

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Roaring Fork Transportation Authority

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[www.rfta.com](http://www.rfta.com)



## **RFTA Phase 4 Service Changes will go in Effect on Sunday, May 10.**

A Special RFTA Board of Directors meeting last week gave RFTA staff authorization to implement service changes based on increases in demand during the upcoming weeks in response to the anticipated easing of COVID-19 restrictions on businesses. It is evident to RFTA that maintaining the 9-passenger social distancing bus capacity limit while providing its Phase 3 bare bones service plan will be challenging. RFTA is already seeing higher passenger demand and plans to initiate its Phase 4 service plan effective Sunday, May 10. By providing higher frequency service, the demand for service can be more evenly distributed which, in itself, should help to reduce the number of passengers at one time on any given bus. RFTA's Phase 4 service plan involves modest service increases for essential valley workers and persons traveling for essential purposes, including travel to and from work. Effective Sunday, May 10, RFTA will launch Phase 4 service plan, which affects the following routes: Bus Rapid Transit (BRT), Local, Hogback, Snowmass Village and Ride Glenwood.

RFTA Phase 4 Service Plan will include:

- BRT service will be reintroduced at 20 min headways starting at 4:34 a.m. up valley and 6:15 a.m. down valley and ending at 4:37 p.m. up valley and 6:18 p.m. down valley.
- Local Valley buses will have extended service hours until 10:00 p.m. up valley and 12:15 a.m. down valley. Buses will have half hour frequency between 5:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. up valley and 6:15 a.m. to 11:15 p.m. down valley.
- Hogback service will have two additional morning trips from Rifle and one additional trip to New Castle from Glenwood Springs midday.
- Ride Glenwood service will resume the normal schedule and service hours.
- Service to Snowmass Village from Brush Creek Park & Ride will have half hour service from 6:15 a.m. to 11:30 p.m. then once an hour until 12:30 a.m.
- No change to City of Aspen services

For Phase 4, given the limited number of Bus Operators available (because of the high number of drivers that are sheltering at home for their protection against COVID-19), RFTA will not be in a position to back up every bus. Instead, backup buses will be strategically deployed at locations around the service area and put into service when available to help reduce the number of times the 9-passenger limit is exceeded. RFTA also urges employers to offer flexible work scheduling options whenever possible for their employees. This will also help to spread out rush hour passenger demand and minimize crowding on buses with restricted capacities.

RFTA will continue to operate paratransit services. If you are an individual in Glenwood Springs, Aspen or Carbondale with a disability and want to discuss your travel options due to the absence of service, please contact RFTA at 970-945-9117.

All RFTA passengers are required to wear face coverings for the foreseeable future when using RFTA services. Scarves, bandannas, buffs or other non-medical coverings are acceptable. As well, all passengers must load buses through the rear door, unless needing wheel chair ramp assistance.

For the latest schedule changes, the public should monitor RFTA's website at [www.rfta.com](http://www.rfta.com).

Questions, contact RFTA Communications Manager, Jamie Tatsuno at 970-384-4864 or [jtatsuno@rfta.com](mailto:jtatsuno@rfta.com).

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