ROARING FORK TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

OVERVIEW OF RFTA CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

August Monthly Board of Directors Meeting

Thursday, August 11, 2022

Presentation Summary

- Project Purpose
- Project Team and Organizations
- Project Approach
- Question and Answer Period

PROJECT PURPOSE

Project Purpose

The Challenge

Transportation is now the highest source of greenhouse gas emissions in the United States, accounting for 29 percent of U.S. emissions. In RFTA's service region, the associated climate impacts already are being felt through the increased presence of wildfires, flooding, and reduced snowpack.

Project Purpose

RFTA's Climate Action Plan (CAP) will define aspired agency targets with tactical recommendations over a three- to seven-year timeframe that are both action- and customer-oriented and based on a common understanding of the strategic context and future scenarios.

The plan will identify a climate vision and associated next steps for how it will be realized. Strategies will be broadly focused and attainable, describing a desired future condition relative to specific baselines and targets.

PROJECT TEAM AND ORGANIZATIONS

Gannett Fleming

Gannett Fleming is consistently ranked among North America's top 10 transit firms and has delivered more than 8,000 unique transit, transportation, and energy projects for large and small agencies across the US, including 25 years of service to Colorado. As a member organization of APTA, our firm is also home to some of the country's leading experts in recommended best practices and standards, including APTA's Guidelines for Climate Action Planning. Throughout the course of the project, Gannett Fleming's top staff will ensure that the highest quality practices are met from start to finish.

CLEER

- Non-profit group for local and regional climate planning and implementation.
- Ongoing regional utility, energy, and emissions data tracking for public facilities including RFTA.
- Energy and climate inventories and Net-Zero facility plans.
- Provides technical assistance on EV technologies and infrastructure.

PROJECT RESOURCE STUDIO

- Minority/Women Business Enterprise (M/WBE, DBE, SBE) located in the Roaring Fork Valley of western Colorado.
- Comprehensive stakeholder involvement planning services, communications consulting, project marketing, and public relations strategies.
- Strategic communications consultant for organizations throughout Colorado.

Gannett Peak, Wyoming
Named in 1906 after US Geological Survey chief geographer and founding member of the National Geographic Society and our firm, Henry Gannett

Project Delivery Team

Jason White
RFTA Transit Planner &
Lead Point of Contact

35 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE

Larry Head
Project Principal

15 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE

Wes Maurer, AICP, PSM
Project Manager

25 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE

Alice Laird
Project Advisory Member

10 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE

Maisa Metcalf
Emissions Inventory and
Analysis

17 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE

Kathleen Wanatowicz
Stakeholder Outreach

30 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE

Andy Gillespie, PE
Transit Operations and
Emissions Analysis

8 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE

Joseph King, PE, PMP
Transit Operations and
Emissions Analysis

PROJECT APPROACH

Project Approach

Phase 2

Technical discovery of RFTA's emissions profile will provide baseline insights for developing an effective climate action plan with targeted emission reductions.

Phase 4

Preparing for the future, an implementation and monitoring program will be created that encompasses RFTA's climate strategy, emergency mitigation priorities, progress tracking, and associated funding opportunities.

Phase 1

Establishing a vision for the future will be a critical first step in setting a strong foundation for RFTA and its stakeholders for developing an effective climate vision and goals through professionally facilitated working sessions and consistent biweekly and monthly reporting on progress and outcomes.

Phase 3

Climate action plan (CAP) development will build upon the previous visioning sessions and technical discovery to produce strategies that are uniquely tailored toward enabling RFTA to track and accomplish its climate goals through an achievable, action-oriented programmatic approach.

Project Schedule

PROJECT PHASES	MONTH 1	MONTH 2	MONTH 3	MONTH 4	MONTH 5	MONTH 6	MONTH 7	MONTH 8
PHASE I: Establishing a Vision for the Future								
Kickoff Meeting	■							
Confirm Purpose and Need for Climate Action Plan	■	■						
Establish Vision and Goals for Action Plan		■						
Phase II: Technical Discovery								
Develop Baseline Emissions Inventory	■	■	■					
PHASE III: Climate Action Plan (CAP) Development								
Identifying and Evaluating GHG Emissions Reduction Strategies		■	■	■	■	■		
Develop Evaluation Criteria for Screening and Prioritization of Strategies		■						
Establish a Measurement Process for All Selected Evaluation Criteria		■	■					
Identify Potential GHG Reduction Strategies		■	■	■				
Screen Strategies				■				
Detailed Strategy Development and Estimation of Cost and Benefits				■	■			
Identify Recommended Strategies and Implementation Program					■	■		
PHASE IV: Preparing for the Future								
Create Implementation and Monitoring						■	■	
Option: Climate-Related Emergencies Mitigation Plan							■	■
Identify Funding Opportunities							■	
Option: Monitoring and Updates of CAP							■	■

PHASE 1

ESTABLISHING A VISION FOR THE FUTURE

Kickoff Meeting

RFTA staff and project team

Internal Technical and Steering Committees

RFTA staff from relevant agency levels and divisions

Stakeholder Coalition Group

Regional Partners + Advocates

Frequent and Sustained Engagement

Initial scoping through implementation and monitoring

Vision and Goal Setting

Course-setting for an achievable plan that is consistent with the overall mission of RFTA and its stakeholders

Phase 1: Milestones and Deliverables

- Kickoff meeting
- Facilitated workshop pertaining to the CAP's purpose, need, vision, and goals
- National review of leading climate action plans

PHASE 2

TECHNICAL DISCOVERY

Existing conditions and anticipated trends, performed in tandem with Establishing a Vision for the Future (Phase I).

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Baseline inventory and displacement analysis for transit services

Best Practices and Benchmarking

Current climate policies and practices at RFTA and other transit agencies

Programmed Projects

Current projects in the region (transit, highway, and/or land use)

Regulatory Landscape

Climate legislation and regulation at the national, state, and local levels + existing climate plans

Projected Impacts of Climate Change

Forecasts for wildfires, flooding, reduced snowpack, and other climate impacts + existing adaptation strategies in the region

Key Highlight

CLEER currently tracks RFTA facility utility data through an energy tracking system that provides timely, actionable data and positions RFTA for ongoing benchmarking and climate plan implementation.

Phase 2: Milestones and Deliverables

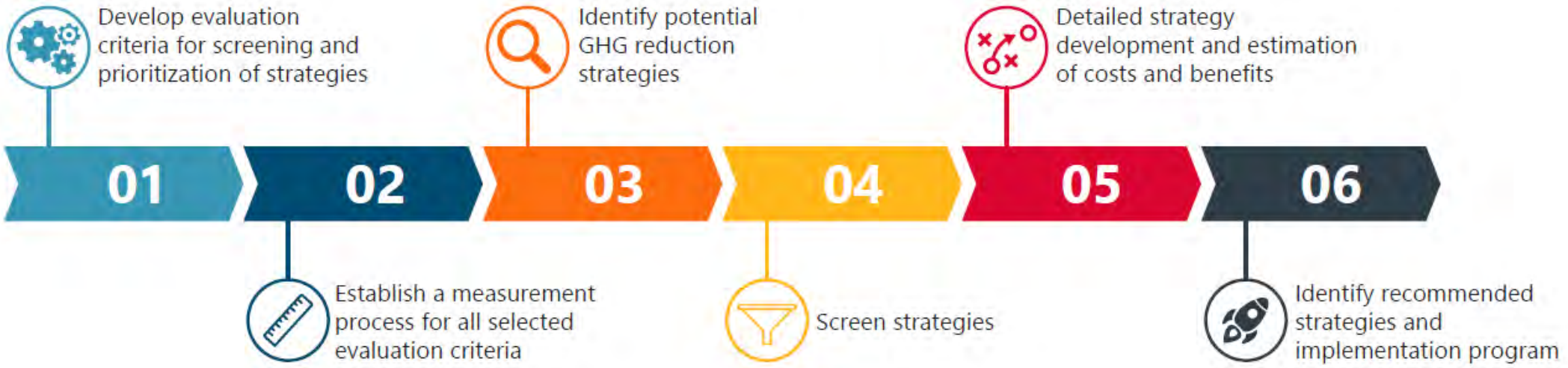
- Baseline emissions inventory considering RFTA's internal operations and facilities relative to regional transportation and land use trends

PHASE 3

CLIMATE ACTION PLAN DEVELOPMENT

Phase III will build upon the previous visioning and technical discovery phase to produce strategies that are uniquely tailored toward enabling RFTA to track and accomplish its climate goals through an achievable, action-oriented programmatic approach.

Activities performed in this phase will establish evaluation criteria, develop a master list of potential strategies, and create a process for initial strategy screening and advancement of promising strategies for further development.

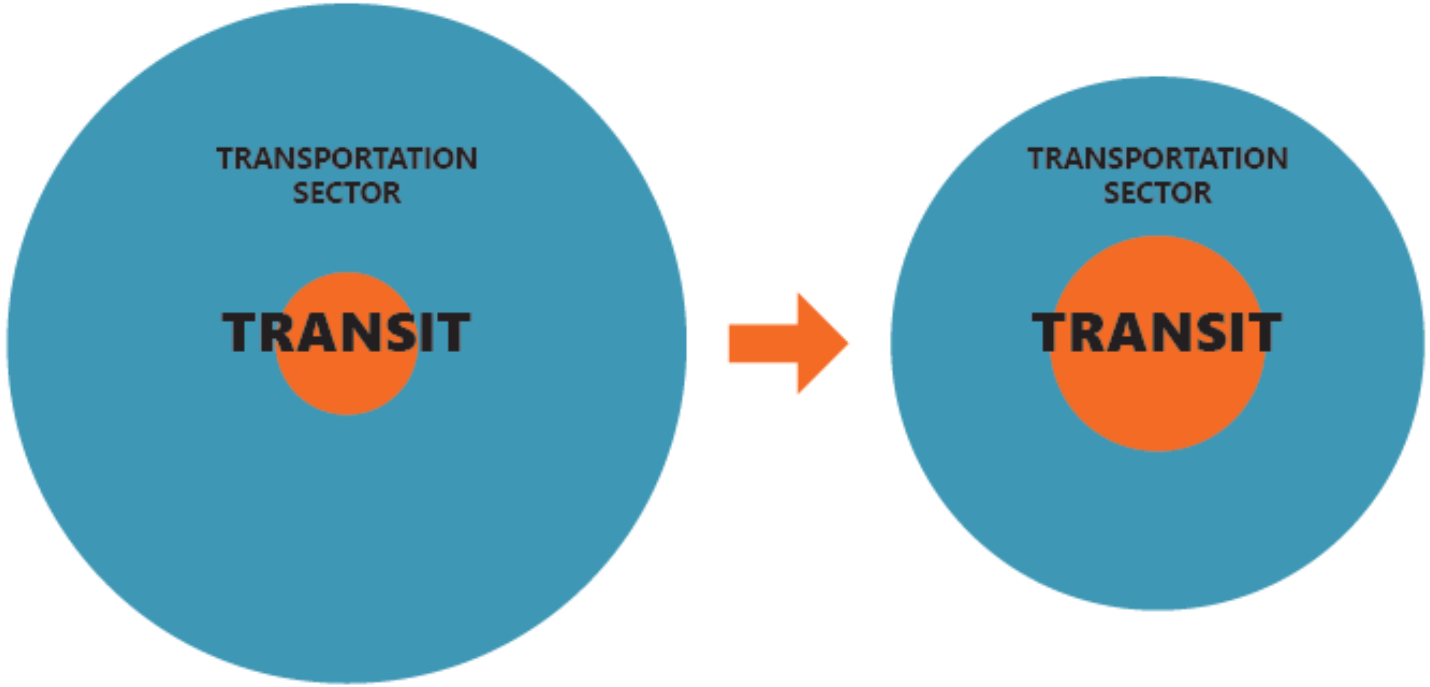


PHASE 3

CLIMATE ACTION PLAN DEVELOPMENT

THE EFFECT OF TRANSIT ON EMISSIONS

- Phase III will subsequently define unique actions and strategies for reducing RFTA's carbon intensity related to:
- Direct agency operations
- Broader transportation impacts associated with RFTA's operations



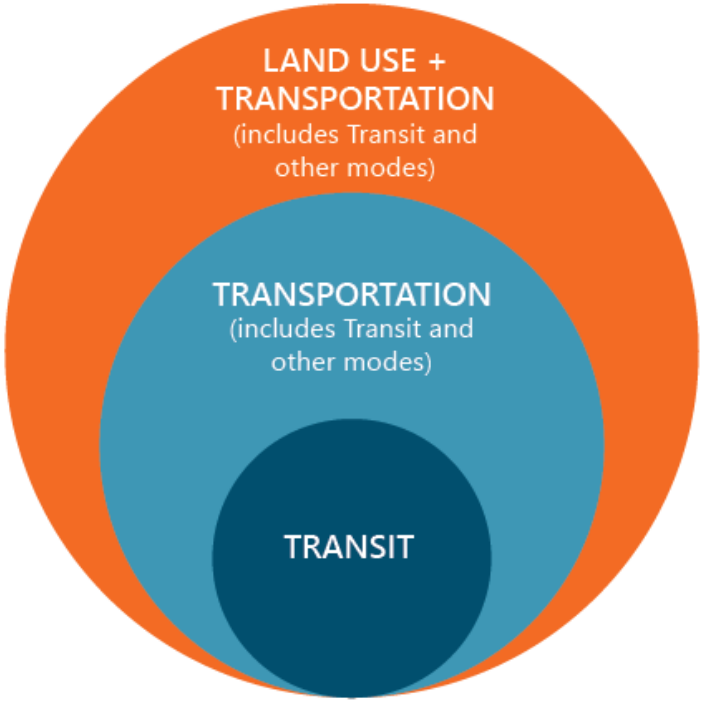
Phase 3: Milestones and Deliverables

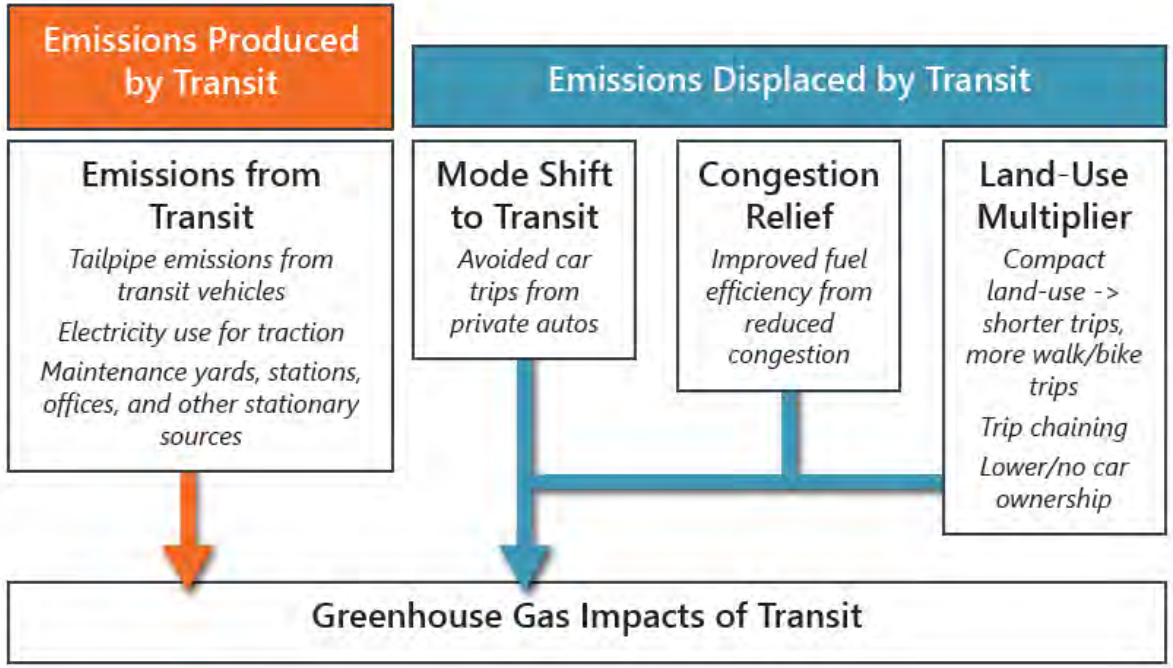
- Annotated literature review of leading national and international climate action plans
- Modifiable master spreadsheet for measuring CAP criteria, supported by user-friendly, open-source tools
- Evaluation criteria and measurement process for climate action strategies
- Master list of potential strategies
- Documented process for strategy screening and advancement of promising strategies for further development
- Refined set of cost-benefit-based strategies tailored to RFTA's unique operational environment
- Implementation program guidance

PHASE 3

CLIMATE ACTION PLAN DEVELOPMENT

- Broader transportation impacts associated with RFTA's operations will be assessed to define ways that RFTA can help to displace regional transportation sector emissions including:
- Shifting users from less carbon-efficient modes to transit.
- Reducing congestion and its associated emissions.
- Coordinating to enable more compact development patterns which allow for shorter and fewer vehicular trips to be made.





PHASE 3

CLIMATE ACTION PLAN DEVELOPMENT

In determining acceptable financial criteria for individual strategies and for the plan as a whole, the following screening criteria will be taken into account:

- RETURN ON INVESTMENT (ROI): Ranking based on financial performance.
- COST/BENEFIT (dollar per ton of carbon): Ranking based on cost per ton of carbon saved.
- PORTFOLIO ANALYSIS: Bundling of strategies based on ROI and COST/BENEFIT analysis, resulting in larger emissions reductions through enabling RFTA to focus investments on broader areas with the greatest emissions benefits.

Phase 3: Milestones and Deliverables

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PHASE 4

PREPARNG FOR THE FUTURE

Preparing for the future, an implementation and monitoring program will be created that encompasses RFTA's climate strategy, emergency mitigation priorities, progress tracking, and associated funding opportunities.

Implementation and Monitoring Program

Emissions data dashboard for transportation- and building-sector sources, compatible with RFTA systems (Clever, Trapeze, etc.) and assisted by Gannett Fleming's GeoDecisions group

Climate-Related Emergencies Mitigation Planning

Tabletop exercise hosed by Gannett Fleming's Risk and Resiliency group

Funding Opportunity Identification

Short-, mid-, and long-term capital investment options for both traditional and non-traditional funding sources

Monitoring and Updates to CAP

Annual evaluations and updates of the CAP, based on annual renewals

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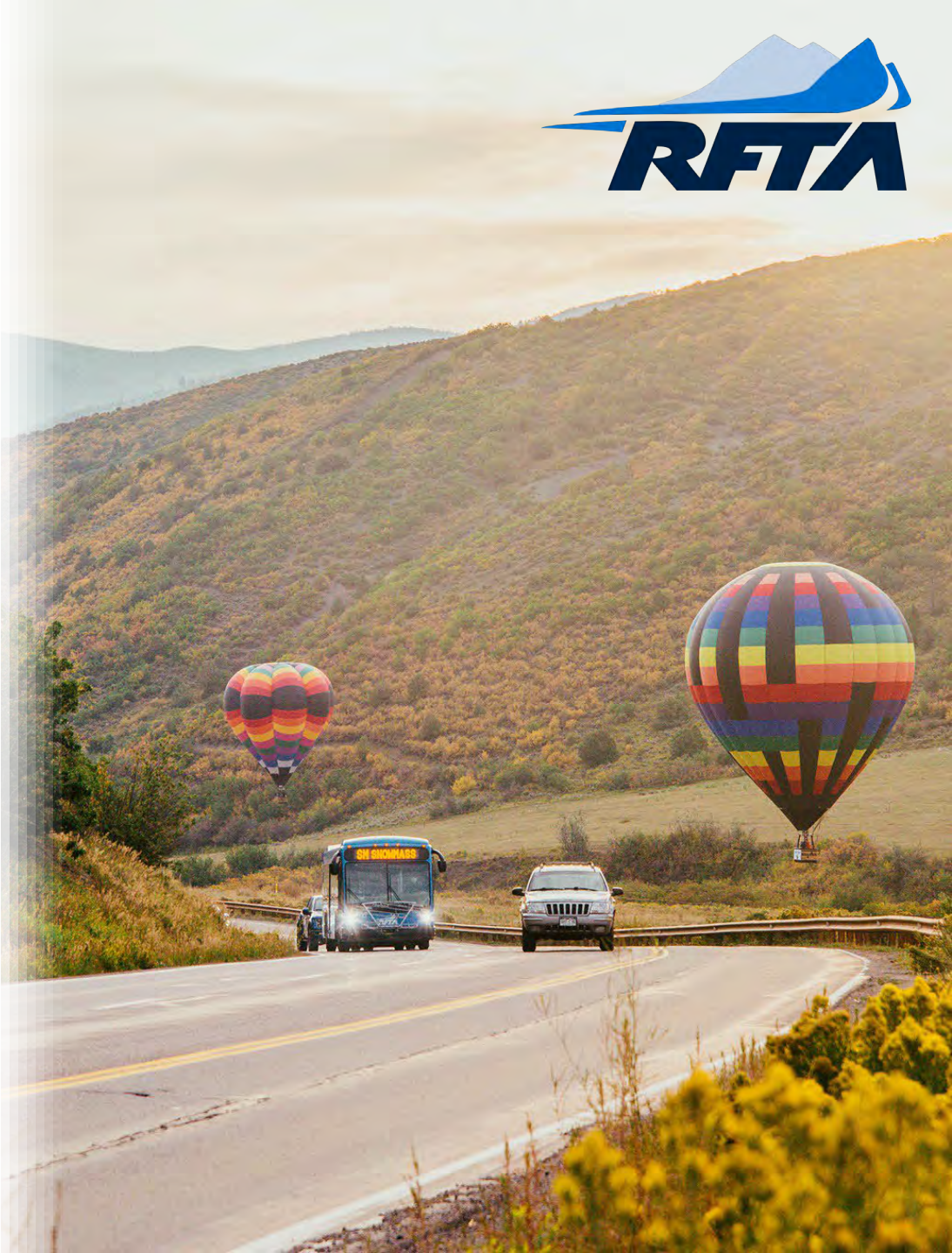

QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD