RFTA Planning Department Monthly Update

July 14th, 2022

Annual Super Call for Capital Projects

No, this is not an ego boost with reference to the Planning Department super call from super heroes!

It is a little drier than that. “The Colorado Department of Transportation’s (CDOT) Division of Transit and Rail (DTR) is issuing the calendar year 2023 call for projects. All eligible capital, planning, administrative, operating, and mobility management transit funding projects DTR funds with Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and/or State funds on an annual basis are available for application at this time.” The “Super Call” is DTR’s attempt to streamline the various grant programs by soliciting the notice of funding for all programs on the same date, with staggered due dates by project type, to lessen the burden on both CDOT and transit agency staff.

More casually, this is RFTA’s one-time chance each year to seek funding assistance to replace our fleet, upgrade our facilities and recoup some general operating dollars.

In previous years, RFTA has received significant funding to replace buses and continue additional construction phases of the Glenwood Springs Maintenance Facility (GMF)/Regional Transit Center (RTC).

The due dates for project types are staggered, see below, so we will be seeking resolutions of local match approval at the August 11th Board meeting.

Application Type	Application Due Date
5311 Administrative/Operating New/Expansion Projects Funding Applications 5310 Operating and Mobility Management Projects Funding Applications	August 19, 2022
Vehicle Capital Projects to Include Settlement Funding Applications	September 2, 2022
Other Capital Projects & Planning Projects Funding Applications	September 30, 2022

RFTA Climate Action Plan (CAP)

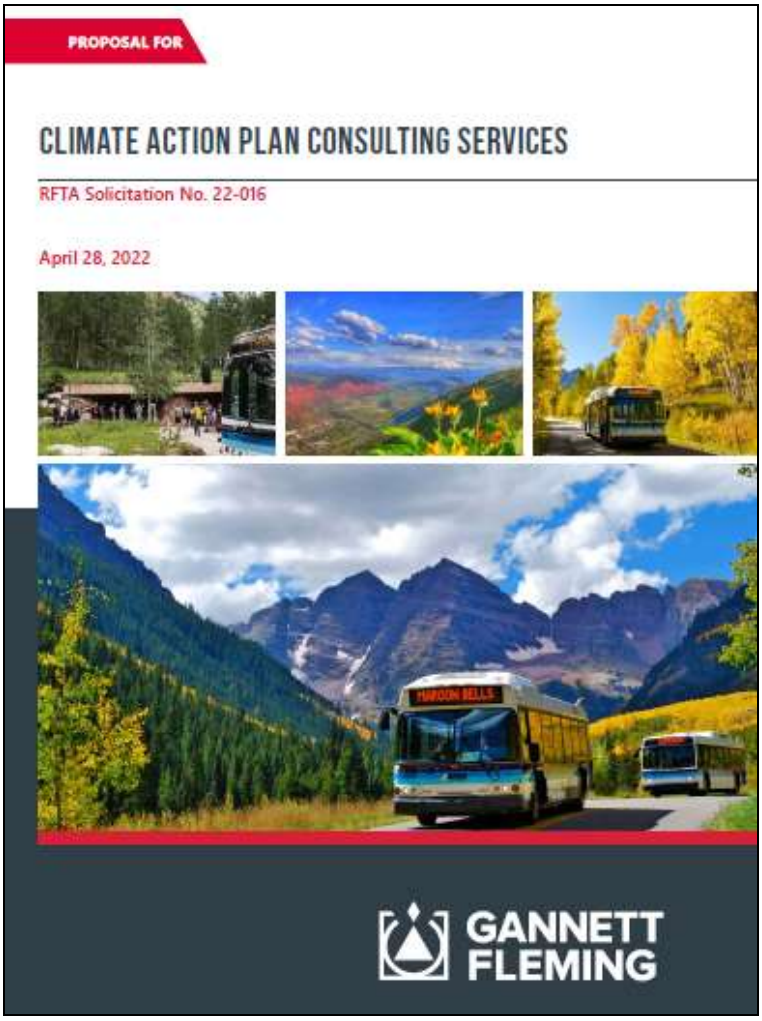
"Transit agencies across the country are greening their fleets, hardening critical infrastructure and transitioning their workforces to reduce the disproportionate impacts of a warming climate on their communities," said FTA Administrator Nuria Fernandez. "We know that transportation is responsible for more greenhouse gases than any other industry. Transit is one of the keys to changing that, addressing the climate crisis by taking cars off the road and electrifying vehicles nationwide."

The U.S. Department of Transportation's (USDOT) Federal Transit Administration (FTA) took the occasion of Earth Day on April 22 to recognize 10 transit agencies that have worked to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions through the department's Sustainable Transit for a Healthy Planet initiative.

RFTA could very well earn a future FTA award, now that our organization is taking a big leadership step to embark on the first-ever **RFTA Climate Action Plan (CAP)**. With four solid RFP proposals to choose from, the selection committee chose the team of Gannett Fleming, based in Denver. The project manager will be Wes Maurer, who has deep experience with CDOT, the Colorado Energy Office and climate policy at the national level. Wes took extra care to include regional organizations on the team i.e. CLEER has expertise with GHG emissions inventories and they have already been helping RFTA to reduce energy costs through facility energy efficiency for ten years.

From the proposal: "Our project team deeply understands and recognizes the unique challenges associated with climate action planning relative to RFTA's core operations as a transit agency. As a result, this proposal defines an enhanced, transit-specific approach that is based on best practices from the Change to American Public Transportation Association (APTA) and leading climate organizations. The approach will thoughtfully address complex issues and solutions such as improvements to RFTA's transit service that may increase bus VMT while reducing single occupancy vehicle (SOV) travel, resulting in a net positive benefit to the community." In other words, RFTA may actually increase its environmental footprint to reduce regional GHG emissions.

The Planning Department is excited to kick start the project with internal kickoff meetings beginning in early August. Please reach out to Jason White, RFTA project manager, if you have any feedback on this exciting project.



Colorado Bike to Work Day, or Bike-There Garfield County

The annual Colorado Bike to Work Day on Wednesday June 22nd was once again a great regional success, with the assistance from many motivated individuals. There were breakfast stations in Glenwood Springs, Carbondale and Aspen.

As a member of Garfield Clean Energy (GCE), RFTA has the benefit of extended staff from Clean Energy Economy for the Region (CLEER). Special thanks to Zuleika Pevec for organizing the Garfield County branding of this event, BikeThere Garfield County. Zuleika added, “we at Garfield Clean Energy are all about biking as an alternative to driving. Biking reduces traffic congestion, pollution, fossil fuel dependence, noise and road wear – plus it’s great for your health.”

Thanks also goes out to Jamie Tatsuno in our Marketing & Communications Department for ordering food and a fresh batch of the popular Rio Grande Trail (RGT) bandanas. And thanks to our dedicated RGT trail crew, Brett, Jud and Brian, for taking time out of their daily duties to haul the gear to DeRail Park along the cool Rio Grande ArtWay; across SH 82 from the Carbondale BRT Station. Jud gets extra credit for bike-hauling the gear as well!

We estimate that 60 bikers visited the Carbondale station and many many more at the other stations. A big draw this year was the raffle grand prize of a Magnum Cosmo S e-bike ($2,000 value), courtesy of Colorado E-

Bikes of Glenwood Springs. Anyone from Parachute to Carbondale that biked to a branch library could sign up for all prizes. See the photo below of the e-bike winner, Maggie Guinta of New Castle, alongside Dave Iverson, co-owner of Colorado E-Bikes and previous employee of RFTA.

You can see some photos from the Carbondale event by following this Google Drive link. *Hint: depending on the browser, you may need to copy/past this URL into your search bar.* https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1MJGBbtWopXThstGa4V_guSDsK3W198om?usp=sharing.