**NATA Board Meeting Minutes**

**July 29, 2021**

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

**Zoom Virtual Meeting**

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

**NATA Members who signed in**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Deb Durand** | ACREP | **Brook Svoboda** | Northglenn Staff |
| **Lynn Baca** | Adams County Commission | **Julie Mullica** | Northglenn Council |
| **Chris Chovan** | Adams County Staff | **Sara Dusenberry** | Northglenn Staff |
| **Brian Staley** | Adams County Staff | **Karen Stuart** | SCMN |
| **Greg Mills** | Brighton Mayor | **Carson Priest** | SCMN |
| **Liz Law Evans** | Broomfield Council | **Catherine Sanders** | SCMN |
| **Brent Soderlin** | Commerce City Staff | **Jessica Sandgren** | Thornton Mayor Pro Tem |
| **Nicole Frank** | Commerce City Mayor Pro Tem | **Kent Moorman** | Thornton Staff |
| **Todd Fessenden** | Erie Staff | **Debra Baskett** | Westminster Staff |
| **Kevin Ash** | Frederick Staff | **Anita Seitz** | Westminster Mayor |
| **Harold Thomas** | Federal Heights Mayor Pro Tem | **John Volz** | Westminster Council |
| **Joan Peck** | Longmont Council |  |  |
| **Sarah Grant** | Broomfield Staff |  |  |

**SCMN Members who signed in**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Sam Taylor** | Broomfield Chamber | **Carla Perez** | HDR |
| **Mark Shotkoski** | NW Parkway | **Neil Goffinet** | FHU |

**Agency Partners who signed in**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Julie George** | CDOT | **Michael Davies** | RTD |
| **Paul Jesaitis** | CDOT | **Chris Quinn** | RTD |
| **Rebecca White** | CDOT | **Allen Miller** | RTD |
| **Danny Herman** | CDOT | **Dave Jensen** | RTD |
| **Jordan Rudel** | CDOT | **Vince Buzek** | RTD Board |
| **Ron Papsdorf** | DRCOG | **Troy Whitmore** | RTD Board |
| **Debra Johnson** | RTD General Manager | **Erik Davidson** | RTD Board |
| **Bill Sirois** | RTD |  |  |

**Guests who signed in**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Andres Carerra** | Sen. Hickenlooper | **Jeremy Rodriguez** | Rep. Perlmutter |

1. **Welcome - Chair Jessica Sandgren**

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

1. **Approval of June 24, 2021 NATA Meeting Minutes:** *Motion to approve minutes was made by Councilmember Joan Peck seconded by Malcom Fleming and approved unanimously.*
2. **Treasurer’s Quarterly Report**

*Karen Stuart* provided the treasurer’s report on behalf of Treasurer Mayor Seitz. There are no changes from the Q1 report. The cash balance remains $9,405.54.

*Motion to approve the Treasurer’s Report was made by Joe Jehn, seconded by Councilmember Joan Peck, and approved unanimously.*

1. **Announcement of Advancing Adams Transportation Plan Survey Reminder**

*Chair Jessica Sandgren* announced that Adams County continues to develop updates to its comprehensive, transportation, and parks, open spaces, and trails plans with completion scheduled early next year. Adams County invites all stakeholders to visit our booth at the Adams County Fair, August 4-8 or to get more information, ask questions, and provide input, go to [www.advancingadams.org/advancingadams](http://www.advancingadams.org/advancingadams) to take the most recent survey, provide your comments, and review previously developed material.

1. **Draft of revised NATA Mission Statement and Shared Values**

SPC met last week and made some proposed changes to the mission statement and shared values statement as a follow up to the April 2021 NATA retreat. (*Those changes were displayed on the screen, in red).* The changes made include more multimodal mentions and some highlights around equity.

*Councilmember Julie Mullica s*aid that she loves NATA’s new mission statement in that it hits home with all that NATA’s trying to accomplish.

*Mayor Anita Seitz* asked if there was consensus around spelling out GHG and air quality improvements as a part of either the mission statement or shared values statement.

*Carson Priest* showed that this statement was mentioned in the shared values statements, but we will work on adding a more specific mention for GHG before bringing it back to the group for approval in August.

*Gene Putman* suggested that Local, State and Federal lobbying be added as qualifiers for the type of lobbying that NATA pursues so that we are on everyone’s radar for all possible funding opportunities.

*Andres Carrera* said that he, as Senator Hickenlooper’s representative to NATA, wants to be a forceful advocate for NATA’s priorities and wants to serve as a resource for any federal grant applications.

*Councilmember Joan Peck* applauded the efforts for the revised statements, but agreed that specific call outs for local, state and federal levels is important.

*Chair Sandgren* said that the group would work on editing the statements to include these changes.

Once this language has NATA approval, SCMN staff will put it on the NATA website and leave-behind document.

1. **Smart Commute updates: Karen Stuart, Carson Priest, Catherine Sanders**

**Employer Traffic Reduction Program (ETRP) updated:**

*Karen Stuart* provided an update on the demise of the ETRP rule. Many groups, including SCMN, put a lot of time and effort crafting language for this rule. SCMN was part of the TMA group that collaborated to influence this rule to make it achievable and impactful.

*Catherine Sanders* said that the ETRP rule dismissal happened over a week-long period during a series of downgrades. SCMN staff had been in ongoing conversations with APCD staff on a Thursday, with the emergency meeting to take away much of the regulation portion of the rule the following Monday, so this all happened very quickly. By the following Thursday, the APCD staff announced the dismissal of the rule in its entirety which returns all efforts to the status quo of voluntary ETRP planning at the TMO level. SCMN has been active in engaging employers to let them know about the rule dismissal, but are continuing to also work with companies in a voluntary way around data collection and plan implementation. We put a lot of time into this as an organization over the last year.

*Karen Stuart* said that this action was very disappointing as well, and that it is a missed opportunity to learn more about the impact of SOVs on GHG emissions. We want to thank the employers and communities that engaged with us in our early outreach. In closing, Colorado will likely be downgraded to severe nonattainment by the EPA so this will effort may return in the near future. We continue to talk about what the next steps are for this program, and believe that something will most likely be mandated in the future.

*Councilmember Joan Peck* expressed her disappointment in the rule’s dismissal, and said that it helped with ongoing business outreach in Longmont.

*Karen Stuart* said that there are upcoming meetings with business groups in the region to discuss how a voluntary effort is going to meet this EPA downgrade.

**Three Telework wellbeing video links:**

*Carson Priest* said that in partnership with the Broomfield Chamber of Commerce, SCMN was awarded a grant to produce a series of three teleworking videos highlighting physical wellbeing, mental wellbeing and ergonomics for teleworkers. We encourage you all to check them out and provide any feedback you may have. (*All three links were shared to the group in the chat)*

**Community Outreach Events Update:**

*Carson Priest* gave a brief update regarding ongoing efforts of SCMN staff to get back out at community events. We attended three events in July, most as a part of our ongoing Bike to Summer campaign including Brighton’s Full Moon Bike Ride, Northglenn’s Full Moon Bike Ride and the Brighton City BBQ. We have a series of events coming up in August like Broomfield’s National Night Out, Thornton’s Bike Rodeo, and Northglenn’s Full Moon Bike Ride. I want to especially point out Bike to Work Day is back this year on 9/22, and we ask that you please reach out to start coordinating stations with us for this great event. *(Carson showed a series of photos from July events as well).*

1. **Smart Commute’s eBikes Grant Program presentation:**

*Jeanne Shreve* said that SCMN’s eBike program is one of 7 funded throughout the state by the Colorado Energy Office to provide eBikes to low-income community members as a mobility option. Our program uses a loan-to-own model that allows participants to try out the eBike for 90-days. The program also includes not only the eBike, but all of the necessary accessories to make biking easy and accessible. At the end of 90-days the participants opt-in to receive the eBike for the full program time period. Each participant must submit a $250 deposit, but understand that it could be cost-prohibitive for some participants so we have been able to get a grant to fund the first 10 eBike participant’s deposits. The purpose of the program is not only to give eBikes as a mobility option but to also offer this program as a proof-of-concept for eBikes in a suburban environment. This grant leverages the 144th and I-25 existing DRCOG grant . We do have the budget for up to 5 recumbent eBikes for adaptive use, which was a strong qualifier for our program application. Each of the participants lives within the SCMN service area, and we’ve placed a strong emphasis on those close to the 144th and I-25 area. Each participant must complete an in-person training session to learn about the safety and operation of their bike and all of the accessories. On a weekly basis, we reach out to these participants to offer any support they may need. We continue to do outreach to area community organizations to spread the word about the program.

*Gene Putman* said that he sees a lot of bicyclists that don’t understand that it’s very important to be visible on a bike for safety reasons.

*Jeanne Shreve* said that the training sessions are three hours long because we have extensive training about riding eBikes safely along the road. It is also important to educate drivers to be aware of their surroundings.

*Mayor Seitz* said that many participants work at Amazon, and asked if there was any possibility for business-level scholarships to help offset the cost of the deposits.

*Jeanne Shreve* said yes, that we are actively seeking sponsorships from every source we can. We do a lot of work with Amazon and are often there during shift break, even during the middle of the night. We strive to meet these employees where they work to provide impactful localized outreach. Amazon even works with us on employees that may be late because of the bus running behind schedule so late bus riding employees don’t get docked. Amazon even offers transit passes and other incentives for employees to participate in these programs.

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

*Director Buzek* said that the N Line outreach group will be holding a public meeting tonight. RTD staff recently provided him with ridership numbers. There were 61,000 riders in June which is right on track with the G Line, a good line for comparison due to its similarity in nature to the N Line.

*Director Davidson* said that the board, earlier this year, adopted the guiding principles for the ReImagine campaign which includes mobility, equity, financial, partnership, workforce and sustainability. The ReImagine committees have been meeting over the past 6 months to formulate strategies for these main guiding principles. There have been healthy conversations around land-use, first and last mile, ad equity topics.

*Director Whitmore* said that the Accountability Committee report and subsequent RTD response is woven throughout all that RTD is doing at this time with a focus on coming up with a final list of responses to all of the Committee’s recommendations.

*Debra Johnson (RTD GM )* said that RTD plans to have a discussion with the board on 8/17 to discuss the RTD staff response to the Accountability Committee’s final report. We will take those comments into account and have our formal response back to DRCOG by 8/31. She has been working hard with the executive team and board to put together a strategic plan for the organization centered on four main pillars which are community value, customer excellence, employee ownership, and financial success. Those priorities will be the foundational pillars for decision-making for the organization. They are also working on a comprehensive operational analysis to look at how their service is meeting the needs of the region. She encourages all to subscribe to their N Line public newsletter. The fare study and equity analysis is moving forward and they are in the middle of their local government meetings to help shape the impending scope of work. They will start the process to hire a consultant within the next two to three months.

*Councilmember Julie Mullica* said that a lot of us on the Accountability Committee are looking forward to the formal RTD response.

*Karen Stuart* said that RTD’s consultant for the ReImagine process has asked to attend our next NATA meeting to conduct a short listening workshop.

*Chair Sandgren* asked if the issue of having no bus stop at the Adams County Courthouse in Brighton had been resolved?

*Director Whitmore* said that there was still service to the area, but that it required a walk from one of three possible stations in the vicinity. He is concerned about this, and we will work with staff to see what can be done to address this.

*Commissioner Baca* said that there is a backlog of in-person cases at the facility from COVID and that reinstating the stop will be crucial for those trying to access their court dates. She was told that RTD didn’t have the correct access agreement with the facility to provide service. That has not been the case at any time in the past, so she’s not sure what happened. RTD must communicate these changes to us in a more effective way. We appreciate Director Whitmore’s support.

*Debra Johnson* recognized that there was an issue with the communication of this stop being eliminated and that RTD’s government relations director Michael Davies will take point moving forward on these issues.

*Michael Davies* said that he is happy to engage further on this issue with those on the call. This was not just a service change; it was an N Line bus operations plan. They did extensive outreach on this plan, and didn’t receive any comments on these issues. They will communicate more on this moving forward.

*Mayor Greg Mills* said that the City of Brighton will be putting out a letter of support to the board on this issue.

*Malcom Fleming* said thank you to Debra Johnson for continually attending these meetings.

*Chair Sandgren* said that this theme of miscommunication or lack of communication needs to be remedied and she looks forward to the work on this specific bus stop.

1. **CDOT Updates on SB260/Stimulus Funds Project List, SB260 Overview and GHG Rulemaking:**

*Rebecca White* said that the 10-year plan was drafted in 2019, during a long period of community outreach. We had confidence when this was written we would have funding for the first 4 years of projects and would have six years of “hoped for” projects. The Transportation Commission worked to create a series of detailed guiding principles that helped funnel a massive list of projects down into the 10-year list. In the past year, we received our second tranche of 267 only to have COVID make things seem very grim in terms of project funding. Quickly after that, the state came forward with stimulus dollars for projects that were shovel-ready. Some of the projects in the first 4-years of the plan didn’t qualify for this and we’ve had to pull in some other projects to fulfill the shovel-ready requirement. Most recently CDOT has received about $238 million in additional funding in 2021 based on 267 funds plus SB260 funding. We selected 25 projects to be funded by these dollars, and about 20% are multimodal projects.

*Paul Jesaitis* presented the list of 25 projects which include a major project along I-70 at Floyd Hill and specifically of interest for NATA the I-25 and SH7 Interchange Mobility Hub initial design funding. There are a series of projects to help with multimodal projects that increase Bustang transit service.

*Rebecca White* said that CDOT has now completed the 4-year list of projects within the larger list, with the exception of the larger scale I-270 and Floyd Hill projects. We now need to select a new 4-year list of immediate priority projects. CDOT intends to kick off a process this summer to help build this next 4 years of projects.

*Councilmember Julie Mullica* asked why I-25 and 84th didn’t make this list and what criteria was used to select these projects so that this project wasn’t included? How do we know how these projects were chosen?

*Paul Jesaitis* assured NATA that they are continually looking at solutions on this project, but understand that the cost and scope of the project at $260 million is very large. As we get closer to this project, we will continue to come back to you all with updates. There is a project-readiness issue on this project and there are a lot of resources going to I-270 right now.

*Rebecca White* said that every step that is taken on project list creation goes to the Transportation Commission and that every step is published online as well. What it comes down to is that this is a $260 million project and that the money we received we weren’t able to allocate any more than we already have to Region 1.

*Karen Stuart* said that this is always at the forefront of her conversations when discussing Adams County with CDOT Executive Management. There are a few complicating factors here. One is that there isn’t a clear plan for what this project since the EA was pulled. It needs a new scope. We need to meet all together to discuss this project. Just because this project is on years 5-10 doesn’t mean that the project has to happen in those years if money isn’t available. We have to find a way to fund this, and if the center loading transit platform is part of the project, RTD has to come to the table with money for the center loading platform. There is an unsolicited proposal in front of HPTE that might help address some of these issues. Councilmember Mullica, these projects don’t just come out of the blue as they are a part of a larger list and we are always looking to protect assets, improve multimodal options, and spread it throughout the state. We at the Commission work hard to make sure that equity is apparent throughout the state when selecting projects. I would love to have more conversations about this project on I-25 in the near future.

*Meeting adjourned at 9:17 AM.*