



In November 2000, the Roaring Fork Transportation Authority (RFTA) was created by voters in seven jurisdictions. At that time, the RFTA members included the communities of Aspen, Snowmass Village, Pitkin County, Basalt, a portion of Eagle County, Carbondale, and Glenwood Springs. The newest member, New Castle, joined RFTA in November of 2004.

RFTA is governed by an eight-member Board of Directors. Each member government appoints a regular member and one alternate from its Council.

## RFTA AT A GLANCE

### TRANSIT

RFTA provides extensive commuter bus services within the Roaring Fork Valley between Aspen and Glenwood Springs. Limited commuter bus services are provided between Glenwood Springs and Rifle (the Grand Hogback bus service). Intra city bus services are provided within Aspen and Glenwood Springs through contracts with these municipalities. A variety of other seasonal services are also provided. RFTA recently began providing the Traveler transportation service for senior citizens and persons with disabilities who reside in Garfield County, under a contract with Garfield County. In 2003, RFTA was awarded three of the top honors by the Colorado Association of Transit Agencies (CASTA) including the award for "Large Transit Agency of the Year," which it was awarded again in 2006.



### ACTIVE BUS FLEET

- 100 total buses
- 11 hybrid buses
- 10 mini buses and vans

### FACILITIES

- Bus stops served - 175
- Park & Ride lots served - 12
- 34 miles of multi-use trails, uninhibited by vehicular traffic
- Maintenance facilities/offices located in Aspen, Carbondale, Glenwood Springs

### SERVICE STATISTICS

- 70-mile service corridor between Aspen and Rifle
- Number of counties served - 3
- Number of municipalities served - 8
- Regional population served - 66,000 (according to 2000 data)
- In the first half of 2008, system-wide ridership is up 7.5%, with an estimated ridership by year end of 4.75 M
- Grand Hogback commuter ridership in 2007 was 75,000 and is forecasted to reach or exceed 100,000 by the end of 2008
- 2008 public opinion survey indicates that 79% of those polled within the jurisdiction give RFTA a positive overall rating and 89% of those who said they used RFTA gave a positive rating.

### 2007 DATA

- 3.69 M vehicle miles driven
- 4.45 M passengers transported on all services (8.7% increase over 2006)
- 250 employees during peak winter season; 210 year-round

### FINANCIAL

- Total operating and capital budgets:
  - 2007 – approximately \$38 M (operations and capital)
  - 2008 – approximately \$35 M (operations and capital)
- \$5.26 M in federal and state grants in 2007 and \$3 M in 2008
- 32% of regional commuter service operating costs are covered by fares

### TRAILS

RFTA manages 34 miles of the Rio Grande rail corridor in the Roaring Fork Valley between Glenwood Springs and Woody Creek. RFTA is preserving the corridor as a future transit corridor. In the interim, RFTA has constructed and is maintaining the Rio Grande Trail for pedestrian, bike and equestrian use.



### ECO-FRIENDLY

In an effort to be conscious of the environment, we use biodiesel fuel in our fleet of hybrid and diesel-powered buses and ethanol in our gasoline vehicles to reduce emissions.



**BIOFUELS**  
Power Your Green Ride

### OPERATING DATA FOR THE SH82 VALLEY COMMUTER SERVICES

- Provides approximately 6,300 rides on an average winter day
- Eliminates approximately 4,200 vehicle trips from Highway 82 on an average winter day, assuming 1.5 passengers per vehicle
- Provides approximately 5,400 rides on an average summer day
- Eliminates approximately 3,600 cars from Highway 82 on an average summer day
- Provides approximately 5,000 rides per day on an average day during the year (including off-peak Fall & Spring seasons)
- Eliminates 3,300 car trips on an average day during the year
- On one peak day during the winter of 2007, RFTA transported approximately 43,250 passengers system-wide during X-Games

# CONNECTING OUR REGION WITH TRANSIT AND TRAILS



## MILE MARKERS 2007-2008

### TRANSIT OPERATIONS AND FLEET INFO

- Implemented free bus service from Brush Creek Intercept Lot to Aspen & Snowmass Village which, during July 2008, had a 58% increase in ridership over the same route when fares were charged.
- Added a new Zipline run - this experimental service gives a mid-day option for a speedy round trip between Glenwood and Aspen.
- Awarded a \$1.3 M federal ATPPL grant to purchase four new hybrid buses, – a cleaner, energy efficient way to transport passengers to the Maroon Bells and to the ski areas.
- Added three new 57-passenger over-the-road vehicles to help alleviate overcrowding on Highway 82 corridor commuter routes.
- Introduced the new revolutionary Bike Express service, providing a unique solution to limited bike capacity - (able to carry 14 bikes on one bus).



### FACILITIES AND TRAILS



- Completed the Rio Grande Trail (RGT), a continuous 44-mile multi-use trail between Glenwood Springs and Aspen, unobstructed by vehicular traffic. RFTA receives \$1.4 M in state and federal grants for the effort and \$350,000 from Garfield County.
- New trail map created and distributed to facilitate usage, and educate trail users on trail history, rules and etiquette.

- Opened the new Carbondale Park & Ride – a key facility for RFTA valley services now heavily utilized.
- Procured additional employee housing to assist in employee recruiting and retention.
- Increased security at stations and on buses with increased security officers and improved camera systems.

### ADMINISTRATION

- Received Distinguished Budget Presentation Award by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States - 2007 and 2008.
- Progressed the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project – Refined project costs, service plans and funding strategies. Submitted federal grant application for \$25 M (award is contingent on ability to collect additional local revenue). Working to build awareness and obtain funding/support from local, state and federal sources. [www.rftabrt.com](http://www.rftabrt.com)
- Managing state and federal grants totaling \$8.26 M in 2007/08.
- Working with upper valley governments to reconfigure upper valley transit services so as to maximize efficiencies with new bus lanes.
- CEO provided input on Governor's Blue Ribbon Transportation Panel, with recommendations regarding dedicated State funding for public transit.
- Continued "Communities in Motion" marketing partnership with City of Aspen, Town of Snowmass Village and City of Glenwood Springs.
- Added a safety manager to keep workplace safety a priority.



[www.rfta.com](http://www.rfta.com) – (970)925-8484

**ASPEN**

51 Service Center, Aspen, CO

**GLENWOOD SPRINGS**

2307 Wulfsohn Rd, Glenwood Springs, CO

**CARBONDALE**

0766 Industrial Pl, Carbondale, CO

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