**NATA Board Meeting Minutes**

**December 16, 2021**

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

**Zoom Virtual Meeting**

[**Meeting Recording**](https://youtu.be/R2ZPMJ7viL0?t=628)

**NATA Members (who signed in)**

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| **Lisa Hough** | AC-REP CEO | **Tim Williams** | Federal Heights Staff |
| **Lynn Baca** | Adams Cnty Commissioner | **Kevin Ash** | Frederick Staff |
| **Steve O’Dorisio** | Adams Cnty Commissioner | **Joan Peck** | Longmont Mayor |
| **Chris Chovan** | Adams County Staff | **Phil Greenwald** | Longmont Staff |
| **Brian Staley** | Adams County Staff | **Julie Mullica** | Northglenn Council |
| **Janet Lindquist** | Adams County Staff | **Jenny Willford** | Northglenn Staff |
| **Greg Mills** | Brighton Mayor | **Brook Svoboda** | Northglenn Staff |
| **Guyleen Castriotta** | Broomfield Mayor | **Karen Stuart** | SCMN |
| **Austin Ward** | Broomfield Council | **Carson Priest** | SCMN |
| **Jennifer Hoffman** | Broomfield Staff | **Tammy Herreid** | SCMN |
| **Sarah Grant** | Broomfield Staff | **Jessica Sandgren** | Thornton Mayor Pro Tem |
| **Benjamin Huseman** | Commerce City Mayor | **Julia Marvin** | Thornton Council |
| **Adam Haid** | Erie Mayor Pro Tem | **Kent Moorman** | Thornton Staff |
| **Todd Fessenden** | Erie Staff | **Nancy McNally** | Westminster Mayor |
| **Malcolm Fleming** | Erie Staff | **Debra Baskett** | Westminster Staff |
| **Celeste Arner** | Federal Heights Council |  |  |

**SCMN Members (who signed in)**

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| **Sam Taylor** | Broomfield Chamber | **Carla Perez** | HDR |
| **Rachel Ackerman** | FHU | **Stephen Pouliot** | Michael Baker Intl. |
| **Neal Goffinet** | FHU | **Gene Putman** | Putman Transp. Solutions |
| **Alex Pulley** | FHU | **Myron Hora** | WSP |

**Agency Partners (who signed in)**

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| **Andy Stratton** | CDOT | **Vince Buzek** | RTD Board |
| **Heather Paddock** | CDOT | **Troy Whitmore** | RTD Board |
| **Julie George** | CDOT | **Kate Williams** | RTD Board/DRMAC |
| **Danny Herrmann** | CDOT | **Erik Davidson** | RTD Board |
| **Tom Magenis** | CDOT | **Pauletta Tonilas** | RTD |
| **Jan Rowe** | CDOT | **Mark Clendennen** | RTD |
| **Jordan Rudel** | CDOT | **Michael Davies** | RTD |
| **Jamie Grim** | CDOT | **Henry Stoppelkamp** | RTD |
| **Kalie Fallon** | DRCOG | **Dave Jensen** | RTD |
| **Ron Papsdorf** | DRCOG | **Pauline Haberman** | RTD |
| **Debra Johnson** | RTD General Manager | **Chris Quinn** | RTD |

**Guests (who signed in)**

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| **Jeremy Rodriguez** | Congressman Perlmutter | **Jerry Mugg** | HG Consultants |
| **Meghan MacKillop** | CML | **Randy Grauberger** | Quandel Consultants |
| **Gary Forbes** | First Transit | **Andres Carrera** | Senator Hickenlooper |

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

*Chair Jessica Sandgren welcomed participants.*

*Karen Stuart –* Welcome to the new representatives of NATA, and we await the final appointments to NATA from jurisdictions in January. Thank you to 2021 NATA leadership, especially Chair Jessica Sandgren from Thornton. Please sign in using the chat box.

1. **Approval of October 28, 2021 NATA Meeting Minutes**

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

1. **Vote on 2022 NATA Leadership slate:**

**Chair- Longmont Mayor Joan Peck, Vice-Chair and Treasurer Candidates: Adams County Commissioner Lynn Baca, Brighton Mayor Greg Mills, Commerce City Mayor Ben Huseman, and Westminster Mayor Nancy McNally**

*Carson Priest –* There is one vote per voting member (13 jurisdictions, SCMN and ACREP).

*A virtual vote was held via zoom poll: Results were Longmont Mayor Joan Peck as Chair; Adams County Commissioner Lynn Baca as Vice Chair, Brighton Mayor Greg Mills as Treasurer; and Commerce City Mayor, Ben Huseman and Westminster Mayor, Nancy McNally as 2022 SPC members, should they wish to serve in that capacity.*

1. **Smart Commute updates: RTD Rider appreciation events, Business Carbon Footprint Analysis**

*Karen Stuart –* SCMN held a series of 11 RTD Rider Appreciation events at Thornton and Wagon Road Park-n-Rides as well as all of the north area N Line stations. The target was primarily early morning commuters, as well as special events like the Parade of Lights and a Broncos home game. Due to warm weather SCMN staff did not pass out hot chocolate as planned, but did hand out some coffee at the early morning commuter events. From the over 500 rider interactions we heard just how difficult and unsafe the situation is at Denver Union Station has become, among other positive and negative feedback points. Many riders are former 122x riders, and many are transit-reliant riders. Challenges with buying the correct ticket fare was an ongoing issue at each and every outreach event. This feedback will be shared with the RTD team. SCMN is stepping up to offer Commute Carbon Footprint analysis as a stand-alone offer in 2022. The purpose of this offering is to help provide qualified metrics which can help employers understand their commute-related negative externalities.

1. **Brief review and update of CDOT/Stakeholders I-270 & I-25 (84th to 104th) project bus tours**

*Tom Magenis –* There is a major challenge with the Segments 2 and 3 stretch of I-25 from the I-76 interchange up to 104th Ave. The existing EA has a center loading platform for RTD at the Thornton Park-n-Ride, and it has a widening component for shoulder safety and auxiliary lanes. The main challenge is the tight footprint along this segment, causing a lot of the current rear-end crashes. CDOT is exploring other supplemental options outside of the EA due to its immense cost. This bus tour with local elected officials was organized with the purpose of ensuring that all of the correct parties were privy to CDOT’s current options on the table. Some of the biggest safety challenges are southbound between 104th and 84th while the northbound lanes safety challenges are mostly between I-270 and 84th. The slip ramps for the Thornton Park-n-Ride, especially in the northbound lanes, cause major weaving issues because of the steeper grade in that stretch. CDOT can provide the current proposed alternatives.

*Karen Stuart –* NATA is planning to put together a small task force focused on how we can push a solution to the forefront.

*Commissioner O’Dorisio –* The challenge with I-25 improvements is that the safety improvements suggested don’t include the center loading platform or the side-loading slip ramps. Losing an RTD transit option at this location is not what we want because it decreases multimodal capacity along the corridor. For I-270, it was clear that Adams County is continuing to grow and that through these attempts to improve capacity and multimodal we do not want to hinder the growth opportunity for our region.

*Councilmember Mullica –* Thank you to the CDOT staff that were on the bus tour and engaged with us to have a constructive conversation. Thank you for expanding the scope down to I-270. How do the solutions that CDOT are looking at now differ from the original EA? How is CDOT’s engagement with RTD?

*Tom Magenis –* The original EA does have a center median boarding station, and for bus operations that is ideal. The highway would need an additional 80-feet of widening to accommodate the center median station. Simply widening the highway and keeping the existing station slip ramps only compounds the weaving bus issue. That project was projected to be $230 million a few years ago, but I believe we can do some quality improvements for under $200 million. The current configurations we are working on eliminate the slip ramps, which we know isn’t ideal. As for our interactions with RTD, at the design charrette we participated in earlier this year many of their recommendations were very expensive and included things like Transit Oriented Development (TOD) and other larger-scale options. Later in the summer, RTD proposed options that included both existing slip ramps and I-25 widening. CDOT couldn’t support those options, because it contributes to the same safety concerns that are there today.

*Karen Stuart –* As the CDOT Commissioner for this region, I’d like to work with you to provide up-to-date information to the stakeholders and task force. If you can meet with me in January, we can put a packet together for this group in order to coalesce around an option. HPTE has received a proposal from ROADIS that includes a center-loading platform, and that is undergoing further analysis.

*Chair Sandgren –* Thank you for our federal support with this group, as these challenges are costing our communities a lot of resources on an almost daily basis and we look for potential federal support.

1. **RTD Directors’ Reports: Directors Buzek, Cook, Davidson, Guissinger, Whitmore**

*Director Whitmore –* On January 4th the Board will elect officers and put committees together, which will change from committees of the whole to partial committees. This change will allow the members to focus their efforts on the individual committees instead of spreading their efforts thin across all committees.

*Director Buzek –* At the Rider Appreciation events, it was eye-opening to see the confusion among riders regarding how to get the correct ticket fare to ride the train. Families with various generations were forced to do multiple transactions to get discount fares for children or older adults. A director’s retreat is in the planning phases.

*Director Davidson –* RTD just passed our budget for 2022, with more direct ties to the strategic plan. We also received authorization to purchase 17 new 40-foot electric buses. The board authorized a contractor for the fare and equity study that is underway. RTD is actively hiring for operators, mechanics and technicians. Congratulations to our General Manager, Debra Johnson, who has officially been with RTD for one year.

*Director Williams –* I am attending today on behalf of DRMAC, the mobility council for Denver metro region. As for RTD, we are trying to become nimbler as an agency under leadership from Debra Johnson. Please give us feedback on our service plans for 2022.

1. **Union Station Concourse safety issues update- RTD staff**

 *Debra Johnson (RTD General Manager) –* We are aware that there are numerous safety issues at Union Station and are actively working to address them. RTD also understands that this activity has been exacerbated by different activities in and around the Denver downtown core, leading to the illicit behavior within the bus terminal. We are working closely with the Department of Homeland Security’s “VIPR” division (Visible Intermodal Prevention and Response), the Denver arm of the Guardian Angels, as well as the City & County of Denver’s police department and Mayor’s office. We understand that it is not a crime to be homeless, but it is RTD’s responsibility to create a safe and healthy work environment for all RTD employees. I have currently closed the restrooms on the lower level on the bus concourse to address several safety issues, including trace amounts of fentanyl. In terms of a paid-use customer area, RTD is looking into some infrastructure to provide that as an option. We are all in this together, and we look forward to creating a better environment in Union Station.

*Commissioner O’Dorisio -* Thank you for this report, and I hope we all rally around RTD in their efforts here as they try to steward public assets in an effective way.

1. **Bi-partisan Infrastructure Framework - Andres Carrera**

*Andres Carrera (Senator Hickenlooper’s Office)* **-** Senator Hickenlooper was a part of a coalition of 22 different Senators that helped pass this Infrastructure Framework out of Congress. This $1.3 trillion bill will be transformational for Colorado’s infrastructure. Colorado is expected to receive $6.1 billion from this bill, which amounts to just about $1,100 per resident. There is $3.7 billion allocated for highway repairs, $917 million for public transportation, and $688 million to improve water infrastructure across the state. The RTD deposit on a loan of $28.9 million plus interest that was used for Union Station. We aren’t sure yet what the exact breakdown for each community will be, but we expect to know that in the first quarter of 2022. There are also hundreds of billions of dollars' worth of competitive grants available in transportation, energy, broadband, and the environment with a focus on equity in the scoring process.

*Meeting Adjourned at 8:48 a.m.*