



Community Planning & Permitting

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Nederland EcoPass Public Improvement District Advisory Committee (NEPPIDAC) 2017 Summary

Committee Members

Topher Donahue – Nederland BOT–appointed member

- Katrina Harms
- Vera Schulte Pelkum
- Michael O'Neill
- Scott Ptach (New member in Oct 2017)
- Shirin Chahal (New member in Oct 2017)

Additional Individuals

- Jared Hall – Boulder County Staff Liaison
- Mayor Kristopher Larson – Relevant to RTD coordination
- Eldora Resort Representatives – Participating in service discussions
- RTD Representatives:
- Chuck Sisk (RTD Board, Nederland area)
- Gina Callahan (RTD Operations)
- Len Grant (RTD Operations)

2017 Summary of Key Decisions

The Nederland Area EcoPass Public Improvement District Advisory Committee (NEPPIDAC) worked throughout 2017 to improve transit reliability, strengthen coordination with RTD, enhance EcoPass outreach, complete bus stop infrastructure projects, and stabilize committee governance. The committee also responded to evolving transit needs related to Eldora Mountain Resort, winter N Route operations, and real-time transit data challenges.

1. Committee Governance, Membership, and Leadership

Board Vacancy

- No applicants for the vacant seat early in the year; committee operated with one open position until October.
- Recruitment efforts expanded, including a one-page outreach sheet.

New Members

- Two new members—Scott Ptach and Shirin Chahal—joined the committee in October.

Leadership

- Motion passed to elect Katrina Harms as NEPPIDAC Chair (October 2017).
- Jared continued as staff liaison, note-taker, and meeting facilitator.

2. EcoPass Administration and Town Hall Issuance

- Town Hall experienced administrative changes due to resignation of the Town Administrator.
- Town agreed to update the EcoPass distribution list and add program information to the Town website.
- Committee expressed concerns regarding:
 - Limited issuance hours (one day per week).
 - Town's annual 10% administrative fee for EcoPass distribution (\$9,900 in 2017).
- Committee will revisit administration structure as needed.

3. EcoPass Outreach, Marketing, and Resident Awareness

Marketing Campaign

- Katrina updated the EcoPass awareness flyer.
- Printing approved and completed:
 - 500 standard flyers
 - 10 laminated posters (17×22")
- Materials distributed in libraries, Town Hall, community centers, and bulletin boards.

Digital and Community Outreach

- Facebook postings (Nedheads, Ned News, Magnolia) used to promote EcoPass usage.
- Future ideas included:
- Outreach events at the Nederland Park-n-Ride.
- Use of County/CDOT variable message boards.

Key Messaging Themes

- EcoPass benefits, including free AB SkyRide.
- How to obtain a pass, eligibility rules, and long-term cost savings.
- District boundary maps.

4. Bus Stop & Infrastructure Improvements

Boulder Canyon Drive & East Street (3rd)

- New bus shelter installed in early 2017.

SH119 & Big Springs Drive Stop

- Concrete pad delayed in 2016; anticipated completion in Spring 2017.
- Committee approved motion authorizing Jared to proceed with installation for up to \$10,000.

Future Improvements

- Consideration of Hurricane Hill stop improvements.
- Nederland Park-n-Ride real-time display installation scheduled under DRCOG grant.

5. N Route Winter Operations and RTD Coordination

Engagement with RTD Leadership

- Michael initiated contact with RTD Board Member Chuck Sisk, who:
 - Expressed strong support for NEPPIDAC.
 - Identified driver shortages as a barrier to assigning most experienced drivers to N Route.
 - Agreed to participate in future meetings.
- Committee agreed on a constructive, relationship-building tone for discussions.

RTD Operational Updates

- N Route buses received auto chain systems beginning March/April 2017.
- Early feedback shows improved winter performance, though restarting on icy grades remains difficult.
- Chronic blockage area identified as west of Boulder Falls.

6. Real-Time Transit Data and Communication Issues

- Real-Time “Transit App” Performance
- Real-time data functional from Boulder to Fourmile Canyon.
- Lost signal west of canyon prevents live tracking into Nederland and Eldora.

RTD Follow-Up Commitments

- RTD to investigate:
 - Hardware or signal improvements.
 - Adding “loading location” designations at Nederland stops for Eldora-bound skiers.

7. Coordination with Eldora Mountain Resort

Service Needs

- Eldora requested adjustments to N Route schedule to better serve employee shift times.
- NEPPIDAC’s stance:
 - Committee should not directly advocate for changes that could be viewed as EcoPass-driven.
 - Nederland should be included in RTD/Eldora route discussions.

Additional Notes

- Eldora using multiple satellite parking/shuttle locations (e.g., Justice Center lot).
- Private shuttle expansions planned for 2018.
- Ridership increases of 30–50% needed for RTD to add permanent N Route service.

Conclusion

Throughout 2017, NEPPIDAC strengthened relationships with RTD, improved local transit infrastructure, expanded EcoPass outreach, and addressed winter operations challenges on the N Route. Collaboration with Boulder County, the Town of Nederland, and Eldora Mountain Resort supported progress on both operational issues and longer-term planning. These efforts reinforced the reliability and visibility of the EcoPass program while positioning the district for continued improvements in 2018.