**NATA Board Meeting Minutes**

**October 25, 2018**

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

**Adams County Human Services Center. 11860 N. Pecos. Westminster**

**HSC-1117 Apple B Conference Room**

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

**NATA Members (who signed in)**

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| **Chaz Tedesco** | Adams Cnty Comm. | **Shawn Lewis** | Longmont Staff |
| **Steve O’Dorisio** | Adams Cnty Comm. | **Brad Harvey** | Metro North CC |
| **Kristin Sullivan** | Adams County Staff | **Brook Svoboda** | Northglenn Staff |
| **Lynn Baca** | Brighton Council | **Catherine Sanders** | SCMN |
| **Randy Ahrens** | Broomfield Mayor | **Cathy Bird** | SCMN |
| **Kevin Standbridge** | Broomfield Staff | **Joyce Downing** | SCMN Board |
| **Sarah Grant** | Broomfield Staff | **Karen Stuart** | SCMN |
| **Rick Teter** | Commerce City Council | **Jessica Sandgren** | Thornton Council |
| **Daniel Dick** | Federal Heights Mayor | **Kent Moorman** | Thornton Staff |
| **Tim Williams** | Federal Heights Staff | **Herb Atchison** | Westminster Mayor |
| **Joan Peck** | Longmont City Council | **Debra Baskett** | Westminster Staff |

**SCMN Members (who signed in)**

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| **Carrie Wallis** | Atkins | **Denny McCloskey** | Smart Commute Board |
| **Stephan Verberne** | Atkins | **Troy Whitmore** | Smart Commute Board |
| **Danielle Smith** | Michael Baker Int. |

**Agency Partners (who signed in)**

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| **Andy Stratton** | CDOT | **Henry Stopplecamp** | RTD |
| **Richard Zamora** | CDOT | **Judy Lubow** | RTD |
| **Todd Cottrell** | DRCOG | **Larry Hoy** | RTD |
| **Chuck Culeg** | RTD | **Lisa Trujillo** | RTD |
| **Dave Genova** | RTD | **Michael Ford** | RTD |
| **Dave Jensen** | RTD | **Sherry Ellebracht** | RTD |
| **Fred Worthen** | RTD |

**Guests (who signed in)**

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| **Jordan Nelson** | Amazon | **Jeremy Rodriguez** | Rep. Ed Perlmutter |
| **Alex Gordon** | NFRMPO | **Vince Buzek** | RTD elect |

* **Approval of September NATA Meeting Minutes**

***Approval of September 27, 2018 Meeting Minutes:*** *Motion to approve minutes made by Council Member Downing, seconded by Council Member Sandgren and approved unanimously.*

* **Comments by Chair Baca regarding SPC discussion of creation of small working group.**

**Chair Baca:** SPC met last Friday as a follow up on the issue NATA has had with DRCOG’s population and employment forecasting and how that data affects our jurisdictions when transportation investment is determined by this data. It has been suggested that we form a small working group to investigate how our actual growth numbers can be part of the equation and whether we should hire a consultant to assist us. Brad Calvert, the Director of Regional Planning and Development at DRCOG joined us in this discussion. Brad gave us an overview of the process DRCOG uses working with the State Demographers Office and the way county control totals are used. He acknowledged there is no standardized process for counties reporting data to DRCOG and that there is difficulty capturing changes between the base years. The SPC believes there is significant need for the establishment of a small working group to address reporting process/policy and Brad said our timing is good. His office is very willing to work with us. We’d like to recommend that this effort be part of our 2019 Strategic Work Plan.

**Mayor Atchison:** For this group, I wanted to go back to the presentation by Holly Buck. If you looked north of I-70, there was a “hole” called the “north metro area” that showed nothing and no growth. We aren’t sure what is happening to the data. Projections of investments in the future are a result of the data they are using. If you look at our communities, it isn’t showing things that are already built, let alone the development that is planned and happening. I think the issue is greater because, what we don’t tell DRCOG, RTD, CDOT that rely on this data, it is hurting us. We need to get this accurate, timely, and consistent for our entire north metro area, east and west. The things we are trying to do to fix our transportation, isn’t adequate. What we’ve done in the past isn’t working. We need to spend some time and effort to figure out where is the hole- where we are missing data? I encourage voting members and officials to get behind this effort. Yes, it is going to take some staff time. If we are undercounted, we will not get served. If you don’t provide RTD with the right information, we won’t get the service we need. If we need to go into our budget for a consultant, that is where we need to go.

**Chair Baca**: Todd, please go back to Doug and thank DRCOG staff for working with us. This is critical for our jurisdictions. We also have a major employer attending today. Our residents and constituents need support for transportation options.

* **Smart Commute Metro North Update: Karen Stuart and Cathy Bird**

**Update on Workforce Transit Gap at 144th/I-25**

**Karen Stuart:** We did a presentation at our last NATA meeting, and we’ve done a lot of work since then. We have set a meeting with the 144th/I-25 quadrant employers on Tuesday, October 30th from 9:30 to 11:30 at the Candlewood Suites in Thornton to: frame the problem of the workforce mobility transit gap, explore the feasibility of various transit solutions, evaluate a comparison matrix of service providers (vendors) and understand the specific needs of the employers. Most of the workers up here are shift work, and don’t have conventional commutes. Mobility Choice Blueprint is providing us with Rick Pilgrim from HDR as a facilitator. Mobility Choice Blueprint is excited about what we have coming here. We’ve sent invitations to about 35 stakeholders, and we have had a very good response. Representatives from Amazon, SAN, the Orchard, the Grove, Denver Premium Outlets, Candlewood Suites, the Marriot Courtyard, Thornton and Westminster will all be participating. Representatives from RTD, MV Transit, Chariot, Lyft, EasyMile, VIA and WPM will be in attendance to listen to the discussion.At the next NATA meeting, we will provide an update, and we are excited to keep moving this issue forward.

**Commissioner O’Dorisio:** What project are you promoting with Mobility Choice Blueprint?

**Karen Stuart:** This is the transit gap analysis. How can transit be provided in the short-term and how can we position ourselves for a DRCOG TIP project for 2020.

**Go-Tober Campaign update**

**Cathy Bird:** Our six employers that are participating in Go-Tober challenge have had a successful month. Four of our companies are in the “Neighborhood Ninjas” category. They have all stayed in the top 10, but there has been some jockeying for the top places. The other two, our winners from last year, are in the “Suburban Superheroes” category, and have been competing against each other for first place. We are wrapping up the challenge at the end of October, and DRCOG is very happy with the number of people who have been involved out of the 56 companies throughout the metro.

* **Introduction-Comments: Amazon General Manager Jordan Nelson**

**Chair Baca:** One of our big stakeholders in the area is Amazon; I’m pleased to introduce Jordan Nelson.

**Jordan Nelson:** Thank you. We’re pleased to be in this area and have provided tours to our local officials over the last few months. We have hired 2100 people so far, spread from south Denver up to Greeley. Our concern is the availability of transportation. I’m new to the area as well. We have reached out to RTD, and Cathy at Smart Commute has been really helpful to us. I think there are some opportunities. With all the businesses that are opening in this area, I think we have an opportunity to partner with RTD and other providers. We’re doing Go-Tober. We’re looking at Chariot. Speaking from my area, between RTD, us, and the other businesses, we’d like to collaborate on a transit solution for this area of Thornton, and Westminster too; it will benefit the entire area if we can come to some kind of agreement. It’s tough from a communications perspective, and we can talk offline about that. It’s been about 6-7 months that we have been reaching out without responses, so it is a little stagnant.

**Commissioner O’Dorisio:** Are you the DEN3 manager? (Yes). So you don’t have the same involvement as in Aurora?

**Jordan Nelson:** Joe Dudak, and I talk; and we have similar problems. We have DEN2, 5, 3, and Whole Foods. We have 6,000-7,000 people in the Denver area.

* **Introduction-Comments: RTD’s new COO Michael Ford, Assistant General Manager Rail Operations Dave Jensen and Assistant General Manager Bus Operations Fred Worthen**

**Dave Genova:** We have a lot of folks here today. This group has seen me from time-to-time. Today we have a lot of our operations team here, many of them are new. We did meet Monday with Karen and talked about the transit gap problem, and that was very beneficial. We will be at the meeting next week, and that will be good. The route we’re talking about is the #8, which doesn’t quite get where it needs to be. We also have timing issues with service not getting there when people need it. The #8 runs mostly peak service now. We are looking at our current Call-n-Ride services, which we are talking about transitioning into a “FlexRide” and will be talking about that more in January/Feb. I would like to turn things over to Michael Ford.

**Michael Ford:** I’ve been here 10 months, came from Detroit, was in Ann Arbor, was in Oregon before that. I’m excited to talk about how we can partner to deliver services that are beneficial to your communities. I oversee operations, maintenance, service planning, scheduling. We’re happy to be here, engage and get to know the community. We want to work with you to make sure people have options.

**Dave Jensen:** I’m the assistant manager for rail operations, and I’ve been here 8 months. I’m from San Diego, have 30 years in the industry. My specialty is rail operations, and I answer to Michael Ford and Dave Genova. The more I learn, the deeper I go. RTD is wonderful. It is really impressive -the size and magnitude of what we are doing with RTD, even just with rail. This is my first meeting with you guys, and I’m pleased to be here. I want to provide the highest quality rail service I can. I want to understand what the scope of that means. Thank you.

**Fred Worthen:** I’m in charge of bus operations, all the fixed route service, Call-n-Ride, and vehicle maintenance. I’ve been in the industry for three decades. Denver is undergoing growth that I’ve seen in other places – Atlanta, Seattle (Amazon). I’m excited to be here in Denver to be involved in the growth in this region.

**Council Member Sandgren**: It’s great to have so many people here that are new from out of state. I grew up in this area, so the area is very familiar to me. Have you guys been up here to ride the services, park in the Park-n-Ride? It’s one thing for us to tell you, and another to have you actually experience it. I lived in Denver as well, and transportation works so well there. But up here, it is a very frustrating to experience. Amazon as well, we have residents in the City of Thornton and Northglenn that can’t reach the area. I have an elderly resident that called next week, and she can’t get where she needs to go. I’m encouraging her to use Uber/Lyft. But we’re dealing with people who might not have a cell phone. The aging population is growing, and they aren’t accustomed to using a phone for transportation. I encourage you to come up and try it yourselves.

**Fred Worthen**: I appreciate your comments, and I ride the services each day. I’ve been at our facility, visited our contractors to get a handle on how we’re operating. I appreciate the comments and really understand what you are talking about.

**Dave Genova:** The person about the Call-n-Ride, was it geographical, or time constraint?

**Council Member Sandgren:** Time

**Mayor Ahrens:** This group was formed as we realized that FasTracks wasn’t going to get rail to us when promised. The citizens voted to tax themselves but have yet to see any rail. We are the last two counties to get a foot of rail. I understand that only 5 of 17 RTD Directors are north of I-70, and knowing that, it makes sense why we are last. We have a lot of voters that have been putting in money for 14 years, and haven’t seen a foot of rail. That is the reason that this organization was formed, to support our projects. That is why we exist.

**Chair Baca:** Welcome to the area. Like Jessica, I’m a native to the area. We look forward to working constructively to bring service to our area and look forward to getting our rail.

* **ADCOG Sub-regional Forum Projects Presentation- Kristin Sullivan, Director, Community & Economic Development**

**Kristin Sullivan:** I see most of the forum members and the technical staff here. For those that participate in the forum regularly, this will be very familiar for you, but wanted to provide an update for the entire group. We’ve been meeting since the spring. I wanted to provide an update about the forum and TIP process, which is new this year. I’m the primary technical staff member for the ADCOG Forum. The new TIP process has created a two-part process. This resulted in the creation of the sub-regional forums, which is what the ADCOG Forum is for. We are going through the regional process, which is happening now, and implementing a sub-regional process in January.

*(Presentation slides available on NATA website – notes represent information not captured on slides)*

**I-270 and Vasquez**

*(Regarding overview slide):* It took five meetings to go through the project list and identify the most competitive projects for the regional process. These were submitted mid-September and are in the ranking/review process.

*(Regarding I-270 project map slide):* A lot of the problems we see on I-270 are a result of the Vasquez interchange, we have some missing directional information, and we also have a lot of grading differences in this area.

(*Regarding I-270 “Needs” slide*) We did a NIMIACS study last year, and in the neighborhoods studied, less than 12% own a vehicle. The lack of pedestrian infrastructure, and lack of access to other trails, has a large impact.

*(Regarding budget for I-270):* In our analysis, 60% of the trips have an origin/destination outside the corridor, so it is a regional corridor

**U.S. 85 and 120th Ave. interchange – Phase I**

*(Regarding 85/120th details slide):* Freight is adjacent to 85 and is a significant constraint that causes traffic to back up.

**I-70 and SH 79 - eastbound ramp operational improvements**

*(Regarding I-70 and SH79):* 70/79 is a “rural” project, and we felt that was a good mixed representation to our projects.

**Karen Stuart:** Kristin asked for Letters of Support from NATA for these projects, and we put that out by email, didn’t get any pushback, so we sent them in for Kristin’s deadline.

**Commissioner Tedesco:** You mentioned that 5 projects were requested by DRCOG to provide more information.

**Kristin Sullivan:** It was mostly projects that they had questions about or were unclear about details. The 270/Vasquez was one of the projects asked to present.

* **Broomfield County’s TIP Submittal Presentation- Sarah Grant, Transportation Manager**

**Sarah Grant**

* **SH7 Preliminary and Environmental Engineering Project**
* **US 36 Bikeway**

Thank you for having me.

*(Presented “Broomfield Regional TIP Submittals presentation, available on NATA website).*

*(Regarding funding for Highway 7 proposed project):* The Non-Federal, local matching fund comes from a variety of sources, including the Boulder, Broomfield, and Adams County sub-regional forums. Match was shared according to mileage of corridor.

**Karen Stuart**: Thanks Sarah. I thought, since we have RTD people here, that we want to point out that we are planning for BRT on Highway 7, and it isn’t in the forecast for funding from RTD for BRT. Mayor Ahrens, could you speak to the history here?

**Mayor Ahrens**: We formed a Highway 7 coalition years ago, as Highway 7 is the first continuous east-west road north of I-70 for the entire north metro. This was the first year we were involved in the TIP, to fund the PEL. They estimated there would be 60-70K people in this area [at future date], so an enormous amount of growth. For Highway 7, we wanted to get ahead of the game on transportation instead of making fixes later. This whole project is the right thing to do, we want to be ahead of the game.

**Sarah Grant:** There is an incredible amount of growth in this corridor, and also congestion. CDOT is projecting a 60% growth in congestion. There is a lot of congestion, especially at the intersections. The BRT study identified that BRT travel times would be competitive to SOV.

*(Regarding US-36 Bikeway Re-Alignment):* There is a segment in Broomfield near the Flatiron Crossing area that is sub-standard, and was not built to meet CDOT standards for bikeways. We are planning to build it to the 12foot facility to meet standards. There are some significant icing problems (showed photos of shading by retaining walls). We have tried to mitigate water build-up as a temporary measure. There are two underpasses near this segment, and there are visibility problems with the underpasses that we want to correct.

*(Regarding project dates):* We expect recommendations from the review panel on November 8, and DRCOG board will vote on by the end of the year.

**For the Good of the Order:**

**Mayor Ahrens:** Could we ask for NATA to send a letter of support for the sub-regional projects?

**Karen Stuart:** Yes, if you get any information to us.

**(CDOT guy):** A few of these projects will also be affected by the ballot measures.

**Mayor Atchison:** Westminster isn’t on Highway 7, but we understand that we need to get behind these projects, because they have a regional impact. Bust because we aren’t connected to it doesn’t mean we don’t have an impact from it.

**Chair Baca:** Special thanks to Adams County staff for this space and helping to set up. No meeting in November.

**Meeting adjourned at 8:33 am.**