

RTCC May 5, 2026 Meeting Notes

RTCC May Transit AI Workshop

The RTCC May meeting began with introductions from participants including transit managers, coordinators, and representatives from various agencies across Colorado. Dana Wood provided an overview of a recent transit AI workshop held in March, which involved four transit agencies and was led by a Canadian organization called Cubic Transit. The workshop focused on using AI tools to solve strategic problems, and resulted in individual agency goals, projects, and a regional vision that would be discussed further during the meeting.

Cloud AI Driver Schedule Automation

Ann Findley presented her project using Cloud AI to automate the creation of driver paddles, which detail bus drivers' schedules throughout the day. She spent several weeks working with Claude to develop a system that could generate schedules comparable to the current paper-based process, resulting in a solution that saves time and could serve as a backup system. The project required significant iteration and cost \$100 per month for the paid version of Claude due to data limitations in the free version. Ann agreed to create documentation sharing the process and prompts used with Claude to help other transit agencies implement a similar solution.

Transit AI and Legislative Updates

Mary discussed the potential for transit agencies to purchase AI tools for their entire organization, highlighting the benefits of pre-configured settings for transit agencies. Ann Rajewski provided legislative updates, including the progress of House Bill 261269, which has been modified to require less burdensome reporting for transit agencies. She also mentioned other bills being monitored, such as Senate Bill 261065 on transit housing investment zones and House Bill 261398 on retail delivery fee revenue allocation, which will impact MMOF funding. Additionally, House Bill 261430 was introduced to mitigate the potential effects of Initiative 175 on transportation and general fund budgets.

Initiative 175 Transit Funding Impact

The group discussed Initiative 175, which is currently gathering signatures to appear on the ballot. Ann Rajewski from CASTA explained that while the initiative appears likely to qualify, it could impact transit funding by redirecting certain fees toward road construction and potentially affecting local communities' ability to flex HUTF funds for transit needs. The CASTA board will meet next week to make a decision on the initiative, with Ann planning to

share information and talking points with members afterward. Sam Guarino highlighted how even small amounts of funding, like FASTER money, significantly affect smaller agencies like the Village Shuttle for vehicle replacements.

CASTA Conference and AI Updates

Ann Rajewski provided an overview of the upcoming CASTA conference, highlighting key sessions including a Mobility Summit on Tuesday and various training options on Wednesday and Thursday. She noted that room registrations should be made ASAP as rooms are limited, and registration is open until today. Jonathan shared his positive experience using AI tools, particularly Claude, for report writing, demographic analysis, and presentation development, emphasizing how it helps identify missing information and refine content for different audiences.

AI-Driven NTD Reporting Tool

Charles presented a tool he developed using AI to streamline National Transit Database (NTD) reporting, which he created after reverse-engineering the process based on three years of Winter Park's data. The Excel-based workbook guides users through agency setup, route mapping, and data validation, helping to identify potential issues before submission to save significant time and effort. Charles successfully used the tool for this year's reporting, completing the entity report in 25 minutes, and has licensed the tool for broader use across transit agencies. The discussion highlighted the importance of using multiple AI platforms and the need for human oversight to verify AI-generated results.

Regional Transit Connectivity Strategy Planning

Dana presented a regional strategy for RTCC focused on improving cross-jurisdictional transit connectivity. The group, using AI tools like Claude, identified three approaches ranging from Inter-Governmental Agreements (IGAs) to Transit Management Organizations (TMOs) to regional RTAs, with IGAs being the most feasible initial strategy. The team determined that expanding existing IGAs would be the best approach to serve underserved communities, with the option to implement this in a phased manner starting with a few partners rather than requiring full regional buy-in immediately.

The group discussed a proposal for an IGA (Intergovernmental Agreement) mapping project, with stakeholders expressing both enthusiasm and concerns about its complexity and scope. Sam Guarino proposed giving stakeholders additional time to review the document and identify key decision-makers from their organizations before moving forward with Phase 1. The group agreed to develop a more detailed plan for their next RTCC meeting and to potentially involve higher-level leadership at a later stage. Emily Williams then provided an update on a TMO (Transportation Management Organization) workshop held on

April 15th, presenting a draft purpose statement for the regional TMO structure covering the Parachute to Aspen Travel Shed.

Transportation Management Organization Update

Emily provided an update on the Transportation Management Organization (TMO) initiative, discussing the current goal of mitigating traffic growth and plans for spring and summer campaigns, including Bike to Work Day on June 24th. The group discussed the TMO's current hosting by CLEAR and the need to formalize its framework, including questions about governance structure and potential funding from CDOT. Key open questions remained about whether the TMO should be a single organization covering the entire region or separate entities for different areas, with Sam Guarino offering to schedule a follow-up meeting with Emily and Dana to discuss the governance and framework further.

Regional Transit Partnerships Update Meeting

The meeting featured updates from various transit partners across the region. Sam Guarino reported that Snowmass Village received approval for a CTE grant to expand demand response services and discussed potential changes to tax funding language for transit services. Charles announced new transit initiatives in Winter Park, including a new Granby to Grand Lake line and a microtransit program launching in June. Lee shared that Glenwood's on-demand service served 30,000 passengers in its first year, with plans to evaluate fare pricing and explore sponsorship opportunities. Mary outlined upcoming RFTA services including the relaunch of The Flyer route and a new library pass program for Maroon Bells access. Jonathan provided an update on Yampa Valley RTA's establishment and funding efforts. Chris reported a 30% increase in transit service for TAVS starting June 8th, funded by SB230. Dave discussed ECO's upcoming 10-year plan phase and a successful bus rodeo event involving multiple jurisdictions. The conversation ended with approval of previous meeting minutes and a discussion about the impact of SB230 funding on rural transit services.

Next steps

- Ann Findley: Work on compiling and sharing the prompts used with Claude and the final Excel sheet (or relevant files) for the driver paddles project, when time allows.
- Dana: Share the regional strategy document with the group and request input/feedback from RTCC stakeholders over the next few weeks.
- All RTCC members: Review the regional strategy document, provide input/feedback, and identify key decision makers at their agencies who should be involved in the IGA/regional connectivity process.

- Lee: Reach out to Amtrak and Greyhound contacts in Glenwood Springs to explore potential collaboration or data sharing for regional transit connectivity.
- Dana/Sam/Mary: Further flesh out the "before Phase 1" tasks and present a more detailed Phase 1 plan at the next RTCC meeting.
- Dana: Send out meeting notes, recording, and specific direction regarding the strategy document to the group in the coming weeks.
- Emily: Share the story map and TMO examples with interested parties upon request.
- Emily/Sam/Dana: Schedule a meeting to discuss TMO governance and framework development.
- Ann Rajewski/CASTA: Send out information and talking points about Initiative 175 to members and stakeholders after the CASTA board meeting.
- All RTCC members: Consider and provide feedback on the draft TMO purpose statement, especially regarding congestion vs. traffic growth language.
- Mary: RTFA aims to release the First Last Mile Mobility Reserve Grant application by May 15th (pending guideline updates).
- All RTCC members: Send agenda items for the next meeting to Dana, Sam, and Mary as desired.