RFTA Planning Department Monthly Update

January 14th, 2021

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Regional Bike Share Plan

RFTA has issued a revise RFP to develop a regional bike-sharing plan that will guide the growth of bike share (and potentially of other first and last mile strategies) within existing areas and the expansion to Carbondale and Glenwood. RFTA received responsible and responsive proposals from several firms last month, and will likely award a contract by the end of January.

Multimodal Options for a Vibrant Economy (MOVE) Study

In late 2020, the project team conducted two tours of potential BRT corridors. The first took place on October 23 and focused on the Rio Grande Corridor alignment, and the second on November 3, focused on Grand Avenue. On November 4th, the Project Team hosted the third Technical Advisory Committee meeting; and on December 3, hosted a joint meeting with the Glenwood Spring Transportation Commission and MOVE Focus Group.

RFTA and Parsons have both proposed extending the study for an additional six months to allow more public input, virtual photo and video modeling of both the Grand Avenue and Rio Grande Trail BRT options, additional analysis of the BRT system, the local bus connections, public input on the parking recommendations and analysis of the vehicular operations improvements. The cost of the additional services is estimated at $180,000.

On January 7, 2021, RFTA asked if the City could fund half of the proposed additional services ($90,000). RFTA suggested that the City's share come from part of the recent MOC sale that

was dedicated to Rio Grande Trail improvements ($200,000). City staff believes that trail connections that were to be made with the funding can be done internally for just the cost of materials. The retaining wall that was scheduled to be rebuilt with the money should be delayed until a decision is made about the future of RFTA's Orrison Distribution site.

The City Council chose not to invest $90,000 into the additional work.

27th Street Pedestrian Crossing(s)
RFTA has garnered about $7.4 million in funding for the 27th Street crossing, from Destination 2040 funds, City of Glenwood Springs, CDOT RPP, TAP and MMOF grants. Approximately $2 million remaining is needed for design and construction. On January 7, RFTA proposed a possible deferment of some annual operating costs that were dedicated to Glenwood Springs in the Destination 2040 Plan. These funds are:

- Extension of BRT to downtown Glenwood - $298,000
- Rerouting of RFTA local busses to HWY 6&24 - $395,000

The City Council approved RFTA staff taking this matter to the RFTA Board in January.

Grants Update
RFTA Staff are currently managing 21 active grants, with 14 executed grant contracts and 7 grant awards pending execution. The estimated total of all grant awards is $57.6 million, with an estimated total local match of $16.0 million, for an estimated total grant-funded project costs of $73.5 million.

Most recently, RFTA has received a second round of federal CARES Act funding to help alleviate budget deficits during the COVID-19 public health emergency.