COLORADO
Department of Transportation
Region 3
Glenwood Resident Engineer
202 Centennial Drive
Glenwood Springs, CO 81601

July 5th, 2017

Dear RFTA Board of Directors:

The Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) would like to request the Board of Directors of the Roaring Fork Transportation Authority (RFTA) to authorize the use of e-bikes on the Rio Grande Trail. This will assist CDOT in mitigating impacts resulting from the closure and detour of State Highway 82 this fall as part of the Grand Avenue Bridge Project in Glenwood Springs. This request is only for the duration of the detour phase and only on the segment of trail between Carbondale and Glenwood Springs.

The Grand Avenue Bridge Project and its associated detour will be an unprecedented event for the entire region. In order to avoid large delays, CDOT estimates that approximately 35% of peak traffic will have to alter how and when they are commuting. While there are several options for commuters to pick from, biking, and more specifically, e-biking has surfaced as a popular choice. In fact, several organizations have already incorporated e-bikes into their strategies for coping with the detour. Among these organizations are Gould Construction, Valley View Hospital, and the City of Glenwood Springs.

In light of this popularity, CDOT and other local agencies have found that e-bikes are not allowed on many pedestrian designated facilities, the Rio Grande Trail being among them. As a result, the City of Glenwood Springs has recently approved the use of e-bikes in their jurisdiction of the Rio Grande Trail. CDOT wholly supports this decision as it gives commuters both more options as well as accommodates many organizations' strategy. Additionally, by permitting this use now, potential disputes with customers may be avoided, as commuter's temperaments will likely be strained during this time.

To build upon and encourage commuters to choose alternative modes of transportation, CDOT asks that RFTA adopt a measure similar to the City of Glenwood Springs that permits e-bikes on the above-mentioned segment of the Rio Grande Trail. This measure will certainly assist with CDOT's efforts, but more importantly, it will improve the coming impact for all of our constituents.

If you have any questions relating to this correspondence, please contact me at the information below.

Sincerely,

Roland Wagner, P.E.
Glenwood Resident Engineer
(970) 945-8187
Roland.Wagner@state.co.us