

RTCC Meeting

February 3, 2026

Summary

RTCC Quarterly Meeting Updates

The RTCC quarterly meeting began with introductions from various members, including transportation directors, coordinators, and representatives from different organizations across Colorado. Mary Harlan co-chaired the meeting and led the introductions. The group approved the November 2025 meeting minutes. The meeting then moved to updates and presentations, starting with Erwin Germain from TreadShare, who was scheduled to present an update on his carpooling app.

Carpool App Pilot Update

Erwin presented an update on their carpool app pilot program, which has been successful with Arapaho Basin as a partner. Since November, they have facilitated 240 rides, saved over 8,000 miles, and reduced carbon emissions by 2,500 kilograms. The program is not limited to employees and is available to all Colorado ski resort users. Mandi and Carly discussed the finalization of Eagle County's Healthy Aging plan, which will focus on health and well-being, housing, transportation, and social connection. The plan will be presented to the Board of County Commissioners on February 10th, and they hope to add a third launch day for older adults in El Jebel. Carly mentioned the need for continued partnership with Core Transit and potential collaboration with RFTA in the future.

Western Colorado Transportation Advocacy Update

Hanna, a community organizer for Western Colorado Alliance, discussed efforts to improve transportation options in western Garfield County, focusing on engaging local officials and supporting grassroots advocacy. Alicia Gressley, representing the Colorado River Valley Partnership, highlighted the need for short-term funding solutions to maintain transit services, particularly the hogback route, with a deadline of June 2026. Both emphasized the importance of addressing transportation needs within their communities, including for senior citizens, and noted progress in stakeholder collaboration and municipal discussions.

Transportation Challenges and Community Input

Alicia expressed optimism about progress made in the past year regarding transportation challenges, highlighting the importance of public comment and community input. Dawn

Dexter, representing RFTA, discussed the limitations of the Traveler program and mentioned her task of revising the IGA to align with the commissioners' preferences. Alicia and Sheila agreed to collaborate with Dawn on this initiative, while Sheila noted that the MOU rewrite was in progress. Mary offered support from the Downtowner perspective, emphasizing the collection of data on first-mile and last-mile mobility in the Roaring Fork Valley.

Zero-Fare Park-and-Ride Study Results

Mary presented findings from a zero-fare pilot park-and-ride occupancy study conducted by RFTA between October 1 and November 30. The study aimed to gather empirical data on parking lot usage, with results showing varying occupancy rates across locations and an interesting correlation between decreased park-and-ride usage and increased microtransit use during the pilot period. Mary shared that drone photography was used to capture park-and-ride conditions, with FAA-certified staff conducting flights at 300 feet, though manual counting was required at Brush Creek due to FAA regulations. The data will be shared with Alicia for distribution to the Parachute Area Transit Advisory Board, who serves as a conduit for public-private partnerships in the region.

Microtransit vs Parking Expansion Costs

Mary discussed the cost comparison between microtransit and parking lot expansion, noting that microtransit involves ongoing operational costs but offers community benefits like reduced parking infrastructure and increased connectivity to transit. Jonathan Godes highlighted the preference for microtransit over multi-level parking structures due to its one-time capital expense versus ongoing costs. Mary mentioned potential funding sources, including a first-last-mile mobility reserve grant program and fare options, while Dawn Dexter inquired about the correlation between microtransit use and park-and-ride occupancy, which Mary found intriguing but had not yet verified with additional data.

Zero-Emission Bus Transition Plan

Sam presented a zero-emission bus transition plan for the Snowmass Village shuttle, outlining challenges and constraints faced by the agency. The plan includes a phased approach to transitioning to electric vehicles, considering technology, operational, and facility constraints. Sam highlighted the high costs of electric vehicles and maintenance, as well as the need for workforce training and collaboration with the local utility company. The next steps involve developing a town-wide fleet transition plan and staying updated on relevant initiatives at local, regional, and national levels.

Mountain Rail Project Overview

Michael presented on the Mountain Rail project, which will connect Denver Union Station to Craig in phases, with Phase 1 launching November 2026 to connect Denver to Granby. He discussed the project's funding through SB184 and SB230, and its goal to provide alternative transportation options to I-70, particularly for communities not located on the highway. Michael also mentioned working with Grand County and towns of Granby and Grand Lake to create a new transit service connecting Granby to Grand Lake and Rocky Mountain National Park's west side.

Transportation Initiatives and Advocacy Updates

Dana provided updates on several transportation initiatives. She discussed a letter sent by CASTA to Bustang and CDOT, outlining recommendations for expanding bus services. She also mentioned the upcoming CASTA transportation advocacy trip to DC in March and encouraged interested participants to reach out to Anne. Dana shared information about a new transit legislation bill and the upcoming CASTA Spring Conference in Boulder. Sam provided an update on the Transportation Coalition for the 21st century in the Roaring Fork Valley, highlighting their recommendations for reducing traffic congestion, including potential toll lanes and dynamically priced congestion charges.

Regional Transportation Collaboration Initiatives

The meeting focused on regional transportation initiatives and collaboration. Sam discussed the Transportation Coalition for the 21st Century, noting that while it had made progress, it had initially overlooked broader regional input. Emily highlighted a CLEA grant to explore forming a regional transportation management organization, with a stakeholder workshop planned for April 15th in Glenwood. Dana provided updates on the RTCC, including an upcoming Transit AI Launchpad Workshop in Eagle and plans for strategic planning meetings. The group also discussed regional carpooling initiatives and the need for more transportation voices on the Northwest COG executive committee.

Next steps

- Mandi/Carly: Present the Eagle County Healthy Aging plan to the Board of County Commissioners on February 10th at 2:30 PM and provide the Google Meet link to interested parties.
- Mary: Send comprehensive downtown/microtransit data (including fare charging, ridership, peak hours, funding models, etc.) via email to Alicia and Sheila for use by the Parachute Area Transit Advisory Board.
- Alicia: Share the downtown/microtransit data received from Mary with the Parachute Area Transit Advisory Board.

- Emily: Organize and facilitate the regional TMO stakeholder workshop on April 15th in Glenwood, and follow up with interested parties who reach out via email.
- Dana/RTCC leadership team: Conduct kickoff meetings next week for the Transit AI Launchpad Workshop to ensure goals are met and all participants provide input.
- John (COG Executive Director): Facilitate in-depth strategic planning session next week with Dana, Sam, Mary, Mandi, and Hope to break down RTCC projects, define concrete activities, and prepare a presentation for the full group.
- Dana: Send information about the Northwest COG Executive Committee municipal seat responsibilities to interested transportation representatives.
- Dana: Continue pulling together information and having in-depth conversations with interested transportation groups regarding potential funding and implementation of regional carpooling initiatives, and provide updates as progress is made.
- Sam: Bring updates from this meeting back to staff and help coordinate further involvement as needed.
- (Implied, but explicitly stated as a next step) RTCC leadership: At next meeting, discuss how RTCC can be more involved in regional transportation efforts and how to coordinate with other groups/efforts in the region.