

June 11 2020 Nederland EcoPass Public Improvement District Advisory Committee meeting

Roll call:

Boulder County:

- Alex Hyde-Wright

NEPPIDAC:

- Russ Panneton
- Vera Schulte-Pelkum
- Shirin Chahal

Town of Nederland

- Karen Gerrity
- Miranda Fisher

Meeting Notes

- Round of introductions by all present
- Moment of silence for Melinda LaJustice
- Shirin Chahal re-appointed to NEPPIDAC by BOCC
- Shirin Chahal elected chair for next 1 year term (3-0 vote)
- New by-laws contained in meeting packet adopted by NEPPIDAC, 3-0 vote
- Public comment period: no public comments

Alex Hyde-Wright presented information from meeting packet on COVID-19 impacts on fare collection, issuance of EcoPasses

- Nederland allowing EcoPass issuance by appointment, and office hours (no interruption)
- More documents being processed online to reduce in-person visits in office

Alex Hyde-Wright presented information from meeting packet on COVID-19 impacts on transit service and RTD budget, EcoPass program pricing

- Portal audit should continue (unchanged from covid)

Miranda Fisher presented portal audit update

Karen Gerrity asked if County is concerned about potential for Gallagher Amendment repeal

Alex Hyde-Wright provided information on what the Gallagher Amendment is, TABOR. TABOR repeal unlikely to impact Nederland EcoPass District since property tax revenue unlikely to decline much as a result of COVID-19. Unclear what impact Gallagher repeal would have on Nederland EcoPass District

Alex Hyde-Wright presented four options on future of Nederland EcoPass District

- Vera Schulte-Pelkum: are anticipated shortfalls pre-covid?
 - Alex Hyde-Wright: unlikely that COVID-19 will impact 2022 contract price (locked in to 20% increases). 2023 contract price will likely come down due to portal audit and reduced 2021 ridership as a result of COVID-19. 2023 District shortfall probably not going to \$0 (currently \$250k), but will likely be reduced (we will know in the future). Big question is how much will N ridership rebound in the fall when school is back in session. No decision needed right now on which path we will pursue- need to decide by early 2021.
- Vera Schulte-Pelkum: are locked in to 2-yr lag that determines EcoPass pricing? Now there are fewer buses and fewer passengers.
 - Alex Hyde-Wright: 2 year lookback window made more sense when ridership was flat, or when slightly increasing year over year. If ridership falls, RTD comes out ahead. Don't know if RTD will change how they calculate pricing. RTD is in a tough financial spot.
- Vera Schulte-Pelkum: what is duration of EcoPass contract?
 - Alex Hyde-Wright: 1 calendar year at a time, so the current contract goes through Dec 31, 2020.
- Vera Schulte-Pelkum: Any language in contract that is tied to level of transit service provided?
 - Alex Hyde-Wright: No. Now contract price is tied to past ridership. If you ride more, contract prices goes up. If you ride less, price goes down. Only paying for what we use. Amount of service is irrelevant. Only depends on usage.
- Vera Schulte-Pelkum: We could sign 2021 contract, and RTD could cancel the N route
 - Alex Hyde-Wright: This happened to Lyons. Lyons signed EcoPass contract, now there is no Y service (and no indication of when it will come back).
- Vera Schulte-Pelkum: CU students still get their passes from CU.
 - Alex Hyde-Wright: yes, unless they picked up a Ned pass first. Same for CU staff.
- Vera Schulte-Pelkum: what if we don't renew EcoPass contract for 2021, but instead come up with needs-based program for 2021? And then revisit EcoPass in a couple years. We are going to pay 20% more next year and have less usage and less service
 - Alex Hyde-Wright: for now, EcoPass is the best bulk/group pass option (aside from buying up the N farebox). RTD is testing mobile ticketing option, but timeline to roll out unknown. Developing an alternate pass program would be a challenge, would have higher admin burden than current EcoPass program. Could still be financially beneficial, but the admin lift would be much higher to do something besides EcoPass or a farebox buy up.
- Vera Schulte-Pelkum: what about RTD's low income pass program?
 - Alex Hyde-Wright: LIVE program not part of EcoPass. Only available for individuals to purchase. Enrollment process is not easy to navigate; utilization has been low
- Vera Schulte-Pelkum: possible to not renew in 2021, and then save up to renew in 2022. If we renew in 2021, we will be paying more for less.
- Shirin: good to take the community's temperature on not renewing in 2021.
- Vera Schulte-Pelkum: can we look into buying up the NB farebox? Eldora might be interested in partnering.

- Alex Hyde-Wright: pre-covid, Eldora has committed to charging for parking on weekend days and powder days. Also required by Boulder County to continue operating some of their own shuttle service. Also required to pass out bus tickets.
- Russ Panneton: Can we charge people to pick up their EcoPasses?
 - Alex Hyde-Wright: Lyons charges \$40 fee to pick up/ renew EcoPass. Lyons has no restrictions on their program because they are paying out of general fund. Ned District is bound by ballot language. Our ballot language doesn't say anything about fees. County Attorney's office: recommend this not be our first option, but could be possible since ballot language doesn't prohibit (also doesn't explicitly permit).
- Russ Panneton: Could County cover the shortfall?
 - Alex Hyde-Wright: When I presented potential '21-'22 shortfalls to Boulder County Commissioners, guidance was not to assume County will make up the shortfall. If County puts ballot measure on '21 ballot, Nederland EcoPass PID cannot put a ballot measure on same ballot. If Countywide measure fails, we could ask County to cover shortfall in 2022.
- Shirin Chahal- What is Boulder County's annual budget?
 - Alex Hyde-Wright: In the vicinity of \$400M
- Russ Panneton: Did Boulder County contribute to Boulder Canyon project?
 - Alex Hyde-Wright: Yes. Boulder County is covering the portion of the project that is extending the multi use path to Chapman Dr.

(Alex Hyde-Wright left the meeting due to computer issues)

Shirin Chahal made motion to adjourn, Vera Schulte-Pelkum seconded, and motion passed unanimously.

Russ Panneton requesting additional information on EcoPass tap data