RFTA Planning Department Monthly Update
October 8, 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

Grants Update
As of the Q3 2020 grants update, RFTA Staff are currently managing 21 active grants, with 14 executed grant contracts and 7 grant awards pending execution. The estimated total of all grant awards is $56.8 million, with an estimated total local match of $18.7, for an estimated total of all grant-funded project costs of $75.5 million.

Glenwood Springs Maintenance Facility (GMF)/Regional Transit Center (RTC)
In addition to the recent award of $11.475 million in FTA Section 5339 funds, RFTA was also awarded an additional $13 million in USDOT BUILD funds for renovation and expansion of the Glenwood Springs Maintenance Facility (GMF)/Regional Transit Center (RTC). This approximately $25 million in grant funds is long-awaited and much-needed good news. This timing is due in part to ten years of persistence with previous grant applications, many trips to D.C., and many thanks to Ashley Badesch, Senator Cory Gardner, Art Riddile, Nick Senn, Jamie Tatsuno, Jennifer Balmes, Dan Blankenship, the rest of the RFTA Board and many others.

The RFTA Facilities Department and project consultants are now hard at work updating the master plan with phasing details and finalizing a funding plan that will include some Destination 2040 local dollars and bond proceeds from a forthcoming bond package.

GMF/RTC Overall Site Plan (to be updated soon with current grant and phasing information).

Senator Cory Gardner presenting a speech at the August 29, 2020 GMF/RTC site visit.

Year 2021 Consolidated Capital Call for Projects (CCCP)

For Fiscal Year 2021, transit funds administered by CDOT through the CCCP process will be heavily weighted toward Administrative and Operating (A&O) expenses. CDOT conducted a survey of transit agencies in July 2020 to gauge financial impacts of COVID for years 2020 and 2021. While transit agencies commented that the severity and duration of COVID-19 impacts on transit service are difficult to predict, 85% of agencies expected 2021 to be the same or worse than 2020. In 2020, $30 Million of CARES Act funds were passed through to Rural Colorado agencies. If 2021 is similar, rural transit agencies will need another $30 Million to maintain service at or near pre-COVID levels. CDOT is finalizing the grant contract for the Phase 2 CARES Act funding, and RFTA Staff are preparing a CCCP application to replace 10 aging diesel buses and one Traveler vehicle.

Outside of special programs, CDOT usually allocates $11 Million in FTA A&O funds and $16 Million in a variety of capital funds. This year, most of those capital funds, as allowed by law, will be converted to A&O funds. Only $3.5 million in FTA Capital funds and $5.0 million in VW settlement funds (for Alternative Fuel Vehicles) will be available for rural transit agencies statewide. However, there will be a boost in A&O funding for 2021. RFTA

will receive about $3.4 million in Phase II appointments of CARES Act funding, for the remainder of 2020. The amount of A&O funding to be made available through the CCCP has not been determined.