



Community Planning & Permitting

Courthouse Annex • 2045 13th Street • Boulder, Colorado 80302

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 471 • Boulder, Colorado 80306

303-441-3930 • www.BoulderCounty.gov

Nederland EcoPass Public Improvement District Advisory Committee (NEPPIDAC) 2019 Summary

Committee Members

- Scott Ptach – Chair (term through 2/28/2020)
- Shirin Chahal – Member-at-Large (term through 2/28/2020)
- Vera Schulte-Pelkum – Member-at-Large (term through 2/28/2021)
- Russ Panneton – Member-at-Large (term through 2/28/2021)
- Kristin Conrad – Town of Nederland Representative

Additional Individuals

- Jared Hall – Boulder County Staff Liaison
- Alex Hyde-Wright – Boulder County Transportation
- Christy R. & Melinda L. – Town of Nederland EcoPass Administrators
- RTD Staff – Operations, pricing, and data support

2019 Summary of Key Decisions

NEPPIDAC's primary work in 2019 centered on the urgent need to reduce the district's future EcoPass contract cost by cleaning and verifying the passholder database, issuing correct discount cards, adding administrative capacity, and planning for major long-term pricing changes resulting from RTD's new utilization-based structure.

1. EcoPass Pricing, Financial Outlook, and Long-Term Planning

RTD's 2018 utilization-based pricing restructure created a dramatic projected cost increase for Nederland, requiring immediate residency verification and discount-card corrections to reduce future utilization counts.

Financial Impact

- Without intervention, Nederland’s EcoPass contract was projected to rise to ~\$372,000 by 2021—nearly four times the prior year’s cost and far above PID revenue.
- Committee explored long-term funding strategies:
 - Potential mill levy increase ballot initiative
 - Contracting with Via Mobility for service (investigative only)
 - Monitoring regional student and community EcoPass developments

2. Residency Verification and EcoPass Portal Audit

Portal Status (March 2019)

- 3,500 active passes recorded
- Only ~1,700 households in the district
- Significant mismatch indicating many ineligible passholders (“alumni”)

Progress to Date

- As of March:
 - 306 passholders suspended
 - 142 deactivated
 - 453 suspension notices sent
 - 182 confirmed residents
 - 35–50 verified tenants
- Estimate: 25–30% of the database audited in the first 4 months.

Administrative Capacity

- Town staff expressed workload concerns; EcoPass administration exceeds what the 10% EcoPass admin fee covers.
- Committee approved contracting with Melinda L. for additional work:
- \$2,500 in 2019, ~10 hours/week
- County/PID to contract directly for efficiency

3. EcoPass Administration Process and Workload

- Residency-verification increases pass creation time to 30+ minutes per pass.
- Staff report increased challenges with frustrated or confrontational passholders.
- Ongoing need to:
 - Track youth aging into adult passes
 - Track adults aging into senior discount passes

- Maintain accurate owner/renter records

4. Youth, Senior, and Discount Card Compliance

- Ensuring proper pass types is essential because discount and youth passes significantly reduce pricing under utilization formulas.
- Actions taken or planned:
 - Updating youth passes under new RTD categories
 - Updating senior discount cards
 - Direct communication to residents about eligibility and pass types

5. Bus Stop Improvements

- Committee approved \$2,850 for concrete improvements at a Nederland-area bus stop.
- Implementation model:
 - Town handles the construction
 - PID reimburses the Town
 - Work scheduled for 2019 completion.

6. RTD Coordination and Data Needs

- NEPPIDAC requested utilization data specific to Nederland to help validate pricing models and identify former-resident pass usage.
- RTD expects to provide neighborhood-level utilization reports by late 2019 or early 2020.

7. Committee Membership Updates

- NEPPIDAC welcomed Russ Panneton as a new committee member in March 2019.
- No additional structural changes were made to committee composition during the year.

8. EcoPass Pricing and Budget Forecast (2019–2023)

(Integrated section as requested)

RTD EcoPass Pricing Phase-In Structures

Original 3-Year Phase-In (No Longer in Use)

- 2019: \$115,946
- 2020: \$139,135
- 2021: \$372,524 (full utilization-based price)

This structure would have caused a sudden, unsustainable cost increase for the district.

Current 5-Year Phase-In (Adopted)

- 2019: \$115,946
- 2020: \$139,135
- 2021: \$166,962
- 2022: \$200,354
- 2023: \$372,524 (full utilization-based price)

Anticipated Impact of Residency Purge

- 2023 pricing likely to decrease due to:
 - Removal of ineligible (“alumni”) passholders
 - Correction of youth/senior discount cards
- 2022 pricing will only decrease if residency purge reduces ridership by ~50%, which is unlikely.

Data Gaps

- RTD has not issued Nederland’s 2020 contract yet.
- No program-specific utilization data received as of 2019.

2020–2023 Budget Forecast

Fund Balance

- End of 2018 fund balance: \$65,108.56
- 2019: First year drawing from fund balance
- 2020 & 2021: Continued drawdowns
- 2022: Anticipated need for Boulder County financial support

Ballot Considerations

- No deadline or urgency for placing a mill levy increase on the ballot.
- Committee monitoring potential regional transportation ballot measures and timing sensitivity.

Revenue Assumptions

- Property tax projections for 2021–2023 are placeholders.
- To be updated when official figures are available from the Assessor/Budget Office.

Conclusion

Throughout 2019, NEPPIDAC devoted its efforts to stabilizing the EcoPass program in response to substantial pricing changes imposed by RTD. The committee prioritized residency verification, improving discount pass accuracy, increasing administrative capacity, and planning for multi-year budget impacts. NEPPIDAC also continued to support infrastructure improvements and strengthened coordination with Town staff, Boulder County, and RTD. These efforts were critical in positioning the district for more sustainable program management heading into 2020 and beyond.