December 2, 2021

Dear RFTA Board of Directors,

Thank you for your enthusiasm to evolve and improve first- and last-mile connectivity to RFTA services. We applaud making mobility and climate action part of your strategic goals and for investing in transit offerings that advance these values. Bikeshare aligns with both of these priorities: it is both a first- and last-mile transportation service and one that reduces carbon emissions. As the climate crisis heightens, and with transportation being the number one sector of carbon emissions, we are eager to continue working with RFTA and member jurisdictions in the rollout of bikeshare regionally.

In November of 2018, three years ago, valley residents voted for ballot measure 7A. They supported a tax increase to retain and enhance RFTA's transportation services as outlined in the Destination 2040 plan. I volunteered for the On Board with RFTA campaign committee and advocated that local businesses support the measure, as the sustainability of the valley's transportation service relied on this funding. It passed, and we are collectively benefiting from the positive impacts.

In the Destination 2040 plan, and in all campaign materials, bikeshare expansion was identified as the second of the five *Improvements for the Environment*. The bikeshare expansion project description (E2) reads: "*RFTA intends to increase mobility to better address "first and last mile" connectivity issues surrounding BRT stations by expanding the WE-cycle bikeshare system to Carbondale and Glenwood Springs, and by increasing the level of bike-share service in Aspen and Basalt. The continued expansion of this system will help make bike sharing more widespread and frequent*."

The WE-cycle Board is joined by over 5,000 annual WE-cyclers in eagerly anticipating the delivery of the stated commitment of more widespread and frequent bike share. WE-cycle has been working closely with RFTA in the planning for this expansion, and the Regional Bikeshare Study, intended as a roadmap, is nearing completion.

We understand that RFTA is considering creating an FLMM Reserve Fund dedicated to first- and last-mile mobility offerings. This fund would be a significant step towards advancing RFTA's mobility goals and in improving regional connectivity to RFTA's services. We support your approving this fund!

Concurrently, we respectfully ask that the RFTA Board retain the Destination 2040 dollars earmarked for bikeshare in a distinct and separate fund. Per the Destination 2040 project description, $1,270,750 was identified for capital improvements and $550,000 annually for operations and maintenance. It was consistently communicated to voters that these funds were intended for bikeshare. By keeping them in their own fund it maintains the clarity and integrity of this commitment.

As an organization, we are proponents of an integrated transportation ecosystem in which transit users can choose the best mode of travel for their needs at that time. Over our nine years of service, we have proven that

bikeshare provides a vital connection to RFTA trunk line service. WE-cycle delivers RFTA riders to/from the bus on carbon-independent wheels. According to our 2021 Rider Survey, 52% of WE-cycle trips replaced what would have been car trips. As we look at our valley as a region, with residents commuting in all directions, we see it as imperative to offer bikeshare as a first- *and* as a last-mile connection to RFTA, i.e. as a regional service. By doing so, we can make a meaningful difference in reducing congestion on the Highway 82 corridor. From our perspective, bikeshare embodies the On Board with RFTA campaign slogan: "Some of us ride it. All of us need it." Together, let's implement bikeshare regionally as we all need the benefits of fewer cars on the roads, improved air quality, and reduced carbon emissions.

Thank you for having been our first Founding Partner and for your decade of partnership and funding. We look forward to what the next ten years will bring.

Respectfully,

Michael Miracle
WE-cycle Board of Directors, Vice-Chair

Joined by the WE-cycle Executive Board:
Rebecca Cole, Chair
Richard Rosenfeld, Treasurer/Secretary
Darryl Fuller