Elected Officials Transportation Committee (EOTC)
C/O Pitkin County Administration
ATTN: David Pesnichak, Regional Transportation Administrator
530 E. Main Street, Suite 302
Aspen, CO 81611

November 2, 2021

Roaring Fork Transportation Authority (RFTA), Board of Directors
C/O Dan Blankenship, Chief Executive Officer
2307 Wulfsohn Rd.
Glenwood Springs, CO 81601

RFTA Board of Directors:

On behalf of the Elected Officials Transportation Committee (EOTC), which is comprised of the City of Aspen City Council, Town of Snowmass Village Town Council, and the Pitkin County Board of County Commissioners, we would like to extend our gratitude and appreciation for your recent October 14, 2021 RFTA Board decision to assume the Aspen-Snowmass-Woody Creek No-Fare Service.

As you are aware, the EOTC's budget has and will continue to be negatively impacted as a result of the 2019 House Bill 1240 (HB 19-1240), which altered how sales and use taxes are collected statewide. While we recognize that HB 19-1240 is an important and positive step overall, since the EOTC's funding was primarily supported by a 0.5% Pitkin County-wide use tax on construction which has all but been eliminated by HB 19-1240, the EOTC has seen revenues decline by over 30% since 2019.

Meanwhile, HB 19-1240 has notably increased sales tax revenues, which in the case of the Pitkin County 0.5% Pitkin County transit sales tax is split between the EOTC (18.96%) and RFTA (81.04%). As a result of this sales tax split, RFTA has seen much stronger revenue growth from sales taxes than the EOTC.

In 2019, EOTC staff approached RFTA staff to identify possible mitigation strategies to HB 19-1240 given the rising revenues for RFTA from the 0.5% Pitkin County transit sales tax and decreasing revenue for the EOTC from the 0.5% Pitkin County transit use tax. Since 2019, RFTA staff have worked cooperatively and creatively with EOTC, Pitkin County, Town of Snowmass Village, and City of Aspen staff to identify a positive solution for all parties, including and most importantly the traveling public.

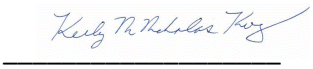
The EOTC is very supportive and excited about the transit fare reductions starting on November 22, 2021 and the creation of additional no-fare zones throughout the Valley, including the Aspen-Snowmass-Woody Creek no-fare zone (formerly paid for by the EOTC), that was proposed by RFTA staff and approved by the RFTA board on October 14, 2021. The EOTC believes that the reduction in fares and the inclusion of additional no-fare zones throughout the Valley will help reduce Vehicle Miles Travelled (VMT) and Greenhouse Gas Emissions (GHG) while promoting equity in mobility.

Again, we thank you and your staff for being a highly valued and productive partner in creating and maintaining a convenient, equitable and efficient transportation system for the Roaring Fork Valley.

Sincerely,

Torre, Mayor of the City of Aspen

Bill Madsen, Mayor of the Town of Snowmass Village



Kelly McNicholas Kury, Chair of the Pitkin County Board of County Commissioners