RFTA Planning Department Monthly Update

August 13, 2015

RFTA Vision Statement

RFTA pursues excellence and innovation in providing preferred transportation choices that connect and support vibrant communities.

RFTA Planning Department Vision Statement

We will work creatively, cooperatively and comprehensively with our partners in the public, private and nonprofit sectors and other groups to create healthy and vibrant communities.

CONTENTS

REGIONAL BICYCLE, PEDESTRIAN & TRANSIT ACCESS PLAN **3**

REGIONAL TRAVEL PATTERNS STUDY **4**

BACKGROUND 4
PURPOSE 4
STATUS 4

CURRENT/FUTURE GRANT OPPORTUNITIES **6**

The RFTA Planning Department is here to protect and serve in 2015!

Regional Bicycle, Pedestrian & Transit Access Plan

RFTA was awarded a FTA Section 5304 grant in 2014 to conduct a *Regional Bicycle, Pedestrian & Transit Access Plan,* herein RBPTAP, for the Roaring Fork and Colorado River Valley region. Pitkin County, Eagle County and Garfield County are providing local cash match for the grant award. The technical advisory committee (TAC) consists of RFTA trail staff, CDOT bicycle-pedestrian staff and the three counties.

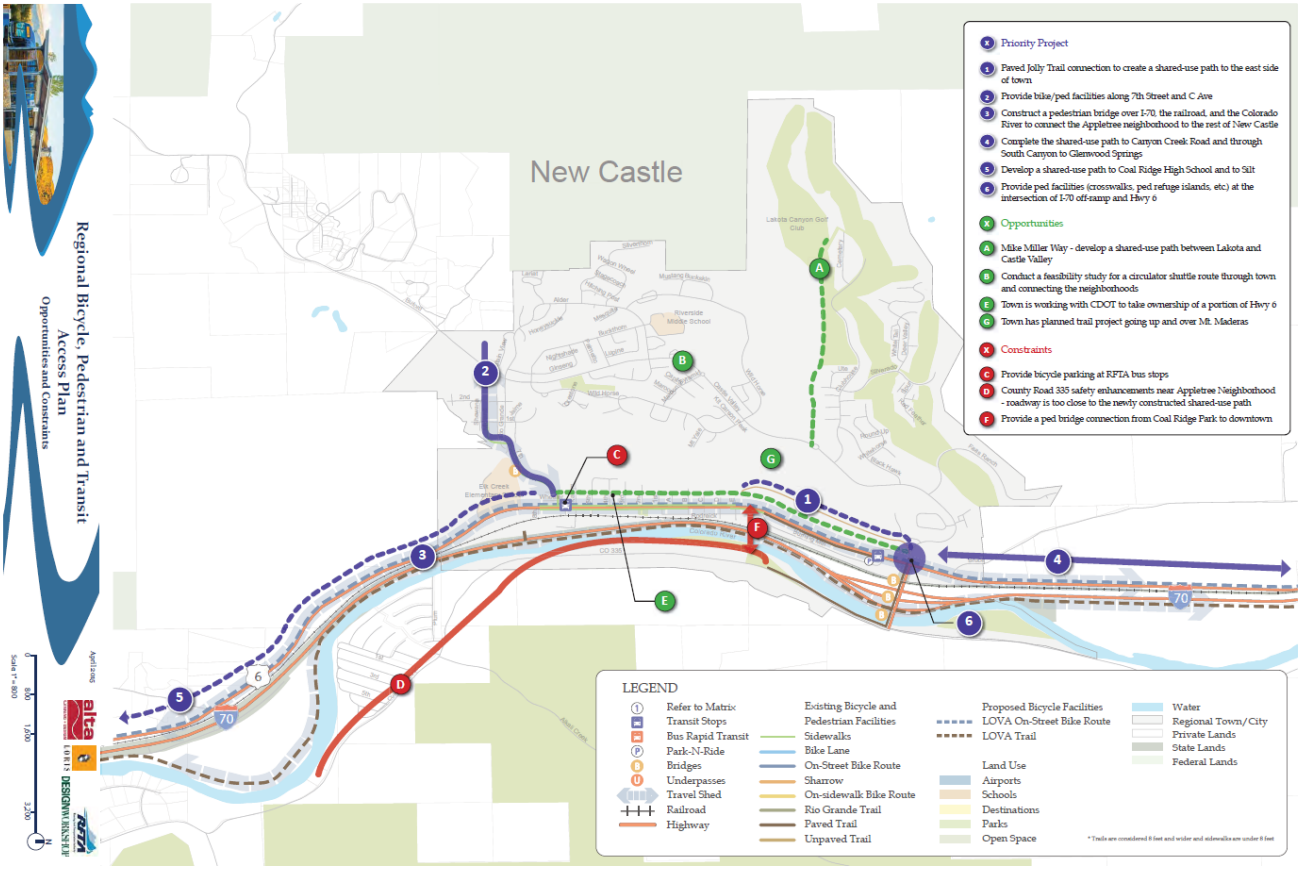
The purpose of the RBPTAP is to establish a region-wide vision with goals, objectives and a 25-year list of projects that integrate the bicycle and pedestrian system with the overall transportation system. This plan does not intend to overstep local jurisdictions; rather this regional plan will bring attention to localized plans for the purpose of creating a seamless regional trail network in the future. A regional bike-ped plan will set our region up for success for future bike-ped funding at the Federal and State levels.

The consultant team, Alta Planning and Design and Design Workshop, began work on this project in early December 2014. To date, the team has completed the following tasks:

- Existing conditions maps for the study area (Nov/Dec 2014)
- Extensive outreach with staff and public (Feb. 2015)
- Condensed notes/maps from the outreach listing priority community projects (March 2015)
- An opportunities/constraints memo that distills feedback on priority projects (April 2015)
- Three technical advisory committee (TAC) meetings for project guidance
- Project prioritization criteria and weightings (June/July 2015)
- Cost estimation for top 10 priority projects (July/August 2015)

Alta is currently working with the technical advisory committee (TAC) on project selection criteria, cost estimation for the top 10 priority projects and exploring open source mapping programs for public view. The final report is expected in late August.

The plan has yet to be completed and there are already regional groups eager to utilize the information. The LiveWell Garfield County Built Environment Working Group intends to utilize State public health funds to dig deeper into public outreach and community bike/ped project planning throughout Garfield County communities. The RFP will be solicited in early September. RFTA staff is hopeful that this regional plan will provide similar positive benefits in other communities throughout the study area.



New Castle Priority Projects from the Opportunities & Constraints Technical Memo, created by Alta Planning (lead consultant)

Regional Travel Patterns Study

Background

The original ***Local and Regional Travel Patterns Study (RTPS)*** for the Colorado River and Roaring Fork River Valleys, from Parachute to Aspen, was conducted in 1998. In 2004, Garfield County led the update effort; RFTA is currently taking the lead on a second update, incorporating additional information as requested by the local jurisdictions.

Purpose

The primary purpose of this project is to update the 2004 Study, which details how, why, and when residents and tourists are moving within the Roaring Fork and Colorado River Valleys region from Parachute to Aspen. Public survey data questions include: where people live and work; the mode of travel (to work & other trips); employer policies (bus passes, parking, telecommuting); local walking & biking environment; transit use patterns and demographic information.

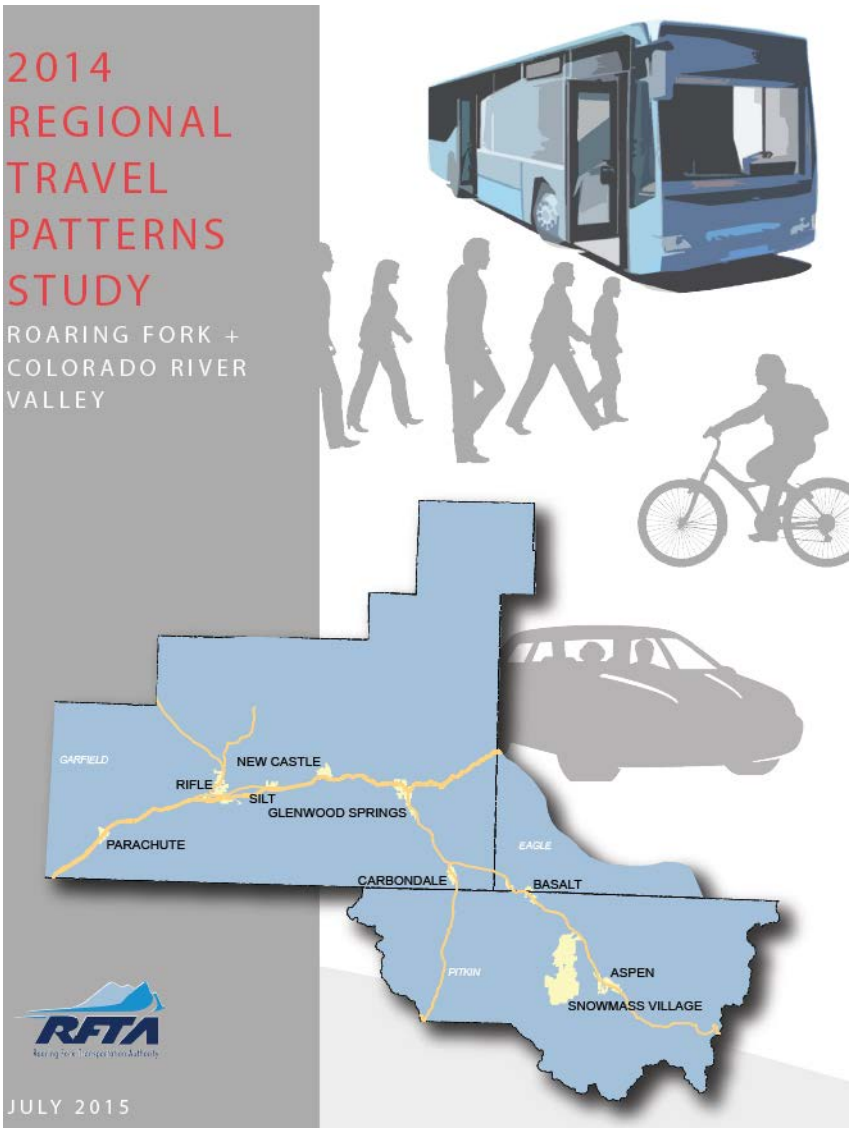
Status

The travel behavior component of the project has been completed, and the community travel profiles can be accessed here: http://www.charlier.org/index.php?id=1,347,0,0,1,0.

The Consultant team delivered the final draft report to RFTA on July 2. RFTA held a meeting with the technical advisory team on July 22nd to discuss the final draft report and how the deliverables relate to the consultant team's original scope of work and project schedule. Overall, the group was pleased with the process and it is encouraging to see that this group of regional planners is already starting to use some of the travel patterns data for local projects.

Geoff Guthrie, City of Glenwood Springs Transportation Manager, has used the data to make a case for increased travel demand measures (TDM), such as bike share and bus lanes, during the forthcoming Grand Avenue Bridge Replacement Project in downtown Glenwood Springs. The City of Aspen has been working on their own local-level vehicle miles traveled (VMT) study and they are able to utilize some of the survey data from the RTPS for to answer questions about local travel in and around Aspen.

The draft final report can be accessed here: https://app.box.com/s/x4iydy02fa14by12trz4ubw0nnnr67ne
The final report is expected in mid-August and will be distributed widely to the public and regional partners.



Current/Future Grant Opportunities

The Planning Department invests great effort in researching, applying for, and administering a variety of grant opportunities. We provide these tables in our quarterly projects updates for the benefit of all RFTA departments

Grant Program/Year	Project	Deadline	Amount Requested	Projected Award Date	Status
DOLA Energy Mineral Impact Assistance (EMIA) Program	GMF Construction – Phase I	4/29/2015	$1,500,000	August 2015	Mike presented to the Statewide Advisory Committee in Steamboat on 7/21. See below for other applications.
DOLA EMIA Program	GMF Construction – Phase I	8/1/2015	$1,500,000	Dec. 2015	This is very similar to the Spring 2015 application; notices of awards have not been announced for the Spring application. If RFTA receives $1.5 M from the Spring application then this Fall application will be withdrawn.
DOLA EMIA Program	GMF Construction – Phases 2 & 4	8/1/2015	$1,750,000	Dec. 2015	If RFTA does not receive funding from the Spring 2015 cycle, RFTA wishes to re-submit for Phase I and withdraw this application for Phases 2 and 4. If RFTA receives funding for Phase I from the Spring 2015 funding cycle, RFTA wishes to submit this request for funding Phases 2 and 4.
CORE Randy Udall Grant	AMF Geo-Exchange System #2	5/1/2014	$200,000	July 2015	RFTA's application did not score as high as other projects. A final decision is expected in mid-August
USDOT TIGER 7	GMF Renovation/ Expansion	6/5/2015	$18 million	November 2015	
FTA 5311 FY2016-17 Admin/ Operating	General Operating Funding	6/5/2015	$1,065,278	September 2015	

Garfield County Federal Mineral Lease District (GCFMLD)	GMF Renovation/ Expansion	8/28/2015	$450,000	October 2015	
DOLA Alt Fuels	Incremental cost of CNG for Carbondale Circulator Vehicle	8/1/2015	$35,000	October 2015	Grant was successfully submitted
Great Outdoors CO (GoCo)	Rio Grande Railroad Corridor/Trail improvements	11/5/15	$200,000	March 2016	The CPW Trails Grants applications will be posted in September