RFTA Planning Department Monthly Update
June 11, 2020

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

RFTA Mission
Connecting our region with transit and trails.

RFTA Values
Safe, Accountable, Affordable, Convenient, Dependable, Efficient, Sustainable

RFTA Strategic Outcomes
Safe Customers, Workforce and General Public; Accessibility and Mobility; Sustainable Workforce; Financial Sustainability; Satisfied Customers; Environmental Sustainability; High Performing Organization

CURRENT PLANNING PROJECTS

RFTA Upgrades Electric Vehicle Chargers

RFTA now makes it easier to reduce your commuter footprint by charging your electric vehicle (EV) while riding the bus. RFTA received a Charge Ahead Colorado grant to upgrade the public charging stations to ChargePoint 7.2 kW Level 2, two-plug chargers at both the Carbondale BRT Station/Park-n-Ride and the New Castle Park-n-Ride. There is no charge to charge for RFTA customers, though we ask to limit charging sessions to no more than four (4) hours.

In addition, RFTA received a Level 3 charger, which it donated to the Town of Carbondale. Although it is not as fast as RFTA's new Level 2 charger, the Level 3 Chargepoint 62.5 kW two-plug charger is about 8x faster than the other chargers scattered about town. Find it on Cowen Drive across from Red Hill Animal Hospital.

RFTA Alternative Fuels Study Planning

In addition to operating clean diesel, CNG and early-model diesel-electric hybrid buses, in 2019 RFTA deployed a pilot fleet of eight battery electric buses (BEBs). More recently, RFTA has been working with the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment – Oil and Public Safety (CDLE-OPS), Colorado Energy Office (CEO), Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) and CDOT on developing hydrogen production, storage and fueling facilities at the GMF site for a pilot demonstration program of 10 hydrogen-fueled buses.

RFTA recently submitted a FTA Section 5304 grant proposal to conduct an alternative fuels planning study. If funded, this study will consider the advantages and disadvantages of all traditional and emerging propulsion systems, in terms of operating scenarios specific to RFTA, capital and operating costs, operational integrity and resiliency, and emissions reductions.

A key component of the study will be analysis of recent performance data to find the optimal location for the construction of a 450 KW on-route electric bus charger for current and future BEBs. RFTA was awarded a CDOT FASTER grant for one charger, and CDOT recently approved a one-year extension of the installation schedule to allow RFTA to undertake a more thorough review of emerging alternative fuel options. RFTA hopes to gain confidence from this study to find the best balance of buses and equipment to meet both financial and environmental sustainability strategic goals.

MOVE Study Update

This is addressed in the Presentations/Action items of the Board Agenda.

Grants Update

RFTA has applied for $13.5 million in Federal Transit Administration Section 5339 funds and $13.5 million in USDOT BUILD funding to renovate and expand the Glenwood Springs Maintenance Facility. Awards are likely to be announced this summer for Section 5339 and by mid-November for BUILD.