



Community Planning & Permitting

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Nederland EcoPass Public Improvement District Advisory Committee (NEPPIDAC) 2025 Summary

Committee Members

- Gene Smith
- Susie Gallaudet
- Andrew Bliss
- Tom Mahowald
- Tierney Maris

Town of Nederland Staff

- Jonathan Cain, Town Administrator
- Grace Gude, Peak Transport Coordinator

Boulder County Staff

- Melissa Hunter
- Landon Hilliard
- Angel Bond
- Nick Aguilera

Eldora Mountain Ski Resort

- Steve Rowntree, Business Operations Lead (frequent participant)

Key Decisions of NEPPIDAC

In 2025, NEPPIDAC advanced implementation of the new Business EcoPass Program, supported supplemental transit service during a critical adjustment period for the RTD NB route, reviewed the fund balance and strategic budget needs, and deepened collaboration with the Town of Nederland, Eldora, RTD, and Boulder County on major mobility initiatives. The year also saw the launch of a successful local shuttle pilot (NedREC), increasing focus

on multimodal planning, and steps toward rebranding the advisory committee to improve public engagement.

1. Launching and Expanding the District Business EcoPass Program

NEPPIDAC oversaw the first full program year of the Business EcoPass Program, launched December 2024.

Key outcomes included:

- Strong initial uptake: 150 Eldora employees registered within the first weeks; approximately 250 employees total across Eldora, Indian Peaks Ace, Town staff, and The Market at Nederland.
- A contract covering roughly 1,100 employees in 2025, with the expectation that the number could double over time.
- Outreach through Eldora social media, DDA, Peak to Peak Chamber, Mountain Ear, and Town channels.
- Employers with both employee and residential eligibility were encouraged to enroll employees under business accounts to reduce district costs.
- Town and County staff conducted direct outreach to all licensed businesses, including walk-ins and one-on-one support.
- NEPPIDAC emphasized the importance of ongoing employer engagement, clear renewal processes, and quarterly (eventually semiannual) auditing of program enrollment.

2. Managing Supplemental Service: “Boulder Canyon Extra”

Due to RTD schedule shifts in late 2024 disrupting school travel, Boulder County temporarily contracted with Via Mobility to restore critical morning and afternoon service gaps.

Highlights:

- Boulder Canyon Extra ran December 2024–January 2025 using District funds (up to \$25,000).
- RTD restored original NB schedules in early 2025, allowing Boulder Canyon Extra to shift to afternoon-only service.
- In February 2025, NEPPIDAC recommended extending Boulder Canyon Extra to May 2025 to bridge remaining gaps and gather data for future RTD service requests (approved 5–0).
- After reviewing high cost-per-rider, NEPPIDAC voted in May 2025 to discontinue Boulder Canyon Extra beyond May 23, 2025 (approved 4–0).

RTD acknowledged community needs and began planning to add seasonal service by fall 2025.

3. Advancing the NedREC Shuttle Pilot and Eldora Transportation Collaboration

The NedREC demonstration project, delivered February 2025 in partnership with Eldora, Town of Nederland, and County staff, proved highly successful.

Findings included:

- Hourly service on the first three weekends; increased to 30-minute headways on final weekend.
- Strong ridership among Eldora employees (30–40 riders per morning NB bus).
- Clear community demand for a sustainable Ned→Eldora connection.
- Total cost under \$15,000 for eight days of service.
- Eldora expressed strong willingness to collaborate on future service, including 2026 planning.

NEPPIDAC and partners committed to exploring a more robust 2026 shuttle concept aligned with the September 2025 RTD runboard.

4. Strengthening Program Administration, Data Management, and Auditing RTD Portal

- Conducted regular audits of business and residential EcoPass accounts.
- Transitioned program data management from Google Drive to Microsoft Teams to improve confidentiality and record security.
- Enhanced employee deactivation procedures for seasonal workers (e.g., Eldora winter staff).
- Continued direct business outreach and sign-up events, including on-site sessions at Eldora.
- Committee members offered to assist with outreach to non-responsive businesses.

5. Strategic Transit Planning & Multimodal Transportation Integration

In 2025, the Committee participated in multiple long-range planning efforts:

- Boulder County’s Vision Zero Action Plan, addressing roadway safety for vulnerable users.

- The Boulder County Countywide Strategic Transit Plan (CSTP), which defined regional transit needs, priorities, and funding strategies.
- Implementation steps of the Town of Nederland Multimodal Transportation Plan (MMTP) adopted in late 2024.

Key mobility topics discussed:

- First- and last-mile connections
- North–south travel gaps on Peak-to-Peak Highway
- Safe pedestrian infrastructure and ADA compliance
- Winter operations and NB reliability
- Potential future rail connections (e.g., Rollinsville stop)
- Seasonal congestion from Eldora, summer tourism, and leaf-peeping traffic
- Bicyclist safety and conflict zones
- Emergency evacuation routes (e.g., second egress)

6. Fund Balance Review and Financial Planning

NEPPIDAC reviewed its fund balance mid-year and in preparation for the 2026 budget.

Key points:

- 2025 mid-year fund balance approximately \$100,000; projected EOY balance approximately \$342,716.
- Actual Business EcoPass program costs were significantly lower than projected (\$28,130 instead of \$50,000).
- Boulder Canyon Extra added \$37,000 in unplanned cost.
- Boulder County recommended a minimum reserve equal to 5% of operating expenditures (about two months' expenses).
- NEPPIDAC recommended increasing the reserve to \$90,000 to cover a full year of essential program operations.

The 2026 budget was approved unanimously with these amendments.

7. Project Identification, Eligibility, and Prioritization

NEPPIDAC confirmed appropriate uses of District funds, including:

- transit service improvements
- bus shelters and amenities
- sidewalk and crosswalk connections to transit
- grant match requirements
- multimodal facilities that enhance access to transit

Committee members participated in prioritizing projects from the MMTP and developing a list of high-value transit and infrastructure improvements for future recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners.

8. Strengthening Committee Identity and Public Engagement

Additional outreach actions:

- development of a promotional toolkit and meeting-advertising materials
- proposed monthly meeting schedule shift to second Wednesdays
- interest in video-recorded meetings and clearer public invitations
- expanded communications through flyers, social media, and local partners

Conclusion

In 2025, NEPPIDAC guided major expansions in EcoPass access, addressed immediate service gaps, collaborated with regional partners, and advanced critical multimodal and long-range transit planning. The Business EcoPass program became fully operational, the NedREC pilot demonstrated strong demand for local shuttle service, and RTD restored significant portions of NB service. With strengthened financial planning, defined project eligibility, and a renewed emphasis on community outreach, the committee positioned the Nederland transit ecosystem for ongoing improvement and growth heading into 2026.