



Community Planning & Permitting

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Nederland EcoPass Public Improvement District Advisory Committee (NEPPIDAC) 2014 Summary

Committee Members

- Janette Taylor
- Katrina Harms
- Michael O'Neill
- Vera Schulte-Pelkum
- Topher Donahue
- Jared Hall – Boulder County Staff Liaison

Key Decisions of NEPPIDAC (April -December 2014)

The Nederland Area Eco Pass Public Improvement District Advisory Committee (NEPPIDAC) made several foundational decisions during 2014 that shaped the direction of the EcoPass program, clarified committee roles, strengthened communication with RTD and the Boulder County Board of County Commissioners, and set priorities for improving transit service and safety in the Nederland area.

1. Establishing Committee Purpose, Vision, and Governance (June 2014)

NEPPIDAC defined its role as an advisory body to Boulder County, responsible for providing recommendations on transit-related issues such as N-Bus schedules, bus stop improvements, and rider policies. The committee formally adopted:

Three core goals:

1. Increase EcoPass use among eligible Nederland-area residents.
2. Promote Nederland transit (N Bus and Hessie Shuttle) to the wider region.
3. Represent rider interests to RTD and Boulder County.

A vision statement focused on maximizing use of the RTD system throughout the region.

Committee structure decisions, including appointing Janette Taylor as facilitator and Katrina Harms as primary note-taker, with flexibility to rotate responsibilities.

2. Expanding Communication and Outreach

The committee agreed to:

- Promote the N Bus through articles, advertising, and partnerships with local media.
- Work with Boulder County to develop outreach materials and increase public awareness of transit options.
- Establish quarterly public meetings with transparent agendas and documentation.

3. Strengthening EcoPass Administration (December 2014)

A major operational decision was made to authorize funding for local printing of EcoPasses at Nederland Town Hall. This shift offered multiple advantages: faster processing, fewer administrative errors, and reduced costs. The committee also clarified that the district is billed per pass issued, not by usage, and committed to developing a future process to verify pass eligibility for residents who move away.

4. Addressing Transit Safety and Rider Confidence

Following winter safety concerns on the N Bus, NEPPIDAC initiated efforts to:

- Engage with RTD on driver training, winter operations, and chain-up practices.
- Form a committee, led by Michael O'Neill, to meet with RTD's area representative and develop safety improvement recommendations.

Additionally, the committee voiced concern about ensuring mountain routes are not treated like urban routes, emphasizing unique geographic and weather-related challenges.

5. Coordinating with Local and Regional Partners

NEPPIDAC explored partnerships to improve local mobility, including potential collaboration with VIA or other service providers. The committee also monitored preliminary discussions about a future countywide EcoPass program, anticipated for 2016.

6. Infrastructure and RTD Coordination (April 2014)

The committee monitored the inclusion of the East Street bus stop in the NedPeds project and identified the need to ensure luggage-loading capacity if built. NEPPIDAC supported the Mayor's forthcoming letter to RTD addressing N-Bus operations and safety concerns.

RTD's upcoming Real-Time app and Google Trip Planner integration (projected for early 2016) were identified as opportunities for public outreach and increased program visibility.

Conclusion

Across 2014, NEPPIDAC established a strong organizational foundation, improved program administration, prioritized safety, and enhanced communication with RTD, the Town of Nederland, and Boulder County. These decisions laid strategic groundwork for promoting transit use, enhancing the rider experience, and ensuring the long-term success of the Nederland EcoPass Public Improvement District.