

Nederland EcoPass Public Improvement District Advisory Committee (NEPPIDAC)

Meeting Summary - DRAFT

Meeting Time (MST):

May 23, 2024, 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM

Meeting Location:

Nederland Community Center
750 State Highway CO 72
Nederland, Colorado 80466

Online Alternative:

Microsoft Teams

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Agenda:

1. Introductions
2. Public Comment
3. Action Item: Approval of 02-21-2024 Meeting Summary
4. Action Item: RTD Partnership Program Grant Application for “Supplementing the NB”
5. NEPPIDAC Membership Update
6. District Employee EcoPass Program Update
7. Matters from Committee Members

MEETING NOTES

Meeting called to order at 5:07 p.m.

1. Introductions

In attendance:

NEPPIDAC

- Tierney Maris, Gene Smith, Susie Gallaudet (online), Andrew Bliss

Boulder County Staff

- Alex Hyde-Wright, Landon Hilliard

2. Public Comment

No public comments

3. Action Item: Approval of 02-21-2024 Meeting Summary

Suggested edits: add Gene Smith to the attendance list.

Susie Gallaudet moved to approve. Tierney Maris seconded. Motion passed unanimously 4-0.

4. Action Item: RTD Partnership Program Grant Application for “Supplementing the NB”

- The RTD Partnership Program can fund additional service to fill some gaps in the schedule of the RTD NB route connecting Nederland and Boulder. RTD continues to experience a driver shortage and is not in the position to add trips or adjust the NB schedule to be better align with bell times of Nederland Middle-Senior School.
- Note the continuing challenge where Nederland residents can’t ride bus from town to Eldora.
- Will Eldora provide a letter of support or contribute financially?
- *“Recommend that Boulder County apply to the RTD Partnership Program 2024 Call for Projects for the “Supplementing the NB Route” project.”*

Gene Smith moved to approve. Susie Gallaudet seconded. Motion passed unanimously 4-0.

5. NEPPIDAC Membership Update

- The committee needs one member to fill out the ranks. Boulder County holds two rounds a year of recruiting of volunteers. Candidates for the NEPPIDAC may be directed to the Board Vacancies web page for Boulder County at <https://bouldercounty.gov/government/boards-and-commissions/vacancies/>. The candidate will need to create an account then log in to the portal and submit an application. County staff is available to assist in any part of the application process.
- Qualifications include residency within the Nederland EcoPass District and district map are posted on Nederland EcoPass web page: <https://bouldercounty.gov/transportation/multimodal/bus/nederland-eco-pass/>
- Publicizing the position can be done electronically and with hard copy fliers. Recruitment language and materials will be sent to committee members for distribution.

- Committee suggested locations for fliers such as the Nederland Community Library, Nederland Community Center, Nederland Town Hall and bulletin board at food coop, Salto, Crosscut.
- Candidate for follow-up is Betty Bass. Peter Cacek and Andrew Bliss have contact information.
- Steve Lafavre, Executive Director of Teens Inc. may have recommendations.

6. District Employee EcoPass Program Update

- Background and a short history given of the Nederland EcoPass program. Nederland EcoPass Public Improvement District formed in 2013 with boundaries of the “greater Nederland” area of about a five-mile radius with half the area in town and half in outskirts. The Board of County Commissioners is the decision-making body that appoints four residents. The fifth member represents the Nederland Board of Trustees as a liaison and voting member. The role of NEPPIDAC is to advise and guide the EcoPass program and make recommendations for the program budget and policy.
- Property tax of residents and businesses is the primary source of revenue. Funds may be used for capital improvements such as filling gaps in sidewalks and bus stop amenities and transit service such as increasing frequency or buying up a route to reduce bus fares.
- Annual EcoPass program costs have decreased as a result of three factors.
 - First, simplified fare structure as recommended by the RTD System Optimization Plan (2022)
 - Second, less ridership/EcoPass use in the wake of the pandemic reflected by utilization pricing to determine the annual contract cost
 - Third, higher property values and corresponding greater tax revenue in Nederland.
- Regarding new employee program that voters approved funding for in November 2023, an implementation plan has been sketched and will be carried out this summer with launch by September 2024.
- Big employers to consult: Eldora, B&F Market, Ace Hardware. Boulder Creek Lodge. Town staff.
- Owner of Ace says travel coming from other mountain towns, maybe not from Boulder.
- Also worth mentioning Mountain Rides program with limited service between Ward and Rollinsville.
- Eldora starts hiring in August. Work really starts in Sept/Oct.
 - Lexi Kagan and Brent Tregaskis are existing contacts
 - Reach out to Steve Roundtree - Director of Business Operations at Eldora Ski Mountain.
 - Approximately 700 seasonal employees some of whom use Nederland Middle-High for spillover parking. Travel between town and ski mountain is a weak link on high-demand snow days. How about a shuttle for Ned-Eldora sponsored by Eldora.
- Development review process of Boulder County is an opportunity to apply car-trip reduction strategies and boost Eldora transportation options.
 - Can RTD run loop between Eldorado-Nederland Park-n-Ride on weekends?

7. Matters from Committee Members

- Appreciate the snacks!

- Move forward with employee program. The sooner the better.
- Grant application looks good. Hope it's funded.
- Continued need for Ned-Eldora bus service. It's "better than driving." There's strong support for a business EcoPass program.
- Can post meeting summary to NedHeads.

Meeting adjourned at 6:17 p.m

