RFTA Planning Department Monthly Update
November 8, 2018

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

RFTA Planning Department Vision Statement
We will work creatively, cooperatively and comprehensively with our partners in the public, private and nonprofit sectors and other groups to create healthy and vibrant communities.

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RFTA Steps Closer to Electric Bus Deployment & Solar Power

On 10/24/18, RFTA executed a contract with New Flyer to purchase 8 battery electric buses and depot chargers! With less than 500 BEBs in revenue service across the U.S., the RFTA-City of Aspen Battery Electric Bus (BEB) Pilot Project is historic for RFTA and for rural transit agencies.

This will be a paradigm shift in bus operation. Using electricity as fuel will require more "active management" of BEBs in varying conditions, such as grades, duty cycles, distances, passenger loads, and temperatures. RFTA will work with Holy Cross Energy to plan for appropriate electrical infrastructure at the RFTA Aspen Maintenance Facility (AMF).

In addition to monitoring power on route, vehicle charging must be actively managed, to avoid peak demand utility rates. RFTA's 8 pilot BEBs are projected to consume the same amount of energy as the entire AMF facility in one year. To offset some of this increased electricity usage, staff is in early discussions with Holy Cross Energy (HCE) about purchasing an estimated 1.5 MW of local solar power production in HCE's new Renewable Energy Purchase Program (REPP). If given final land use approvals in Pitkin County, the HCE array will be built on the W/J Ranch near the RFTA Brush Creek BRT Station; just a few miles downvalley of the AMF. Rates from this source will likely cost more than traditional, non-renewable HCE sources, but may have the potential to moderate peak demand pricing.

Arrival of the BEBs is anticipated to be summer of 2019, with projected revenue operation in late 2019.

CDOT Intermountain TPR Update

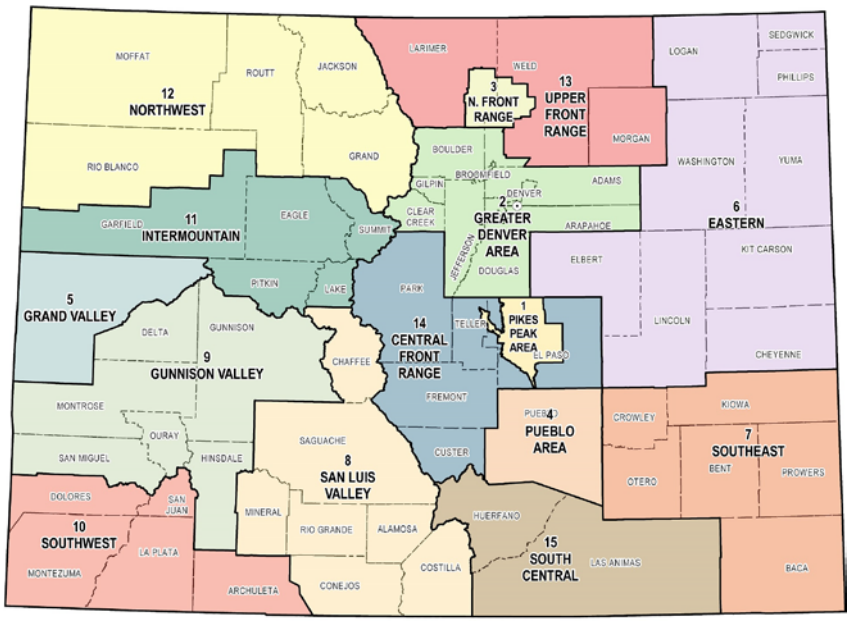
RFTA is a member of the 5-county Intermountain Transportation Planning Region (IMTPR), and RFTA Planning staff attends monthly meetings in Eagle. Here are a few of the highlights from the Oct. 19th meeting:

Chair, Thad Noll, is retiring to Mexico and a new Chair, Bentley Henderson, was elected by a group vote. Bentley recently relocated from Archuleta County into Thad's role as Summit County Assistant Manager of Community Development, Public Works and Transportation.

Election season is abuzz with two contrasting Statewide transportation ballot initiatives, Proposition 109 and Proposition 110. Although CDOT and other jurisdictions are unable and/or unwilling to take a stand on either proposition, the temperature at the meeting was that 110 would be favorable to 109 for funding and implementing transportation projects. HERE is a 110 statewide project list if the initiative is successful.

Tim Kirby, CDOT MPO & Regional Planning Section Manager, provided an update on the CDOT Transportation Planning Toolkit. The purpose of the toolkit is to explain the framework of the statewide transportation planning process, why it is important to citizens of CO and how integrated planning is accomplished down to the local level. Tim also touched on CDOT's financial realities, and the fact that the State gas tax, the primary source of CDOT's funding and the tax, has not been increased since the 1980s.

The next IMTPR meeting will be held on Friday January 18, 2019 in Eagle.



Map showing CDOT Transportation Planning Region boundaries across the State.

Bustang Eliminates Vail-Denver Routes

On October 29, 2018, CDOT reported that “recent and unavoidable circumstances” led CDOT to cancel 4 routes. These include:

- Vail to Denver routes - 730/731
- North Line Routes 631/632.

Routes to Glenwood Springs and Grand Junction have not been affected, as shown in the updated schedule below.

Eastbound Schedule

BUS ROUTE	701	711
SUNDAY - SATURDAY (EVERY DAY)		
Grand Junction [GJ] *(GREYHOUND; 5th & Ute)*	------	12:25p
Parachute *(Rafting Center I-70 & CO 21s)*	------	1:30p
Rifle *(US 6 & CO 13; RFTA Park & Ride)*	------	1:50p
Glenwood Springs [GWS] *(West Glenwood Park & Ride)*	7:25a	2:25p
Eagle *(Ely Creek & I-70 ECO Station)*	8:05a	3:05p
Vail *(Vail Transportation Center)*	8:40a	3:45p
Frisco *(Frisco Transfer Center)*	9:20a	4:25p
Idaho Springs *(12th Ave. between Miner & Idaho)*	10:15a	5:15p
Lakewood - *Denver Federal Center (DFC) RTD LRT Station; Gate L*	10:55a	5:50p
Denver Union Station (DUS)	11:15a	6:20p
Denver Bus Center (DBC)	11:25a	6:35p

Westbound Schedule

BUS ROUTE	700	710
SUNDAY - SATURDAY (EVERY DAY)		
Denver Bus Center (DBC)	5:15p	6:45a
Denver Union Station (DUS)	5:40p	7:00a
Lakewood - *Denver Federal Center (DFC) RTD Sta.*	6:15p	7:25a
Idaho Springs *(Shelter at Idaho St. and 13th)*	6:55p	8:00a
Frisco *(Frisco Transfer Center)*	7:30p	8:45a
Vail *(Vail Transportation Center)*	8:10p	9:20a
Eagle *(Ely Creek & I-70 ECO Sta.)*	8:45p	10:00a
Glenwood Springs [GWS] *(West Glenwood Park & Ride)*	9:35p	10:45a
Rifle *(US 6 & CO 13; RFTA Park & Ride)*	------	11:15a
Parachute *(Rafting Center I-70 & CO 21s)*	------	11:35a
Grand Junction [GJ] *(GREYHOUND; 5th & Ute)*	------	12:30p

*Discharge stop. Bus stops only upon passenger request.

Fare Study

RFTA is working with Marc Warner of Warner Transportation Consulting to review RFTA's fare system and policies to assess whether there are alternative policies or payment technologies that could make the fares more reasonable, more equitable, faster to process, or less prone to fare evasion.

RFTA staff are meeting with Marc Warner in mid-November to discuss initial analysis of the following issues:

- Contactless Fare Integration
- Tag-on/Tag-Off Fare Systems
- Zone Structure Changes
- RFTA/Ride Glenwood Fare Integration
- Discounts for low-income, seniors, youth and weekend time periods
- Downvalley-direction passes
- Fare Increases and Equity

Based on feedback from RFTA staff, Warner will draft a final report in December.

Grants Update

The following grants are in process.

Grant Program	Scope	Funding	Status
USDOT BUILD	GMF Renovation and Expansion	$22.9 million BUILD $10 million local	Award Announcements no later than December 18, 2018
Consolidated Capital Call for Projects: FTA 5311, 5339 FASTER Alt. Fuel Settlement Program SB 228,267	Fleet Replacement: Six (6) Commuter Coaches Upgrade two (2) Commuter Coaches to Electric GMF and AMF Renovation and Expansion	$8.2 million CCCP Funds $2.1 million Local Match	Applications Due December 7, 2018