgren** | Thornton Mayor Pro Tem |
| **Joe Wilson** | Commerce City Staff | **Kent Moorman** | Thornton Staff |
| **Malcolm Fleming** | Erie Staff | **Julia Marvin** | Thornton Council |
| **Harold Thomas** | Fed Heights Mayor Pro Tem | **Debra Baskett** | Westminster Staff |
| **Tim Williams** | Federal Heights Staff |  |  |

**SCMN Members (who signed in)**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Tim Stewart** | E-470 | **Brenda Shuler** | NW Parkway |
| **Neil Goffinet** | FHU | **Joe Jehn** | Rick Engineering |
| **Alex Pulley** | FHU | **Wady Burgos** | Westminster Parking  |
| **Terry Nash** | HNTB | **Myron Hora** | WSP |
| **Stephen Pouliot** | Michael Baker Intl. | **Joyce Downing** | SCMN Chair |

**Agency Partners (who signed in)**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Andy Stratton** | CDOT | **Angie Malpiede** | RTD Board Chair |
| **Julie George** | CDOT | **Lynn Guissinger** | RTD Board |
| **Danny Herrmann** | CDOT | **Erik Davidson** | RTD Board |
| **Dan Marcucci** | CDOT | **Mark Clendennen** | RTD |
| **Jan Rowe** | CDOT | **Jessie Carter** | RTD |
| **Jordan Rudel** | CDOT | **Allen Miller**  | RTD |
| **Doug Rex** | DRCOG | **Michael Davies** | RTD |
| **Ron Papsdorf** | DRCOG | **Henry Stopplekamp** | RTD |
| **Kate Williams** | DRMAC | **Dave Jensen** | RTD |
| **Debra Johnson** | RTD General Manager | **Michael Millage** | RTD |
| **Vince Buzek** | RTD Board | **Pauline Haberman** | RTD |
| **Troy Whitmore** | RTD Board | **Chris Quinn** | RTD |

**Guests (who signed in)**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Kathleen Bracke** | Boulder County | **Kevin Vargas** | Representative Crow |
| **Meghan MacKillop** | CML | **Chris Rork** | Senator Hickenlooper |
| **Randy Grauberger** | Quandel Consultants |  |  |

1. **Welcome - Chair Jessica Sandgren – Thornton Mayor Pro Tem**

*Chair Jessica Sandgren welcomed participants, and gave instructions to sign in using the chat function.*

1. **Approval of Amended September 30, 2021 NATA Meeting Minutes**

*Motion to approve the amended minutes was made by Councilmember Julie Mullica seconded by Councilmember Joan Peck and approved unanimously.*

1. **Action on Updates to NATA’s Priority Projects list**

*No projects were submitted, no action was taken.*

1. **Discussion on 2022 NATA Leadership Slate (vote in December)**

*Karen Stuart –* For 2022, NATA anticipates Councilmember Peck to be the Chair, Mayor Seitz to be the Vice Chair and the Treasurer position needs a nomination. In the past, NATA has looked for regional representation meaning the executive leadership is missing representation from Commerce City, Erie, Brighton, Federal Heights, or Broomfield. Please reach out to SCMN staff to express an interest in running for this open position at the December meeting.

1. **Smart Commute updates - Upcoming Outreach, Carson Priest**

SCMN staff will be conducting rider appreciation outreach events at all of the north area N Line stations, and two major Park n Rides throughout the months of November and December. This caps off a summer’s worth of community outreach for SCMN. These rider appreciation outreach events will target not only peak commute times, but also some special events like the Parade of Lights and Broncos home games. These events will feature hot drinks, giveaways and an interactive rider survey component. If any NATA jurisdictions have outreach events that they would like SCMN staff to attend before the end of the year, please contact Carson.

1. **RTD Director’s Reports - Directors Buzek, Davidson, Guisinger**

*Director Buzek –* RTD assisted me in hosting a town hall for the region I represent, District J, which featured some good questions. N Line ridership is up 83% between January and August. The Park n Rides have a much more significant presence of traffic recently.

*Debra Johnson (RTD GM)* **-** The Adams County Justice Center stop currently has a short-term smaller bus solution in place and RTD, in collaboration with Adams County and the City of Brighton anticipate a permanent solution to be in place by the end of the year with a stop on Bromley Lane.

*Councilmember Adam Cushing (Brighton) –* Is there a solution in place now? Is it at the old stop?

*Debra Johnson* **–** RTD is still stopping on Bromley Lane, but the temporary solution is using a smaller sized contracted 30-foot bus in order to make the turn possible. These smaller busses are being used only to navigate this smaller turn radius area, not on wider basis.

*Janet Lundquist (Adams County) -* Construction on that stop on the south side of Bromley Lane should be wrapped up before Thanksgiving.

*Director Guissinger* **–** The final Accountability Committee meeting took place and RTD is working toward free fare days on Ozone noncompliance days called “spare the air days”, and also on forming local service councils.

*Director Davidson* - The board passed the January 2022 run board and RTD is struggling with workforce shortages as a limiter for restoring service. Coming out of the strategic plan passed a few months ago, RTD is focused on maximizing employee ownership and satisfaction. RTD leadership is focused on making RTD an attractive place to work. The board also passed a restructuring of our internal committee structure for 2022.

1. **RTD Service Routes to Boulder County & Other Metro Areas Update**

*Chair Sandgren* ***–*** This agenda item came out of the news stories recently that CDOT was withholding transit funds from Boulder County, raising red flags for the NATA area. NATA is looking for clarity around this whole situation with this conversation.

*Karen Stuart –* This was not a policy decision of the Transportation Commission who were not aware of this situation. The Transportation Commission found out about this from the paper, just like everyone else. Many times, the governing structure of CDOT can be confusing for members of the public but this specific action came directly from CDOT’s Executive Director in her capacity of approving pass through transit funds.

*Kathleen Bracke (Boulder County)* **-** These funds from the federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) were specifically allocated for areas within Boulder County. Boulder County looked to work with RTD and other stakeholders to utilize these funds in the appropriate way.

*Chair Sandgren –* How did Boulder County get a geographic criterion for these funds? What does Boulder County have that the rest of the other north metro communities don’t?

*Kathleen Bracke* - Restoring transit service across the district is essential. These funds are designated through the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) for the defined small urbanized areas, which includes these communities of Longmont, Boulder and a small combined area of Erie, Lafayette and Louisville in Boulder County.

*Malcom Fleming (Erie) -* What this conversation illustrates is that there is too small of a pie that the region is carving up into slices leaving the region without enough funding to meet regional and local needs.

*Councilmember Peck –* How will the shortage of drivers effect more rural areas like Longmont? Will RTD be forced to pull drivers off of other routes to serve these areas?

*Debra Johnson –* There are qualifiers for these ARPA funds, and the funds are reimbursable based on the qualifiers. The funds are available at 100% federal share for payroll and operations for public transit providers as long as they can prove they have not laid employees off during the pandemic. It’s also applicable to a couple of other COVID specific categories for reimbursement. In terms of equity, public transit agencies must have an equity study in-place. The nation is in the middle of the great-resignation, and RTD is directly affected by that.

*Karen Stuart –* Can someone from RTD describe how the 5307 funds are distributed?

*Debra Johnson –* Urbanized Areas are defined by 10-year-old census data. The Denver-Aurora Urbanized Area’s dedicated recipient for transit funds is RTD. These Boulder County areas that we’re discussing that have a population between 50,000 – 200,000 are considered Small Urbanized Areas, and the funds for these areas flow through the state for approval first. Overall, the 5307 funds from FTA are essentially distributed via a population formula as was described in each urbanized area. In terms of the FTA process for these funds, the Governor must concur that Boulder can become a direct recipient of these transit funds. This means that RTD would no longer be the designated recipient in this area for these specific funds. There must be a detailed plan for use of these funds submitted to the FTA for approval of any projects within the scope of the funding category for payroll or operations only.

*Chair Sandgren* – How do NATA jurisdictions become urbanized areas to be eligible for these funds? The Governor is from Boulder, we see Front Range Passenger Rail going to Boulder, we see this funding going to Boulder all while projects and service in our area are getting cut. All of our representatives continue to get questions about the lack of service in our area and it would be nice to know how to qualify for funds like these.

*Ron Papsdorf (DRCOG) -* The large urbanized area for our region is the Denver-Aurora-Lakewood Urbanized Area, including the majority of NATA. That is why RTD gets an apportionment of 5307 FTA funds for this area. The urbanized area boundaries will change based on the 2020 census. The Boulder, Longmont and Erie, Lafayette, Louisville Small Urbanized Areas are not included in the large Urbanized Area, so they have their own FTA apportionments that runs through the state first.

1. **TIP Call for Projects 2024 – 2027 - Ron Papsdorf, DRCOG**

DRCOG is currently working through the policy that will guide the development of the next TIP cycle for 2024-27. The last major TIP process covered 2020-23 and was adopted in August 2019. The current TIP covers the years 2022-25, but there is no call for projects during this cycle as that only happens every four years. So, every four years DRCOG with its partners review the previous TIP process, priorities and criteria in relationship to available funding in order to inform the next cycle’s TIP policy. This review process has been underway for about 6-months and is honing in on a TIP policy for the next cycle in either December or January. The regional/sub-regional allocation split will stay the same. There are a number of new funding possibilities including the Multimodal Options Fund (MMOF) and the potential federal infrastructure bill. The six Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) emphasis areas will be included as well. DRCOG is focusing on enhancing project readiness, GHG considerations and equity. For the new (MMOF) and potential new (federal infrastructure bill) funding streams, DRCOG is currently working to create the best mix of these funding pots for maximum effectiveness. DRCOG is also keeping focus on the current GHG rulemaking effort at the state level and keeping the TIP policy in lock-step with the RTP. In terms of TIP policy goals, DRCOG is striving to maximize the opportunity to spend ARPA funds on a tight timeline, integrate the outcomes of the GHG Rulemaking process, incorporate the outcomes of the 2050 RTP review, and conduct future calls for projects using two separate tracks in order to maximize funding opportunities.

*Commissioner O’Dorisio -* True equability for these project criteria is top of mind and while capitalizing on shovel-ready projects makes sense, ensuring that those projects aren’t just simply being awarded to the areas with the most available funding is crucial to have true equity.

*Doug Rex (DRCOG) -* With regards to the project-readiness, DRCOG wants to ensure that people are applying for the correct phase of the project so that it can proceed in a timely manner. For DRCOG Board Members on this call, there will be a more in-depth conversation about this two-track call for projects approach that we’re discussing here at the DRCOG board work session next week.

*Ron Papsdorf –* None of the criteria in this process are pass/fail, but they are instead more broad indicators with the objectives of the RTP and Metro Vision. In terms of that sequential process, there are two options that we will propose to the DRCOG Board in order to simply maximize the available funds and lower the need for local match from communities.

1. **Federal Blvd Study Recommendations Presentation - Debra Basket, Westminster**

Westminster, Adams County and Federal Heights have been working collaboratively on this Federal Boulevard Multimodal Study for a period of time now, and are now looking for public input on the outcomes and recommendations. The project and consultant team created an interactive website showcasing an interactive map of the corridor from 52nd to 120th broken down into 1-mile segments, with the ability to click on each segment and find out the key components for each with very specified outcomes for improvements. CDOT’s scheduled resurfacing project for winter 2022 will allow for some very crucial short-term improvements to take place right away. Some of those improvements will include 110-120 ADA curb ramps, new signal technology, pedestrian countdown signals, and a pedestrian activated crossing at 86th Ave for the school in that area. The stakeholder working group hosted a very diverse group of people who have a vested interest in the corridor including partner agencies and local community members. In terms of issues on the corridor, Safety is the number one issue, followed by transit, bike & pedestrian and then traffic operations. The website serves as an ongoing interactive public meeting until 11/8; please share it with those who might be interested.

*Karen Stuart –* This is an exciting project! Before COVID, SCMN staff was working with Regis University about mobility connectivity and serious safety issues in this area. The full complexity of what is possible with this project with the inclusion of comfort level on the street is very exciting for our region. SCMN will include this on public facing materials.

*Commissioner Baca –* Thank you to the technical staff on this project for working in a very collaborative way between jurisdictions and CDOT/RTD. The NATA region harps on the lack of return on investment with transit in the region, but Federal Boulevard is the 3rd most traveled transit corridor in our region which creates a good opportunity to move this project forward.

*Tim Williams (Federal Heights) -* Projected demand for transit is going to increase by 400% by 2040. With limited resources, Federal Boulevard is a corridor to keep an eye on in the future. Thank you to CDOT and RTD staff for being collaborative in this process.

*Chair Sandgren –* There is no NATA Meeting in November, with a full agenda in December.

*Meeting Adjourned at 8:53 a.m.*