



# Community Planning & Permitting

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## June 11 2020 NEPPIDAC Meeting

Virtual Meeting:

Thursday June 11, 2020: 1-3pm

### [Join Microsoft Teams Meeting](#)

+1 720-400-7859 United States, Denver (Toll)

Conference ID: 238 007 585#

- Vacant- Member-at-Large
- Shirin Chahal- Member-at-Large- 2/28/2023
- Vera Schulte-Pelkum- Member-at-Large- 2/28/2021
- Russ Panneton- Member-at-Large- 2/28/2021
- Tania Corvalan- Town of Nederland Representative- Open Ended

## Agenda

1. Introductions
2. Adoption of new by-laws, elect a chair
3. Public comment
4. COVID-19 impacts on fare collection, issuance of EcoPasses
5. COVID-19 impacts on transit service, RTD budget
6. COVID-19 impacts on EcoPass program pricing
7. Update on portal audit
8. 2021 budget process
9. 2021 election for Nederland EcoPass District

**Moment of silence**

Melinda LaJustice

December 9, 1977 – March 28, 2020



Proposed new by-laws:

## **Nederland Eco Pass Public Improvement District Advisory Committee (NEPPIDAC) By-laws**

### **Name**

Nederland Eco Pass Public Improvement District Advisory Committee (NEPPIDAC)

### **Number of members and length of term**

Per an Intergovernmental agreement executed between the Boulder County Board of Commissioners and the Nederland Board of Trustees, the NEPPIDAC shall be comprised as follows:

NEPPIDAC shall consist of a membership of five (5) individuals all of whom must live within the district. These positions are volunteer/non-paid positions.

1. One member of NEPPIDAC shall be recommended by the Nederland Board of Trustees to be appointed by the PID District Board. The term of this appointment shall coincide with the Nederland Board of Trustees two-year election cycle. New appointments are made in June after the April elections.
2. All other four members of NEPPIDAC shall be at-large positions appointed by the District Board. The at-large positions shall have three year terms staggered every two years.
3. Committee members shall elect a chair every June, to serve a 1 year term. Committee members may serve more than one 1-year term as Chair.

### **Membership Conditions**

A member may be removed from the NEPPIDAC for any one of the following reasons:

1. Unexcused absence for two (2) consecutive meetings;
2. Violation of the state ethics laws;
3. Conviction of a felony

If there is a vacancy out of term, the vacancy will be filled within ninety (90) days. The vacancy shall be advertised by Nederland Town Hall and the remaining members of NEPPIDAC shall review applications and make a recommendation to the District Board for filling of the vacancy.

### **Purpose and duties of committee**

This Advisory Committee will serve as an independent committee to provide the Boulder County Commissioners with recommendations regarding administration of the Nederland Eco Pass Public Improvement District (District).

While the Board of County Commissioners (Board) has the legal authority and responsibility to make decisions regarding the operation and finances of the District, the Committee members shall serve in an advisory capacity to the Board. The Committee will act as a communication link between the property owners and residents of the District and the Board of Commissioners. The Committee shall advise the Board and the Transportation Department on issues pertinent to the implementation of the public improvements serving the District, including the following:

1. Advice and comment on operations and administration of contracts;
2. Advice, comment and recommendations on the annual budget;
3. Advice on procedures and policy;
4. Facilitation of communication between owners, residents and service providers for the district and the Community Planning & Permitting Department; and
5. Facilitation of communication between owners, residents and the Board of Commissioners regarding operation and administration of the District.

**Staff Liaison**

Alex Hyde-Wright

Community Planning & Permitting Department

[Ahyde-wright@bouldercounty.org](mailto:Ahyde-wright@bouldercounty.org)

(303) 441-4910

**Meeting times and location**

Quarterly, exact dates vary.

Nederland Community Center: 750 SH 72, Nederland, CO 80466

In response to public health crises or other exigent circumstances, remote meetings may be held provided there is an option for public participation.

## Public Comment

### **COVID-19 Impacts on fare collection, issuance of EcoPasses**

On April 5, RTD instituted a rear-door boarding and exiting policy on most buses in order to provide safe social distancing between operators and riders. RTD also temporarily suspended fare collection on all buses and trains across the RTD system.

In late March, the Town of Nederland temporarily suspended the issuance of new EcoPasses to limit the potential spread of COVID-19.

**Update: RTD is resuming fare collection on July 1, 2020.**

### **COVID-19 impacts on transit service, RTD budget**

- RTD has seen ~75% drop in ridership from the pandemic, with probably a higher percentage drop in Boulder County (CU has an outsized impact on Boulder County's bus ridership, and this essentially vanished when CU transitioned to online only)
- RTD is primarily funded by sales tax, which is extremely sensitive to economic downturns
- April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020: RTD implemented COVID-19 service reduction
- Most bus service operating on Sat schedule, most rail service operating on Sun schedule, with a couple extra regional bus trips. This represents about a 40% service reduction compared to Jan 2020 service levels.
- Capacity is limited to approximately 15 passengers per bus, 20 on larger buses, and 30 riders per rail car.
- In 2020, RTD is receiving \$232M in CARES act funding. This will roughly make up for the loss of sales tax revenue and fare revenue (normally only about 21% of RTD's revenue comes from fares, most of the rest is sales tax)
- For 2021, RTD is projecting a \$220M shortfall. This would put RTD in the ballpark of a 25% service reduction (able to run service levels about halfway between current levels and Jan 2020 levels)

## COVID-19 impacts on EcoPass Program pricing:

### Pre-COVID EcoPass program pricing:

- Contract pricing based on utilization from two calendar year's prior.
- For example, our 2020 contract price was based on 2018 utilization.
- 2022 contract price would have been based on 2020 utilization
- As part of transition to utilization-based pricing, our price increases are limited to 20% until 2023, when we will be charged full utilization-based price (based on 2021 ridership)

### COVID-19 related changes:

- RTD will provide pro-rated refunds for the time of suspended fare collection based on the number of weeks that RTD suspended fare collection in relation to each contract's term.
- Refunds will be disbursed a few weeks after fare collection resumes.
- The fact that riders are not tapping their cards while fare collection is suspended would normally impact the pricing for the 2022 contracts. Because this time period is already reflected in the refund we will receive, it will not be reflected in our 2022 contract pricing as well. For the time period while fare collection is suspended, RTD will use our average monthly utilization activity from the same time periods in 2018 and 2019 when calculating the 2022 contract prices.

### Key take-aways:

- Assuming RTD resumes fare collection in 2020, our district will be receiving a refund later this year
- Our 2022 contract price is not likely to change from pre-covid estimates, since it will be based on 2018 and 2019 ridership but is capped at the 20% price increase compared to 2021 anyways
- Our 2023 contract price will be lower than previously anticipated, due to both our residency portal audit and the likely reduction in ridership in 2021 compared to 2017-2018 levels.

### Update:

- With RTD resuming fare collection on July 1, 2020, this means a refund worth ~3 months of our 2020 contract price. (~ \$35k refund)



## Update on portal audit

### OVERVIEW OF NEDERLAND ECOPASS RECORDS

- 3,783 EcoPasses issued between 2012 - 2017
- 736 EcoPasses have been issued (new and replacements) since January 2018
  - 317 passes in 2018
  - 354 passes in 2019
  - 65 passes in 2020
    - In March 2020, Melinda LaJustice notified the public that EcoPasses would not be issued due to COVID-19 but there also wouldn't be any suspension of passes.
    - In April 2020, Miranda Fisher notified the public that EcoPasses would be issued by appointment. Still no suspensions.

### ONLINE RTD ECOPASS PORTAL:

- Total cards in the system (active & inactive): 4,467
  - 4,121 active cards
  - 346 inactive cards

### PORTAL AUDIT:

- Miranda Fisher signed the independent contractor agreement with RTD on June 1, 2020 and will resume working on the audit
- Per Melinda LaJustice's October report, she has reviewed 2,150 records from the 2012 – 2018 and has notes in the spreadsheet regarding the contact made to the EcoPass holder. Appears the last communication sent from Melinda was March 5, 2020.
- Miranda cannot speak to how many passes have been suspended/deactivated within the last 6 months because there are no notes in the spreadsheet about that. Here are the numbers last reported by Melinda though in October 2019:
  - Staff have reached out to 976 people
  - 674 suspended
  - 319 deactivated
  - 708 verified as current residents (581 owners and 127 renters)
  - 302 cards have been flagged for future contact
    - Miranda will seek to determine who these cards belong to, to initiate contact.
  - 176 cards ready to suspend due to no contact
    - Miranda will seek to determine who these cards belong to, to complete suspension.

### NEXT STEPS:

- Miranda will review the work already completed by Melinda and determine where she left off in order to continue to audit process.
  - People can continue to make appointments to get a new or renew their EcoPass.
  - Suspensions will be resumed when applicable.

## **2021 Budget Process**

- 2021 District revenue unlikely to be significantly impacted by COVID-19 (property tax is very stable revenue source)
- 2021 EcoPass contract price will probably be \$167k (20% higher than 2020), unimpacted by COVID-19
- Proposed budget at next NEPPIDAC meeting, but main items will be EcoPass contract, Town admin, and any remaining portal audit work.

## 2021 election for Nederland EcoPass district

- District will have enough funds to cover EcoPass program, expenses in 2021, but will only have a \$5k fund balance (update: we may have \$40k fund balance at end of 2021 due to covid refund)
- In 2022, District is anticipated to be short \$60k
- In 2023, District is anticipated to be short \$250k
- Current mill levy goes through 2023
- 2020 would not be a good year to ask for tax increase/ extension
- Recommending target 2021 for election to increase and extend mill levy
- By early 2021, we will need to identify a path forward:
  1. We hold a successful election by the fall of 2021, which increases and extends the mill levy
  2. The County covers the \$60k shortfall in 2022, buying us another year to determine a long-term plan
  3. In 2022, instead of an EcoPass program, we buy up a portion of the N's farebox (we couldn't afford to buy up all of the N) or figure out some other cheaper version of a fare/pass program for Nederland
  4. In 2022, we don't have a program (2022-2023 revenue could maybe cover our 2023 costs), or we just completely end the program after 2021.