

Nederland EcoPass Public Improvement District Advisory Committee (NEPPIDAC) Meeting Agenda

Meeting Time (MST):

September 18, 2024, 4:00PM – 5:30PM

Meeting Location:

Nederland Community Library
200 Highway 72
Nederland, Colorado 80466

Online Alternative:

Microsoft Teams

Join the meeting now

Meeting ID: 261 802 697 389

Passcode: VAT2xm

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Phone conference ID: # 605 522 598#

Agenda:

1. Introductions
 2. Public Comment
 3. Action Item: Approval of 08-21-2024 Meeting Notes
 4. "Supplementing the NB Route" project application Update
 5. District Employee EcoPass Program Update
 6. Action Item: Recommendation of 2025 Nederland EcoPass PID Budget
 7. RTD Transit and Local Shuttle Ridership Report
 8. Matters from Committee Members
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DRAFT Version (to be approved by committee at the next meeting)

**Nederland EcoPass Public Improvement District Advisory Committee (NEPPIDAC)
Meeting Notes**

Meeting Time (MST):

August 21, 2024 4:00PM – 5:30 PM

Meeting Location:

Nederland Community Library
200 Highway 72
Nederland, Colorado 80466

Online Alternative:

Microsoft Teams

[Join the meeting now](#)

Meeting ID: 294 294 692 38

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Phone conference ID: 875 923 18#

Agenda:

1. Introductions
2. Public Comment
3. Action Item: Approval of 05-23-2024 Meeting Summary
4. District Employee EcoPass Program Update
5. “Supplementing the NB Route” project application update
6. NEPPIDAC Membership Update
7. Matters from Committee Members

MEETING NOTES

Call to order at 4:04 p.m.

1) Introductions

In attendance: NEPPIDAC: Gene Smith, Andrew Bliss, Tom Mahowald, Tierney Maris (attempted online)
Boulder County: Landon Hilliard

2) Public Comment

- Katrina Harms, Peak to Peak Health & Human Services Alliance
For service planning, consider the day-trip activity to Boulder and the need to reduce the time commitment. There is a need to improve “first-mile, final-mile” connections to the RTD NB.
- Guy Falsetti, Nederland Fire District
Expressed great appreciation for public transportation options
- Betty Bass, Resident
Regular bus rider since 2012. Would like to see greater frequency service of the RTD NB route to make it easier for people to hop on. to move people out of their cars and onto the bus. She reflected the general excitement of the advisory committee to know the results of the County’s grant application to the RTD Partnership Program requesting funding for additional runs between Boulder and Nederland in morning and afternoon periods.

3) Action Item: Approval of 05-23-2024 Meeting Notes

Tom Mahowald moved to approve. Gene Smith seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

4) District Employee EcoPass Program Update

Staff of Boulder County and Town of Nederland are coordinating the development of a business EcoPass program to begin by November 2024. The initiative is a result of a referendum passed by the Nederland community in November 2023 to extend a property tax for ten years to 2034 allow for the introduction of a business EcoPass program in addition the existing residential EcoPass program. Staff are creating the materials and testing the processes to enroll businesses, conduct an employee headcount, and administer the program. Revisions to the relevant web pages of the County and Town are underway. The upper limit of enrollment is estimated at 3,000 employees though many fewer are expected to enroll during the introductory phase of the program in fall 2024. It is important to raise aware of the program and ease the enrollment process.

Eldora Mountain Ski Resort employs approximately 700 seasonal staff who are recruited and onboarded from October to December. About 100 Eldora employees are expected to enroll. Preparing a streamlined enrollment and distribution process for Eldora employees is a key goal of County and Town staff. For convenience and efficiency, we should consider offering recruiting and enrollment events onsite at Eldora.

Mr. Smith expressed concern that the expansion of the EcoPass program to businesses to burden the NB and cause overcapacity situations of buses returning to Boulder from Eldora during the evening peak period. What happens if additional buses operate to Eldora on high-volume days but fewer buses are available to make the return trips?

Note the Ignite Program for adaptive skiing is associated with Eldora has many instructors and volunteers who will need transportation to the ski mountain. It is suggested that staff make contact with the director, Kevin Wilson, and ascertain that the organization will be allowed to enroll as an independent business. For more information, the organization’s web site at

With the advent of a business EcoPass and the connections to local businesses, there will be an opportunity to request comments about employee travel experience as well as conduct travel surveys to gather information about origin-destination activity and hardships of commuting to Nederland.

Mr. Hilliard explained the resolution of a miscommunication between RTD service planners, Boulder Valley School District administration, and Boulder County staff. Nederland Middle-Senior School had been considered off limits by school policy resulting in the Nederland RTD Park-n-Ride being used as a layover location with trips to the school made only by request of a passenger. Thanks to the efforts of a former NEPPIDAC member, Vera Schulte-Pelke, who has students at Nederland Middle-Senior School, the misunderstandings have been resolved. The NB bus will resume the use of school as a layover and turnaround location.

Agendas of upcoming meeting and summary notes of past meetings are posted on the Boulder County web site, and recently on the Facebook NedHeads page. A critical comment from the public about the value of the Nederland EcoPass program was posted on NedTalk in August. This is to be expected in that “anything goes” on NedTalk. Nonetheless, Boulder County communications staff have responded to the public comment.

There was a question about the level of performance of the NB route before the pandemic in comparison to the present ridership.

The committee reviewed a draft of the Nederland EcoPass flyer making several suggestions for edits including the emphasis of the “free” nature of the program and office hours of Town Hall where enrollment activity will take place.

A press release will be developed for the introduction of the new program. On the subject of the promotions for the EcoPass program, Mr. Mahowald suggested that a feature story in the Daily Camera and Mountaineer local newspapers would be appropriate. The committee could show support the program with an editorial. He suggested too that the new Town Administrator might author an op-ed piece with a transportation focus that folds in multiple initiatives and planning efforts such as the Multimodal Transportation Plan, Boulder County Vision Zero Action Plan, County-Wide Strategic Transit Plan, parking management proposals along with the Business EcoPass Program.

It is important to discuss the RTD transit service in the context of transportation options and connections for example Mountain Rides, Volunteer Driver Program, and Colorado Carshare. Both the “East-West” (Boulder Canyon) and “North-South” (Peak to Peak Highway 72) travel patterns should be discussed. This broach approach is summed up by the “no silo” slogan.

Regarding effective communication channels, Committee members confirmed several local platforms: FaceBook NedHeads, Nederland Area News, Town of Nederland web site, Nederland water bill mailing Downtown Development Authority (DDA) newsletter, and Nederland Chamber of Commerce. Coordinate with Peter Cecik the town’s communications specialist.

5) “Supplementing the NB Route” project application update

An announcement by RTD is pending. The committee is excited to hear the results of the grant application.

6) NEPPIDAC Membership Update

We are pleased to welcome Tom Mahowald back to the committee as a Member-at-Large. At a business meeting of August 6, 2024, the Board of County Commissioners approved the application and appointment to the NEPPIDAC for a four-year term ending February 28, 2028.

7) Matters from Committee Members

Mr. Bliss brought up the great interest of residents and continuing to study the possibility of linking Nederland and Eldora with a shuttle. "It would be popular." Others in attendance mentioned that Nederland residents feel blocked to reach Eldora weekends during the ski season. It is unfortunate that Nederland residents must drive when a shuttle could be an alternative. Would it be possible to provide locker space for gear to be stored at Eldora? Mr. Mahowald asked for ridership data of the current Eldora shuttle between the Boulder (Boulder County Justice Center at Canyon Boulevard/6th Street) and Eldora to determine available space for more riders. Mr. Smith reflected a general complaint of residents who pay into the RTD EcoPass program but can't use it on weekends for NB trips to Eldora.

Mr. Mahowald appreciates the NB service particularly in the winter season. How might the public be assured that the NB is equipped for travel in winter conditions. What level of awareness does RTD have for the extreme conditions and adequate training for bus drivers to use tire chains when necessary. There have been instances of NB buses stranded by icy road conditions in Boulder Canyon.

Because of at least one member will be out of town for a portion of September, the next meeting is planned for either the regular third Wednesday of the month on September 18, 2024 or as an alternative on September 26, 2024. The committee members will provide availability through a Doodle poll.

Meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.