RFTA Planning Department Monthly Update
January 13th, 2022

Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act

On November 15, President Biden signed the ***Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act*** **(IIJA),** following a 228-206 vote in the U.S. House of Representatives in November and a strongly bipartisan 69-30 vote in the U.S. Senate passage in August. The bipartisan infrastructure legislation provides $973 billion over five years from FY 2022 through FY 2026, including $550 billion in new investments for all modes of transportation, water, power and energy, environmental remediation, public lands, broadband and resilience.

The package includes the largest-ever federal investment in public transit, allotting $39 billion to modernize systems, improve access for the elderly and people with disabilities, and repair more than 24,000 buses, 5,000 railcars and thousands of miles of train tracks. This is in addition to $90 billion for regular formula funding for public transit over the next five years. Over the five-year period, The State of Colorado will receive an estimated $950 million in transit formula funds.

RFTA staff met with Amber Blake, CDOT's Director of Transit and Rail (DTR) and CDOT Executive Director Shoshana Lew to discuss how RFTA could get the most out of the Federal Bill, and to discuss Director Lew's vision for potential Bus Rapid Transit-type service along I-70 in the mountain communities, which could be the basis for a New Start grant proposal.

During the discussion, RFTA staff discussed its priority projects for grant funding, these include:

- The Glenwood Springs Maintenance Facility
- BRT Extension to downtown Glenwood Springs and to West Glenwood Springs
- Aspen Maintenance Facility Renovation and Expansion (Phase 5 and Phase 6)

- 27th Street BRT Station Parking Expansion
- RFTA Employee Housing

Intermountain TPR 10-Year Plan
In late January 2022, RFTA and municipalities throughout the region will revise the region's 10-year plan of priority projects. Years 1-4 of the plan are completed, leaving 6 projects for years 5-10. These are:

- I-70 Glenwood Canyon Critical Asset Repair
- I-70 and CO 9 (Exit 203) Interchange Improvements
- I-70 West Vail Pass Auxiliary Lanes
- I-70 Interchange Improvements in Garfield County (near New Castle)
- US 24 Safety Improvements between Minturn and Leadville

RFTA will propose the following projects for inclusion in the 10-yer plan:

- The Glenwood Springs Maintenance Facility
- BRT Extension to downtown Glenwood Springs and to West Glenwood Springs
- Aspen Maintenance Facility Renovation and Expansion (Phase 5 and Phase 6)
- 27th Street BRT Station Parking Expansion
- RFTA Employee Housing

Pitkin County will propose these projects:

- Snowmass Transit Center (highest priority)
- Buttermilk Underpass & Transit Signal Bypass Lanes (priority)
- Brush Creek P&R to Rio Grande Trail Connection (priority)
- Entrance to Aspen (years 5-10)
- Basalt Midland Vehicle and Ped Underpass (years 5-10)
- Aspen Intersection Improvements (years 5-10)
- SH82 Access Control Plan (ACP) @ AABC/Airport (years 5-10)

EOTC Work Plan
RFTA has been a consistent participant in EOTC plans and projects. The following components are part of the 2022 EOTC work plan.

- EOTC Retreat / Long-Term Planning Discussion (scheduled for April 2022)
- Brush Creek P&R
  - Develop Partnership with HCE for EV Charger Install
  - Bike / Ped Connection to Rio Grande / AABC – Feasibility Study – Phase 2
- 2021 EOTC Near Term Transit Improvement Program:
  - Truscott to Owl Creek Trail
  - Buttermilk Bike / Pedestrian Underpass and Transit Signal Bypasses
  - HOV Lane Enforcement Analysis
  - Analysis of Up Valley and Down Valley BRT Direct Service to Snowmass
  - Additional Permanent Automated Vehicle Counters
- (Participate in) Snowmass Transit Center, Airport, and Regional Transportation Planning / Visioning