**NATA Board Meeting Minutes**

**January 23, 2020**

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

**ACED Offices, 12200 Pecos Street, #100, Westminster, CO 80234**

**Welcome and introductions by Chair Julie Mullica.**

**NATA Members (who signed in)**

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| **Deb Durand** | ACED | **Jenny Willford** | Northglenn Mayor Pro tem |
| **Steve O’Dorisio** | Adams County Comm. | **Julie Mullica** | Northglenn Council |
| **Brian Staley** | Adams County Staff | **Brooke Svoboda** | Northglenn Staff |
| **Chris Chovan** | Adams County Staff | **Sara Dusenberry** | Northglenn Staff |
| **Adam Cushing** | Brighton Council | **Carson Priest** | SCMN |
| **Greg Mills** | Brighton Mayor | **Catherine Sanders** | SCMN |
| **Liz Law-Evans** | Broomfield Council | **Karen Stuart** | SCMN |
| **Kevin Standbridge** | Broomfield Staff | **Tammy Herreid** | SCMN |
| **Craig Hurst** | Commerce City Council | **Jessica Sandgren** | Thornton Mayor Pro tem |
| **Joe Wilson** | Commerce City Staff | **Kent Moorman** | Thornton Staff |
| **Malcolm Fleming** | Erie Manager | **Anita Seitz** | Westminster Mayor Pro tem |
| **Todd Fessenden** | Erie Staff | **Jon Voelz** | Westminster Council |
| **Tim Williams** | Federal Heights Staff | **Debra Baskett** | Westminster Staff |
| **Phil Greenwald** | Longmont Staff |

**SCMN Members (who signed in)**

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| **Eric King** | Michael Baker Int. | **Joseph Tate** | RS&H |
| **Gene Putman** | Putman Trans Solutions | **Myron Hora** | WSP |
| **Sam Taylor** | Broomfield Chamber |  |  |
| **Joe Jehn** | Rick Engineering |

**Agency Partners (who signed in)**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Henry Stopplecamp** | RTD | **Lisa Trujillo** | RTD |
| **Andy Stratton** | CDOT | **Judy Lubow** | RTD Board |
| **Julie George** | CDOT | **Sherry Cook** | RTD Board |
| **Stephanie Alanis** | CDOT | **Troy Whitmore** | RTD Board |
| **Doug Rex** | DRCOG | **Vince Buzek** | RTD Board |
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**Guests (who signed in)**

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| **Jeremy Rodriguez** | Congressman Perlmutter | **Steven Emmen** | Senator Gardner |
| **Neal Goffinet** | FHU |  |  |

* **Approval of December 19, 2019 NATA Meeting Minutes**

***Approval of December 19, 2019 Meeting Minutes:*** *Motion to approve minutes made by Mayor Pro tem Seitz, seconded Chair Mullica and approved unanimously.*

* **Smart Commute Update**
  + 2019 in Review
  + Ratify 2020 Board

**Karen Stuart:** This is the Smart Commute annual meeting. *(Reviewed PowerPoint presentation, available on the NATA website).*

***Ratification of the 2019 Smart Commute Board:*** *Motion to ratify made by Council Member Seitz, seconded by Malcolm Fleming, and approved unanimously.*

* **NATA action item: Motion to Approve SPC committee members:**

*SPC Meetings are held the 3rd Friday of every month (except as noted below), at the ACED offices, 12200 Pecos Street, #100, Westminster, from 9:30am to 10:30 am. The Strategic Planning Committee sets the NATA meeting agenda, identifies, discusses and develops key topics, strategies and policy recommendations for presentation to the NATA Board. Members of the SPC also help lead the discussions at the monthly NATA meetings and promote the policy directions of the SPC.*

*The SPC acts as the Executive Committee for the NATA Board and includes the NATA Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer, the immediate past Chair (contingent upon holding active office), and two additional Members, preferably from areas that are not geographically already represented by the Executive Board members. SPC meetings are open to any member of NATA and all staff to attend.*

**Karen Stuart:** We appoint the Executive Committee of NATA to SPC, as well as two unrepresented communities (this year Erie and Westminster will have SPC representatives). Anyone is welcome to attend SPC meetings, including local government staff members.

***Approval of SPC Committee Members (Council Member Mullica, Mayor Pro Tem Sandgren, Council Member Peck, Mayor Pro tem Anita Seitz and Malcolm Fleming):*** *Motion to approve SPC Committee Members made by Phil Greenwald, seconded by Mayor Greg Mills, and approved unanimously.*

* **NATA 2019 in Review**

**Karen Stuart:** *(Presented PowerPoint that is available on the NATA website. Additionally, Karen Stuart reviewed the Matrix of Influence, also in the PowerPoint, and described its inception – several years ago an intentional effort to identify NATA Representatives who are elected or appointed to positions on any influential group, as well as making an effort to pursue positions on important decision-making entities. Karen also reviewed the agenda for the upcoming NATA retreat, this coming Saturday.)*

**Chair Mullica:** I appreciate everyone who has signed up so far for the retreat – we are aware of some conflicts that will prevent complete attendance, for instance, a few council retreats that are happening on the same day. We are looking forward to good discussion and direction for NATA this year from the retreat on Saturday.

* **RTD Directors Comments**

**Director Buzek:** Two weeks ago, the RTD Board selected its new Executive Committee – 5 members and chair. Two of the former members are no longer on the committee and have been replaced with members from the North area– two of five total members, which is good. Additionally, as everyone knows we are hiring an Interim General Manager. The Board received NATA’s letter regarding this hiring process. We appreciated receiving this letter. We are meeting next Tuesday to select an Interim General Manager and look forward to having this position filled as soon as possible. Today is the last day for public comment on the hiring process.

**Director Whitmore:** Regarding the Interim General Manager hiring process, we have two inside candidates and three outside candidates. We are planning for the Interim to stay up to 14 months for the selection of a permanent General Manager.

**Director Cook:** It’s been a fascinating hiring process. It’s been very open to the public, very transparent.

**Director Lubow:** In addition to public transparency, we have an anonymous way to provide comment. This has been helpful for receiving staff comments anonymously. We have received an enormous amount of input.

**Director Buzek:** I forgot to mention specifically the people on the Executive Committee: Director Malpiede (Chair), Director Catlin (1st Vice Chair), Director Cook (2nd Vice Chair), Director Buzek (Secretary), and Director Guissinger (Treasurer).

**Chair Mullica:** Many people are looking to the Board as to how they will fill this appointment. This might be a good new step for RTD to turn a new leaf that can mend relationships. We are looking forward to it.

**Commissioner O’Dorisio:** I’m pleased with all of you in this room who are RTD Directors representing us. You are professional and are representing us well.

**Chair Mullica:** Thank you for being here to provide us with an update from RTD, as always.

* **Follow-up on December NATA Position Statement Letter to RTD**

**Chair Mullica:** We sent out a position letter to RTD in December. We wanted to talk about a plan for follow-up.

**Karen Stuart:** If you recall in October, then General Manager Dave Genova came, and we had lively discussion with him about our relationship and expectations with RTD. It was a positive discussion and resulted in a letter outlining the actions we expect RTD to take; things that are important to us. We sent it to RTD senior management and to all the Directors on the Board. There haven’t been any Board Meetings since the letter was sent. We discussed having someone attend the next RTD Board meeting and read our letter into the record. The next meeting is January 28, next Tuesday.

**Chair Mullica:** I am planning to go to read the letter. Anyone is welcome to join me. I think it is important that we continue to advocate with the Directors. The more we do, the better. If you notice, we sent it out on the 19th of December, right before the holidays. We don’t want this letter to be lost in all the activity that has happened since then. We need to make sure the letter is heard.

**Karen Stuart:** I suggest one person reads the body of the letter, and the other reads the list, so we aren’t timed out by the 3 minute per speaker comment limit.

**Council Member Seitz:** Could you send out a calendar invite for that?

**Karen Stuart:** Yes, Carson will send out a calendar invite.

* **NATA Comment Letter to RTD re Interim General Manager candidates**

**Karen Stuart:** Due to the call for Public Comment on the Interim General Manager closing today, SPC put together a letter last Friday. We didn’t say we wanted any specific candidate, but we did list the qualifications that we expect to meet the needs of the North. For instance, an opening of the N-Line as promised and expected. Julie has signed this on behalf of NATA, and it was sent to the RTD Board. I have received verification that the Board received it, and it is part of the public record.

* **CDOT Update on I-25 Segment 3 Construction Completion- Stephanie Alanis**

**Stephanie Alanis:** *(Presentation available on the NATA website).* I am the resident engineer for the I-25 project, which is ending very soon .

*(Regarding upcoming milestones.)* Note: “Burn-in” (deep testing) will start early February. Additionally, some signing work is still happening, which wasn’t in the original contract. We are planning for the toll lanes to open (non-tolling) in February. Tolling should begin in the spring. There is the “light at the end of the tunnel” at last. (Showed photos from the current project). There is a “mumble” strip (quiet rumble strip) between the Express Lanes and the General-Purpose lanes.

**Commissioner Karen Stuart:** From HPTE, Nick Farber sent a note that testing is expected to begin Monday the 22nd. There will be a press release, and the VMS will announce the opening of the lanes. There will be social media posts as well. Toll testing should run through April 18th, and tolls expected live around April 20th. The tolling amounts will be voted on in February by the HPTE Committee.

**Kevin Standbridge:** Can you talk about what is going on further north?

**Stephanie Alanis:** We have a design project for the section between E-470 to a little north of Highway 7 to complete the toll lane. Further north we have design, but no funding. (Segment 4 ) Segment 5 has a contractor on board, and Segments 7 and 8 are under construction currently.

**Kevin Standbridge:** Is Segment 4 actively looking for funding?

**Andy Stratton:** Not sure

**Commissioner Karen Stuart:** You have a commissioner on the TC pushing for the completion of Segment 4 from NWP to SH7 that would include the completion of managed lanes and the mobility hub replacement for the SH7/I-25 interchange there. Segment 4 is north of SH7 and is currently unfunded.

* **N-Line Update (Impromptu Item)**

**Chair Mullica:** Since we are done with the agenda well ahead of schedule, can I ask for an N-Line update?

**Henry Stopplecamp:** OnFebruary 3, we are doing safety certification. We are almost done testing Positive Train Control and safety certifications. There’s an Elected Officials update coming up on February 6 upstairs in the RTD offices in Commerce City where they have been in the past. There will be an update from the acting Interim then.

The big thing to point out is that RTD oversees this project completely. We are doing training with Operators for the train now. Staffing is improving and we are moving up on the staffing.

We are dealing with coordination with DTP trying in at DUS. That is the biggest challenge right now. There are three commuter rail lines operating at DUS currently, and this project is adding a fourth.

Hoping at the end of February we will have an update so you will know what is happening. We will have a better understanding then. We are meeting with FRA on February 4 and 5. There is a New Starts matrix, and 134 documents we need to generate for this project to come online. The project is 90% complete. We need to sit down with the DC folks and figure out how to deal with any new requirements from them. We have come a long way in a few months.

Regarding an opening date, before we give you a date, we give the Board a date.

Something else to be excited about: we have a rescue vehicle in Brighton, Colorado, right now. This is a vehicle that can hop on the tracks and grab a train if it breaks down. We don’t have this on the Eagle project. It was delivered in December. There are a few modifications we need to make. This will be a first of its kind and doesn’t exist anywhere else in the nation. We needed to work with FRA on this. Our intention is not to strand a vehicle on the Skyway Bridge, but if that happened, we would have a way to un-strand the vehicle. We acquired the property at Steel and 88th for the maintenance facility, which we are working on. The whole project has been moving forward rapidly over the last few months. I cannot share a date today.

**Director Cook:** Are we testing multiple trains at this point?

**Henry Stopplecamp:** It’s happening now. We will have two weeks of data, will compile and then send to the FRA. The second approval we need to get is quiet zones. We have a quiet zones waiver in place in Denver, and we can pull that waiver due to compliance. Once the Denver waiver is off, we will apply for a quiet zones waiver for the five crossings on the N-Line. Adams County has approved the application and signed off on the language. Once the waiver is released for Denver, we will apply for the N-Line waiver.

**Director Buzek:** I also wanted to point out that, as a result of the efforts of these Directors in this room, a promotional fare pilot program is going to be in place when the N-Line starts operating, and the last two stops will charge local fares only. We will be working on making that permanent.

**Henry Stopplecamp:** If you have questions, you know to reach out to me. The current Acting Interim is Heather McKillop.

**Malcolm Fleming:** What is RTD doing working with legislators to identify additional funding?

**Director Lubow:** I’m not aware of any discussion like that. We are in transition.

**Director Cook:** We have a lot of leadership changes happening at RTD. Regarding our legislators, we are fending off some legislation that might curtail RTD.

**Director Lubow:** Proposed legislation would add 4 more people to our large board.

**Director Cook:** Our stance is that we want to work with the legislature.

**Commissioner O’Dorisio:** The counties outside the metro area take a position that the legislature shouldn’t bail out RTD. What I’m hearing is that it isn’t the state’s responsibility to fund the transit system. It’s interesting that the legislature is willing to chime in with not-helpful fixes, but not funding. I think, though, we need to discuss how the district fits into the state funds planning and need to reframe the conversation of the state funding RTD.The way we talk about the funding matters, whether we are bailing out RTD or not.

**Malcolm Fleming:** I was thinking more like a statewide regional system, like the transit working on I-70 to the mountain communities. That’s how it should be framed.

**Mayor Pro tem Sandgren:** Do you have ridership data on the G-Line?

**Director Cook:** November was the data I last saw. We do see ridership go down in November usually. We are seeing 7,000 a day. Ridership is building. We look forward to seeing service activity after January. I think it is noticeably increasing.

**Mayor Pro tem Sandgren:** The commute along I-76 in the morning is better for me than it was before the G-Line.

**Director Whitmore:** We had a slow start with the nearer in stations, but those are up now.

**Commissioner Karen Stuart:** I’m so glad Commissioner O’Dorisio spoke up. I’m Chair of the statewide plan this year. We talk about congestion relief on the Transportation Commission – safety and air quality are important. That is how CDOT got into the transit business in the first place, to reduce congestion. No one talks about RTD service being a congestion reliever, but it is. That is why we are so emphatic to complete our corridor to Highway 7. In talking to our legislature, I would highly recommend talking about air quality being relieved by reducing congestion, and transit relieving congestion.

**Commissioner O’Dorisio:** What I’m hearing is how can we use RTD to meet statewide goals at CDOT. We can save CDOT a little money by doing some of CDOT’s work in reducing highway congestion.

**Commissioner Karen Stuart**: We make the case for Express Lanes because we can accommodate BRT on Express Lanes, and when we build Express Lanes, we can provide this semi-fixed guideway opportunity for a bus to travel on providing reliable travel times for commuters, whether it’s CDOT Bustang or RTD service.

**Mayor Pro tem Seitz**: I think it would be important for over-reaching goals for the state, including electrification, and the money from the GM settlement.

**Commissioner Karen Stuart**: Regarding electrification, I think we are looking at a timeline in June from the TC. From the TC’s perspective, we are looking at ways to plug in electrification into this. We are looking at the VW settlement money, but also other moneys. We are looking at air quality as well, looking to reduce contributors to the poor air quality. I’m always happy to give a synopsis from the Transportation Commission. I can plan to add this to the agenda for next month.

**Director Buzek**: RTD is a recipient of some of those funds, and we are purchasing electric buses – not just for the 16th street mall either.

**Henry Stopplecamp**: We are leveraging the VW funds for 16 or 17 electric vehicles. The vehicles aren’t the only barrier, it’s also the electric company providing a reasonable charging rate to us.

**Director Lubow**: I think RTD helps the state in multiple ways. The development around DUS is up to $4B dollars. FasTracks has helped with the economic boom. It helps the whole state. RTD might be the only major transit agency in the nation that receives no state funding at all, we’ve recently learned. Everyone else gets state funding, we don’t. We do help the whole state.

**Chair Mullica:** This has been a great discussion. I’m excited to work with this group, and to continue this conversation on Saturday. We want to make sure that we are providing our residents with the best transit and options possible. We must do something. This group is the starting point for that.

**Karen Stuart:** We will have to find a new meeting place in February, due to primary elections. I’m asking if we can use the Heath and Human Services building. I wanted to make sure everyone is aware that the meeting won’t be here but will be somewhere else.

*(Light discussion about Homeless camps and sharing information and resources).*

**Meeting adjourned at 8:41 am.**