RFTA Planning Department Monthly Update
October 13th, 2016

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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CDOT Grant Partner Meetings

CDOT is now hosting monthly meetings with all transit agencies in the State that receive either FTA (Section 5310, 5311, 5339) or CDOT (FASTER) Grants. The meetings started as phone calls, and they have evolved to WebEx conferences with presentations and follow-up information. It is apparent that CDOT is trying to improve relations with grantees, as relationships have deteriorated with increased reporting requirements by grantees and decreasing performance by CDOT on grant-making responsibilities. This relationship has been further marred by CDOT taking a percentage of grant funds for oversight and for Bustang, and then reallocating increasingly scarce and competitive FASTER and 5311 funds.

The focus of the October meeting was CDOT performance on processing grant agreements, Title VI Plans and Certifications and Assurances. Topics for future meetings are listed below

November 2016 – Statewide Transit Plans
December 2016 – Asset Management Plans
January 2017 – Drug and Alcohol Oversight Requirements

Grant Update Summary

RFTA has made significant progress this year on advancing grant-funded projects and on closing out grants. The following is a summary:

Aspen Maintenance Facility

AMF Phases I, II, III are nearly complete; 71% of the $11 million SGR grant is expended, and the project is anticipated to be complete by end of 2016. The State of Good Repair Grant which funded this project will be closed out in early 2017. AMF Phase IV, funded by a roughly $900,000 grant will be complete by the end of the year as well; two years ahead of grant expiration.

Operating Grants

This year, RFTA received about $1.1 million for general regional operations, and a $200,000 operating grant for the Grand Hogback. The $1.1 million grant has been expended and closed. The latter is 83% expended.

Vehicles

RFTA will receive six (6) 57-passenger, CNG-powered MCI coaches by end of October. The CNG engines were funded by a roughly $1 million grant from the Energy and Mineral Impact Assistance Fund (EMIAF) program. The 24-passenger Carbondale Circulator vehicle, funded by a $96,000 FTA grant and a roughly

$35,000 grant from EMIAF for the CNG engine, will arrive in October. Barring any manufacturing issues, it will be put into service shortly thereafter. All grants will be closed by the end of the year.

RFTA is waiting on contracts from CDOT for 2017 FASTER Statewide ($500,000) and FASTER Local ($450,000) grants to purchase two new 40-ft CNG-powered Gillig buses. We hope to obtain fully executed contracts by the end of the year, and order the vehicles by end of the year

Park and Rides

Both the New Castle PNR and Carbondale PNR expansion projects are complete, and the grants ($200,000 and $800,000 respectively) have been closed out.

Glenwood Springs Maintenance Facility/West Glenwood Springs PNR and Trail

RFTA received a $105,000 EMIAF grant for design, and two grants totaling $1,142,000 for construction of the West Glenwood Springs PNR, the surrounding trail extension, and construction activities related to the GMF. The PNR and trail will be complete by the end of the year. The latter two grants for construction will be closed out by the end of the year, two years ahead of expiration. The $105,000 design grant has been closed.

Rubey Park Renovation and Expansion

Rubey Park received a $2 million Federal Land Access Program grant and a $1 million FASTER grant. Both grants have been fully expended and the project is complete.

On-Board Video

Thanks to a $400,000 FTA grant, RFTA's roughly 100-bus fleet, formerly equipped with a variety of outdated video cameras, has been entirely retrofitted with one new state of the art, on-board video monitoring system.

Rio Grande Trail Improvements

RFTA received a roughly $180,000 grant from Colorado Parks and Wildlife to construct trail enhancements. RFTA believed it would need to postpone the project to spring 2017, due to CPW contracting delays. On October 7, RFTA received the contract from CPW. RFTA will work with the contractor to complete as much as possible this year, though some work may be postponed to next spring.

Upcoming Grants

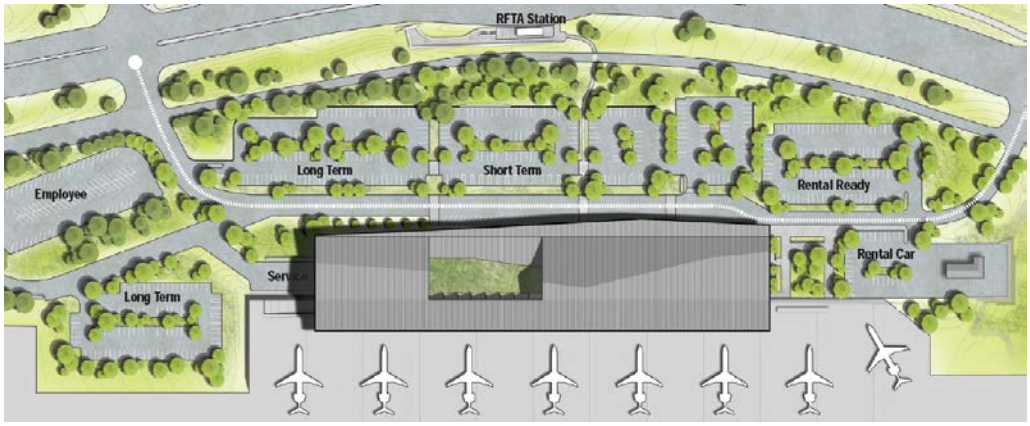
The following table outlines grants that have been submitted, but not awarded

Grant	Project	Funding	Anticipated Notification
GCFMLD	Traveler Vehicles (2)	$161,000	October 2016
FTA Section 5304	ITSP Phase I Stage 3	$100,000	October 2016

CASTA Conference

The Colorado Association of Transit Agencies, representing over 56 transit agencies (and counting) in Colorado, held its Fall 2016 conference in Snowmass in September. RFTA provide a tour of the VelociRFTA BRT system to approximately 20 participants.

Aspen Airport Improvements Environmental Assessment

David Johnson attended a public information meeting on the Airport Improvements EA process in late September. The Airport Improvements EA process is now more than halfway complete. Two further developed terminal concepts were presented. They do not represent final design of a new terminal in Aspen, but are being used to further study environmental consequences, if any, of a new terminal building. To see the terminal concepts **Click Here** . For background on the EA process to date **Click Here**. To view a Timeline of the Airport Improvements Process **Click Here.**

Although a new airport terminal will not be solely responsible for all transportation impacts in the area, at this point, the EA seems to lack information on how additional trips will impact the transportation, and how they will be mitigated. Moreover, there has been little information exchange between RFTA and its ITSP Team, and the Airport and its Airport Improvements EA Team. RFTA and the Airport now have a meeting scheduled in late October.