**NATA Board Meeting Minutes**

**January 25, 2018**

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

**Adams County Economic Development, 12200 Pecos Street, Westminster**

**Welcome by Chair Lynn Baca and introductions.**

**Regarding loss of police officer, Officer Gumm.**

**Commissioner Tedesco:** an officer was shot in the chest and died, 32 years old, he was a father. It’s really close to home, and we’ve been dealing with this all night. There has been a donation site set up, and the site doesn’t charge handling fees. It’s 100% going to the family. We want to give some support. We’ve had it on Facebook. His name was Heath Gumm. They haven’t found all suspects. There are two at large.

**NATA Members (who signed in)**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Rachel Anderson** | ACED staff | **Brad Harvey** | Metro North Chamber |
| **Steve O’Dorisio** | Adams County Staff | **Greg Moss** | Metro North Chamber |
| **Kristin Sullivan** | Adams County Staff | **Julie Mullica** | Northglenn Council |
| **Chaz Tedesco** | Adams City Comm. | **Brook Svoboda** | Northglenn Staff |
| **Lynn Baca** | Brighton Council | **Cathy Bird** | SCMN |
| **Kimberly Dall** | Brighton Staff | **Joyce Downing** | SCMN Chair |
| **Greg Mills** | Brighton Staff | **Chris Eberle** | SCMN |
| **Randy Ahrens** | Broomfield Mayor | **Catherine Sanders** | SCMN |
| **Liz Law-Evans** | Broomfield Council | **Karen Stuart** | SCMN Exec. Director |
| **Maria D’Andrea** | Commerce City Staff | **Kevin Forgett** | Thornton Staff |
| **Rick Teter** | Commerce City Council | **Kent Moorman** | Thornton Staff |
| **Mark Gruber** | Erie Mayor Pro tem | **Sam Nizam** | Thornton City Council |
| **Daniel Dick** | Federal Heights Mayor | **Herb Atchison** | Westminster Mayor |
| **Renae Stavros** | Federal Heights Staff | **Debra Baskett** | Westminster Staff |
| **Phil Greenwald** | Longmont Staff | **Maria DeCambra** | Westminster City Coun. |
| **Joan Peck** | Longmont City Council |

**SCMN Members (who signed in)**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Rick Gabel** | Jacobs Engineering | **Troy Whitmore** | United Power |
| **Ryan Sisson** | TSH Engineering | **Ina Zisman** | WSP |

**Agency Partners (who signed in)**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Tony DeVito** | CDOT | **Larry Hoy** | RTD |
| **Donny Herrmann** | CDOT | **Judy Lubow** | RTD |
| **Paul Jesaitis** | CDOT | **Charles Culig** | RTD |
| **Andy Stratton** | CDOT | **Henry Stopplecamp** | RTD |
| **Alex Gordon** | NRFMPO |

**Guests (who signed in)**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Jeremy Rodriguez** | Rep. Ed Perlmutter | **Jeanne Sharps** | FHU |
| **Ben Stein** | Rep. Mike Coffman | **Dale Tischmak** | FHU |
| **Jessica Carson** | E-470 | **James Colbert** | Merrick |

* **Recognition of outgoing NATA Members and 2017 Chair**

Chair Lynn Baca presented Herb Atchison, Mayor of Westminster, and Eric Montoya, with a Certificate of Recognition and appreciation.

**Chair Baca:** Mayor Atchison is a huge proponent of transportation in the north metro. He’s also involved in other interests in our area, but transportation is the most important issue to him. He’s almost a lobbyist with the time he spends down at the legislature. He does the most for transportation in our area, and we want to thank him for his service.

Eric Montoya is a City Councilmember with the City of Thornton, and he’s moving on to other endeavors. For those from Thornton, please pass along our best wishes to him.

**Mayor Ahrens:** When I first got elected Mayor of Broomfield, Herb also was elected. We had a breakfast to get to know each other, as neighbor communities. We’ve both been on this board for four years, and on SPC together. We served together on US 36 as well. I’ve gotten to know Herb really well; he’s a big advocate, but he also listens to both sides. He does a great job representing us.

* **Welcome new Officers**

**Chair Baca:** It’s my honor to serve as this year’s Chair and I’d like to welcome Mayor Sean Ford of Commerce Cityas Vice-Chair, and Adams County Commissioner Chaz Tedesco as Treasurer.

* **Approval of December 14, 2017 Minutes**

***Approval of December 14 Meeting Minutes:*** *Motion to approve minutes made by Mayor Atchison, seconded by Councilmember Nizam and approved unanimously.*

* **Approval of NATA Financial Report**

**Chair Baca**: There have been no changes since we’ve seen the financial report in December.

***Approval of NATA Financial Report:*** *Motion to approve minutes made by Barry Gore, seconded by Councilmember Downing, and approved unanimously.*

* **Appointment of 2018 Strategic Planning Committee Members (SPC)**

**Chair Baca:** The Strategic Planning Committee for NATA is made up of members the following members of NATA: the 2018 Officers and staff, and the Past Chair , Herb Atchison. In addition, two other members are added. Joan Peck from Longmont and Greg Moss from the MNCC are both new members this year. SPC made the appointments at our last meeting. The SPC meetings are open to any member of NATA to attend. If you would like to be added to the monthly meeting reminder email please let Karen know.

* **Review of NATA’s 2017 Accomplishments**

**Karen Stuart:** (Presentation available on the NATA website). In 2017 we had a lot of letters, and took positions on many different transportation issues. (Reviewed Letters of Support list). Most letters were in support, aside from one or two which were in opposition. (Reviewed Project List). For last year’s TIP Cycle Recommendations, we had Kent Moorman and Jeanne Shreve oversee at DRCOG. We also did work on the Priority List Leave Behind, which we will update soon with the new projects, and worked on the Updated Master Projects List, which you’ll hear more about later today from Debra Basket and Melissa Antol. (Reviewed Presentations List). We had a lot of presentations from CDOT, RTD, and items germane to our organization, especially regarding funding options. For anyone interested in any of these, all the presentations are on the website: northareatransprotation.net.

* **Request for Letter of Support (Commissioner Tedesco)**

**Commissioner Tedesco**: I know many communities and organizations are sending CDOT letters currently, and I request that NATA send a letter to CDOT with our priorities, as we don’t want these to get overlooked.

**Karen** **Stuart**: Do you mean sending a letter to the Transportation Commission?

**Commissioner Tedesco**: Yes.

**Chair Baca**: The way this usually works is that Karen will draft a letter, then Karen sends out for review by email, and we approve by email.

**Karen** **Stuart**: For full disclosure, since I sit on the Transportation Commission, I won’t draft the letter, but Jeanne will, but I’ll send it out for review and approval.

* **Update of 2018 Master Projects List and Approval of 2018 Work Plan- Debra Baskett, Jeanne Shreve and Melissa Antol**

**Debra Basket:** Staff worked on this throughout the year. Today we brought a draft list, and hopefully this is adopted by NATA. For new members, staff from your jurisdictions all participated in this process, and vetted this list.

**Melissa:**  Thanks everyone, this is mostly a recap of what we reviewed last month. We’re simply asking for approval. (walked through the presentation reviewing process). One change this time from previous years is that we grouped projects by categories rather than “tiers” – the categories were more descriptive of how each project should be acted on. “Priority” have regional significance, and NATA will focus efforts on these projects (via meeting, letters, phone calls). The next category is “Endorsement” that are sub-regional, and maybe multiple jurisdiction impacts (NATA will monitor and endorse, and provide letters of support). The final category is “Horizon Projects” which are projects in pre-construction – studies, NEPA process, etc. but NATA doesn’t want to lose sight of (NATA will monitor, and potentially support with letters). All of this was presented to NATA last month.

Second item was the approval of an amendment process – this is new to the process. It allows NATA to be flexible, and make changes to the list on a quarterly basis. This is to take advantage of strategic opportunities.

* ***Action Item- Motion to approve Master Project List and endorsement of 2018 Work Plan***

**Discussion*:***

**Atchison**: This is the culmination of what we’ve been doing for a year. For those that just joined, we don’t have the project list ranked in order, and therefore we can be more flexible to react to new funding opportunities. This will be in line with what DRCOG approved last week, with regional and sub-regional funding available. For the sub-regional, we can take those funds and co-fund projects our projects. This list is the culmination of a lot of staff hours, and a lot of me standing up in front of you telling you we need to make intelligent decisions. Is this a final list? No. This list gives us a platform to work from. This list is going to change as we move forward. I encourage you to support the list today so we can move our efforts on to getting funding lined up.

**Commissioner Tedesco**: We’ve been working on this for a year, and it’s been taxing. I have great staff, and my staff had stress over this. We thought this was going to get done in a shorter amount of time, and it didn’t. This is the culmination of a lot of hours for staff, elected officials, and more. This is the most transparent list we’ve created. This shows we can come together and work together. This is why I asked for a letter earlier, because I’m really proud of everyone with this effort.

**Chair Baca**: I wanted to add that this list is very dynamic compared to what we’ve developed in the past – transportation is a moving target. In the past, people have looked for their projects, and what “number” they are on this list

**Approval of 2018 Work Plan:** *Motion to approve made by Commissioner Tedesco, seconded by Councilmember Joyce Downing, and approved unanimously.*

* **CDOT: Central 70 Project update- Tony DeVito**

**Tony DeVito**: (Presentation is available on NATA website). We’re not in the planning and study process any more on this, we’re ready to build. I wanted to thank NATA and everyone in this room for all the support. For those that don’t know me, I’ve been with CDOT for 20 years. (showed project area, I-70 from I-25 to roughly I-270). I-70 opened in 1964, and has been updated occasionally over the years. Purina called a while back to let us know that something shot off the highway and hit their building; bridges “talk” to you, and this one is saying it’s past it’s useful life.

There are a lot of employees and companies on this corridor, and more growth bringing more use every day. The use of the corridor is going to continue to grow, especially with destinations along this segment, including the National Western Center.

We have a long history on this project – we’ll never get people to do “the wave” for a CDOT project (haha), but we’ve really put time into developing this project and making sure it’s solid. We’ve had several lawsuits, and are processing those injunctions currently.

The project boils down to the addition of an Express Lane in both directions to I-70, just like on US-36. We’ll need to do a lowered section, which is the most difficult; we’ll have a cap park, we have railroad crossings to address. We also have the Purina plant and the Swansea Elementary school as pinch points. The cap park will help address this, and will also reconnect the community.

(Presented on funding). I-70 will be a “Design Build Finance Operate and Maintain” (DBFOM) delivery – this is a public-private partnership. The winning teams will receive an availability payment over the term of the contract.

(Presented on project cycle and public outreach). We’re looking to break ground in June of this year.

(Presented on Keiwit Meridiam Partners). Keiwit Meridiam is the winning team, they have done a lot of P3 developments in other states. They have community contributions as part of their proposal, to keep them vested in the community. We’re really excited about the local training and hiring program, which started as a pilot, and is now a resource for those looking to get into the construction industry.

(Presented on Construction Phasing). We’ll start in the west section. Some parts of the projects are more straight-forward, because we already have the Right of Way; others are more complex. During the project phasing, the new Express Lane will take some traffic until we finally open the roadway, at which time the new lane will operate as an Express Lane. We don’t anticipate a lot of slowdown during construction; it will operate as “poorly” as it does today. The section between Colorado and 270 is the most complicated, and includes some utilities and railroad. The biggest impact to traffic will be when we are working on the east portion of the project. We’ll need drivers to cooperate, and courtesy patrols to move people out of traffic.

Our contract requires that all through-lanes are maintained during peak travel times, so we’ll need three through lanes in each direction during construction. We will be working with TDM strategies as well – Northeast Transportation Connections is working on moving people through this project and in the community.

(Reviewed project commitments). There has been a lot of commitments in this project, including a lot of community investments, and maintaining the local hire pilot. We’ve created a training center locally, and we’ve been on the news a few times – we even have space to run equipment for training. This training can lead to true careers for people. We’re also giving community packages to residents, and we’ve had 80% response rate from the community. We’re doing air conditioning, CO detectors, and other maintenance in the homes. The home owner can determine what options they would like to receive. We’re also working on some affordable housing, something we don’t know much about and are learning more about. We’re going to have an RFP put together to replace some of the housing stock taken from the project.

**Discussion*:***

**Mayor Atchison**: Right now we have a bottleneck on 270, which is Vasquez. When we start widening I-70, we’re going to shift traffic to 270, and we think things on 270 are going to get worse. Are you planning for this shift?

**Tony DeVito**: I continue to be plugged in with Paul’s unit on 270, in how we work together on these two projects. The good news is that 270 doesn’t have any open capacity, so traffic really isn’t going to shift to this corridor during construction – Waze and Google are not going to show 270 as a good alternate route. We’re encouraging traffic to say on I-70 through the construction. We believe that the project phasing is going to keep traffic on the corridor. We’re working with RoadX in monitoring end destination traffic during construction. If we observe problems, we’ll be talking about how to fix.

**Paul Jesaitis**: Assuming we get a ballot approved and we get the Vasquez interchange funded, we still have a lot of work to do before that project is going to be built anyways.

**Karen Stuart**: I wanted this group to understand how many languages and ethnicities you’re working with on this project. It’s a community microcosm there at I-70.

**Tony DeVito**: in the past decades, when we had a lot of industry in this area, we had Polish and Slavic residents, of course residents have become more Hispanic over time. One of the benefits of our relocation process is that renters have been able to become home owners – the media hasn’t covered this, of course. We’re doing social media outreach in Spanish, and doing Spanish radio as well. We’ve had a Title 6 challenge that has been dismissed.

**Jeanne Shreve**: To follow up on what Tony is saying, Karen is right, with Angie and her group, they are seeing 15 different languages in this community. They are really trying to get the information out on this project in the community.

**Tony DeVito**: Angie has been great. In this type of project, it’s about trust. CDOT isn’t trusted, but Angie is recognized in the community, and is trusted. We put about $15M into the Swansea Elementary updating air, lights, etc. and the teachers approached us with a great deal of thanks. We are fulfilling our NEPA promises.

**Karen Stuart**: Angie has also talked to us about the people who work here as well. For example, there is a Sudanese bakery, and for all the workers, only one of them speaks English, and is able to translate information to their coworkers. This situation is fairly common in this area. TDM isn’t just about people who live there, but people who travel for jobs. Big kudos to CDOT and NETC, especially for piloting a program that can be implemented elsewhere.

**Commissioner Tedesco**: This I-70 isn’t the I-70 that I grew up in. I grew up in Northglenn and drove I-70 to the airport. This is really a developing area, with the stock show, the medical campus, there is a lot happening in Commerce City, the zoo. I-70 is a major investment, and will help our access to amenities that only Denver has. This will help the people who live and work in Adams County. We’ve been with you on the front lines, and I’m proud of the work we’ve done.

**Commissioner O’Dorisio**: Let’s start a wave! (Group did the wave). Now you’ve gotten “the wave” on a project!

**Chair Baca**: I wanted to thank Tony for this review. We’ve been talking about this project for a long time, and the media only gives us a short view. Thank you to your and your team for the detailed overview today.

* **Smart Commute Metro North Annual Meeting**
* **Ratify 2018 Board of Directors**

**Karen:** Thanks, the agenda is a little different for this meeting than normal, as we normally begin with Smart Commute updates; we wanted to give all the presentations enough time. Smart Commute is the TDM arm of NATA and the public-private arm of NATA; we’re a vin-diagram between NATA and the private sector. This January meeting is the annual meeting for Smart Commute. Yesterday, our board asked to change our board size from being constrained to 12 people to being able to grow to 15 board members. We also decided we’ll always invite the chair of NATA to be on the Smart Commute board. We believe it’s important to keep that relationship strong.

***Approval to increase Smart Commute Board cap from 12 to 15 people.*** *Motion to approve made by Troy Whitmore, seconded by Barry Gore, and approved unanimously.*

**Karen:** (Reviewed Board membership, from presentation).

***Ratification of 2017 SCMN Board:*** *Motion to ratify made by Barry Gore ­, seconded by Councilmember Liz Law-Evans, and approved unanimously.*

**Karen:**  (Reviewed membership partners). We have grants from DRCOG, a little funding from RTD, some funding from NATA, and have matching funds from Adams County, and finally and still importantly, we have funding from our memberships. We cobble together a lot of funding in order to provide the services that we do. ACED is an integral member, as we are housed here with ACED for free,. MNCC is also integral in partnering with us, and will be working with us on TransForum coming up in June. We really want to thank all our members for their support, listed here.

* **Review of 2017 Accomplishments**

**Karen Stuart:** (Reviewed our 2017 stats).You’ll see us out at many community events, and we go anywhere we are asked – we provide the public information about mobility options. We have really successful TDM strategies to work with people on. We’ve also provided a lot of trial trips on RTD by providing RTD tickets for free.

(Reviewed 2017 programs).Mow Down Pollution, which we helped promote in 2017, will be back this year, and several NATA members have participated in this program. Our I Drive I-25 program has really helped to reduce congestion on I-25, and Cathy has done a great job hand-holding people through this process and forming carpools and filling vanpools. We’ve helped promote Bustang through the I Drive I-25 program, which travels through this corridor. Myron Hora has blogged for us about Bustang – his blog posts are very funny.

We continue to advocate for the North Metro Rail Line, and include information about it on our website. We also advocate for all the uncompleted FasTracks lines, including the Northwest Rail Line. We promote the HOV-3 and I-25 Express Lane. We continue to promote the extension of the Route 8 to Orchard, and provide trial trips with RTD tickets. We did the same thing for the Route 62 in Commerce CIty, which was a CMAQ funded line, and provided trial rides for that line as well. We know that RTD has constrained funding, and we want to make sure that our routes are well used and not in danger of being eliminated.

* **Proposed 2018 Strategic Plan and Brief program updates**

**Karen Stuart:** (Reviewed 2018 Strategic Goals). We will continue with our advocacy, education and service work. We will be looking at launching a regional bike share program this coming year. We want to be the mobility resource for the north metro and NATA. We want to be a “bridge” between NATA jurisdictions. We also will strive to be the “Thought Leader” in Transportation here – my board will give me direction on how to accomplish this.

Our staff is really great - we have Cathy Bird here, who does great work, and came to us from Commuting Solutions. Kit Sanders is here one day a week following the birth of her child in the fall, and she does a lot of work to calculate our numbers. Chris Eberle is just joining us as well and will be heading up the I-25 TDM program.

We’ll be coming to our communities to present on what we do throughout this year with our “Dog and Pony Show” – we’ll be coming to the ADCOG dinner hosted by Northglenn next week. Should be interesting.

* **Regarding NATA Staff List – Karen Stuart**

**Karen Stuart:** This has been a fluid document, and we have the latest iteration up on the NATA website. We’ll have a couple of changes after today, so please reference that document.

* **Closing Comments:**

**Mayor Atchison:** To update you all on transportation at the State House. The Senate introduced SB1 to address transportation, and no one is in support of it, because it doesn’t bring new money. There is now a House Bill that is basically the same thing – no new revenue. The proposed statewide ballot initiative is still moving forward, and there are some conversations between the coalition and the Metro Mayors group. There is a significant cost to run this ballot, which needs to come from the private sector. We’re looking at between a half-cent and a cent sales tax, somewhere in this range. They met last night as the Metro Mayors to discuss, and I haven’t had an update from my representative. Although transportation is always talked about as a “priority,” no ideas that have been proposed so far have come with any new money, all rely on taking money from the general fund and giving to CDOT. Anything not out of the general fund comes from somewhere else in the budget. We won’t know for a couple of weeks if the ballot initiative will or will not move forward. We’ll still see some bills, two or three, but not anticipating new funding.

**Councilmember Joan Peck:** Our new mayor (Longmont) is advocating to get wording on the Metro Mayors initiatives to get the northwest corridor rail on the list, mostly to get Boulder County’s vote. We’re looking at how to move people, not just moving cars. We’re looking at including the northwest corridor in order to appeal to the people, and what they will vote for. We’re advocating for this in Longmont.

**Mayor Ahrens:** I attended the Metro Mayors retreat – what the Boulder Mayors are talking about is a support letter. The polling data shows 56% support for a half-cent tax. There was a line on the letter addressing the inadequacies of the FasTracks delivery, and asking to address the disparities in the Metro Majors document. It dovetails with the entire north metro area, everyone up here has been short-changed.

**Director Lubow:** It isn’t just the Boulder area that is unfunded, it is other areas as well like the North Metro Rail Corridor.

**Barry Gore:** I was at this meeting.The group has a lot of consensus that 15% of the ballot funds would be dedicated to “mobility,” however you define it. There would be further breakdown between cities, counties, and other entities (described breakdown, but didn’t catch for minutes). Local control was very important to the group.

**Director Hoy:** Based on what Barry said, I was at a meeting with Senator Neville who said the Republican Bill (SB1) will not have any transit funding in it.

**Commissioner O’Dorisio:** Director Hoy, do you see any change in the officers on the RTD board, and how that will affect us here in the north metro?

**Director Hoy:** I don’t want to comment.

**Commissioner O’Dorisio:** Last year we saw a lot of support for the north metro on the RTD board, and we really appreciated it.

**Director Lubow:** I’ll be there**.** I’ll be advocating for it.

**Chair Baca:** in future meetings I’d like us to do a quick roundtable, if time permits, for us to talk about what is going on in our areas in transportation.

**Meeting adjourned at 8:51 am.**