# AGENDA

**Regional Transportation Coordinating Council (RTCC)**
**November 3, 2026**
**9 a.m.-11:30 a.m.**

Zoom:
https://zoom.us/j/91411974325

*The objective of the RTCC is to serve as the local coordinating council for a seven (7) county rural area of Colorado, including Eagle, Garfield, Grand, Jackson, Routt, Pitkin, and Summit Counties, and to provide regional transportation coordination, especially for veterans, people with disabilities, older adults, and low-income adult populations.*

*RTCC Standards of Operations*
*Goals and Strategies*
*Elected Roles and Work Group Responsibilities*

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| 9:00 a.m. | 1. | **Welcome/Introductions** | Mary Harlan, All |
| 9:05 a.m. | 2. | **August 2026 Meeting Minutes Approval** | Sam Guarino, All |
| 9:06 a.m. | 3. | **RTCC Leadership voting in February 2027** | Dana Wood |
| 9:11 a.m. | 4. | **-GIS Story Map and Dashboard Presentation**<br>-Group feedback | Dana Wood and Sam Guarino |
| 10:11 a.m. | 7. | **Project Updates with Matching Funds**<br>-$42,000 for 2026, potential $70,000 in 2027<br><br>-5304 Grant Application (potential $5K)<br>-Regional Volunteer Drive Training Day (2027, potential $5K)<br>-Travel Training Days (2027, potential $4K)<br>-Volunteer Driver Software for Mountain Family Center, Granby (potential $3K)<br>-AmBUSsador Program (2027, ?)-looking for partners | Mary Harlan and Dana Wood<br><br>Dana Wood<br>Sam Spees<br>Dana Wood<br>Katie Stuvel<br><br>Dana Wood |
| 11:00 a.m. | 8. | **Partner Updates**<br>-SRTS/TAP funding opportunity open<br>-Aspen Airport closure transportation updates<br>-TAP Fund, Snowmass Village | All |

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| | | -Master Plan (RFTA)<br>-Other updates | |
| 11:30 a.m. | 9. | **Adjourn** | Mary Harlan |

**Attachments**:
August 2026 Meeting Notes

# NWCCOG Rural Transportation Coordinating Council (RTCC)

## Meeting Minutes — August 4, 2026

*Serving Eagle, Garfield, Grand, Jackson, Routt, Pitkin, and Summit Counties*

### 1. Welcome / Introductions — 9:00 a.m.

Meeting called to order. Introductions made among attendees.

Attendees: Mary Harlan, Sam Guarino, Dana Wood, Emily Williams, Dave Snyder, Ann Findley, Peter Hawkins, Jonathan Flint, Erin Fisher, Angie Hainer, Charles McCarthy, Vinnie Tomasulo, Chris Southwick, Gloria Kaasch-Buerger, Ann Rajewski, Tom Joyce, John Marcantonio

### 2. May 2026 Meeting Minutes Approval — 9:05 a.m.

May 2026 meeting minutes were reviewed and approved.

### 3. 5304 Planning Grant Application — 9:06 a.m.

**Presented by Dana Wood**

- Application submitted on 6/12/26 for FTA Section 5304 — 1-year Feasibility Study.
- Focus is: 1. Local service possibilities for the Colorado River Valley Corridor, from Parachute/Battlement Mesa to Silt, and 2. How to expand the PATS model further into Rifle and Silt to connect folks to local resources.
- Anticipated start in early 2027, pending award.
- Requesting $100,000 with a 20% local match.
- 10 letters of support received, including one from the Garfield County Board of County Commissioners.

### 4. Parachute Area Transit System (PATS) Presentation — 9:16 a.m.

**Presented by Vinnie Tomasulo**

**Program Overview**

- PATS inception: 2020, starting with 2 buses (one in service throughout the day), managed by Town Administration and staff.
- Funding sources: FTA 5311 (up to 50% of admin & operating costs); FASTER ($248,000 for 2 buses); Garfield County ($300,000/2 yrs, then $250,000/2 yrs, then $200,000); City of Rifle ($40,000 starting 2024, then $75,000 in 2026); Town of Parachute ($100,000 for first 2 years, then $75,000); Battlement Mesa Service Association/HOA ($10,000 starting 2026).
- Fixed route service: 10 stops in Parachute/Battlement Mesa (3 Parachute, 7 Battlement Mesa) and 5 stops in Rifle. Operating hours 5:30 a.m.–10:00 p.m.

- Fee schedule: $1 anywhere within Parachute/Battlement Mesa; $1 anywhere within Rifle; $4 between Parachute/Battlement Mesa and Rifle. Unlimited monthly passes: $50 regular, $40 senior/veteran. 10-punch pass: $30. Children under 6 ride free.
- PATS Advisory Board (June 2025) includes Garfield County, City of Rifle, and Town of Parachute — board is excited about "super users" and turning them into ambassadors; board seats are currently full.

**Contracted Operator — Downtowner (now VIA)**

- Contract began 1st Quarter 2026, covering their employees, PATS's fueling station, warehouse/garage, and buses (which PATS maintains).
- First two months of the contract were fixed-route only.

**2025 CTE Expansion Grant**

- Grant was successful — placed a 2nd bus into service.
- Provides $60,000 annually to expand services.

**Hybrid On-Demand / Fixed Route Launch — June 1, 2026**

- Structure: one bus dedicated to Rifle, one bus dedicated to Parachute/Battlement Mesa, running hybrid on-demand and fixed-route service.
- Fee schedule: $1 per rider anywhere within the Rifle zone; $1 per rider anywhere within the Parachute/Battlement Mesa zone.
- Schedule: Fixed route 5:30–11:00 a.m. and 6:00–10:00 p.m.; On-demand (app-based) in Rifle and Parachute/Battlement Mesa, 11:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m.
- June 2026 ridership — On-Demand: 424 total riders.
- June 2026 ridership — Fixed Route: 335 total riders (AM: 260 riders, 69% between 5–7 a.m.; PM: 75 riders).
- Combined totals (*759) represent the highest monthly ridership since 2020.
- Goal going forward: integrate fixed route and on-demand service into a single, unified offering.

**PATS Ridership Report — June 1–30, 2026**

| **Parachute On-Demand** | |
|---|---|
| Rides | 151 |
| Passengers | 210 |
| Unique rider accounts | 25 |
| Percent of rides shared | 3% |
| Average wait time | 9.25 minutes |
| Average ride time | 8 minutes |

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|---|---|
| Average experience rating | 5 out of 5 |
| Wheelchair rides | 0 |
| No shows | 4 |
| Total new accounts created | 127 |

| **Rifle On-Demand** | |
|---|---|
| Rides | 160 |
| Passengers | 214 |
| Unique rider accounts | 30 |
| Percent of rides shared | 10% |
| Average wait time | 10.25 minutes |
| Average ride time | 10 minutes |
| Average experience rating | 4.98 out of 5 |
| Wheelchair rides | 32 |
| No shows | 17 |

**5. CASTA Legislative Session Updates — 9:46 a.m.**

**Presented by Ann Rajewski**

- Initiative 175 update: passed.
- Homeless Transit Initiative / Transit Access Bill: CASTA helped secure an easier compliance pathway for agencies.
- Joint Budget Committee (JBC) decreased NEMT (non-emergency medical transportation) reimbursement income by 50%. As a result, 3 rural public transit agencies have dropped out of the program, making it more difficult for rural residents to access resources within their communities.
- **Action item: Ask Ann for notes on what CASTA is working on ahead of the 2027 legislative session.**

**6. CDOT OIM Presentations — 10:01 a.m.**

**Presented by Thomas Joyce and John Marcantonio**

**Mobility Services / FLM Tool**

- FLM (first-last mile) tool reviewed.
- TDM (transportation demand management) calculator available through CDOT OIM.
- TDM toolkit is coming out; a TDM forum is being held monthly.

**SB24-032 — Statewide Transit Pass Report Findings**

- Recommendation is for statewide open-loop payments rather than a single statewide pass.
- COTransit is continuing to pursue this work, including adding a trip-planning element.

**7. Round Table Discussion on Transit Apps — 10:46 a.m.**

**Facilitated by Sam Guarino, All**

Discussion topics: What apps/tools are agencies currently using? How are agencies looking to better connect riders? What's the future of each agency's technology? Are agencies looking to get on a shared regional app with neighboring jurisdictions?

**What agencies are using for trip planning**

- Open-loop pass idea raised: a single app that routes users to all agencies?
- GTFS database (from George Gromke at CDOT) — **Action item: Dana will reach out to George to see if he can send this to the entire group.**
- RFTA is replacing its paratransit software so that on-demand and bike share are on one app for the entire region (early planning stages). Currently riders can connect to all regional apps through RFTA's website as well as through RFTA's own app.
- COTransit: piloting one pass across 3 agencies (test group).
- Core: rolling out a new paratransit system with QR codes at all stops (similar to Vail's model).
- Summit Stage: currently uses Transloc, not satisfied with it, and is evaluating a new app that will include trip planning. Previously had a transit app; currently riders use Google Maps, Apple Maps, or call in.
- Steamboat Springs: securing funding for a new system next year. Currently uses Via/Downtowner, Google Maps, and Routematch.
- Parachute (PATS): uses Downtowner and Google Maps.
- Winter Park: uses Transloc (described as “really bad”) and Spare Labs for micromobility.
- Town of Snowmass Village (TOSV): uses Trillium on the TOSV website and is looking to upgrade; also uses the Transit app, Google Maps, and a more localized Downtowner app.
- Basalt: uses the Via Basalt Connect transit app.
- Vail: uses Trillium, Google Maps, and the Transit app; also has QR codes at each stop (website, not an app) providing real-time info.
- Ride Amigos (Two Rivers app): offers some trip-planning functionality.

**8. Partner Updates — 11:16 a.m.**

**All**

**Town of Snowmass Village (TOSV)**

- Expanding service to all of Snowmass, outlying housing, and trailheads.
- The transit-oriented gondola is being replaced, which is expected to increase ridership from roughly 5,000 to 11,000.
- Bus service being added to Ziegler Reservoir to see the dinosaur/“old bones” tour.
- Facility feasibility study updates underway.

**CDOT**

- September 21 deadline for the 5309 application ($21M available; $400M in NOFO).
- Talk to CTE if the group believes it may qualify.

**Steamboat Springs**

- RTA: search underway for a new Executive Director; the current ED's transition is set for 2028. Working on rebranding. SST is expanding micro-transit/summer service.
- New housing has been successful — 250 units expected to increase ridership.
- Fairplay route: no more passengers can be picked up at this deadhead currently.

**Summit Stage**

- Bus barn to be finished by Fall.
- On hold with any expansion; the Leadville route is decreasing due to lack of funding.

**Vail**

- Increased routes during peak times; ridership up 20%.

**Basalt**

- Expanded Basalt Connect service into unincorporated areas.

**CORE**

- Phase 1 of the 10-year plan underway (Hwy 6).
- In-house work targeted for completion by end of summer (all CORE).

**CLEER**

- TMO: April meeting — developing a plan for structure/home retrofits (1 of 3 such efforts in the country); adding RD.
- Planning a regional Bike to Work Day.

**RFTA**

- New flyer service.
- Hogback funding discussion — a 3-year plan is on the table.

- 2-year master plan launched in July.

**Winter Park**

- Granby to Grand Lake route connects with rail passengers — runs 3x/day, ~12 people/day, 365 days/year, and is free.
- Micro-transit pilot has seen more than 1,400 riders since June; service will pull back in winter. Program has been very successful.
- Installed an electro-coagulation water recycling system to wash buses — one of 3 such systems in the country.

**9. Adjourn — 11:30 a.m.**

Meeting adjourned. (Sam Guarino)