RFTA Planning Department Monthly Update

January 14th, 2016

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.

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Regional Bicycle, Pedestrian & Transit Access Plan

RFTA was awarded a FTA Section 5304 grant 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 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.

The final draft plan was completed in late November by Alta Planning and Design Workshop. By request, Jason White will present the findings to the Garfield County BOCC on Monday 1/11/2016. He will also present the plan and sit on a regional multimodal panel at the Regional Transportation Forum to be conducted by CLEER on Friday 2/5/2016 at the Hotel Colorado in Glenwood Springs.

Regional groups are already utilizing the bike-ped plan. The LiveWell Garfield County Built Environment hired Alta Planning to conduct more significant public outreach and community bike/ped project planning throughout Garfield County. Garfield County is working with Alta Planning on the scope of work and schedule for the project. Public outreach meetings will be held in February.

The final plan emphasizes the regional importance and significance of completing the LoVa Trail, reinforcing the LoVa Trail's standing as a top-priority in the 16 for 16 Trails Initiative (see next section).

Colorado the Beautiful Trails Project: 16 in 2016

In June 2015, Governor Hickenlooper announced state efforts to identify 16 priority trails, trail segments, and trail gaps by 2016. These 16 priority trail segments will fill gaps in our statewide trail system, promote active, outdoor recreation, and connect communities and visitors to important amenities. When the 16 trails are identified, the Colorado Department of Natural Resources will lead efforts and work in conjunction with Great Outdoors Colorado, the Colorado Department of Local Affairs, the Colorado Department of Transportation, and other entities to identify needed funding and construct the trails.

The Lower Valley Tails Group (LoVa) promoted the LoVa Trail as one of the 16 priority trail segments. On January 4th, Larry Dragon, LoVa Trail Director informed RFTA that the LoVa Trail has made the shortlist of potential projects. It is expected that priority trails will be selected in mid-January 2016. If the LoVa Trail is indeed listed as a 16 in 2016 candidate, there may be additional trail funding available to move forward with the next construction phase from West Glenwood to New Castle.

Mobility Fuels & Funding Workshop

As a member of Garfield Clean Energy (GCE), RFTA is engaged in regional projects, and events, that make the connection between clean energy, sustainability and transportation. CLEER, the administrative entity for GCE, is conducting a first-annual regional transportation workshop to discuss transportation trends, envision the region's transportation future, and shape the best transportation future possible.

The workshop will be held Friday, February 5, 2016 at the Hotel Colorado, Glenwood Springs from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Speakers and participants include:

- Shailen Bhatt, Executive Director, Colorado Department of Transportation
- Jim Charlier, Charlier Associates
- Dan Blankenship, CEO, Roaring Fork Transportation Authority
- City and County elected officials from Rifle to Aspen
- Chamber of Commerce and business development leaders
- Colorado's alternative fuel experts

Registration is $35 in advance and includes morning refreshments and lunch.

MOBILITY
FUELS & FUNDING
Exploring Solutions for 21st Century Transportation

Medical Transportation to Grand Junction

On January 5th, David Johnson met with Chris Lubbers (Director, ECO Transit) and Susan Juergensmeister (Regional Mobility Manager, NWCCOG) to discuss improving access to medical services in Grand Junction, particularly for veterans. ECO Transit wishes to establish a monthly trip to the VA hospital in Grand Junction. ECO Transit would provide the vehicle and the staffing. Jeurgensmeister has offered to coordinate the trips, which would be by reservation only, at least 3 days in advance. The trip would start in Eagle County, and Lubbers offered to make 1-2 stops on the I-70 corridor in Garfield County, such in Glenwood Springs and Rifle. Lubbers will likely seek funding from RFTA and from Mesa County; however, cost of the monthly service will be likely be minimal.

Grants Activity

Grant Program/Year	Project	Amount Requested	App. Deadline	Award Date	Status
CY2015 FTA 5311	AMF Phase 4	$896,278	12/1/2014	3/17/2015	Final agreement expected within 6 weeks.
FY2016 FTA 5311 Admin/Operating	General Operating Expenses	$1,014,550 ($1,065,278 RFTA match)	6/5/15	9/14/15	RFTA received the NTP on 1/6/2016
CY 2016 FASTER Operating	Hogback Operating	$200,000 + $200,000 RFTA match	11/14/14	2/6/15	Final grant execution is projected for 2/1/2016.
DOLA Alt Fuels	Incremental cost of CNG Carbondale Circulator Vehicle	$34,000	9/1/2015	9/24/15	The final grant agreement was executed on 10/30/2015. Vehicle delivery is projected for July 2016.
DOLA Alt Fuels	Incremental cost of CNG engines for (6) MCI CNG Coaches	$1,000,500	12/1/2015	March 2016	
Garfield County Federal Mineral Lease District (GCFMLD)	(1) One MCI CNG Coach Bus	$300,000	2/28/2016	April 2016	The primary use for this bus, initially, will be for Grand Avenue Bridge mitigation
State Trails Program	Rio Grande Trail Enhancement & Maint. Plan	$200,000	11/5/15	March 2016	Awaiting grant award announcements