

RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING KAREN STUART FOR HER CONTRIBUTIONS AND DEDICATED SERVICE TO THE NORTH METRO COMMUNITY AND THE CITY UPON HER RETIREMENT FROM SMART COMMUTE METRO NORTH TRANSPORTATION MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION.

WHEREAS, in February 2012, Karen Stuart was appointed as the first Executive Director for the Smart Commute Metro North Transportation Management Organization (*Smart Commute*) for the purpose of reducing congestion and improving air quality within the North Area Transportation Alliance's (NATA) geographic area, which is defined as Highway 119 as the north boundary, Highway 287 as the west boundary, US 36 as the south boundary, and Highway 85 as the east boundary, and includes the cities and towns of Brighton, Commerce City, Dacono, Firestone, Frederick, Longmont, Northglenn, Westminster, and Thornton and the County of Adams and the City and County of Broomfield; and

WHEREAS, in 2012, NATA formed Smart Commute as a 501(c)3 non-profit corporation to establish a public-private transportation management organization with membership open to businesses, public organizations, and individuals in the north metro area to promote transportation options and improvements, foster economic vitality, and enhance mobility including receiving and spending funds to further transportation programs and projects; and

WHEREAS, for the first three years, Smart Commute was funded from a Federal grant that Ms. Stuart applied for through the Denver Regional Council of Government which was administered by the City of Thornton. During this time, she worked diligently to build awareness and membership in Smart Commute to establish its long-term financial viability to deliver programs to support transportation improvements. At the same time, she worked tirelessly with NATA and its members to organize their efforts to bring attention to the transportation needs of the north metro area; and

WHEREAS, through Ms. Stuart's ability to bring people and organizations together, she was able to expand the membership of Smart Commute, as well as NATA, to include both public and private organizations to broaden the awareness of transportation needs in the north metro area, as well as support funding for projects and programs to improve transportation and transit in the north metro area; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Stuart was instrumental in expanding both transit service and FlexRide service to the area of I-25 and 144th Avenue. Under her leadership and advocacy, the Wagon Road/144th FlexRide was the only FlexRide service to gain ridership during the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, through Ms. Stuart's leadership, Smart Commute was able to obtain grants for the north metro area which focus on helping low-income individuals obtain bicycle transportation to and from work, which benefits many of the City's residents. The

electronic-bike (e-bike) program is a loan-to-own program where, after a certain period of time, the individual can own the e-bike; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Stuart conceived, found private funds, and convinced the Regional Transportation District (RTD) to have a one seat FlexRide trip for employees at Water World during the summer, making it possible for those without private transportation to have employment; and

WHEREAS, under Ms. Stuart's leadership, transportation programs and projects, transit projects, and telecommuting have become a reality, and

WHEREAS, Ms. Stuart's tireless work has resulted in a unified voice for transportation projects in the north metro area; and

WHEREAS, she has successfully worked with public and private employees, local, State, and Federal elected officials and the general public in advancing transportation; and

WHEREAS, since the time that Smart Commute was created, Ms. Stuart has worked hand-in-glove with NATA providing administrative staff and organizational skills; and

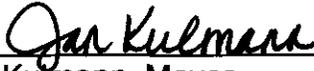
WHEREAS, under Ms. Stuart's leadership, NATA and Smart Commute have gained regional recognition.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF THORNTON, COLORADO, AS FOLLOWS:

That City Council wishes to recognize and express its appreciation to Karen Stuart for her many contributions and dedicated service to the north metro area community and the City of Thornton upon her retirement from Smart Commute Metro North.

PASSED AND ADOPTED at a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Thornton, Colorado, on February 22, 2022.

CITY OF THORNTON, COLORADO



Jan Kulmann, Mayor

ATTEST:



Kristen N. Rosenbaum, City Clerk