

# North Area Transportation Alliance Planning Retreat April 25, 2024



## Introductions



# Introductions

### What is the value of NATA to you in a few words?



# Agenda



#### **HISTORY & PURPOSE**

- Creation and Purpose of NATA
- NATA and Smart Commute's Relationship
- Position Letters and Presentations

### **GENERAL INFORMATION**

- 2024 NATA Representatives
- Mission Statement
- Review of By-laws & Exhibits

### **REFERENCE MATERIALS**

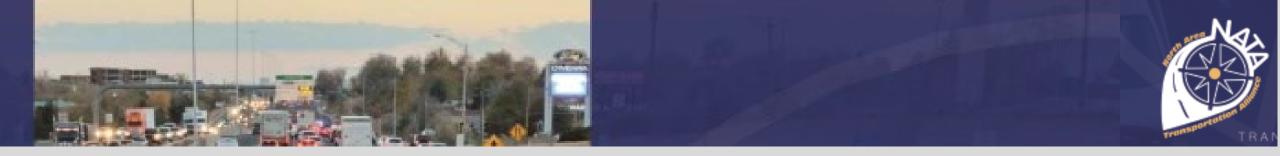
- Transportation Acronyms
- RTD FasTracks Map
- RTD Director Regions
- CDOT Engineering Regions
- CDOT Transportation Commissioner Districts
- CDOT I-25 & CO7 Segment Maps

### **NATA PROJECT ADVOCACY**

- Transportation Connections Leave-Behind
- Priority Projects Process
- Working Group Recap
- Guiding Policy Document
- Filter Application & Next Steps

### NATA FOCUS MOVING FORWARD

- Areas of Opportunity for Advocacy & Engagement
  - Entities to Engage
  - Project Updates
  - Letters of Support
  - Legislative Advocacy



# Creation & Purpose of NATA



### NATA & Smart Commute



• NATA applied for DRCOG TMO Startup Grant (2011)

Support from 12 jurisdictions, ACED, and Metro North Chamber

- Thornton & Adams County administered the TMO Startup Grant and paid invoices for the first two years
- Role of Smart Commute: TDM membership organization
  - A Legal Non-Profit Entity
  - $\odot$  Pursues private and public sector funding
  - Pursues grant funding opportunities
  - Serve as expert stakeholders
  - Public outreach activities
- Provide information, programs, and advocacy for NATA's policies
- Current administrator for NATA



### NATA & Smart Commute



- Expertise in transportation and mobility fields
- Annual North Metro Commuter Survey of city employees and jurisdictional respondents
- Hands-on Commuter Support to employers and residents
- CO-7 Project Team Involvement
- Grant funded commuter programs
  - 144<sup>th</sup> FlexRide, eBike program, Bike Gap Analysis, FlexRide Optimization Study, Multimodal Maps, Micromobility Hub Pilots



## Position Letters



### <u>2022</u>

- Letter to Pete Buttigieg re: Support for City of Commerce City's 88th Avenue Improvements Project
- Letter to Pete Buttigieg re: Support for City of Brighton's RAISE Grant Application for the Bridge Street "Smart Streets" Project
- Letter to Kathleen Bracke re: 2022 DRCOG TIP Grant Application for CO7 BRT Starter Service
- Letter to Pete Buttigieg re: Support of Adams County's US85/120<sup>th</sup> Avenue Interchange project RAISE Grant Application

#### **2023 - none were awarded**

- Letter to Pete Buttigieg re: Support of Adams County's US85/120<sup>th</sup> Avenue Interchange project RAISE Grant Application
- Letter to Pete Buttigieg re: Support of 104<sup>th</sup> Avenue between Colorado Blvd. and South Platte River RAISE Grant Application
- Letter to Pete Buttigieg re: 2022 RAISE Grant Application, City of Commerce City 88<sup>th</sup> Avenue Improvements from I-76 to Highway 2
- Letter to Joe Neguse re: CDS Community Project Support for Colorado 7 Multimodal & Safety Preconstruction



## **Position Letters**



### 2023 continued

- Letter to Pete Buttigieg re: RCN grant application for Reconnecting Disadvantaged Communities and Fostering Equitable Revitalization Near the 72nd Ave RTD Station by Removing Barriers to Connectivity
- Letter to Pete Buttigieg re: 2023 RCN/NAE Grant Application; City of Thornton Washington Street Multimodal Path Underpass
- Letter to Meg Frolich re: Transit Zero-Fare for Youth (successful)

#### **<u>2024 – status pending</u>** notice of awards has not been officially posted yet

- Letter to Pete Buttigieg re: Support for Colorado State Highway 7 Project 2024 RAISE Grant Application
- Letter to Pete Buttigieg re: Letter of Support for the City of Commerce City's Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant Application for the 88th Avenue Corridor Project
- Letter to Pete Buttigieg re: Support for the Thornton 104th Avenue (CO 44) Corridor Improvements Project RAISE Grant Application



## Presentations



### <u>2023</u>

- 2022 NATA & SC Year in Review
- Regional Air Quality Council (RAQC) Air Quality Issues & Perspectives
- CDOT I-25 / 88<sup>th</sup> Transit Impact & Safety Analysis
- CO7 Multimodal Corridor Progress Update
- CDOT Transportation Commission Safety Brief
- HB22-1026 Alternative Trans. Options Tax Credit
- RTD Regional Ridership Report
- CDOT Mobility Hubs & Bustang Service Update
- Smart Commute Bike To Work Day 2023
- CTIO I-25 North TIFIA Loan Overview & Discussion

#### 2023 Continued

- Chair's Update on I-25 Advocacy Efforts
- CDOT Division of Aeronautics Presentation
- Front Range Passenger Rail Special District Update
- NATA Priority Project List Process Update
- CTIO Safety Enforcement Program Update
- Smart Commute Annual Review & Regional Survey Results
- NATA Guiding Policies and Project Filters Review



## Presentations



### <u>2024</u>

- NATA Year in Review
- Smart Commute Year in Review
- E-470 Update
- RTD N Line Frequency and Ridership Update
- I-25 Segment 2 Safety and Operations Update
- CDOT Commissioner's Reports
- RTD Directors' Reports
- CDOT Funding for Transportation & Maintenance

#### Upcoming in 2024

- Front Range Passenger Rail
- I-270 Presentation
- Local Project Highlights
- RTD Partnership Program Updates
- Smart Commute Updates
- NATA Letters of Support Status
- Legislative Wrap-Up
- DRCOG CBTP / RTP Updates







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## 2024 Representatives



| Community     | Representative   | Alternate  | Senior Staff      | Federal Heights | Bonnie Sellers  | Celeste Arner   |  |
|---------------|--|--|-------------------|-----------------|---|---|--|
| Adams County  | Lynn Baca<br>Commissioner<br><u>Ibaca@adcogov.org</u>                  | Steve O'Dorisio<br>Commissioner<br><u>sodorisio@adcogov.org</u>                    | Michelle Riccio   | Firestone       | Councilmember<br><u>bsellers@fedheights.org</u><br>Bobbi Sindelar<br>Mayor    | Councilmember<br><u>carner@fedheights.org</u><br>A.J. Krieger<br>Town Manager   | Tim Williams                           |
| AC-REP        | Lisa Hough<br>President/CEO<br><u>Lisa.Hough@ac-rep.org</u>            | Carolynne White<br>Chair, Board of Directors<br><u>cwhite@bhfs.com</u>             |                   | Frederick       | <u>bsindelar@firestoneco.gov</u><br>Tracie Crites<br>Mayor                    | akrieger@firestoneco.gov<br>Bryan Ostler<br>Town Administrator                  | Kevin Ash                              |
| Brighton      | Greg Mills<br>Mayor, Immediate Past Chair<br>gmills@brightonco.gov     | Tom Green<br>Councilmember<br><u>tgreen@brightonco.gov</u>                         | Chris Montoya     | Longmont        | tcrites@frederickco.gov<br>Shiquita Yarbrough<br>Councilmember                | bostler@frederickco.gov<br>Phil Greenwald<br>Transportation Planning<br>Manager | Ben Ortiz                              |
| Broomfield    | Austin Ward<br>Councilmember<br><u>award@broomfieldcitycouncil.org</u> | Todd Choen<br>Councilmember<br><u>tchoen@broomfieldcitycouncil.org</u>             | Sarah Grant       |                 | Shiquita.Yarbrough@longmontcolorado<br>gov<br>Jay Jaramillo                   | Phil.greenwald@longmontco<br>lorado.gov<br>Megan Burns                          |  |
| Commerce City | Steve Douglas<br>Mayor<br>sdouglas@c3gov.com                           | Rocky Teter<br>Councilmember<br>rteter@c3gov.com                                   | Shawn Poe         | Northglenn      | Councilmember<br>jjaramillo@northglenn.org                                    | Councilmember<br>mburns@northglenn.org<br>Kathy Henson                          | Svboda                                 |
| Dacono        |  | Jennifer Kreiger<br>Interim City Manager   |                   | Thornton        | Justin Martinez<br>Councilmember, Treasurer<br>justin.martinez@thorntonco.gov | Councilmember<br>kathy.henson@thorntonco.g<br>ov                                | Kent<br>Moorman                        |
| Erie          | Emily Baer<br>Councilmember, Vice Chair<br>ebaer@erieco.gov            | jkreiger@cityofdacono.com<br>Malcom Fleming<br>Town Manager<br>mfleming@erieco.gov | Todd<br>Fessenden | Westminster     | Nancy McNally<br>Mayor, Chair<br><u>nmcnally@CityofWestminster.us</u>         | Dave DeMott<br>Councilmember<br>ddemott@cityofwestminster<br>.us                | Chris Chovan                           |
|               |  |  |                   | Smart Commute   | Jessica Sandgren<br>Chair, Councilmember<br>Jessica.sandgren@thorntonco.gov   | Carson Priest<br>Executive Director<br><u>Carson@smartcommute.org</u>           | Tammy<br>Herreid,<br>Danielle<br>Ranum |



### **Mission Statement**



The North Area Transportation Alliance (NATA) is a partnership of public and private entities in the North I-25 Corridor working to identify, develop, advocate and lobby at the local, state and federal level for multimodal transportation solutions that will enhance sustainable mobility options and improve transit service, promote economic opportunity to improve quality of life and reduce traffic congestion to safely and equitably move all people in the north metro area.



## **Shared Values**



- Multimodal transportation improvements in the north metro area are key to future economic development including creating and retaining jobs, improving mobility and reducing traffic congestion to safely and equitably move all people in the north metro area.
- NATA should take all steps to ensure that needed transportation improvements, as identified in NATA's Project Priority List, are included in appropriate DRCOG, RTD and CDOT plans and funding is secured.
- A complete metro-wide fixed rail system is an integral part of improving transportation in the Denver metro area. NATA should take all actions necessary to ensure that the entire FasTracks and Front Range Passenger Rail systems are built and completed. FasTracks is an integral part of improving transportation in the Denver metro area and the integrity of a metro-wide fixed rail system depends upon the entire system being built.
- NATA will advocate for environmentally sustainable mobility options that seek to improve air quality, reduce consumption of non-renewable fuels, cutting greenhouse gas and improve public health for all residents.

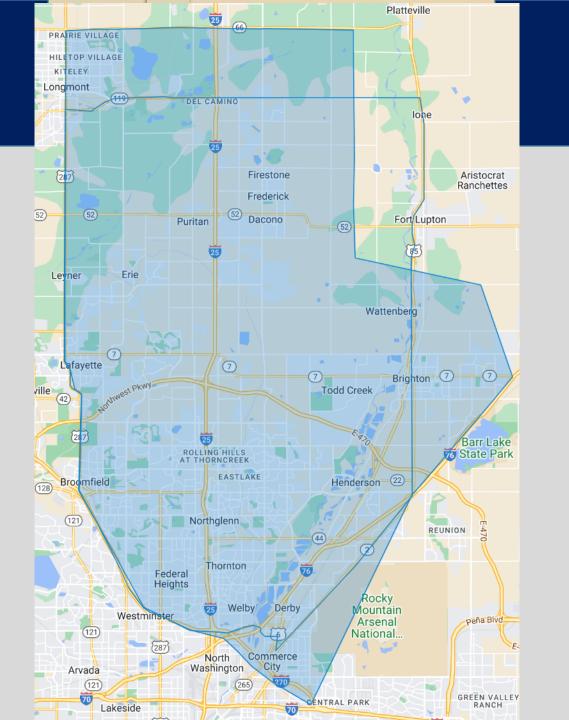


### 2024 NATA Dues



| Category | Population*                         | Eligible Members  | Amount<br>(Approved 2023 Dues) |        |
|----------|-------------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|--------|
| 1        | Up to 18,000                        | <ul> <li>Dacono</li> <li>Federal Heights</li> <li>Firestone</li> <li>Frederick</li> </ul> | \$756                          |        |
| 2        | Up to 50,000                        | <ul><li>Brighton</li><li>Erie</li><li>Northglenn</li></ul>                                | \$1,512                        |        |
| 3        | Up to 100,000                       | <ul><li>City &amp; County of Broomfield</li><li>Commerce City</li></ul>                   | \$3,024                        |        |
| 4        | Over 100,000                        | <ul> <li>Adams County</li> <li>Longmont</li> <li>Thornton</li> <li>Westminster</li> </ul> | \$3,780                        |        |
| 5        | Non-Local<br>Government<br>Category | <ul> <li>Adams County Regional<br/>Economic Partnership</li> </ul>                        | \$756                          | A<br>* |

Approved December 2022, based on 16 \*2021 census numbers



### NATA Boundaries



### Adams County

 City and County of Broomfield
 Cities of Northglenn, Westminster, Brighton, Thornton, Commerce City, Longmont, Federal Heights, Dacono, Firestone

 $\odot$  Towns of Erie, Frederick

#### 2010-02

#### RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING THE PROCESS THE NORTH AREA TRANSPORTATION ALLIANCE WILL USE TO TAKE A POSITION ON A TRANSPORTATION ISSUE OR MAKE A STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE ORGANIZATION.

WHEREAS, the North Area Transportation Alliance ("NATA") was formed in August 2009 to provide an organization where transportation issues can be discussed and efforts undertaken to ensure that these issues are addressed; and

WHEREAS, NATA desires to establish the process which it will use to take a position or make a statement on behalf of the organization; and

WHEREAS, it is the intent of the organization to reach consensus on positions relevant to the adopted priorities of the organization; and

WHEREAS, discussions regarding potential positions or statements on behalf of NATA are intended to be inclusive to elicit full participation and encourage creative thinking among the members; and

WHEREAS, members are encouraged to share their own views and experiences and work to gain insight from views different from their own; and

WHEREAS, if a member disagrees with another members position, the members are encouraged to focus on the issue and speak to those issues; and

WHEREAS, in order to take a position or make a statement on behalf of NATA, the members agree that such decisions will be made by consensus, which doesn't mean by unanimous vote but instead means that it is a position that all members can live with and agree to not undermine; and

WHEREAS, in those instances where the members are unable to reach consensus, NATA will remain quiet on an issue; however, members may take a position on an issue on behalf of the organization they represent and/or personally; and

WHEREAS, the members shall be provided the draft position or statement for review and comment with a stated turn-around time within which the member shall respond. If a member does not respond to the item within three business days from the time the request is sent, if sent by e-mail, the item shall be considered approved.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE NORTH AREA TRANSPORTATION ALLIANCE, AS FOLLOWS:

That the process which NATA shall use to take a position or make a statement on an issue as set forth in this Resolution is hereby approved and shall be used hence forth.

PASSED AND ADOPTED at a regular meeting of the North Area Transportation Alliance on March 24, 2010.

NORTH AREA TRANSPORTATION ALLIANCE

### **Resolution Process**



WHEREAS, in order to take a position or make a statement on behalf of NATA, the members agree that such decisions will be made by consensus, which doesn't mean by unanimous vote but instead means that it is a position that all members can live with and agree to not undermine; and

WHEREAS, in those instances where the members are unable to reach consensus, NATA will remain quiet on an issue; however, members may take a position on an issue on behalf of the organization they represent and/or personally; and

WHEREAS, the members shall be provided the draft position or statement for review and comment with a stated turn-around time within which the member shall respond. If a member does not respond to the item within three business days from the time the request is sent, if sent by e-mail, the item shall be considered approved.



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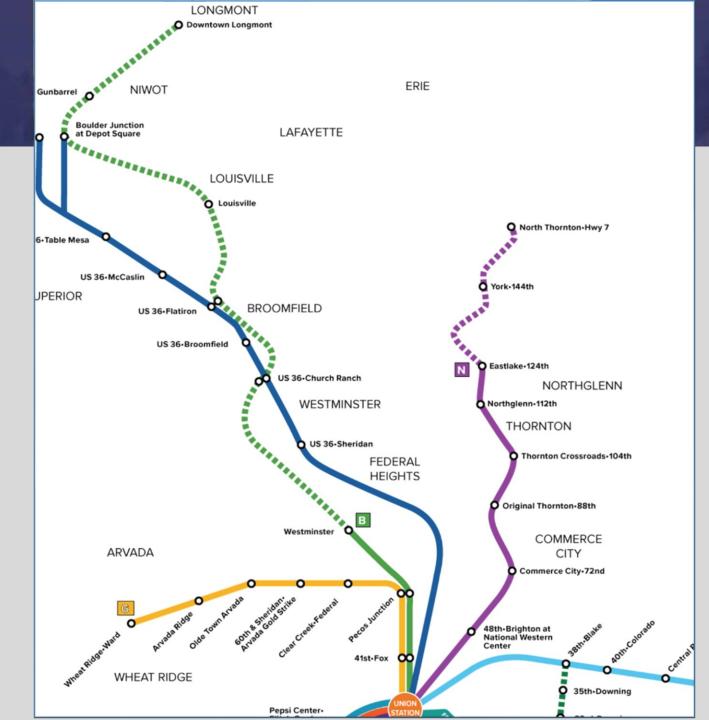
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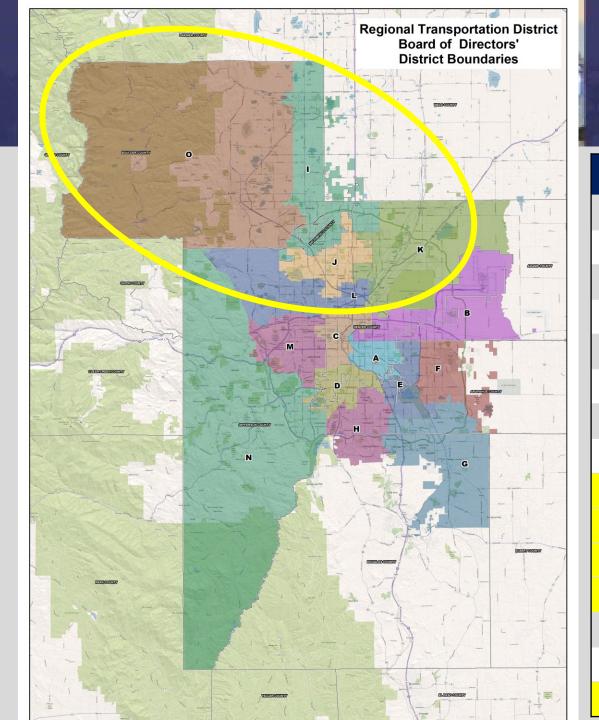
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## RTD FasTracks







## **RTD's Director Regions**

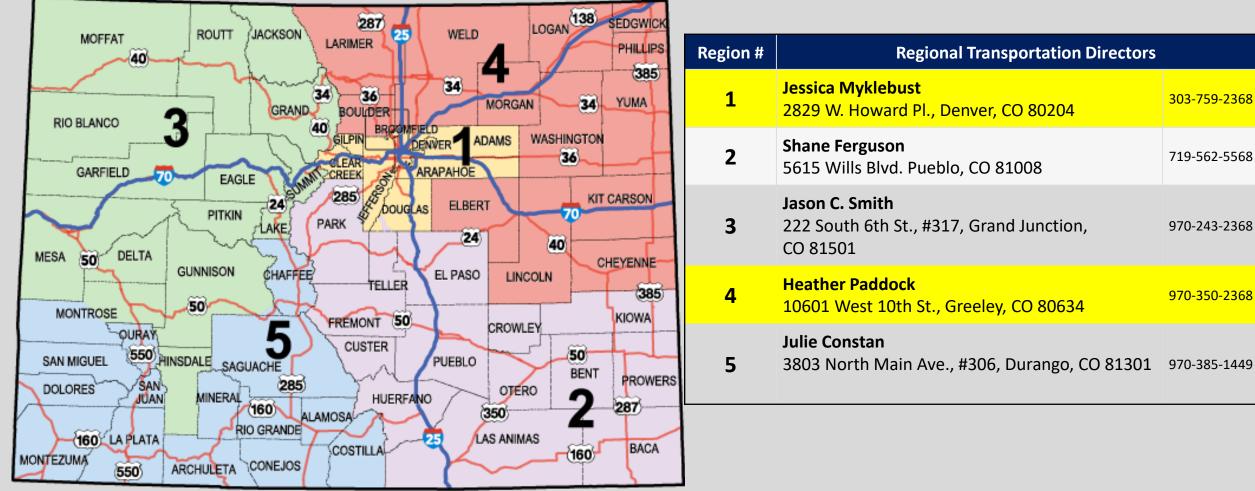


| Region | RTD Directors                                | Email                          | Term End |
|--------|--|--------------------------------|----------|
| Α      | Jamie Lewis                                  | jaime.lewis@rtd-denver.com     | 2024     |
| В      | JoyAnn Ruscha                                | joyann.ruscha@rtd-denver.com   | 2026     |
| С      | Michael Guzman                               | michael.guzman@rtd-denver.com  | 2026     |
| D      | Bobby Dishell                                | Bobby.dishell@rtd-Denver.com   | 2024     |
| E      | Paul Rosenthal                               | Paul.rosenthal@rtd-Denver.com  | 2024     |
| F      | Bob Broom                                    | Bob.broom@rtd-Denver.com       | 2024     |
| G      | Julien Bouquet                               | Julie.bouquet@rtd-Denver.com   | 2024     |
| н      | Doug Tisdale                                 | Doug.tisdale@rtd-Denver.com    | 2024     |
| I.     | Erik Davidson - Chair                        | Erik.davidson@rtd.Denver.com   | 2024     |
| J      | Vince Buzek                                  | Vince.Buzek@rtd.Denver.com     | 2026     |
| К      | Troy Whitmore                                | Troy.Whitmore@rtd.Denver.com   | 2026     |
| L      | lan Harwick                                  | ian.harwick@rtd-denver.com     | 2026     |
| Μ      | Marjorie Sloan                               | Marjorie.sloan@rtd-Denver.com  | 2024     |
| Ν      | Peggy Catlin – 1 <sup>st</sup> Vice Chair    | Peggy.catlin@rtd.Denver.com    | 2026     |
| 0      | Lynn Guissinger – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair | Lynn.guissinger@rtd-Denver.com | 2026     |



## CDOT's Engineering Regions

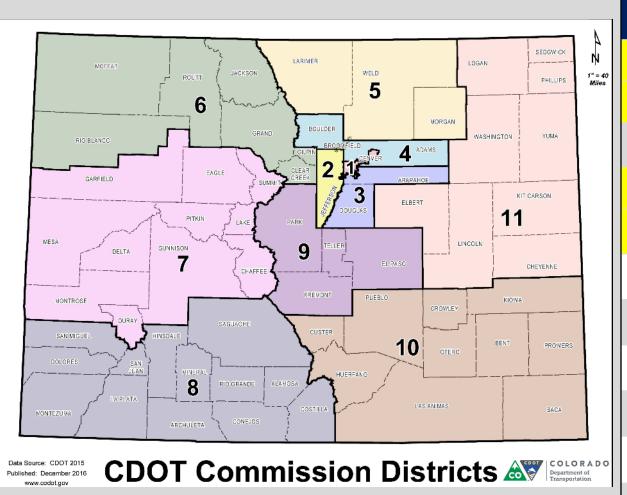




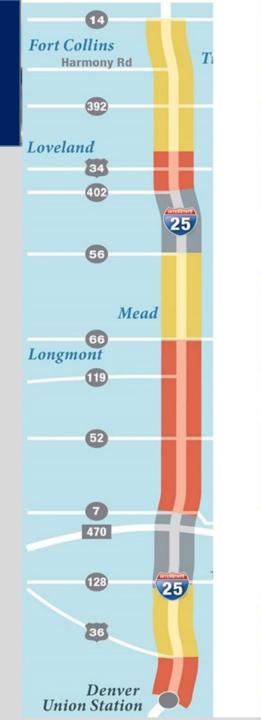


## CDOT's Commission Districts





| District # | CDOT TCs             | Email                            | Current Term<br>Expires |
|------------|----------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1          | Yessica Holguin      | Commissioner.holguin@state.co.us | 2025                    |
| 2          | Shelly Cook          | Commissioner.cook@state.co.us    | 2027                    |
| 3          | Eula Adams           | Commissioner.adams@state.co.us   | 2025                    |
| 4          | Karen Stuart - Chair | Commissioner.stuart@state.co.us  | 2025                    |
| 5          | Jim Kelly            | Commissioner.kelly@state.co.us   | 2027                    |
| 6          | Rick Ridder          | Commissioner.ridder@state.co.us  | 2027                    |
| 7          | Barbara Bowman       | Commissioner.bowman@state.co.us  | 2027                    |
| 8          | Mark Garcia          | Commissioner.garcia@state.co.us  | 2025                    |
| 9          | Hannah Parsons       | Commissioner.parsons@state.co.us | 2027                    |
| 10         | Terry Hart           | Commissioner.hart@state.co.us    | 2025                    |
| 11         | Megan Vasquez        | Commissioner.vasquez@state.co.us | 23 <b>2027</b>          |



Segment 8 Prospect Blvd – SH 14 **Prospect Blvd Interchange** Prospect Blvd – Harmony Road Harmony Road - SH 392 Segment 7 SH 392 - Crossroads Blvd **Crossroads Blvd Bridges** Crossroads Blvd - US 34 US 34 - SH 402

Segment 6 SH 402 - SH 60 SH 56 - SH 60

#### Segment 5 SH 56 Interchange

SH 56 - SH 66

Segment 4 E-470 - SH 66 I-25 / CO 7 Mobility Hub Segment 3 120th Ave - E-470

#### Segment 2 US 36 - SH 128 Segment 1 Union Station to US 36

## **I-25 Project Segments**



- Segments 6, 7 and 8: Includes reconstruction of some bridges, new interchanges and mobility hubs. STATUS: Completed and Open
- <u>Segment 5:</u> Express Lanes in progress. Mobility hubs funded and under construction at Berthoud. STATUS: \$1M in funding identified
- Segment 4: Express Lanes planned but unfunded. Mobility hub at Firestone/Longmont in planning and design phase. STATUS: Interim hub @ US 34 to start construction in 2024
- Segment 3: Express Lanes completed to NW Pkwy/E-470. Express Lanes gap from NW Pkwy/E-470 to CO 7. Reconstruction of existing I-25/CO 7 interchange to a diverging diamond interchange and mobility hub planned but unfunded. STATUS: INTERIM Mobility Hub to begin construction late 2024.
- Segment 2: Express Lanes completed. Planned but still unfunded improvements for this segment include general purpose lanes, auxiliary lanes between intersections, 88<sup>th</sup> bridge reconstruction, inside and outside shoulders and bus operational improvements.
- Segment 1: Express Lanes conversion to bi-directional lanes.



# CDOT CO7 Corridor Segment Map











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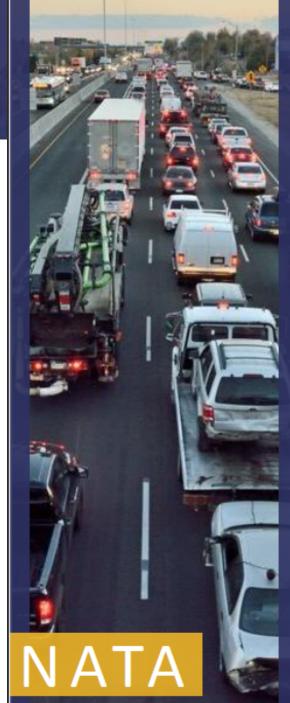
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ADAMS COUNTY BRIGHTON BROOMFIELD COMMERCE CITY DACONO ERIE FREDERICK FEDERAL HEIGHTS FIRESTONE LONGMONT NORTHGLENN THORNTON WESTMINSTER ADAMS COUNTY REGIONAL ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP SMART COMMUTE METRO NORTH TMO

#### TRANSPORTATION CONNECTIONS

BUILT ON CONSENSUS

NORTH AREA TRANSPORTATION ALLIANCE www.northareatransportation.net

### SHARED VISION

The North Area Transportation Alliance (NATA) is a partnership of public and private entities working to identify, develop, advocate, and promote transportation solutions enhancing mobility, driving economic development, and reducing traffic congestion in the north metro Denver area.

The NATA coalition is comprised of thirteen jurisdictions. Adams County Regional Economic Partnership and Smart Commute Metro North Transportation Management Organization. Established in 2009, NATA meets monthly to identify projects, strategies, and policies that further our regional transportation priorities.

Our collective goal for multi-modal solutions is built on partnership relationships with CDOT. RTD and our stakeholder community. Cooperatively established criteria identifies and supports our most important transportation projects and services. Our priorities ensure a balanced, equitable and manageable number of projects that are most important to our member jurisdictions.

The north metro area shares a vision for transportation and transit improvements ensuring economic vitality. I-25 is our region's backbone of commerce, but we are not keeping up with the transportation demands needed to maintain our competitive edge.

> PEOPLE ARE ALREADY HERE 720K

NATA CURRENT POPULATION

#### Keep Workforce Moving

Local planning anticipates the additional development of the health care sector, science and technology parks, distribution centers and partnership education facilities.

#### Local Investment

NATA's local governments have made significant investments to support regional highway and transit improvements. Future transportation investments will include innovative technology for mobility options that will improve safety, alleviate congestion and improve air quality.





= 25,000 Cars

55,000 240,000 NEW HOMES EXISTING BEING BUILT HOMES

#### Transportation Investments

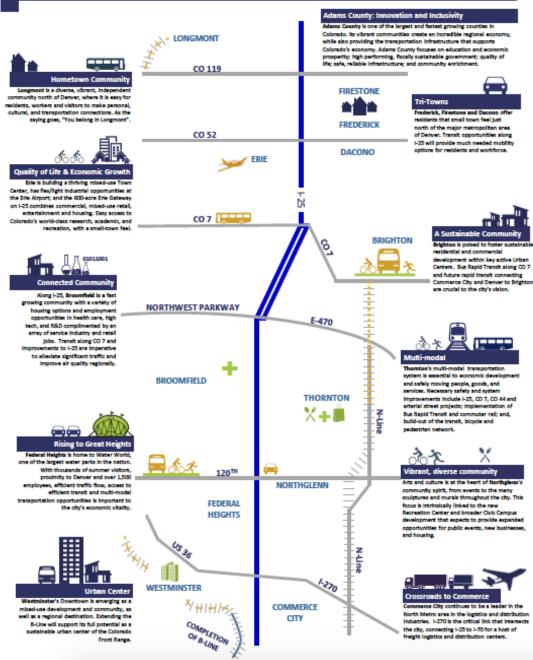
The north metro region is fast growing and rich with economic opportunity for commercial and residential development. With over 55,000 new residences planned and over 4,000 acres available for commercial, industrial and retail development, this region rivals any in Colorado for future economic investment.

In the spring of 2020, the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) completed construction and implementation of 24 miles of Express Lanes on I-25 from US 36 to NWP/E-470. These Express Lanes provide a more efficient travel lane for existing express bus service, and when completed to I-25/CO7 sometime in the future, can facilitate Bus Rapid Transit service to and from the northern reaches of NATA.

The Regional Transportation District (RTD) opened the first segment of the N Line, a 18-mile commuter rail service from Denver Union Station to Thornton in September 2020. This 13 mile portion of the N Line includes 7 stations from Eastlake at 124th to Denver Union Station with station stops in Thornton, Northglenn, and Commerce City. Transit Oriented Development (TOD) are planned for and expected to flourish near N Line stations. With this transit addition, some, but not all of the NATA jurisdictions are now connected to the greater FasTracks system serving the Denver metro area. The completion of FasTracks continues to be a priority for NATA.

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### WE ARE NATA





Boulder to Brighton

Intersection Improvements

Bikeway Underpass

Harlan Street

found at

erprojectslist

NORTH AREA

US 85 – Interchange at 120<sup>th</sup> Avenue

Sheridan Blvd. – Safety Improvements:

Road Widening from US 36 to Sheridan Blvd.

104<sup>th</sup> Avenue (CO 44) – Safety Improvements

sportation.net/ma

TRANSPORTATION ALLIANCE

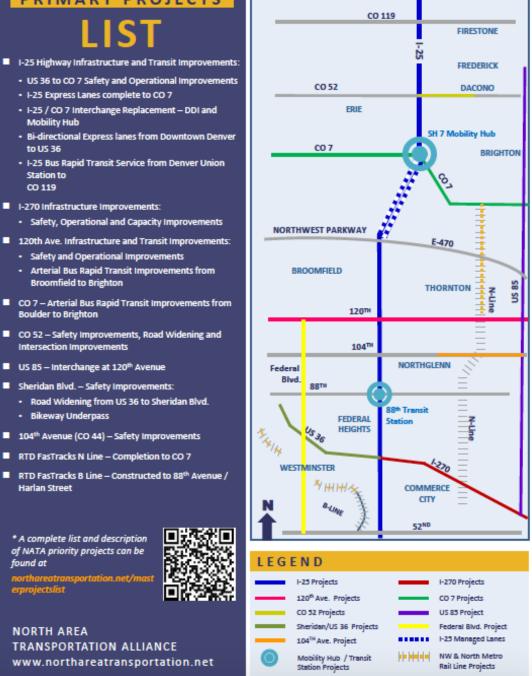
www.northareatransportation.net

RTD FasTracks N Line – Completion to CO 7

\* A complete list and description

of NATA priority projects can be









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#### White Paper for NATA Board Priority Projects/2018 Master Project List 12-14-17

#### Intent & Background:

NATA's mission drives the development and subsequent updates to its priority list of projects while advocating for member jurisdictions' local needs. We have accomplished this by <u>'actively advocating'</u> for advancement of construction/service implementation for our regionally significant projects while providing letters of support for member jurisdictions' local projects.

NATA has typically updated its priority list of projects every 3-4 years, using '3 tiers' for project categorization. "Tier I" has represented our top priorities where NATA actively advocates for advancing these <u>specific priority projects over multiple years</u> with RTD, CDOT, DRCOG, private sector, and through federal grant programs, as applicable, etc. NATA provided letters of support for member projects and services on the Tier II and Tier III lists.

Recently, the NATA board has found this framework to be inflexible when new initiatives or funding opportunities were presented. To address this concern, NATA staff is proposing a new, more flexible framework for 2018.

NATA would still approve an updated 'Master List of Projects' annually in January, but with the assurance we can add new projects or elevate existing projects on the Master List anytime during the year to respond to timely funding opportunities. The key proposed changes include identifying the funding initiatives and the subsequent projects from our Priority Projects that best meet the eligibility requirements; goals and objectives of the initiative; and subsequently will score well against the criteria. This new approach allows NATA more flexibility to target specific high-quality regional projects that advance the mission of board.

#### Proposed New Framework for NATA's Master Project List:

#### At the January Annual Meeting NATA Board approves Work Plan to include:

Approving a 'Master List of Projects' divided into three categories:

<u>1. Priority Projects</u> – these are the regional projects that meet the mission of NATA to <u>actively</u> <u>advacate</u> for construction and/or service implementation.

- Endorsement Projects these are locally sponsored projects NATA has pre-approved to provide letters of support by requesting NATA members and organizations. This helps maintain flexibility to respond to timely NATA member requests.
- <u>Horizon Projects</u> these are projects still in a pre-construction phase (E.g., planning or NEPA). If a Horizon Project meets the *mission of NATA*, we would actively advocate for it; if it is local, then NATA could provide a letter of support upon request.
- Compile list of key funding mechanisms which could fund NATA projects; e.g. federal, state, DRCOG, local ballot measures, legislation, grant programs.
- Determine which NATA "Priority Projects" for the Board to focus on throughout the year.

- Selects projects from Priority Project and applicable Horizon Project lists for each initiative that will:
  - 1. Meet NATA's Mission;
  - 2. Meets an initiative's eligibility requirements, goals & objectives, as applicable; and
  - 3. Will score well against the initiative's criteria.
- End of 3Q18 -- Request for revisions to Master Project List
- End of 4Q18 -- Compile list of any known funding initiatives for upcoming year.

#### Amendments to NATA's Master Project List or Adding New Regional Funding Initiatives

Amendments to the Master Project List or adding a new regional funding initiative may occur on a quarterly basis or if there is an unanticipated need from a NATA board member, at the discretion of the Board Chair. Through the amendment process, projects can also be moved to another category.

| Amendments must be submitted | NATA Board Action      |
|------------------------------|------------------------|
| Beginning of February        | February Board Meeting |
| Beginning of May             | May Board Meeting      |
| Beginning of August          | August Board Meeting   |

- Eligibility and Criteria for Amendment:
  - If proposed for Priority Project List, explain how it meets NATA's Mission.
  - Identify which current or new funding initiative member jurisdiction is applying for, and how it meets the eligibility requirements and criteria of the initiative.
  - Identify category (E.g., Priority, Endorsement, Horizon).

#### **Recommendations & Questions for Discussion:**

- For the Priority Projects List, recommend only projects that are within /start or end within the NATA boundary.
- For Endorsement and (local) Horizon Projects, recommend any project within a NATA-members jurisdiction (not confined to NATA boundary).





## Working Group Recap



- Senior Staff Working Group Kickoff Meeting Thursday, September 21
- <u>Primary goal</u>: Bring the Priority Project List up to date using universal categories that reflect the current Board's priorities for a useful, dynamic and actionable list.
- <u>Next Steps</u> (with Board direction):
  - Develop Policy Document
  - Creation and Implementation of Universal Project "Filters" or "Criteria" We are here
  - O Update the Priority Project List based on new Policy Document and Universal Project Criteria in 2024 with Board Direction
  - Development of one-page Project Fact Sheets with talking points for use by NATA members



# **Guiding Policies**



- Improved Regional Transit Options
  - NATA seeks improved regional bus and rail transit options and operations that include but are not limited to:
    - improved frequencies and reliability on regional RTD and Bustang routes
    - $\circ~$  improved frequencies and reliability on the N Line commuter rail
    - o inclusion of new demand-driven transit options in the NATA region
    - o completion of the voter-approved FasTracks system including the N and B Lines
    - o construction and operation of a Front Range Passenger Rail system
- Improved Transit and Mobility Options
- NATA supports transit and mobility options like:
  - FlexRide
  - Microtransit
  - Micromobility such as e-scooters and e-bikes
- <u>Completion of I-25 Express Lanes & Improved Safety Projects</u>
- NATA seeks to work with CDOT and CTIO to support the implementation of all I-25 Express Lanes as a sustainable, congestion-mitigation-focused strategy for improving corridor mobility for all people. The Express Lanes should be managed via variable pricing and monitored by CTIO by those crossing into the Lanes illegally.
- NATA supports completion of Express Lanes Segments 3b and 4, between E-470 and CO 66, including mobility hubs below.
- NATA supports the full build-out of I-25 Segment 2, US 36 to 120<sup>th</sup> Avenue, to the FEIS and ROD. The current interim configuration continues to have safety concerns.



# **Guiding Policies**



- <u>Construction and Studies of Multimodal Regional Arterials</u>
- NATA supports the conducting of studies along regionally significant arterials with a focus on creating full multimodal systems. Examples of these arterials include, but are not limited to, the CO 7 Corridor, Washington Street, Colorado Boulevard, Federal Boulevard, US 85, etc.
- Inclusion of Regional Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) in NATA Region
- NATA seeks to see the build-out of a regional BRT network along major arterials that includes but is not limited to CO 7 from Brighton to Boulder, Federal Boulevard, and I-25 from Denver to CO 7.
- <u>Construction of Mobility Hubs</u>
- NATA supports the construction and implementation of regional-scale mobility hubs across the north metro area.
- NATA supports the full build-out of the Diverging Diamond Mobility Hub at CO 7 and I-25 where multimodal transportation options could converge effectively.
- NATA supports the Thornton Park-n-Ride center loading Mobility Hub.



# **Guiding Policies**



- Improved Bike and Pedestrian Regional Facilities
- NATA supports investment in regional-scale bicycle and pedestrian facilities that improve access to and safety of active transportation modes across the region.
- <u>Active Transportation</u>
- NATA supports connecting regional trails to local trails
- NATA supports connecting regional bikeways to local bikeways
- NATA supports constructing missing gaps on regional multiuse paths
- NATA supports buildout of the regional trail network in the NATA area
- Inclusion of Transportation Demand Management (TDM) Practices
- NATA seeks to see the inclusion of TDM strategies in all regional-scale projects to combat rising Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) and lower the Single-Occupancy Vehicle (SOV) population on regional roadways.
- Through effective TDM, NATA supports the efforts to educate all users of their transportation options and ensure that those options are safe, effective, and sustainable.



# Guiding Factors for Project Prioritization



#### 1. Safety Improvement

- Provides a shared use path or enhanced separation from motorized vehicles
- Provides a safe crossing at intersections, railroads, roadways, or waterways
- o Eliminates or mitigates roadway hazards
- Project is in a high pedestrian and/or bike crash area
- o Project reduces wildlife-vehicle crashes where patterns exist
- Project is identified in a Vision Zero plan

#### 2. Network Connectivity

• Increases access to an existing activity center such as employment locations, schools, parks, libraries, transit stations, park-n-rides, etc.

#### 3. Regional Equity and Access

- Project is located in a Disproportionately Impacted Community as indicated in DRCOG's Equity index or CDPHE's EnviroScreen, Justice 40
- Project is located in an area where a high share of the population is 65 years and older
- Project is within, or will positively impact, a community that experiences disadvantages or disadvantaged groups, and clearly describes how it will address equity and accessibility
- Project improves access to mobility options for people of all ages, incomes, abilities, etc.
- Project serves an Environmental Justice (EJ) Population (Minority, Low Income)
- 4. Motor Vehicle Trip and VMT Reduction Potential
  - Project has a reasonable expectation and aims to reduce VMT
- 5. Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions Reduction
  - Project encourages alternative transportation, improves air quality, and/or reduces GHG emissions



# Guiding Factors for Project Prioritization



#### 5. Active Transportation Encouragement

- Project addresses multiple active transportation modes (e.g., bicycle and pedestrian facilities) with "complete streets"
- o Enhances regional level wayfinding or access to multimodal connections
- 7. Public Support & Relationship to Community Plans
  - The extent to which the applicant demonstrates public support and inclusion in regional-level aspects of community plans (e.g. support from multiple jurisdictions)
- 8. Readiness of Implementation
  - The degree to which a project is "shovel ready," partners identified, and included in regional-level DRCOG, CDOT and/or RTD "lists"
  - Prepares project for future construction or implementation funding
- 9. Cost-Benefit
  - o Makes efficient use of funds and maximizes community benefit

#### 10? - Is it regional in nature?



# Priority Project List Next Steps



- Direction from Board on Guiding Policies and Factors
- In the future parse down list into actionable advocacy items
- Discussion?



# Agenda



#### **HISTORY & PURPOSE**

- Creation and Purpose of NATA
- NATA and Smart Commute's Relationship
- Position Letters and Presentations

#### **GENERAL INFORMATION**

- 2024 NATA Representatives
- Mission Statement
- Review of By-laws & Exhibits

#### **REFERENCE MATERIALS**

- Transportation Acronyms
- RTD FasTracks Map
- RTD Director Regions
- CDOT Engineering Regions
- CDOT Transportation Commissioner Districts
- CDOT I-25 & CO7 Segment Maps

#### **NATA PROJECT ADVOCACY**

- Transportation Connections Leave-Behind
- Priority Projects Process
- Working Group Recap
- Guiding Policy Document
- Filter Application & Next Steps

### **NATA FOCUS MOVING FORWARD**

- Areas of Opportunity for Advocacy & Engagement
  - Entities to Engage
  - Project Updates
  - Letters of Support
  - Legislative Advocacy



## NATA Focus Moving Forward



- Entities to Engage
  - $\circ$  Federal Delegations

 $\circ$  DRCOG Staff

 $\circ$  Specific Communities



## NATA Focus Moving Forward



• Priority Project List Updates

o Implementation of new policy / filter document

• Letters of Support

 $\odot$  What topics and to whom?

• Legislative Advocacy?



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