

# NORTH AREA TRANSPORTATION ALLIANCE

January 2014

2013 Annual Summary

## NATA's mission & introduction

The North Area Transportation Alliance (NATA) is a partnership of public and private entities working to identify, develop, advocate and lobby for transportation solutions that will enhance mobility, drive economic development and reduce traffic congestion in the north area.

In 2013, NATA made significant strides advancing transportation interests, with several notable achievements, which are outlined in this Summary.

Of course, significant work and advocacy remains, and NATA will focus on numerous transportation priorities, regional planning, financing and policy issues in 2014.

## FOCUSED ADVOCACY

*"By speaking with one voice to facilitate regional transportation priorities, we foster support for all communities in NATA."*

*Chair, Erik Hansen*

2013 goals & priorities

## PRIVATE SECTOR VALUE

*"NATA has emerged as a vital organization in considering and acting on the transportation needs of businesses large and small in the metro north region. Whether the needs are related to access or mobility, NATA carefully studies and advocates for better and sensible multi-modal opportunities."*

*--Jonathan Perlmutter  
Jordon Perlmutter & Co.  
Developer and Manager of Larkridge*

2013 goals & priorities



# north area transportation alliance

## KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### NORTH METRO RAIL LINE CONSTRUCTION ■ ONE

RTD signed a contract with Regional Rail Partners in December 2013 to construct Phase 1 of the North Metro Rail Line (NMRL) from Denver Union Station to 124<sup>th</sup> Avenue Station with an option to extend the contract to complete Phase 2 from 124<sup>th</sup> Avenue to the end-of-line station at 162<sup>nd</sup> Avenue. NATA members demonstrated their full support of this project in numerous ways including attendance at many meetings, letter writing and extensive conversations with RTD and interested parties. NATA members also assisted in the development of RTD's Request for Proposals to design-build the North Metro corridor with representatives from each of the communities along the NMRL participating in the evaluation of the submittals and recommendation of the preferred design-build team.



### I-25 EXPRESS LANES PROJECT ■ TWO

NATA members coordinated with CDOT on the design and public outreach, and supported Smart Commute TMO's securing of a grant to provide programs and services as part of the project. Efforts included advocating for more aesthetically attractive sound walls along the corridor, promoting the need for a more focused transportation demand management (TDM) program during construction, and ensuring the project team understands the necessity of good outreach to our communities, citizens and businesses.



RENDERING OF FUTURE TRAFFIC LANES ON I-25  
(COURTESY OF CDOT PROJECT WEBSITE)

### CDOT RAMP PROJECTS ■ THREE

NATA members worked together to develop a list of key transportation projects to submit to CDOT for funding under the 'Responsible Acceleration of Maintenance and Partnerships (RAMP)'. This effort served as a frontrunner and model for other areas. Two of the NATA-promoted projects, Commerce City's State Highway 2 widening and the extension of the I-25 express lanes from 120<sup>th</sup> to State Highway 7, received a combined \$68.6 million in funding.



## COORDINATED INFLUENCE ■ FOUR

Active advocacy by NATA members at DRCOG, RTD and CDOT helped to influence outcomes and move forward our priorities including:

### TRANSPORTATION PRIORITIES

“We were one of the first coalitions in the state to develop a list of projects in early 2013, which helped NATA focus support for member projects in CDOT’s RAMP funding process.”

*Former Longmont Councilwoman  
Katie Witt*

2013 goals & priorities

- Actively promoted the two I-25 managed lanes RAMP projects (120th to S.H. 7 & S.H. 7 to S.H. 66) separately. NATA’s stance helped facilitate CDOT and HPTE’s decision to hold an Industry Forum, which supported the argument that the segment between 120th and State Highway 7 was a viable segment on its own.
- Initiated the conversation and provided specific language to change DRCOG’s policy with respect to RTD’s Annual Review of FasTracks process. The modifications helped streamline RTD’s process to accommodate more frequent changes to the FasTracks plan while providing meaningful clarifications on the content and frequency of RTD’s information it provides to the DRCOG Board.

## MONITORING & SHAPING TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

NATA members actively participated in transportation planning studies related to NATA priorities in the North area:

- I-25 Planning and Environmental Linkages Study
- North Area Mobility Study
- State Highway 7 Planning and Environmental Linkages Study
- Interconnectivity Study (expansion of high speed rail in Denver Metro area)
- North Area Transit Evaluation

## SMART COMMUTE METRO NORTH TRANSPORTATION MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION (SCMN TMO)

- Successfully assisted SCMN in developing a DRCOG grant application to provide TDM services during the I-25 Express Lanes Project
- NATA members continued to provide ongoing staff support for TMO services

### LOCAL GOVERNMENT VALUE

“As one of the fastest growing master planned communities in the north metro region, it is estimated that Erie households will double from 7,100 today to 14,500 by 2025.

Erie’s participation in NATA is critical to assisting us with sound regional transportation solutions such as our State Highway 7 and State Highway 52 projects. Thanks to NATA our voice is amplified and our message is heard. “

*Gary Behlen, Erie Public Works Director*

2013 goals & priorities



## OTHER ACTIONS

- Established Strategic Planning Committee to guide NATA goals, strategies and work plan.
- Developed NATA 'leave behind' for elected official trips to D.C. in support of federal funding for North Metro rail line (Feb 2013)
- Sent a letter of support for RTD's amendment to DRCOG Fiscally Constrained Plan to include North Metro to 72<sup>nd</sup> Avenue (Feb 2013)
- Sent a letter to Phil Washington, General Manager RTD encouraging RTD to partner with us in developing RFP for North Metro (Mar 2013)
- Erik Hansen, Chair of NATA, testified in support of RTD's Uniform Sales Tax Bill (Mar 2013)
- Sent a letter to Don Hunt, Exec. Director CDOT supporting member jurisdictions' RAMP project submittals (Apr 2013)
- Sent a letter to Mike Cheroutes, Exec. Director HPTE regarding support for key public-private partnership opportunities under RAMP (Apr 2013)
- Developed Metro District Concept to help fund future improvements identified in the I-25 PEL study along the I-25 corridor (Jul-Aug 2013)
- Developed updated list of NATA transportation priorities
- Sent a letter to Don Hunt, Exec. Director CDOT supporting separating the two future I-25 managed lanes projects (Oct 2013)
- Sent a letter of support to hire design-build contractor (GBBH) to build North Metro Corridor to Phil Washington, General Manager (Nov 2013)
- Karen Stuart represented NATA in the HPTE/CDOT I-25 Industry Forum (Dec 2013)

### FOCUSED PROJECT DEVELOPMENT & FUNDING

*"Our two top priorities, I-25 and the North Metro Corridor moved forward in 2013 because NATA members worked together with DRCOG, RTD and CDOT at the right times throughout the year."*

*Vice Chair, Val Vigil*

2013 GOALS & PRIORITIES

## NATA MEMBERS

Adams County

Town of Erie

City of Northglenn

City of Brighton

Town of Firestone

City of Thornton

City & County of Broomfield

Town of Frederick

City of Westminster

City of Commerce City

City of Longmont

City of Federal Heights

City of Dacono

Adams County Economic Development

Metro North Chamber

Smart Commute Metro North TMO



## 2014 WORK PLAN HIGHLIGHTS

“NATA envisions the build out of the most advanced, operationally balanced multi-modal transportation system in the north area to foster economic development, mobility and safety for its communities and the traveling public.”

### NATA Vision

### NATA Framework

“Members of NATA will purposefully work together on financial strategies, building coalitions and influencing policy to accelerate key regional transportation priorities while supporting member organizations and agency improvements and programs that facilitate the interconnectivity of the north area’s transportation system.”

- Build on the success of 2013 by further developing the relationships and appointments to leadership positions at DRCOG, RTC, TAC, MMC, etc. that are critical to moving NATA’s transportation agenda forward.
- Finalize NATA’s short, mid and long-term priorities and goals and continue developing concept/proposal on strategies to achieve results.
- Support SCMN’s efforts to provide transportation information, expand mobility options and reduce traffic congestion.

### NATA Focus Areas

