**NATA Board Meeting Minutes**

**August 27, 2020**

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

**Zoom Virtual Meeting**

**Meeting Recording:** [**https://youtu.be/KsxQeEXFRM8**](https://youtu.be/KsxQeEXFRM8)

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

**NATA Members (who signed in)**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Deb Durand** | ACREP | **Tim Williams** | Federal Heights Staff |
| **Steve O’Dorisio** | Adams County Comm. | **Joan Peck** | Longmont Council |
| **Chris Chovan** | Adams County Staff | **Phil Greenwald** | Longmont Staff |
| **Kristin Sullivan** | Adams County Staff | **Julie Mullica** | Northglenn Council |
| **Greg Mills** | Brighton Mayor | **Sara Dusenberry** | Northglenn Staff |
| **Liz Law Evans** | Broomfield Council | **Carson Priest** | SCMN |
| **Kevin Standbridge** | Broomfield Staff | **Karen Stuart** | SCMN |
| **Craig Hurst** | Commerce City Council | **Tammy Herreid** | SCMN |
| **Brent Soderlin** | Commerce City Staff | **Jessica Sandgren** | Thornton Mayor Pro Tem |
| **Joe Wilson** | Commerce City Staff | **Kent Moorman** | Thornton Staff |
| **Todd Fessenden** | Erie Staff | **Anita Seitz** | Westminster Mayor Pro Tem |
| **Malcolm Fleming** | Erie Staff | **Debra Baskett** | Westminster Staff |

**SCMN Members (who signed in)**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Michael Gifford** | AGC | **Joyce Downing** | Northglenn Council |
| **Pat Monacelli** | Broomfield Chamber | **Gene Putman** | PTS |
| **Carla Perez** | HDR | **Myron Hora** | WSP |
| **Jennifer Carpenter** | Michael Baker Int’l | **Michelle Martin** | RS&H |

**Agency Partners (who signed in)**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Rebecca White** | CDOT | **Kate Williams** | DRMAC, RTD Board |
| **Jordan Rudel** | CDOT | **Alex Gordon** | NFRMPO |
| **Julie George** | CDOT | **Lisa Trujillo** | RTD |
| **Doug Rex** | DRCOG | **Henry Stopplecamp** | RTD |
| **Paul Jesaitis** | CDOT | **Chuck Culig** | RTD |
| **Jamie Grim** | CDOT | **Paul DesRocher** | RTD |
| **Danny Herrman** | CDOT | **Pauline Haberman** | RTD |
| **Jan Rowe** | CDOT | **Troy Whitmore** | RTD Board |
| **Steve Harrelson** | CDOT | **Vince Buzek** | RTD Board |

**Guests (who signed in)**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Neal Goffinet** | FHU | **Celeste Stragand** | Ford Mobility |
| **Randy Grauberger** | FRPP |  |  |

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

Motion to approve minutes made by Thornton Council Member Sandgren, seconded by Malcolm Fleming, Town of Erie and approved unanimously.

* **Treasurer’s Report**
  + **Joan Peck:** *(Provided overview of Treasurer’s Report. $17,945.54 is current cash balance in NATA treasury. No outstanding dues or pending invoices).*

***Approval of Treasurer’s Report:*** Motion to approve report made by Northglenn Council Member Downing, seconded by Thornton Mayor Pro Tem Sandgren and approved unanimously.

* **Smart Commute update: Karen Stuart, Carson Priest, Tammy Herreid  
  TransForum 2020**
  + **Karen Stuart:** TransForum will be held as a free virtual event this year (rather than in-person) on October 22 following the October NATA meeting. The agenda will feature the opening of the N Line and topics will include the history of the N Line, history of some of the station locations, background on the development of the project, highlights from construction, and information about artwork at each station. The keynote speaker will talk about the future of train travel. Smart Commute plans a commemorative book featuring pictorial highlights of the N-Line project from early conception to the commencement of service on September 21st. TransForum will begin at 8:30 am the day of the October NATA meeting (Thursday, October 22). All Smart Commute members will be considered sponsors of this event. Additionally, Smart Commute is seeking photographs and historical information about the N Line – please provide any you may have to Karen and Carson.

**BTWW & Go-Tober update**

* **Carson Priest:** Bike to Work Day is now “Bike to Wherever Week,” and the event has moved virtual, September 21-25 (coincides with N Line opening, and hope to take advantage of that fact). Go-Tober is happening again, with a heavy focus on teleworking – understanding impact of teleworking in reduced VMTR and air quality will be a new desired outcome of GoTober this year.

* **RTD Accountability Committee Update**
* **Chair Mullica:** The committee had their first meeting on Monday, August 24. The meeting encompassed the committee solidifying the guidelines in the bylaws; 20 minutes was allowed for public comment; a presentation on Reimagine RTD was given; a good group discussion on the final three RTD GM candidates; and the need for three subcommittees was identified. The subcommittees are (1) Operations, (2) Finance, and (3) Governance. There is a concern that the Operations subcommittee might cover too much since it oversees everything operations related, so it will be monitored to see if it needs to be reassessed. The Governance subcommittee will oversee district partnerships with other local governments. A survey was sent out to all Accountability Committee members on Wednesday, August 26 to volunteer for a subcommittee of their choice. Subcommittee meetings will hopefully begin next week. There was also a Working Group established to set up guidelines for an equity lens. Chair Mullica is serving on this working group. All recommendations that will come from the three subcommittees will have to be evaluated by this equity lens before moving forward. The next meeting is in two weeks. All meeting notes and agendas for the Accountability Committee can be found on the DRCOG website if anyone wants to review them, and meetings are recorded.
* **RTD Director Open Seat, District I discussion**
* **Debra Baskett:** The current statute requires a certain number of signatures be acquired for any person running for an RTD Directors seat. The person that was interested in that seat did not obtain enough signatures so the District is now required to appoint the seat, which is not up until November. This director will represent multiple jurisdictions with the majority population in Boulder County. Boulder County has no specific timing right now for this appointment or individual identified. The last time this happened, Chuck Sisk, former Mayor of Louisville, was appointed, and it was a competitive appointment.
* **Council Member Peck:** This is a very important position for this district and she encourages anyone with interest in this seat to apply.
* **Council Member Law-Evans:** She is interested in this seat and has been giving it some thought. Her current council term is up November 21 so there should be no conflict. She will talk with Council Member Peck and Debra Baskett for further information.
* **RTD Directors Comments:** Director Vince Buzek, Director Troy Whitmore

**GM Search Update:**

* **Director Whitmore:** Wanted to start off by saying what a tremendous candidate pool RTD had for the GM/CEO position. RTD is held in high regard in the national transit industry which is evident from the candidate applications RTD received for the GM position. The pool was narrowed down to six finalists which were all outstanding and then narrowed to the final three candidates, all women with great track records and with very diverse experience. It was a very hard decision but was pretty resolute among the RTD Board to select Debra Johnson. RTD is currently in negotiations with Debra so her exact start date is not yet decided. RTD did not receive many comments from key stakeholders (700 comments in general, however); they would have liked to of had more but understand it was tough with the quick timing.
* **Director Buzek:** We are excited, Debra brings a fresh perspective and new ideas.

**FISA / Budget:**

* **Director Buzek:** We are working with an anticipated shortfall of about $166M for 2021. Interim GM Ballard put together a Task Force for suggestions and recommendations for budget item cuts the Board which they should see soon. The north area Directors are pushing for FISA to be left intact and keep it to be used for FasTracks projects as it was originally intended for (there is about $130M in the account now, and about $20M in anticipated annual contributions). Staff wants to use both the account balance as well as future contributions for the current debt situation, but north Directors are pushing back.Note: The Board did pass an overriding principal that service cuts will no longer be the allowed to the first option for cuts due to shortfalls in the budget. RTD now has good data on ridership and which lines have good and bad ridership and can shift service around temporarily to align service with ridership.

**Reimagine RTD Pause:**

* **Director Buzek:** Reimagine was created to address what the future of mobility will look like for RTD’s future service plan but with COVID-19, everything has changed. So, since everything has changed, Reimagine has been paused.
* **Director Whitmore:** It makes sense to pause Reimagine right now. But, we don’t want to lose all the work that has been done up to this point.

**RTD Accountability Committee**

* **Director Whitmore:** For the Accountability Committee, we elected Elise Jones and Crystal Murillo as Co-Chairs. We will work with them and assist them. The RTDBboard members on the committee are ex-officio.

**Discussion:**

* **Mayor Pro Tem Sandgren:** Thank you to the Directors for the constant updates, keeping us informed and listening to us. We’d like to “Reimagine our relationship with RTD” here in the north.
* **Karen Stuart:** Note that we don’t want FISA designated for RTD debt relief because we want to keep that money in the FISA account to be able to use it as a local match for federal funding for future unfinished projects. Without local match ready, we will lose the opportunity to leverage funding.
* **Director Buzek:** This is important to remember and myself, Directors Whitmore and Guissinger are making this a point to remind RTD of this.
* **Director Whitmore:** Director Lubow is also pushing this point.
* **RTD N-Line Opening Activities:** 
  + **Pauletta Tonilas:** The opening is scheduled for September 21, however, this opening will look very different from our other Grand Openings due to COVID. We are asking the public to be our partner in safety, this is our mantra. For the end of line celebration, all attendees will be seated in a 12-foot grid per the state’s mandate for outdoor events. Cleaning procedures for these events will be similar to our standard every day cleaning on our buses and trains. On September 21, Board members and dignitaries from the north area will participate in a progressive train ride starting at Union Station. At each station ribbon cutting, the local dignitaries will board the train for the ride to the end of line station at 124th Eastlake Station for the celebration ceremony. We have established a list of speakers for the celebration ceremony at the 124th Eastlake station. This will be an invite ONLY event (no guests or public will be allowed due to safety requirements for COVID). Mike Meter, RTD Chief Safety Coordinator, is the safety leader for this event. RTD will heavily promote the Live Streaming of the event. There are minimal RTD staff invited to this event to allow more local dignitaries from the north jurisdictions to attend. Starting at noon on September 21, the FREE rides will begin for the public until Sunday, September 27, then the promo fare starts on September 28 for 6 months. On Thursday, September 17 there will be special rides, invite only, for the Board, VIPs and the Media. This is a fantastic milestone and we want to celebrate it, it will just be different than our normal opening celebrations. Safety is paramount.

* **CDOT Statewide Transportation Plan Highlights, Rebecca White and Steven Harrelson**
  + **Rebecca White:** This has been a huge effort and very proud to present it to you. We are excited as one of our commitments is improved transparency on projects and their budgets. We are trying to take a close look at our pre-construction budgets and decrease them. We started this effort in May 2019. We physically touched all 64 counties of Colorado through in-person meeting and town halls, reaching new stakeholder audiences. We have delivered a plan that has a full 10-year project list. We.ve also incorporated transit into the statewide plan, to have an all-modes plan. The plan includes (1) The 10-Year Vision (including the four-year SB267 projects), (2) 10 Rural Transportation Plans, and (3) The 2045 Statewide Plan (meeting Federal requirement). Due to COVID, we expanded the public comment period, and reached out directly to stakeholders for feedback on this draft plan.

**Discussion:**

* + **Mayor Pro Tem Sandgren:** Do we know where we are a on traffic numbers now compared to pre-COVID traffic? **Steven Harrelson**: Yes, for example we know that I-70 at Eisenhower Tunnel is past a 100% of the COVID traffic numbers and we are close to 90% on other highways

**Three Dashboards Presentation- A new feature of this Statewide Transportation Plan:**

* **CDOT Chief Engineer Steve Harrelson:** 
  + Program Financial Summary Dashboard - It shows the entire program, it shows all available funding - $3.5B, $2B due to SB267 and other funds in there leveraged with $1.4B of other dollars. This dashboard shows programmatically what we are doing at CODT with those dollars. We are planning on spending $85M on Right of Way, $280M on pre-construction, $2.8B on actual construction, $388M on indirects or overhead. We also divide it out between CDOT and contractor contracts. You can see it broken out by TPR, MPO and all in graphical form. So you can show only DRCOG region and even further into what CDOT region the spending will take place in. The bulk of DRCOG funding is in CDOT Region 1. You can reset each dashboard to return to “normal”
  + Program Summary Dashboard - This shows all the projects broken out in the same way as the previous dashboard, but this dashboard has a map feature that allows you to float over each project and see their current progress. You can use an overall progress report at the top to see, for instance, what projects are under construction at any given time. You can also see what is funded by SB267 at any given time.
  + Project Summary Page (currently just SB267 projects as a pilot, hope to expand to all projects eventually) - This shows projects and allows you to narrow it down by region and get into a more detailed project list. This dashboard shows a short summary of each project with a narrative summary and information about what staff is working on the project.
* The link is posted in the chat (<https://www.codot.gov/programs/your-transportation-priorities/projects-funded>) and this tool is less than 6 weeks old - so please let CDOT staff know if you see bugs in the dashboard.

**Discussion:**

* **Debra Baskett**: How often will it be updated? **Steven Harrelson:** Financial reporting - it is tied to SAP, so in theory, it gets updated daily. The reality is more like once a month when CDOT pays the contractor monthly. In terms of pre-construction, it will happen in real time as they are updated by CDOT staff.
* **Gene Putnam (in chat): “**There is a change underway to Autonomous vehicles. We all need to be thinking how we need to stay up to date. Example: pavement markings will be important.:” **Rebecca White**: I did see Gene’s comment about autonomous vehicles and striping – that is one of several reasons we are planning to use 6-inch stripes instead of 4-in stripes. **Paul Jesaitis:** Pavement Markings are getting better and people can see them much better now on the road.
* **Mayor Pro Tem Sandgren** The136 / 144th exit from the express lanes is confusing, there’s no place to get out of the express lanes and off at 144th. . Can earlier signage be added?
* **Paul Jesaitis:** Referring to the managed lanes- CDOT continues to look at this.
* **Karen Stuart:** We are so proud of this plan! Thank you to the CDOT staff for their work on this toolkit. It really promotes transparency and a great feedback loop for us within the CDOT team.
* **General Final Comments/Updates**
* **Debra Baskett:** DRCOG Board Work Session (9/2/2020) next week there will be information briefings on the I-25 corridor from way down south all the way up north up to Ft. Collins. The second topic is a briefing on Front Range Rail. I encourage NATA reps to attend this work session and make comments.
* **Karen Stuart:** Front Range Rail will give us an update in September, and Nick Farber from HPTE will talk to us about funding possibilities for the I-25 Corridor. The next meeting will be September 24.
* **Chair Mullica:** Thank you for NATA’s continued great work and for our RTD Directors who help fight for us up here.

**Meeting adjourned at 8:53 am.**

Full meeting record is available: <https://youtu.be/KsxQeEXFRM8>

* Smart Commute Update: <https://youtu.be/KsxQeEXFRM8?t=1181>
* RTD Accountability Committee Update: <https://youtu.be/KsxQeEXFRM8?t=1569>
* RTD Director Open Seat, District I Discussion: <https://youtu.be/KsxQeEXFRM8?t=1835>
* RTD Directors Comments: <https://youtu.be/KsxQeEXFRM8?t=2074>
* RTD N-Line Opening Activities: <https://youtu.be/KsxQeEXFRM8?t=3047>
* CDOT Statewide Transportation Plan Highlights: <https://youtu.be/KsxQeEXFRM8?t=3606>
* New CDOT Dashboards: <https://youtu.be/KsxQeEXFRM8?t=4601>