**NATA Board Meeting Minutes**

**March 25, 2021**

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

**Zoom Virtual Meeting**

**Meeting Recording:** [**https://youtu.be/d1bJL5hv\_mw?t=948**](https://youtu.be/d1bJL5hv_mw?t=948)

**NATA Members (who signed in)**

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| **Deb Durand** | ACREP | **Kevin Ash** | Frederick staf |
| **Lynn Baca** | Adams County Commission | **Joan Peck** | Longmont Council |
| **Brian Stanley** | Adams County Staff | **Phil Greenwald** | Longmont Staff |
| **Chris Chovan** | Adams County Staff | **Brook Svoboda** | Northglenn Staff |
|  |  | **Julie Mullica** | Northglenn Council |
| **Greg Mills** | Brighton Mayor | **Sara Dusenberry** | Northglenn Staff |
| **Sarah Grant** | Broomfield Staff | **Karen Stuart** | SCMN |
| **Deven Shaff** | Broomfield Council | **Carson Priest** | SCMN |
| **Liz Law Evans** | Broomfield Council | **Tammy Herreid** | SCMN |
| **Nicole Frank** | Comm. City Mayor Pro Tem | **Jessica Sandgren** | Thornton Mayor Pro Tem |
| **Brent Soderlin** | Commerce City Staff | **Kent Moorman** | Thornton Staff |
| **Malcolm Fleming** | Erie Staff | **Debra Baskett** | Westminster Staff |
| **Harold Thomas** | Fed Hgts Mayor Pro tem | **Anita Seitz** | Westminster Mayor Pro Tem |

**SCMN Members (who signed in)**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Sam Taylor** | Broomfield Chamber | **Mark Shotkoski** | NWP |
| **Tim Stewart** | E-470 | **Gene Putman** | Putman Trans. Solutions |
| **Chris Fasching** | FHU | **Michelle Martin** | RS&H |
| **Neal Goffinet** | FHU | **Joyce Downing** | SCMN Chair |
| **Carla Perez** | HDR | **Myron Hora** | WSP |
| **Jennifer Carpenter** | Michael Baker |  |  |

**Agency Partners (who signed in)**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Molly Bly** | CDOT | **Debra Johnson** | RTD General Manager |
| **Julie George** | CDOT | **Doug MacLeod** | RTD |
| **Dan Marcucci** | CDOT | **Pauletta Tonilas** | RTD |
| **Rebecca White** | CDOT | **Michael Ford** | RTD |
| **Jamie Grim** | CDOT | **Mark Clendennen** | RTD |
| **Ron Papsdorf** | DRCOG | **Henry Stopplecamp** | RTD |
| **Doug Rex** | DRCOG | **Troy Whitmore** | RTD Board |
| **Chris Quinn** | RTD | **Vince Buzek** | RTD Board |
| **Bill Sirois** | RTD | **Erik Davidson** | RTD Board |
| **Michael Davies** | RTD | **Lynn Guissinger** | RTD Board |
|  |  |  |  |

**Guests (who signed in)**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Jeremy Rodriguez** | Cong. Perlmutter | **Chris Rork** | Senator Hickenlooper |
| **Kari Linker** | Senator Hickenlooper | **Meghan MacKillop** | CML |
| **Max Haynes** | Senator Hickenlooper | **Alex Gordon** | NFRMPO |
| **Andres Carrera** | Senator Hickenlooper | **James Souby** | FRPR Commission Chair |

1. **Welcome by Chair Jessica Sandgren**

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

**Approval of February 25, 2021 NATA Meeting Minutes**

***Approval of* February 25, 2021 *Meeting Minutes:*** *Motion to approve minutes was made by Malcom Fleming (Erie), seconded by Councilmember Joan Peck (Longmont) and approved unanimously.*

1. **Treasurer’s Quarterly Report :** Deferred to April 22nd NATA meeting.
2. **Smart Commute Update:**

* **Information item- Proposal for I-25 Development and Funding**

*Karen Stuart* presented information onan unsolicited proposal to HPTE for the I-25 north corridor from Michael Cheroutes of ROADIS and Johnny Olson with Horrocks Engineering. Both are formal CDOT employees. This proposal is for development and funding to complete all eight segments of the express lanes from 58th all the way to Fort Collins. It also includes BRT and multimodal funding along the corridor. Would NATA like to have a presentation in April, or desire more information first and then have them come present to NATA? They are looking for jurisdictional support for this proposal.

*Chair Jessica Sandgren:* I would lean toward asking for more information first and then determine from there if we want to have a presentation in April. *Councilmembers Julie Mullica and Joan Peck* agreed with this suggestion. Karen will send out the concept proposal to the NATA attendees and follow-up with Chair Sandgren regarding a presentation in to NATA.

*Councilmember Julie Mullica* would be open to hearing more about this proposal.

*Councilmember Joan Peck* would also like to hear more about this.

* **Grant pursuits update**

*Karen Stuart:* In reviewing the E470 safety grant application, we’ve decided that we don’t have a project in mind for that one. SCMN was awarded the Can Do Colorado eBike program grant and we will bring more information next month. It’s a companion component of the FlexRide grant as a first and last mile options piece. Our final grant pursuit is a telework grant through the Can Do Colorado program. Our grant application is focused on tips for telework ergonomics, physical well-being and mental well-being. The deliverable would be three 15-mintue videos created by a certified physical therapist. We will launch the grant program with an initial partner in Broomfield Chamber of Commerce and then make the resources available to NATA. We are asking for a letter of support for this grant application.

* **Bike to Summer Campaign**

*Carson Priest:* In response to DRCOG’s postponement of Bike to Work Day until 9/22 of this year, SCMN has decided to create a campaign focused on getting people out on bikes all summer long during Colorado’s warmest months. Our campaign is called “Bike to Summer”. The goals of the program are to encourage biking throughout the whole summer, increase committed biking across the region, and raise the profile of local biking opportunities and events. We will promote the campaign in April, provide themed monthly opportunities throughout the summer, and partner with local jurisdictions to support bike friendly events. The timeframe for this campaign is the entire summer – running from April until October. During each month Smart Commute will promote an event that fits a theme such as “I Bike Alone”, “I Bike with Friends”, or “I Bike with Kids”. In April, Smart Commute is going to partner with a health expert to produce a short video highlighting the health benefits of biking, as well as partner with Sustainable Broomfield for a Full Moon Bike ride event during Earth Day week. We plan to engage the community with traditional giveaways but will also create a “my biking wish” map and a “build a bike map” map that encourages riders to provide localized feedback on biking infrastructure in their area. We will measure the success of this campaign by surveying attendees, analyzing the “build a bike map” results, asking for biking pledges, calculating jurisdictional engagement, and watching to see if any other groups replicate the idea in the metro area. We have a great logo and flyer that Tammy has made, and we would ask that each of you in NATA keep us in mind for your summer biking events. Reach out to me if you would like to talk more about this opportunity to partner.

* **Employer Based Trip Reduction Program (ETRP) update (Presentation in April)**

*Carson Priest:* The ETRP effort comes from the state level, because the Front Range is expected to be downgraded to the severe non-attainment level of our air quality standards. This means that and ETRP program, at the regional level, would be part of the EPA’s regulation requirements for this non-attainment level. The goal of the program is to improve our air quality and reduce emissions through reduced SOV travel, and it is expected to affect employers of 100 or more employees. To start, there would be a mandated level of no more than 75% of employees at any given employer driving to work alone and that would, over a period of 3-5 years, be phased down to 60% of employees using SOV travel. This program is currently in the rulemaking process at the state level with the Air Pollution Control Division of the CDPHE and is expected to be presented to the state Air Quality Control Commission in August for rule adoption. We are engaging employers to ensure their feedback is heard during this rulemaking process.

*Karen Stuart:* I will tentatively put this on the agenda for NATA in April and we can discuss it further at SPC.

1. **RTD and N Line Issues**

*Chair Jessica Sandgren:* I have been keeping track of the alerts I have received on N Line cancellations and I have received 19 trip cancellations just since Sunday. I would like to know how people are supposed to get to work with these upcoming ETRP requirements with unreliable transit service? We know that the N Line Pilot Fare Program ends on Saturday, which also raises concern for ridership. I want to know exactly what the problem is, what is the plan moving forward to address these issues, and what we should expect in the north area for transit moving forward.

*Michael Ford (RTD COO):* We have obviously had some problems and are working diligently to fix those problems. It has been a combination of several issues happening at once. Wabtec, who provides and runs the software, has been doing updates to the software which causes issues with the trains running and the signage being updated in a timely fashion. Wabtec is on site working with us to fix these issues daily. We are working on a service agreement that would give Wabtec more access to fix these issues quicker. There have been operational issues with Denver Transit Operators (DTO) where the N Line comes into Union Station. We have also been experiencing an operator shortage. We are hiring as fast as possible but with class sizes being limited by COVID, it is a longer process. We are continuing to work on community outreach to get the word out on issues that may come up as quickly as possible.

*Debra Johnson (RTD CEO & GM):* As it relates to our operational issues, I want to acknowledge that we are not trying to make excuses. I’m interested in sitting down, personally, to discuss all of these pain points to find a better path forward. There are a lot of nuances in the delivery of commuter rail service, but we know that people need to get to places when they need to get there. I am open to creating an open group where we can discuss these issues together and make a plan to move forward.

*Chair Jessica Sandgren:* Thank you, I appreciate that. How are we supposed to know what is happening and when if you don’t have a smart phone and the signs don’t work at the stations? What is the communications plan?

*Debra Johnson (RTD CEO & GM):* We take ownership of this issue because there should be information on those passenger display signs.

*Mark Clendennen ( RTD)*: Wabtec is our primary vendor for these signs and are not populating the signs with information at this time.

*Debra Johnson (RTD CEO & GM):* Mark, can you get this group a definitive date on when these signs will be operational?

*Chair Jessica Sandgren:* My main question remains, what is RTD’s responsibility in all of these issues? I don’t want to tell my citizens who are asking questions about the train that it’s not RTD’s fault anymore. We are not getting regular communications as elected officials about what’s happening on a regular basis about what is happening on this line.

*Debra Johnson (RTD CEO & GM):* I will work with my team to get you a strategic outlook to address what is happening, recognizing that we are the oversight arm for all of these contracts. Give me a week, and I will start to dissect and own the problem.

*Councilmember Julie Mullica:* I just want to go back to the offer you made, Debra, to sit down with our community leaders to discuss these issues. I’m not sure the correct venue for that conversation, but I know thatit would be very beneficial for you and for us.

*Debra Johnson (RTD CEO & GM):* I need to understand your pain points before I can address the problem to solve the issues; I am open to whatever the best forum is to do this. If we can start here and move forward with an understanding of this long history, that would be helpful.

1. **RTD Directors’ Reports**

*Director Erik Davidson:*  On Tuesday we approved the legislative recommendations that came out of the Accountability Committee. We had a larger conversation about the subregional council recommendation and are working on what that might look like with increased local collaboration. There is an ongoing APTA review of RTD in a few key areas, including RTD’s internal audit function. We also discussed the NW Rail and are expecting a report in April from senior staff outlining a path forward.

*Director Vince Buzek:* The Promotional Fare Pilot Program for the N Line is ending on Sunday. The General Manager and our board are looking at fares district-wide, which includes looking at a pilot program district-wide to reduce fares. We are currently undergoing the necessary equity analysis for a program like that. There are also ongoing conversations around fare buy down for the final two stops on the N Line.

*Debra Johnson (RTD CEO & GM):* The FTA requires RTD to do an equity analysis by the end of 2021 before making any changes to fares. This analyzes all fares, programs, passes, etc. per equity requirements. I have convened an internal work group that is looking at the factors around fare equity and simplicity. This analysis will require a lot of outreach Right now, we are focusing on a flat tiered system as one possible option to maximize simplicity of the system for the user.

*Councilmember Joan Peck:* It seems like the analysis will take a long time and raising the rate right now will simply increase the distrust in RTD among the riders. It just seems like bad timing, and if there’s anything we can do outside of the pilot program to not rase that rate, I would advocate for that as an option.

*Debra Johnson (RTD CEO & GM):* I understand what you are saying but we must abide by federal law on this issue. I’m open to any ideas. We have to look at everything through the scope of equity requirements, and I am most focused on a systemwide approach.

*Councilmember Joan Peck:* Is buy-out of the fares an option?

*Councilmember Julie Mullica:* We are working on a proposal to City Council in Northglenn (and in Thornton) but I think this is a really hard sell because it has taken so long to get service up here and we have been paying into it for so long. I am only one of nine votes, so it hinges on how our other councilmembers feel about this idea.

*Director Vince Buzek:* Even if we wanted to buy up the fare at an RTD level, we just can’t because we would be violating federal law. There are at least three other lines in the metro area with the same local vs regional fare issues.

*Director Troy Whitmore:* Local vs. Regional isn’t just an N Line issue, and we are going to reconsider the entire system. Debra is committed to a road to recovery study session at RTD in a post-pandemic world.

*Director Lynn Guissinger:* I want to start off today by remembering the tragedy that occurred in Boulder and the innocent victims of that senseless act. The Accountability Committee recommendations and the bill on that topic is up for hearing next week at the legislature. I agree with the comments here that RTD needs to take a more hands-on approach when it comes to local input and information sharing. This idea is being formalized by the Accountability Committee in the form of local Service Councils.

*Chair Jessica Sandgren:* We had an RTD meeting with Thornton and Northglenn and we are hopeful we can get things going in the right direction with future meetings. We thank Debra and our Directors for your work and feel that you have our best interest in mind.

1. **RTD Accountability Committee Update**

*Councilmember Julie Mullica*: At this group, we have talked a lot about the Governance Subcommittee’s recommendation of subregional style Service Councils. The reason behind the service councils is, we have realized that a lot of community members do not know who their RTD Directors are so they reach out to the city council members on issues and concerns with RTD and their service. The recommendations are quite vague so subcommittees are needed to flesh out the details. In the Governance Subcommittee specifically, we are looking at how RTD can emphasize partnerships, and improve service to the outlying areas of the RTD District. The Finance Committee has developed recommendations for how to best to use the COVID relief funds, and an example includes for a flat fare program system-wide for 6-months. They are also looking at funding options for unfinished FasTracks corridors. The Operations Subcommittee is working on various performance metrics within RTD’s system.

1. **NATA Priority Projects list update discussion**

*Karen Stuart:* We update the list quarterly, and ask each NATA jurisdiction staff members to send us updates so we can update the list for our April NATA meeting.

1. **Safer Main Streets Projects awards – Thumbnail Highlights**

*Brent Soderlin (Commerce City):* We received this grant to do a project that will provide bike/pedestrian safety improvements between 70-72nd stations as it connects to the N Line station at 72nd and provides a safer route for a new elementary school in the area.

*Sara Dusenberry (Northglenn):* We received a city-wide Safer Main Streets grant that will provide bike lanes, center striping and crosswalks across the city in specified safety-concern and lack-of-access areas.

*Malcolm Fleming (Erie):* We received funding for a project that is on our County Line Road between the local middle and elementary schools. We are adding bike lanes, sidewalks and left turn lanes in order to drastically improve safety and connections for that corridor.

*Phil Greenwald (Longmont):* Longmont received a grant for a project that addresses a lack of north-south greenway connections between SH119 and Sunset street in order to improve intersection crossing safety for multimodal options in this specific area.

*Karen Stuart:* We asked these jurisdictions to provide these short presentations today in order to highlight our region and to encourage others to apply for these grants in the future as funding has been expanded by the Governor.

1. **CML Legislative Update**

*Meghan MacKillop*: SB110 has been signed by the Governor, which provides funding for Revitalizing Main Streets. The transportation funding bill is still a few more weeks away, and is projected to provide about $4 Billion in funds through 9 new/raised fees, all of which are indexed to inflation. These fees include Road Usage fee (i.e. Gas tax), Truck Diesel Fee, EV Registration Fee indexing, TNC fee for businesses to offset emission impacts, Online Retail Fee for delivery, Uber/Lyft Fee (lifts the current exemption), and Rental Car Fee increase. The distribution will not change from the usual HUTF distribution to local jurisdictions. Multimodal & mitigation options for jurisdictions will be distributed separately outside of HUTF. To start for the first two years, there is a proposed reduction in the FASTER car registration fees, with an anticipated backfill with stimulus and general fund monies.

*Chair Jessica Sandgren:* Karen sent out the outline of the legislative leadership proposal to NATA; maybe next month we will have a better idea of what the actual bill will look like.

*Meghan MacKillop*: The fees are set to start in FY2022-23, but there are ongoing discussions on that point as well.

*Chair Jessica Sandgren:* Thank you to our federal representatives for attending this meeting regularly, it will be helpful in our lobbying efforts.

1. **Revitalizing Main Streets Stimulus Program**

*Karen Stuart:* As the Transportation Commission Chair, I had the opportunity to attend the signing of the bill by Governor Polis in Golden this week *(photo of signing).* Now I would like to introduce Rebecca White & Molly Bly, with CDOT, to talk about the Revitalizing Main Streets Stimulus Program.

*Rebecca White:* SB110 provides $30 Million in stimulus funds for Revitalizing Main Streets. Throughout the pandemic, CDOT has had two programs, Revitalizing Main Streets and Safer Main Streets, but that is all going to be now housed under the Revitalizing Main Streets brand. Our Transportaion Commission has decided to break out this funding into two separate grant pools. The small grant pool, which totals about $8 Million, is COVID focused community projects that can ask for funding up to $150,000 each. We currently have $900,000 left from the previous cycle that is being added to this specific small grant pool. These applications are reviewed weekly on a rolling basis. The large grant pool, which total about $22 Million, and is geared toward safety improvements capital projects up to $2 Million. We have about $1.3 Million left from the first cycle, however this amount is for use on projects only in the DRCOG region. Molly will talk about the evaluation criteria for these two grant pools.

*Molly Bly*: The Large Grants are really a more typical grant process and their evaluation criteria are safety improvements (30%), active transportation (10%), readiness (10%), funding need (10%), diversity of funding (10%), economic impacts (10%), public support (10%) and local match (10%). For these large grants, there will be pre-application workshops and have a hard due date of May 14. The Small Grants really are based on the Revitalizing Main Streets grant process that were release last June. The reason they are capped at $150,000 is that they are focused on trying to get purchase orders in hand for local projects within roughly 50 days for a quick impact. They are going to be evaluated on public health mitigation (30%), active transportation (30%), readiness (20%), equity/economic impact (10%), public support (5%) and innovation/scalability (5%). For these grants, we have pre-application workshops you can attend from 2 – 4pm on April 6th and April 12th. Those submitting large grant applications, we ask that you attend one of these workshops and start submitting your grant applications on April 7th. On another note, we have hired a land use planner named Nathan Lindquist at CDOT, and he is there to help local judications with technical questions for these applications. If you have any questions, please email us at [cdotmainstreets@state.co.us](mailto:cdotmainstreets@state.co.us).

1. **NATA Annual Retreat**

*Chair Jessica Sandgren:* I just want to remind everyone that we have the Annual NATA Retreat next month following the SPC meeting on April 16th from 9am – 11am. Information and supporting documents will be sent out by April 12th.

**Adjourn 8:58 a.m.**