



Community Planning & Permitting

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Nederland EcoPass Public Improvement District Advisory Committee (NEPPIDAC) 2016 Summary

Committee Members

- Topher Donahue – Nederland BOT appointed member (renewed June 2016)
- Katrina Harms
- Vera Schulte-Pelkum
- Michael O'Neill – Elected committee chair (July 2016)
- Janette Taylor – Member until resignation late 2016

Additional individuals

- Jared Hall – Boulder County Staff Liaison
- Mayor Kristopher Larson (new as of April 27, 2016) – relevant to RTD communications
- Former Mayor Joe Gierlach – involvement ended April 2016

2016 Summary of Key Decisions

The Nederland Area EcoPass Public Improvement District Advisory Committee (NEPPIDAC) advanced several major initiatives during 2016, including approval of the annual budget, evaluation of transit infrastructure improvements, continued coordination with RTD on N-route operations, marketing and outreach to increase EcoPass visibility, and refinement of the committee's governance structure. The committee also monitored regional transit changes, Smart Card data readiness, and Boulder County and Town of Nederland processes that affect EcoPass administration and local mobility.

1. Budget Approval, Planning, and Contract Updates (January–April 2016)

2016 Budget Adoption

- The Boulder County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) approved the 2016 NEPPIDAC budget.
- Nederland's EcoPass contract increased by 13.4%, bringing total cost to \$96,621 for the year.
- The budget included \$15,000 for bus stop improvements, with flexibility to:
- Use the funds for physical upgrades (e.g., Boulder Canyon Drive & East Street stop).
- Reserve the funds in anticipation of future EcoPass price increases once Smart Card usage data begins influencing pricing.

Infrastructure & Bus Stop Improvements

- Committee discussed potential issues and stakeholder concerns with improvements at Highway 119 & Big Springs Drive.
- NEPPIDAC to coordinate with the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) and obtain project estimates.
- Early NedPeds project work began in 2016, including drainage improvements and concrete pads near the library and post office.

2. Committee Governance and Bylaw Changes

Self-Election of Committee Chair

- Previously, the committee chair defaulted to the Nederland Board of Trustees (BOT) appointee.
- NEPPIDAC unanimously supported restructuring to allow self-appointment of the committee chair.
- BOT approved the change; Boulder County Commissioners subsequently approved the revised governance structure.
- Michael O'Neill was elected committee chair in July 2016.

Board Member Term Structure

- BOT seat (Topher) renewed for a two-year term.
- Four remaining seats run 2014–2018 and are not currently staggered.
- Committee prefers staggered terms to maintain continuity.
- Janette offered to resign her seat early to help initiate staggering; committee will follow Boulder County's appointment process to fill vacant seats.

3. N Bus Winter Operations and RTD Coordination

Mayor's Letter & Winter Operations Concerns

- Outgoing Mayor Joe Gierlach did not submit the planned winter operations letter to RTD.
- New Mayor Kristopher Larson assumed office April 27, 2016; committee agreed the new mayor should sign and submit the letter.
- Issues identified:
- Substitute drivers failing to chain buses or follow mountain-route safety protocols.
- Uncertain whether 2016 operations showed improvement or deterioration; feedback was mixed.
- Jared to monitor social media feedback and continue reviewing issues with RTD.

RTD Real-Time Transit Tracking

- RTD's smartphone "Transit App" launched with real-time capability, but functionality for the N Route remains inconsistent.
- Observed issues:
- Bus icon freezes at Fourmile Canyon.
- No tracking within Nederland or between Fourmile and Eldora.
- NEPPIDAC requested evaluation of hardware options to boost GPS signal reliability on mountain routes.
- BOCC expressed willingness to support winter transit improvements.

4. EcoPass Outreach and Resident Awareness

Marketing and Communication Efforts

- Committee emphasized development of outreach materials to increase awareness among new and existing residents.
- Planned materials include:
- A brochure/flyer for distribution at Town Hall, the Park-n-Ride, and throughout town.
- Inserts in water bills and new-resident welcome packets.
- Permanent signage and potential banners.
- Janette drafted initial materials; Katrina prepared to lead outreach if Janette resigned her seat.

Information to highlight:

- EcoPass benefits (e.g., AB SkyRide included at no extra cost).
- Long-term savings from transit use.
- District boundary maps and eligibility details.

5. EcoPass Administration and Replacement Fees

- Town Hall issues EcoPasses but reduced distribution hours in early 2016 from five days per week to one day per week plus appointments.
- Committee expressed concern about reduced availability given the Town receives 10% of EcoPass contract cost for administration.
- Issues surfaced regarding occasional \$10 replacement fees for malfunctioning cards; Town Hall to advise passholders.
- Committee will revisit administration structure as needed.

6. RTD Service Coordination and Regional Transit Issues

Eldora Resort & N Route Scheduling

- Eldora employees faced longer commutes due to January 2016 schedule changes.
- NEPPIDAC determined it should not formally advocate for schedule changes on behalf of EcoPass beneficiaries to avoid perceived conflicts.
- Eldora was advised to contact RTD directly.
- New Eldora GM noted Eldora is the only ski resort served by RTD.

Flatiron Flyer Stop Changes

- RTD eliminated several Boulder stops as part of the FF rollout.
- Boulder County working to restore key stops, including Broadway & Canyon.

7. Bus Stop & Infrastructure Improvements

NedPeds Project

- Concrete pads poured at Boulder Canyon & East Street (3rd).
- Big Springs Drive stop improvements experienced delays; completion uncertain.
- Committee supportive of additional wind-resistant shelter features; motion passed to allocate up to \$10,000 for weatherization improvements.

Real-Time Signage

- A real-time Public Information Display (PID) is planned for the Nederland Park-n-Ride via a DRCOG grant.
- Installation expected to take approximately one year.

8. Budget and Planning for 2017

- Draft 2017 NEPPIDAC budget presented to BOCC; total of \$131,677.

- Committee recommended beginning next year's budget discussions at the August 2016 meeting.
 - Smart Card data not expected to meaningfully impact the 2017 contract.
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Conclusion

Throughout 2016, NEPPIDAC focused on improving transit infrastructure, refining governance structures, enhancing EcoPass outreach, and addressing persistent winter operations challenges on the N Route. The committee strengthened coordination with the Town of Nederland, Boulder County, Eldora resort, and RTD, while preparing for future improvements based on Smart Card data and real-time system advancements. These efforts support long-term sustainability of the EcoPass program and improved mobility for Nederland residents.