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

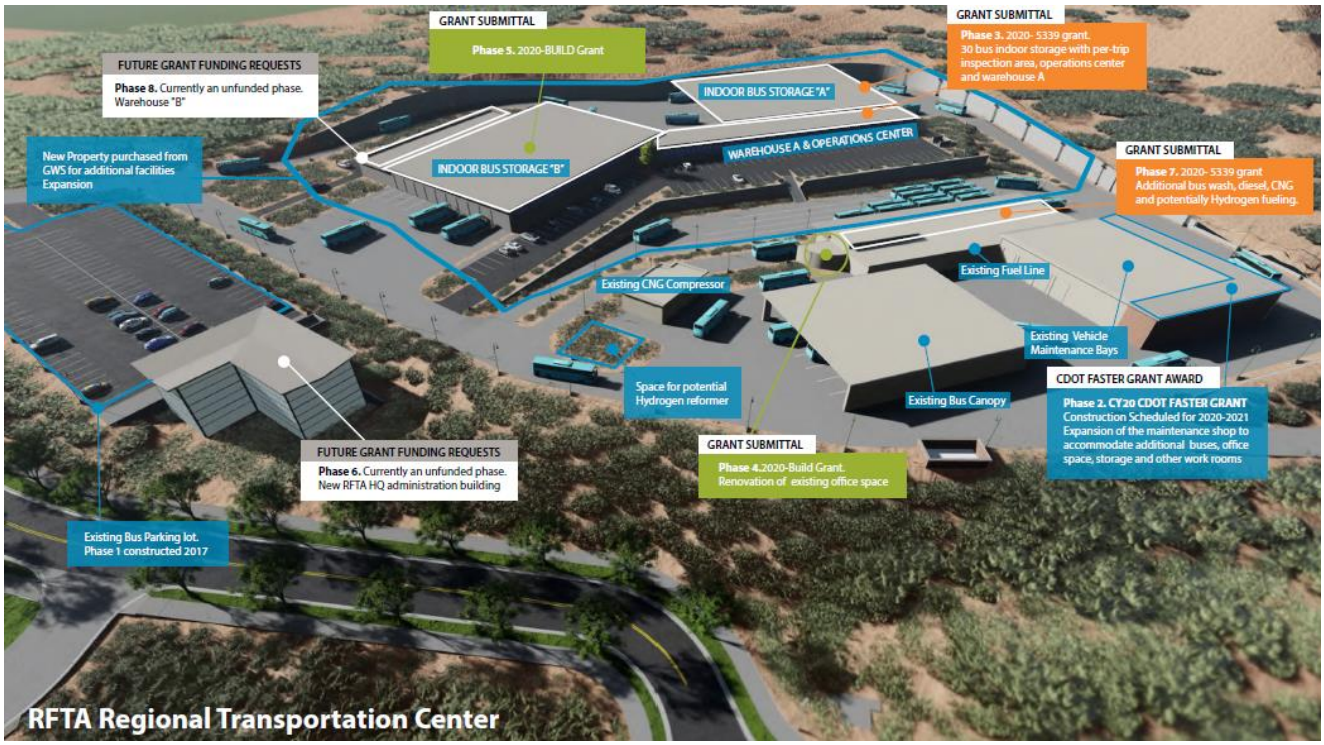
Glenwood Maintenance Facility
On January 30, 2020, Federal Transit Administration issued a Notice of Funding Opportunity for the Section 5339(b) Program: Grants for Buses and Bus Facilities. Approximately $455 million in FY2020 funds will be awarded competitively to assist in the financing of capital projects to replace, rehabilitate, purchase or lease buses and related equipment, and to rehabilitate, purchase, construct or lease bus-related facilities.

On April 1, RFTA submitted an application for $13.5 million in 5339(b) funding to renovate and expand the GMF/RTC. Roughly $13.5 million from RFTA (primarily Ballot Measure 7A funds) and $3.0 million in CDOT funds (awarded in March 2020) will match the grant funds.

Phase	Scope	Status
1	Lowering and grading of the existing grade Temporary bus parking lot (for maintaining operations during future phases)	Complete
2	Additional Grading and Excavation Fleet Maintenance Build Renovation and Expansion	Partial funding from CDOT
3	Grading, Excavation, Site Preparation Operations Center Bus Storage Building A: 30 indoor storage spaces Pre- Trip Inspection Zones Backlog Parking Maintenance Warehouse A	5339 Grant Proposal ($13.5 million) + SB267 Funds ($2.98 million) + Local Match ($13.5 million)
4	GMF Administration Renovation Access road relocation	2020 BUILD Grant ($13.5 million) + Local Match
5	Includes Bus Building 30B and associated drives and Pre-	

	Trip Inspection Zones	($5.575 million)
6	RFTA Administration Building with associated drives and parking	
7	Fueling Drive Lanes (Hydrogen—if available, CNG and Diesel) Bus Wash Addition	5339 Grant Proposal
8	Includes Warehouse B, associated drives and parking	
9/10	Housing (Under consideration for last phases)	

In addition, on February 18, 2020, the Secretary of Transportation issued a Notice of Funding for Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Grants program. Approximately $1 billion in funds for the FY 2020 BUILD Transportation grants program will be awarded on a competitive basis for surface transportation infrastructure projects that will have a significant local or regional impact. RFTA submitted a proposal for $13 million in BUILD funds (and $5.575 million in local match) for Phases 4 and 5. The phases and grant requests are shown below.



Recent schematic of the future Glenwood Springs Maintenance Facility (GMF)/Regional Transit Center (RTC) campus. The MOC building is in the background with a blue box around it.

On June 9 and 10, RFTA Staff and Board Members (Markey Butler, Ann Mullins, Art Riddile, and Dan Richardson) met with the following government officials to discuss the 5339 and BUILD grants:

Senator Cory Gardner
Senator Michael Bennet
Representative Scott Tipton
Department of Energy
FTA Administrator Jane Williams

Hydrogen Fuel Cell Project

RFTA has been working with 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 program of 10 hydrogen-fueled buses. RFTA plans to use Section 5339 funds to construct an additional set of fueling lanes for fueling the hydrogen fuel cell vehicles, with the flexibility to be used for fueling diesel and CNG fleets when needed. If this pilot FCEB program proves successful, RFTA could expand that fleet to 30 buses or more, replacing diesel vehicles as they are retired.

The cost of hydrogen production, storage and fueling facilities at the GMF is estimated to be $5 million or more, excluding the fuel lanes. RFTA has been working with the State of CO to potentially utilize $2 million from in seed money from HB 20-1192 . As a result of COVID budget realities at the State level, it is unlikely that the House bill and this seed money will come to fruition in 2020. However, the State would likely be motivated to find matching money in its budgets if RFTA were awarded FTA 5339 funds in the fall of 2020 to build fuel lanes. Due to its own COVID realities, it is unlikely that RFTA would move forward with hydrogen fuel cell buses without the financial support from the State.