RFTA Planning Department Monthly Update

February 9th, 2023

Regional Bike Share Update

This month RFTA finalized the Regional Bike Sharing Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) among all jurisdictions participating in the regional bike share plan and the Services Operating Agreement (SOA) between RFTA and WE-cycle. The MOU and SOA define the terms and conditions by which the Parties will collectively provide, administer and fund Bikeshare Services for calendar years 2023 – 2028, with a particular focus on Year 2023. In addition, RFTA has developed a Template for Agreement for Acceptance of RFTA Funds that can be easily modified to address acceptance of RFTA funds for bike share, FLMMR funds, and for other projects between RFTA and its member jurisdictions.

RFTA Climate Action Plan (CAP)

As of the February board meeting, the CAP planning process is about 70% complete. The CAP consulting team has provided RFTA Staff with a final draft document for review. The CAP team will present to the RFTA Board at the March 9th board meeting. This presentation will include recommended emissions targets into the future, with milestone dates to review progress and reevaluate goal setting.

During the CAP project update at the 11/10/22 RFTA Board meeting, the CAP consulting team heard loud and clear that Board members want to aim high by establishing aggressive emissions reduction goals. Regional research on partner plans/goals reveals that a guidepost is in the range of 80% to 100% emissions reduction out to the year 2050. Please see the screenshot below from the draft plan listing regional GHG emissions reduction goals.

The City of Aspen is updating their 2017 CAP and the City of Glenwood Springs is updating their 2009 CAP. RFTA Staff and the Gannett Fleming team will collaborate on regional findings.

Table 1. Regional GHG Emissions Reduction Goals

City or County Plan	GHG Reduction Goal by 2050
Aspen	80%
Carbondale	Net-Zero
Eagle County	80%
Garfield County	100%*
Glenwood Springs	25%**
Pitkin County	80%
Town of Basalt	80%
Town of New Castle	80%
Town of Snowmass Village	100%

*Reduction goal by 2030.
**Reduction goal by 2012. Glenwood Springs is in the process of updating its Climate Action Plan.

RFTA Zero Emission Bus (ZEB) Transition Plan

RFTA is also closer to embarking on a Zero Emission Bus (ZEB) Transition Plan. RFTA will use this planning document to determine the capital investments and operational changes required for successful implementation of zero emission buses, equipment, and facilities, consistent with the goals set forth in RFTA's Climate Action Plan (to be completed in April 2023) and the State of Colorado's goal to transition the state transit fleet to 100% ZEB by 2050.

RFTA Staff reviewed proposals in January. We hope to have a contract in place by mid-February, and a final ZEB Plan in October/November 2023.

Although not required, the FTA has made it clear that transit agencies that have professional ZEB Plans will be looked at more favorably during the highly competitive grant processes. For example, the combined FTA 5339b/5339c program is one of RFTA's best opportunities to secure funding for battery electric buses (BEBs) and/or ZEB-ready facilities such as the GMF/RTC. FTA released the highly anticipated notice of funding opportunity (NOFO) on 1/27/23, almost 1.5 months earlier than 2022. The chosen consultant to complete RFTA's ZEB Plan will hit the ground running to provide as much data as possible for RFTA application submittal; due April 13th.

Grants Update

The Q4 2022 grants report is long overdue. RFTA Staff have been waiting on several grant administration delays at CDOT. Please see the full grants report **attached** in the Portfolio.

As of the February board meeting, in summary, RFTA Staff are managing a total of 16 grant projects that either have executed contracts, or are awaiting executed contracts. Here are the current sum totals:

Total Grant Awards:	$72.7 million
Total RFTA Match:	$59.3 million
Total Grant Projects:	**$132 million**

Pending Proposals

The Glenwood Springs Maintenance Facility (GMF)/Regional Transit Center (RTC) remains RFTA's highest priority capital project, and a strategic project for smart growth of the entire RFTA organization. Staff have been busy strategizing and aggregating Federal/State grants from many different programs.

On September 30, 2022, RFTA submitted a grant proposal for FY2023 CDOT "Super Call" capital funds for $15.5 million (and $3.9 million local match) to complete the remainder of Phase 6, now called 6B, which consists mostly of constructing a 3-story Operations and Administration center on top of Phase 6A, the West Glenwood Springs Transit Hub. In addition to Phase 6B, RFTA is requesting funding to construct Phase 8. Phase 8 is approximately 10,000ft^2 of enclosed space dedicated to storage and maintenance of fleet and facility-related equipment.

Cost estimate of Phase 6B and Phase 8 is about $19.5 million. IF RFTA receives $15.5 million in CDOT funding, Phase 6B and Phase 8 can be added to the design-build construction package, and the core GMF Phases 1-8 can be complete and implemented by end of 2025, culminating in about 15 years of planning, design and construction. Super Call awards will be announced in April 2023.

Phase 6A: West Glenwood Hub (funded by a $4.8 million RAISE grant

Phase 6B: The Administration and Operations Center (3 stories above Phase 6A)