RFTA Planning Department Monthly Update
March 10, 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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Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) Call for Projects

The Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) recently announced a call for Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) projects. Federal funds are allocated under TAP to transportation improvement projects that expand travel choice, strengthen the local economy, improve quality of life and protect the environment. Many TAP projects enhance non-motorized forms of transportation like biking and walking. TAP was authorized in 2012 by federal transportation legislation, Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21), and is now continued under the current federal transportation legislation, Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (FAST).

TAP provides funding for programs and projects defined as transportation alternatives, including on- and off-road pedestrian and bicycle facilities, infrastructure projects for improving non-driver access to public transportation and enhanced mobility, community improvement activities, and environmental mitigation; recreational trail program projects; and projects for planning, designing, or constructing boulevards and other roadways largely in the right-of-way of former Interstate System routes or other divided highways.

The call for projects will cover fiscal years 2018 through 2020, with a total of $3.6 Million available statewide. The TAP application period begins March 1st, 2016. All applications are required to be submitted by August 1st, 2016.

RFTA, on behalf of the Town of Basalt, received FY2014 TAP funding for a pedestrian underpass of SH 82 at Basalt Avenue. This project is currently underway and being led by the Town of Basalt.

For the current call for projects, RFTA Staff intends to submit an application with 2-3 multimodal projects. *We-Cycle* public bicycle share infrastructure appears to be a likely project. The bike share kiosks and bicycles could be used in Town of Basalt and in Glenwood Springs, particularly during the Grand Avenue Bridge Replacement Project.

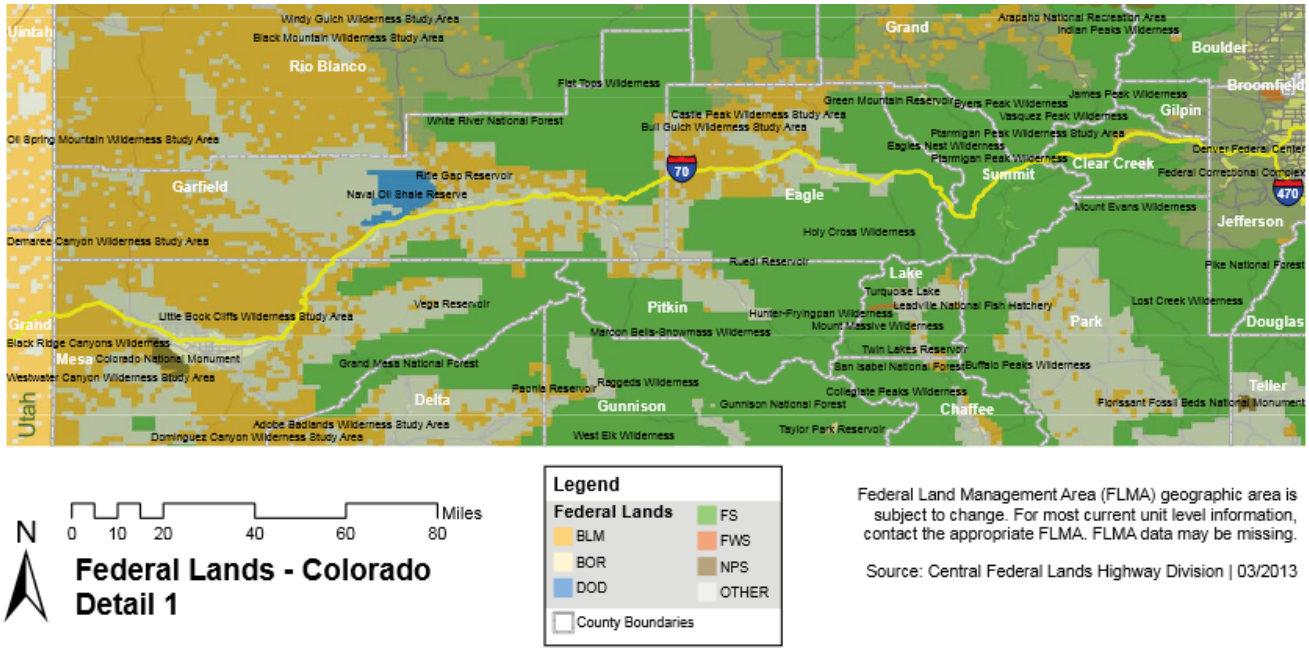
Additionally, RFTA Staff may work collaboratively with our regional jurisdictions to submit a regional application that addresses 9-15 regional bicycle-pedestrian projects in the $50,000 - $300,000 range. To demonstrate sound planning justification, projects should be selected from the 2015 Regional Bicycle, Pedestrian and Transit Access Plan, led by RFTA and the three Counties (http://www.rfta.com/regional-bicycle-pedestrian-transit-access-plan/).

Colorado Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) Call for Projects

The Programming Decisions Committee (PDC) of the Colorado Federal Lands Access Program is currently soliciting project applications for Colorado Federal Lands Access Program funds. The FLAP program presents an opportunity for state, county and local entities to obtain funding for a variety of transportation projects that provide access to, are adjacent to, or are located within Federal Land in the State of Colorado. The program places emphasis on funding projects near high-use recreation sites and Federal economic generators.

The PDC anticipates programming between $53-66 Million from 2019-2022, depending on program needs and future congressional action. More specifically, it is anticipated that a 5-year program of transportation projects will be created with funding for preliminary engineering, construction and construction engineering. Applications will be accepted from February 16, 2016 through May 21, 2016.

In 2013, RFTA successfully received $2 Million in FLAP funding for the Rubey Park Renovation Project. This project was completed in late 2015. For the current call for projects, RFTA Staff is considering project applications to improve or expand bus routes that access regional Federal Lands i.e. Maroon Bells improved transit shuttle access, Aspen Skiing Company resorts on USFS lands or additional LOVA Trail segments through South Canyon to provide access to Storm King Mountain and the Monument for Fallen Firefighters. Staff will be reaching out to regional jurisdictions for collaboration and project ideas.



Grand Avenue Bridge Replacement Project

In preparation for Grand Avenue Bridge closure (and significant pre and post closure construction) RFTA is working with the City of Glenwood Springs and CDOT to expand existing Grand Hogback routes, establish additional transit parking along the I-70 corridor, and extend regular daily service to Parachute. These measures are intended to alleviate traffic congestion, particularly during peak hours, and to attract new long-term transit riders.

Planning Staff intends to setup a field meeting in the coming weeks with CDOT and local planners in Parachute, Rifle, Silt and New Castle. The goal is to expand on existing CDOT-owned park-n-ride facilities near SH 6 or I-70.

Grants Activity

Grant Program/Year	Project	Amount Requested	App. Deadline	Award Date	Status
CY2015 FTA 5311	AMF Phase 4	$896,278	12/1/2014	3/17/2015	Grant Executed
FY2015 FTA 5304	20 Yr. Office & Strategic Housing Plan Phase 4	$25,000	3/27/15	2/17/2015	RFTA received a notice of award on 7/20/2015 and a grant agreement on 2/17/15. We sent our signatures back promptly and we expect a final executed agreement by early April
FY2016 FTA 5311 Admin/Operating	General Operating Expenses	$1,014,550 ($1,065,278 RFTA match)	6/5/15	9/14/15	Grant Executed
CY 2016 FASTER Operating	Hogback Operating	$200,000 + $200,000 RFTA match	11/14/14	2/6/15	Grant Executed
DOLA Alt Fuels	Incremental cost of CNG Carbondale Circulator Vehicle	$34,000	9/1/2015	9/24/15	Vehicle delivery is projected for October 2016.
DOLA Alt Fuels	Incremental cost of CNG engines for (6) MCI CNG Coaches	$1,000,500	12/1/2015	March 2016	RFTA has been asked to present the project application to the larger DOLA Board in Denver on 3/17
Garfield County Federal Mineral Lease District (GCFMLD)	(1) One MCI CNG Coach Bus	$300,000	2/28/2016	April 2016	Application was successfully submitted. The primary use for this bus, initially, will be for Grand Avenue Bridge mitigation
State Trails Program	Rio Grande Trail Enhancement & Maintenance Plan	$200,000	11/5/15	March 2016	Awaiting grant award announcements