FALL 2022

RFTA'S INTERNAL NEWSLETTER

Behind The Wheel

Congratulations to RFTAs Finance Department!

The Government Finance Officers Association announced that Roaring Fork Transportation Authority has received **GFOA's Distinguished Budget Presentation Award** for its **2022 Budget Document.**

The award represents a significant achievement by the entity. It reflects the commitment of the governing body and staff to meeting the highest principles of governmental budgeting.

In order to receive the budget award, the entity had to satisfy nationally recognized guidelines for effective budget presentation. These guidelines are designed to assess how well an entity's budget serves as:

- a policy document
- a financial plan
- an operations guide
- a communications device

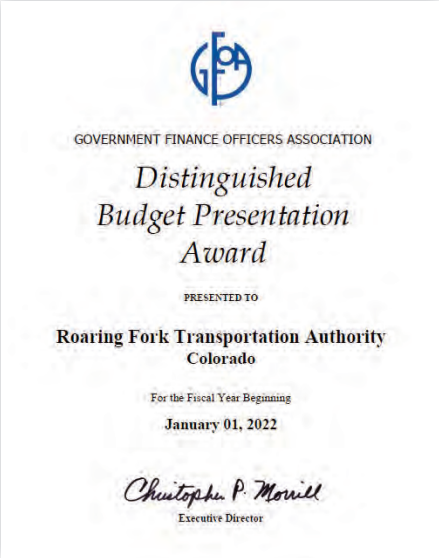
Budget documents must be rated "proficient" in all four categories, and in the fourteen mandatory criteria within those categories, to receive the award.

When a Distinguished Budget Presentation Award is granted to an entity, a Certificate of Recognition for Budget Presentation is also presented to the individual(s) or department designated as being primarily responsible for having achieved the award. This has been presented to the **RFTA Finance Department.**

There are over 1,700 participants in the Budget Awards Program. The most recent Budget Award recipients, along with their corresponding budget documents, are posted quarterly on GFOA's website.

Award recipients have pioneered efforts to improve the quality of budgeting and provide an excellent example for other governments throughout North America.

Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) advances excellence in government finance by providing best practices, professional development, resources and practical research for more than 22,500 members and the communities they serve.


GOVERNMENT FINANCE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

Distinguished Budget Presentation Award

PRESENTED TO

Roaring Fork Transportation Authority
Colorado

For the Fiscal Year Beginning

January 01, 2022

Christopher P. Morrill
Executive Director

PAF Deadlines

In an effort to assist with the HR and Payroll process, please keep in mind the following deadlines:

• Please submit any PAF requests to HR by ***Tuesday at Noon, of a non-payroll processing week,*** that need to be processed/handled for the following week's payroll processing. HR will initiate the PAFs and route them for the appropriate signatures.

• Please sign all PAFs by ***Thursday at Noon, of a non-payroll processing week,*** so that Payroll has enough time to process the PAFs in advance of processing payroll the following week.

If you have an employee that is changing positions, it is critical that we receive that information as soon as possible so that the employee's timesheet can be updated to reflect the new position. If we do not receive the change until the Friday before a payroll processing week, that employee may be entering their time under their old position, which causes extra steps on the back end (i.e. deleting the time that was entered in the old position and reentering the same time in the new position).

Please note these dates above are the deadlines only and you may submit any PAF requests in advance of the deadline and sign PAFs in advance of the requested deadline.

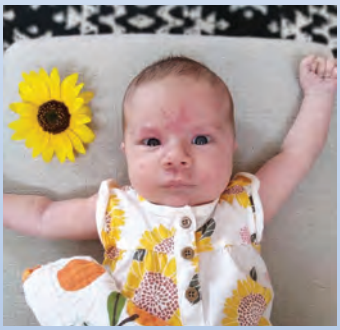
Thank you for your assistance and please don't hesitate to let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Thank you,

Paul Hamilton, CPA
Director of Finance

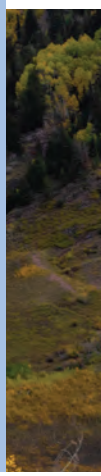
New Arrivals

Loyda Vasquez (Ops) newest family member Mayah Jireh born 7/8/22.



Cory Ice (IT) wants to introduce Averie Grace born 7/22/22.

Brett Meredith (Trails) – is the proud poppa of their first child. Bruce Leroy was born 9/2/22 weighing in at 7lbs 11oz and 20" long.



Welcome New Hires!

Derrick Arnold
CDL Bus Operator

Dennis Delsas (rehire)
CDL Bus Operator

Ronald Gaton
CDL Bus Operator

Nick Hertz (rehire)
CDL Bus Operator

Shalanda Lee
CDL Bus Operator

Jennifer Nicholas (rehire)
CDL Bus Operator

Brandon Pinkney
CDL Bus Operator

Paul Temple (rehire)
CDL Bus Operator

Sheryl Vasquez (rehire)
CDL Bus Operator

Longfei Yang
CDL Bus Operator

Mark Zurkowski (rehire)
CDL Bus Operator

Christopher Lechuga
Non-CDL Driver

Joni Christenson
Creative Communications

Scott Benesh
Facilities Tech IV

Robert Lance Lary
Operations Support Specialist

Lindsay Knight
Vehicle Maintenance
Business Support Specialist

Tonia-Ann Thompson
Vehicle Maintenance
CDL Bus Cleaner

Tyler Husfloen
Vehicle Maintenance
Transit Service Tech (rehire)

Recent Promotions

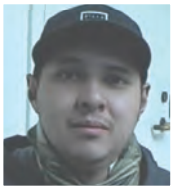
Colin Bergquist was promoted in July to CDL Service Worker.
Rebecca Borges was promoted in August to Business Support Specialist III.
Rebecca Hodgson was promoted in July to Procurement Specialist III.
James Holmbeck was promoted in July to Facilities Tech III.
Andres Ramos Mendoza was promoted to a Full Time Bus Cleaner from Seasonal.
Chariety Riggs was promoted in July to Contract Administrator.
Kyle Ruggles was promoted in July to a Full Time Transit Service Technician.

Transfers

Mike Lynch transferred from Operations to Vehicle Maintenance as a CDL Service Worker.

Andrea Osthed transferred to an Operations Support Specialist at Rubey Park.

Ernie Simonds transferred from Operations to Vehicle Maintenance as a CDL Service Worker.



Congratulations to **Oscar Diaz-Ponce** for passing (2) ASE Certifications; CNG Engines and Preventative Maintenance + Inspections.

Congratulations to **Jason Smith** for completing training to be a Certified Safety and Security Officer.

Way to go **John Taha** (GMF – Ops). He competed in two marathons. Such a grand achievement!

Winter Pillars Amongst Us - RFTA's Monthly Employee spotlight

July 2022

Chad Arnold – Vehicle Maintenance

Chad has been with RFTA since June 2021, in the capacity of CDL Service Worker. Jacob Garrison and Warren Smith his colleagues, want to recognize Chad for his dedicated efforts. Chad has been regularly coming in two hours early before his shift to help the afternoon hostler with the rush of buses since Vehicle Maintenance is short staff with hostlers. He always arrives on time and helps with working extra shifts when needed. Chad is reliable to help with plot and pull out.

Since Chad was hired, he has adjusted to every change that has come for him and the other hostlers; from learning the new plot sheet system, to how the bus parking situation has changed due to the construction at the GMF, from parking buses in the upper lot then to the lower lot and back, in addition to his regular duties. Chad has kept a good attitude and great work ethic the entire time.

Chad has been an excellent hostler and he has not received a single complaint from anyone. He is always willing to help out and is doing a fantastic job. Chad has a positive attitude and is a pleasure to work with.

Ryan Giertz – Information Technology

Ryan has been with RFTA for 10 years, in the capacity of AVL Tech Farebox Video Supervisor. Robin Glenn, and Cory Ice his colleagues, want to recognize Ryan for his dedicated efforts. Ryan is always willing to help anyone when needed. He is very knowledgeable in his field. He usually has a smile on his face and is not afraid to get things done. When a customer approaches him at a TVM with a question, Ryan usually has the answer. If he doesn't, he will find it. Ryan is always looking for ways to improve tasks or make them easier. I feel Ryan should be recognized for all his efforts. He goes above and beyond to help fellow employees keep RFTA running smoothly. It takes a village, and Ryan is certainly part of the RFTA village.

Ryan Giertz and I (Cory) have developed an effective partnership when tackling issues our team is facing and he has been an invaluable resource to me over the last 4 years. He has taught me everything I know regarding buses, bus hardware, and automotive electrical. I think he and I have learned a lot by working together. We have had our differences, but have always been able to put them behind us and use the opportunity to improve ourselves and increase our level of respect for one another. Ryan has always been willing to take the time to train myself and our coworkers, side by side, and provide an in depth understanding of the equipment we use and the processes and procedures we should follow. Ryan always displays a genuine concern for us and our families. He does his best to make sure our needs are met at work, and that we have the tools and resources to succeed. When I was facing hardships outside of work, Ryan stepped up to make sure I had a schedule that could accommodate my family's needs. Ryan has always done a great job interfacing with outside organizations such as our vendors, city and county entities, and our customers. Ryan is always friendly and helpful. He is knowledgeable about our services and is always patient and informative when assisting our customers.

Ryan has taken on the role of being our IT ambassador when dealing with our vendors. He does his best to communicate our issues as accurately as possible to ensure our problems our dealt with as quickly and efficiently as possible. Ryan always goes above and beyond when assisting our passengers and informing them of our services. His presence at our facilities and our

bus stations ensures that we will always have a friendly face representing our organization and that our passengers will have a positive experience when utilizing our service.

Ryan is always willing to spend late nights researching, planning, and assisting with video pulls and other requests while the rest of us are sleeping. He has taken on many responsibilities including providing accurate CAD drawings and descriptions of our IT needs for new bus orders and poring over documentation to ensure everything is as accurate as possible. Ryan's vast knowledge of our buses and relating IT equipment, helpfulness, patience, commitment, and determination to improve our customer and employee experience at RFTA make him an invaluable asset to the company. He has been a great teacher, coworker and friend, and I just wanted to take the opportunity to give him the recognition he deserves.

Stephanie Varley – Operations

Stephanie has been with RFTA for 21years, in the capacity of a CDL Bus Operator. I can be very excitable, and have found that Stephanie's calm demeanor and matter of fact way of thinking and acting helps keep me calm as well. It's probably because she's a mom and has been there done that and can think sensibly in bad situations. While she doesn't go out of her way to impart her wisdom on others, any driver knows if they have questions, they can ask her. She is very approachable and easy to talk to and after all of her years at RFTA, has extremely valuable insight.

Stephanie is one of our drivers that goes above and beyond for the average passenger. A lot of our drivers do what they are required to do and no more. Stephanie will accommodate passengers, within reason, to help them get to their destination. The situation might be as simple as waiting for them to buy a pass because she has the time to allow for it as she's not in the horse race that a lot of our drivers seem to be in to get from one end of the valley to the other. She recognizes customer service as a crucial and integral part of her job.

Have they done something to make a change within RFTA?

I'm going to say yes because it was the attack on her person that is responsible for the supposed creation of some sort of protocol the operations dispatchers and supervisors are now required to follow when drivers call for police assistance, be it at a bus stop or a bus on route. None of this passing the buck and hoping the problem goes away. In a sense, Stephanie sacrificed her own body for this to come about. Even if she didn't know it at the time or would have been a willing participant given the choice.

Have they done something well beyond the ordinary?

She was assaulted doing her job. Even after this occurred, she got right back in her bus and not only finished the other half of her shift that day, but finished out her work week despite being very shaken by the occurrence and despite her injuries, which included a hairline fracture to a bone in her hand and cuts and bruises to her head. I am confident when I say that not many of us would have had the capacity and tenacity to do that. Let alone the willingness.

Stephanie has been told by supervisors that she "flies under the radar ", so she'll never be really acknowledged for anything because she goes about doing her job quietly, professionally, and to the best of her ability without demanding attention. They never have to worry about if she's doing her job how, when, and where, she is supposed to be doing it. She doesn't need a babysitter. You don't often hear Stephanie on the radio with a bus breakdown because she does her pre-trips exactly like we are supposed to do it. Thoroughly. I witness it every morning that I work the same days she does. She comes in for every shift at least 15 minutes early, on her own time, to completely clean all of the windshields and windows on her bus. This is not only for her safety in operating the bus, but for the comfort of her passengers who might like to sit next to and gaze out of a clean window. She is steadfast and true. A way above average employee.

August 2022

Brandon Miller – Operations

Brandon has been with RFTA since October 2021, in the capacity of CDL Bus Operator. Aaron Carroll and Jerry Herring his supervisors, want to recognize Brandon for his dedicated efforts. Brandon's positive attitude and energy is contagious and his great work ethic is infectious. He is helpful to the fellow

employees and is stellar with all passengers/customers. Brandon helps Jerry at R.P. when he must leave. He is given a hand pack radio to oversee the loading and problems until Jerry returns.

Brandon exceeds all expectations and gives100%. He has helped dispatch on more than one occasion. Whether it's changing shifts to help out or jumping from one assignment to another, Brandon makes switching gears look easy. Being able to throw a driver into any situation or run without hesitation makes dispatching much easier. His professional manor and tone on the radio is appreciated. Some days it is difficult to keep cool under pressure on the road, and Brandon is able to do so. Brandon's character is such that he epitomizes what the Pillars Amongst Us program is all about. Brandon is a great asset and role model for every one he encounters while on and off the job.

Joe Paradise – Vehicle Maintenance

Joe has been with RFTA for 10 years, in the capacity of Lead Mechanic. Stewart Clark his supervisor, wants to recognize Joe for his dedicated efforts.
Joe has continuously worked on the more difficult technical repairs on RFTA buses. He is a technical repair specialist who takes on hard to diagnose electrical, engine, chassis, HVAC and wheel chair problems.

Joe has pioneered a number of diagnostic procedures to locate problems quickly. For example, he built a device to quickly pressurize cooling systems to find pin hole leaks in engine cooling and HVAC systems. He also has set the standard for MCI wheel chair diagnosis using the software fault codes combined with RFTA historical data to quickly locate defects. Thank you Joe, for all you do to make Vehicle Maintenance a great place to work.

Mary Wood – Finance

Mary has been with RFTA since December 2020, in the capacity of Accounting Tech I - Accounts Payable. Paul Hamilton her director, wants to recognize Mary for her dedicated efforts.

Ever since Mary has joined RFTA, she has been an absolute joy to work with. She has a particular affinity for the details, which is ever so helpful when it comes to Finance and processing the multitude of RFTA invoices for payment and ensuring RFTA's vendor detail is up-to-date! She even finds time every day to look up from her computer every now and then in order to check to see if any coworkers need any ice cream! Thank you, Mary, for being an invaluable part of RFTA and a much appreciated member of the Finance Team!

September 2022

Bill Engelmann – Vehicle Maintenance

Bill is the Senior Leadman for Vehicle Maintenance and is one of the few who has maintained his ASE Master Transit Technician Certifications for all his years as a Leadman. Bill continuously helps new technicians grow in technical areas and within the RFTA hard working culture. Bill is also a safety champion setting a perfect example for maintaining safety standards. His enthusiasm for safety is contagious and frankly good for Vehicle Maintenance where technicians are faced with dangerous situations everyday.

Recently, Bill provided technical expertise to help develop an air conditioning training module where he volunteered time both on and off the clock. Thank you Bill for making Vehicle Maintenance a great place to work.

Rebecca Hodgson – Procurement

Rebecca took and passed her NIGP - The Institute for Public Procurement Certified Purchasing Professional (CPP) exams in May. She passed both, first try...even while having technical difficulties with both the study materials and the testing center. This shows she really knows her stuff and has the ability to overcome obstacles, just like a normal day in Procurement :).

Rebecca joined RFTA in March of 2020. She was new to the organization, but not to public procurement. Even with the challenges of being new and working remotely, she was able to establish solid working relationships within the organization. She has led complex procurements such as Mobile Ticketing and Transit Buses with complete confidence and professionalism. She's a tremendous asset!

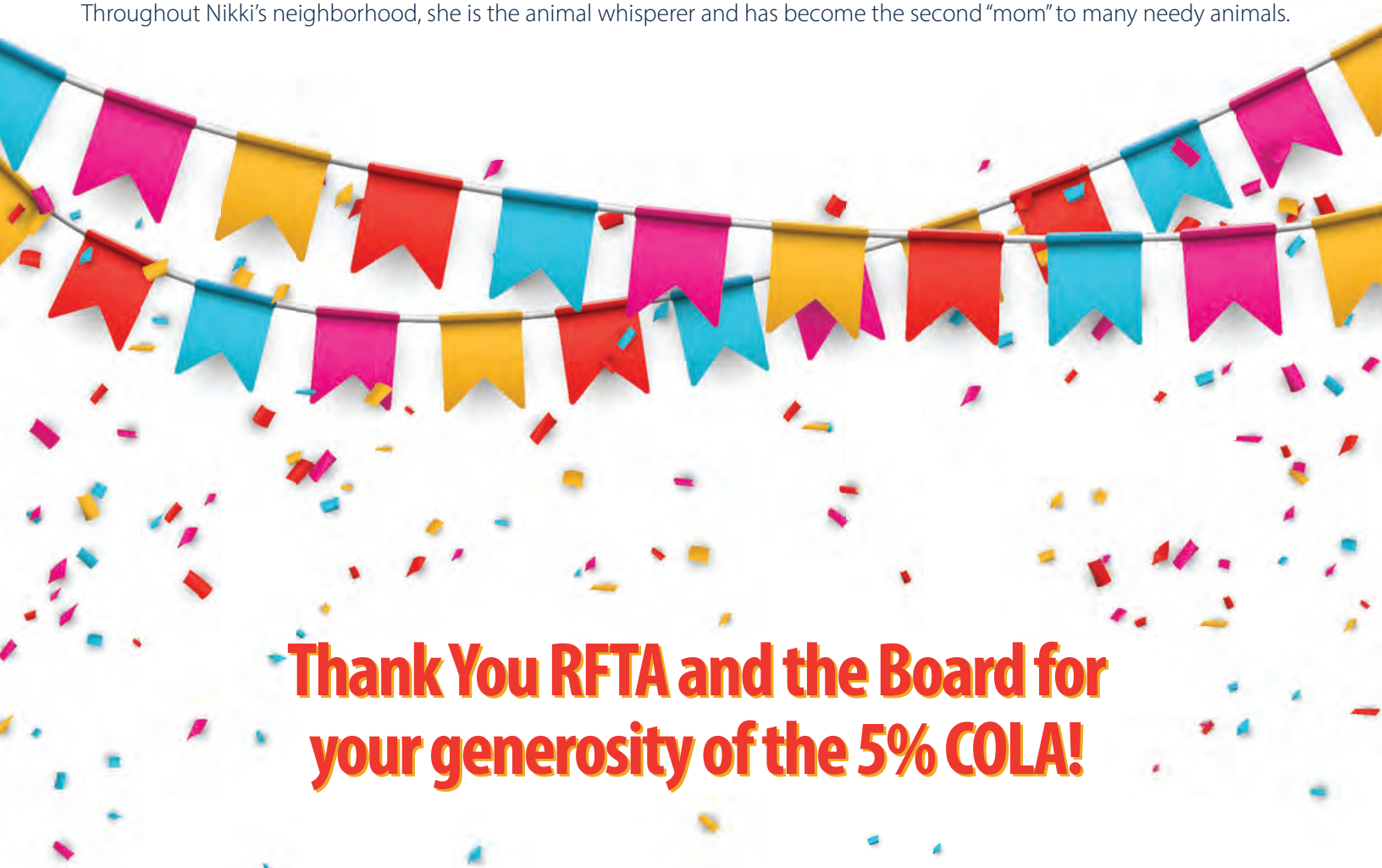
Nikki Hoffman – Operations

Nikki has gone above and beyond in her job duties and is very flexible and willing to work a schedule that accommodates all. She is willing to pick up extra shifts and work around others' needs. She is much liked by her co-workers and in her brief time with Paratransit, Nikki has become a team leader.

Nikki is well liked by the riders. Not only do riders call with compliments, but some even ask with a hopeful voice "is Nikki my driver today?"

Nikki has been joining in some staff meetings and readily gives constructive input from the driver's point of view. Above and beyond defines Nikki, well beyond an "ordinary" employee. Nikki continues to learn and is always willing for more training and responsibilities, she has recently been filling in for office staff and is quickly learning the RouteMatch system. Nikki is an all-around hard worker, has a smile to share with everyone, energetic and upbeat.

Throughout Nikki's neighborhood, she is the animal whisperer and has become the second "mom" to many needy animals.



Hooray!

Ground-Breaking at the GMF

A Groundbreaking Ceremony took place at the Glenwood Maintenance Facility on September 28, 2022 at 2:30 p.m.

The ceremony was to celebrate construction of the new RFTA Regional Transit Center, Phase 3, 4, 5, and 7. Members from the Federal Transit Association were in attendance along with RFTA and Saunders Construction staff.

To learn more about this project visit ***https://www.rfta.com/gmf3457/***

RFTA STRONG
DRIVING GOOD HEALTH

WINNERS

July 1 – August 31 biking challenge for time or distance

Winner for July:
Salvador Malibran

Winner for August:
John Taha

Age-Friendly EXPO

Vicki Rogers, Customer Service Business Specialist and Robin Glenn, Accounts Receivable Specialist hosted a table at the recent Eagle, Garfield & Pitkin Counties Age-Friendly EXPO in El Jebel on September 30th. They answered questions about Senior Van, Traveler and ADA programs, handed out information and made RFTA Senior ID cards right on the spot. Thank you Vicky and Robin!

RFTA Action Climate Plan

As you might have heard at recent staff or board meetings, we are embarking on the first **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."

By its mere existence as a rural public transit authority, RFTA is green, efficient, sustainable etc. We have been connecting our region with transit and trails for over 30 years. RFTA is a service-oriented, humble organization that doesn't like to brag. We don't have time to. We have accomplished pioneering projects by capitalizing on innovation, efficiency, industriousness, partnerships and financial opportunity. To name a few: rural HOV lane on SH 82, purchasing the Rio Grande Railroad Corridor and creating the Rio Grande Trail, a geothermal system underneath the AMF, Biodiesel experiment, bikes on buses, solar farm participation, electric buses, goats eating noxious weeds, etc.

My hope is that the CAP planning process will both build a **culture of sustainability** across the entire organization by highlighting champions and leaders. Secondly, based in climate science, we will create a **smart plan** for how RFTA can continue to further our strategic planning goals without compromising our services and public trust. There are always trade-offs and dualities. What is RFTA's most appropriate regional climate lever?

RFTA has contracted with Denver-based Gannett Fleming consulting team to manage the CAP process. Wes Maurer, project manager, will be the team's point of contact and I will serve as the RFTA staff point of contact. Wes and I intend to create a **RFTA Sustainability Leadership Group** to represent all layers of RFTA and bolster the culture of sustainability. From Gannett Fleming's 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 greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

The team kicked off the CAP with the RFTA Board on Aug. 11th, and with internal RFTA Staff on Aug. 18th. We are looking for champions across the RFTA organization to bring more awareness to institutional, and personal, sustainability efforts from proper facility recycling to using our free employer bus passes to commute to work even one day a week.

Please reach out to Jason White, RFTA Assistant Planner and CAP project manager, 970-384-4968, ***jwhite@rfta.com***, if you have any feedback on this exciting project.

PROJECT APPROACH

Phase 2

Technical discovery of RFTA's emissions profile will provide baseline insights for developing an effective climate action plan with targeted emission reductions.

Phase 4

Preparing for the future, an implementation and monitoring program will be created that encompasses RFTA's climate strategy, emergency mitigation priorities, progress tracking, and associated funding opportunities.

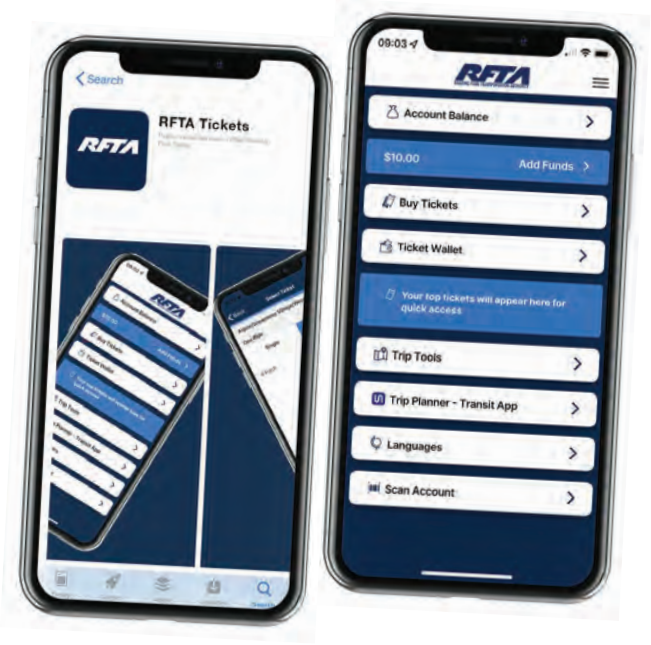
Phase 1

Establishing a vision for the future will be a critical first step in setting a strong foundation for RFTA and its stakeholders for developing an effective climate vision and goals through professionally facilitated working sessions and consistent biweekly and monthly reporting on progress and outcomes.

Phase 3

Climate action plan (CAP) development will build upon the previous visioning sessions and technical discovery to produce strategies that are uniquely tailored toward enabling RFTA to track and accomplish its climate goals through an achievable, action-oriented programmatic approach.

Coming this Autumn: Masabi



The RFTA Tickets Mobile App will enable riders to buy tickets and passes anytime from anywhere by using their smart phones. The patrons will simply download the app and purchase tickets for immediate use, or purchase in advance for future travel.

This service will be fast, easy, and available anywhere/anytime they are on the go. This system, through the ticketing vendor Masabi, will allow more convenience for the passengers in addition to expediting the boarding process.

The RFTA Tickets mobile app will launch between late Fall and early Winter. The bus operators will be trained during their in-service training day. The public and bus riders will receive information beginning November. After a person purchases their mobile ticket or pass, they will validate it upon boarding the bus via the electronic validators, which are currently being installed on all the buses.

Learn more about RFTA's Mobile Ticketing on the HUB at
https://hub.rfta.com/content/17575/rfta-mobile-ticketing-learning-center

The voluntary payroll contributions toward the ***coffee fund*** has stopped, but the coffee flows on. If you are still receiving the deduction on your paycheck, please contact Kim in payroll. She may be reached at 970-384-4863.

The RFTA Operations and Vehicle Maintenance departments are currently working on deploying a new technology for pre and post trip vehicle inspections called Zonar.

This inspection system will replace the current pen and paper method used now and will enable better and more rapid communication between Operations and Vehicle Maintenance.

This system using location based technology to verify that every area of the bus is inspected at the beginning and end of every shift. Zonar also allows Operators to take photos of the defect which will allow even more fluid communication between the Operator and Mechanic.

This system will hopefully reduce the number of mechanical issues that our Operators experience when picking up their bus for the day and while out on the road.

All RFTA revenue vehicles currently have this system installed, tablets and yellow pucks around a bus are all a part of this system so keep an eye out for them next time you are on a RFTA bus.

Air Purification System

In order to reduce the threat of COVID19 and related bacterial pathogens, odors and mildews on RFTA's Bus and Cutaway fleet while the bus is running, Staff would like to retrofit this fleet with an air purification system.

This system will purify recirculating air and provide improved air filtration systems. This system will negate staff time and materials by eliminating the vehicle-fogging procedures established during the pandemic as part of RFTA's COVID-19 Emergency Response Plan.

This item was originally considered as a 2023 budget request but was identified as a priority to install by this upcoming winter season.

If you have not yet collected a tumbler, contact someone in HR.

Desk Stretches

Important guidelines when stretching:

- Stretch only to the point of comfortable tension, relax and hold
- If you feel any pain, stop immediately
- Remember to breathe

1 Reach for the Sky

2 Cat Back Stretch

3 Standing Trunk Extension

4 Standing Trunk Sidebend

5 Standing Trunk Rotation

6 Neck Stretch

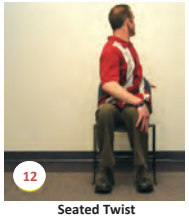
7 Wrist Stretch

8 Wrist Stretch with Rotation

9 Shoulder Stretch

10 Hip Stretch

11 Sitting Stretch



12 Seated Twist

REMINDER to those who have not yet redeemed their tickets to the caverns:

For those employees who placed an RSVP to the June RFTA picnic at Glenwood Caverns and not yet claimed their ticket(s), you have until the end of this calendar year to use them.

When you go to the ticket window, inform the person you are with RFTA and your name is on the list from Group Sales. They do have a list of names of those who did speak up to take a fun day pass.

If you did not RSVP, your name will not be on the list.

BEHIND THE WHEEL

RFTA
ROARING FORK TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

RFTA BOARD

Pitkin County
Greg Poschman / Francie Jacober

Town of Basalt
Bill Kane / David Knight

City of Aspen
Torre / Ward Hauenstein

Town of Carbondale
Ben Bohmfalk / Colin Laird

Eagle County
Jeanne McQueeney /
Kathy Chandler-Henry

City of Glenwood Springs
Jonathan Godes / Shelley Kaup

Town of New Castle
Art Riddile / Brandy Copeland

Town of Snowmass Village
Alyssa Shenk / Bill Madsen

RFTA CEO
Dan Blankenship

RFTA COO
Kurt Ravenschlag

RFTA CFAO
Michael Yang

RFTA Human Resources and Communications

Linda Forgacs
Human Resources Director, 970-384-4952
Maria Vazquez
HR & Risk Mgmt. Manager, 970-384-4950
Megan Faichney
Benefits Manager, 970-384-4878
Kipling Gomez
HR Generalist, 970-384-4854
Debbie Alcorta
Housing Coordinator, 970-384-4875
Terri Rider
Business Support Specialist III, 970-384-4889
Jamie Tatsuno
Communications Manager
970-384-4864
Joni Christenson
Creative Communications Associate
970-384-4871

A Life Celebrated

It is with great sadness we share the news of Dudley Comer's passing. September 12th, he passed away surrounded by friends and family at his home in New Castle.

Dudley was born in Colorado, attended Cherry Creek high school, and then went on to study Ceramics and Political Science at Fort Lewis College in Durango. Dudley's careers were as dynamic as he was, and would be the envy of any Coloradoan. He took on many roles; Ski Patroller, Forest Service Ranger, EMT and most recently Bus Operator in the Roaring Fork Valley. All of these professions although varied, have something in common. They weren't motivated by material gain, they were jobs that served others and made the world a better place.

There are many positive things one can say about Dudley, but above all else he was selfless. He helped new drivers feel comfortable at RFTA, he advocated for driver's needs and worked to make RFTA a better place every time he came into work. Dudley placed a large emphasis on the comfort of his fellow employees and helped get chairs for the GMF driver's lounge as well as leading a campaign to update the seating across the RFTA bus fleet. If the bus you're driving has a new seat in it, that is something Dudley Comer helped with.

Most of the drivers at RFTA were trained in some form or another by Dudley who was very active in the new driver training program. I myself had Dudley as a trainer and learned 99% of what I know about driving a RFTA bus from him. I can say with no hyperbole that I wouldn't have made it through my first Winter without the help I received from Dudley. I know in talking with many I am not alone in this sentiment and many thought of Dudley in this light. Everywhere you look at RFTA, there is evidence of Dudley helping others. Even with him gone, we can remember Dudley best by carrying on the tradition of what he did best, helping others.

Dudley is survived by his wife Belqui Comer, his brother Dugan Comer, his sister Marjorie Comer and his father John Comer. He is preceded in death by his mother Sally Comer.

A memorial service for Dudley will be Saturday November 5 at the Glenwood Rec Center from 2:00pm – 4:00pm.

Grief counseling is available to any RFTA employee through TRIAD EAP at no charge for up to 8 sessions. This service is completely confidential.

www.triadeap.com • User Name: rfta • Password: eap • Telephone: 877.679.1100