

Transportation, Housing, and Jobs: Connecting the Dots in a Changing Region

A Summit for Elected Officials in the in the Roaring Fork & Colorado River Valleys

March 12, 2020 // 11:45am – 5:00pm

Morgridge Commons, 815 Cooper Avenue, 2nd Floor, Glenwood Springs

Join other local officials in the Roaring Fork and Colorado River Valley's to discuss the region's economy, housing market, and transportation system, and the connections between them.

Agenda

11:45 AM Networking Lunch

12:30 PM Welcome, Introductions and Opening Remarks

Rick Garcia, Director of the Colorado Department of Local Affairs; Shoshana Lew, Director of the Colorado Department of Transportation

Following a brief welcome and round of introductions, we'll hear opening remarks from Rick Garcia, Director of the Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA), and Shoshana Lew, Director of the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT).

1:00 PM Where are we? Challenges and Opportunities in a Changing Region

Elizabeth Garner, State Demographer and Clark Anderson, Executive Director of Community Builders

The Roaring Fork and Colorado River Valleys continue to grow and change. What does that change look like? What does it mean for communities as well as the region's economy, housing market and transportation systems? This session explores the trends and issues shaping the region and connections between them.

1:30 PM The View from Here: Local Perspectives on Regional Issues

Phil Vaughan, Phil Vaughan Construction Management; Matt Gianneschi, Chief Operating Officer of Colorado Mountain College; Jon Fox-Rubin, Principal of Fox-Rubin Ltd; Tim Kirby, Multimodal Planning Branch Manager of CDOT

Civic and business leaders from across the region will explore how broader market, economic and demographic forces are shaping our valleys.

2:00 PM Group Breakout Activity

Mixed groups of leaders from across the region will discuss how trends presented are unfolding in their communities and what efforts are underway – or being explored – to address them. Groups will work together to identify issues and opportunities for greater regional collaboration and coordination.

3:00 PM Break

3:15 PM Full Group Debrief

3:45 PM Progress, Possibility and the Road Ahead

Alice Laird, Executive Director of CLEER; Dan Blankenship, Executive Director of Roaring Fork Transportation Authority; Katie Mackley, Executive Director of Rifle Regional Economic Development Corporation

We conclude with a forward-looking discussion about how we respond to the challenges and opportunities in front of us. After the panel, we'll discuss as a group how best to respond and explore future options for collaboration.

4:35 PM Group Discussion and Closing Remarks

Transportation, Housing and Jobs Summit

Overview of Purpose, Context and Approach

Purpose and Context

The Transportation, Housing and Jobs Summit (Summit) provides local elected officials within the Roaring Fork and Colorado River Valleys a forum for facilitated dialogue and information sharing about these issues, how they connect us as a region, and ways to work together to address them.

The connections between housing, jobs and transportation shape the communities and economies of the Roaring Fork and Colorado River Valleys in important ways. Over the years, local leaders have come together to create strategic regional responses to some of our shared challenges. Some of those efforts have gained national recognition as models for collaboration.

Those efforts notwithstanding, our region continues to grow and change. We still struggle with traffic, transit congestion, housing affordability, economic diversity, and related challenges. And throughout the region, local officials want to provide leadership and workable solutions for their communities.

This Summit brings those local officials together to share information and ideas. It aims to broaden understanding of the issues, provide information about current efforts, and create a venue for communication between local officials, as well as relevant state agencies.

Why Now?

Several initiatives are underway that make it worthwhile for elected officials to convene. CDOT is in the process of developing a 10-year Statewide Transportation Plan and has collected the most public input in their history to understand what Coloradoans think about traffic, safety, road maintenance, and mobility. Regionally, RFTA has developed their 2040 Plan and efforts are underway to extend bus service between Parachute and Rifle. A regional housing coalition has completed an assessment of regional housing and is working to encourage local and regional solutions to affordable housing needs. Economic development efforts are underway to address long-standing challenges with low-paying service sector jobs and a broader lack of economic diversity.

Approach

The Summit aims to engage leaders from throughout the region and is designed to encourage dialogue between participants. Significant time is dedicated to facilitated small and large group conversations. These are supported by two short presentations on relevant trends, as well as two short panel discussions, which will highlight current efforts and offer perspectives from entities outside of local government.

Summit Origins and Organization

The idea for the Summit came out of a state transportation meeting that Rifle Assistant City Manager Nathan Lindquist attended in Denver. The approach for the summit was further defined during a December 12th meeting of staff from Aspen, Eagle County, Glenwood Springs, Pitkin County, Rifle, and RFTA. Since then, staff members from around the region, including a working group from Pitkin County, Rifle and Glenwood Springs, have been working to make the Summit a reality. Community Builders, a local nonprofit, is helping organize and facilitate the summit.