



Community Planning & Permitting

Transportation Planning Division • 2045 13th Street • Boulder, Colorado 80302 • Tel: 303.441.3930
Website: www.bouldercounty.org/transportation/multimodal

DATE: May 24, 2022

TO: Doug Rex, Executive Director, Denver Regional Council of Governments
Ron Papsdorf, Deputy Director, Transportation Planning, DRCOG

FROM: Kathleen Bracke, Deputy Director, Community Planning & Permitting –
Transportation Planning, Boulder County

CC: Alex Hyde-Wright, Principal Planner, CP&P – Transportation Planning
Angel Bond, Mobility for All Program Manager, CP&P – Transportation Planning

RE: FTA ARPA Funds for small UZAs within Boulder County

Boulder County, in conjunction with the local jurisdictions of the cities of Boulder, Longmont, Louisville, Lafayette, and the Town of Erie, is providing this letter to the Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG) as part of our ongoing multiagency process to designate Boulder County as the direct recipient of the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding designated for the small Urbanized Areas (UZAs) within the county.

This process is consistent with the joint letter submitted by Boulder County and the Regional Transportation District (RTD) to the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) and FTA in October 2021 (see attachment 1).

Boulder County appreciates DRCOG's assistance to help us with the process to amend the DRCOG Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and related State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) to reflect the FTA ARPA funds for the small UZAs within the county. Our understanding is that the TIP amendment process will include presenting this information at the upcoming DRCOG TAC, RTC and Board meetings in June-July. Subsequent to the DRCOG TIP amendment process, there will be process with CDOT to amend the STIP.

As part of this ongoing multiagency process, Boulder County has developed the enclosed Program of Projects (POP) which outlines how the FTA ARPA funding identified for the small UZAs of Boulder, Longmont, and Louisville-Lafayette-Erie is intended to be used for transit activities in accordance with FTA eligibility criteria for the ARPA funding (see attachment 2). The POP is being provided to the public in both English and Spanish. The transit activities listed in the POP include fixed route operating expenses for restoring transit service operations impacted by the pandemic for the following routes: local HOP circulator within the City of Boulder; regional services for Lyons-Boulder recently renamed the "Lyons Flyer" and CO7/JUMP, CO119/BOLT, US287/LD1/2/X, Boulder-Nederland; and on-demand services in Lafayette/East Boulder County communities and Gunbarrel; plus applicable ADA paratransit service. Recognizing that our agencies and communities are continuing to experience on-going pandemic related impacts, there may be additional routes/transit services needed from now through 2027 that could be applicable/eligible for these FTA ARPA funds.

As background, Boulder County began the process to become the designated recipient of FTA ARPA funds for the small UZAs located in Boulder County beginning in October 2021. The FTA

ARPA funds for the small UZAs are outlined in the table below, and this funding will be used for ARPA-eligible transit programs directly serving the communities representing the small UZAs from 2022 through 2027:

| Boulder County UZAs | ARPA approximate available funding (2022-27): |
|--------------------------|---|
| | Boulder County |
| Boulder | \$32,292,525 |
| Longmont | \$ 1,355,722 |
| Louisville-Longmont-Erie | \$ 592,721 |
| | |
| Total: | \$34,240,968 |

The transit service investments using the FTA ARPA funds for the small UZAs within the county are consistent with the Boulder County [Transportation Master Plan](#) (see pages 11-13) for details of the Transit Implementation Action and Vision Network, including map and list of specific transit routes, and the county’s new [Mobility for All Ages & Abilities Coordinated Human Services Plan](#).

In addition, these services are consistent with other transit-related local, regional, and state plans, including the regional [Northwest Area Mobility Study](#) and local, regional and state air quality and climate action plans. The transit services that the FTA ARPA funds will be used for are also consistent with and complement the DRCOG [2050 Metro Vision Regional Transportation Plan Coordinated Transit Plan](#) (appendix J).

The transit service restorations using the FTA ARPA funds have been selected to complement RTD’s current and proposed service levels as proposed in their [System Optimization Plan](#) recognizing that RTD has limited capacity to restore local and regional routes that have been reduced or eliminated since the start of the pandemic and which will likely remain as-is or as-planned through 2027 or beyond.

Please let us know if you have any questions or suggestions for us as we continue our collaboration with DRCOG staff and our other agency partners to advance transit investments using the FTA ARPA funds designated for the small UZAs within Boulder County.

We appreciate your assistance and please let us know the next steps regarding the DRCOG TIP amendment process.

Thank you.

Attachments:

1. Joint Letter from Boulder County and RTD regarding FTA ARPA funds for small UZAs within Boulder County.
2. Boulder County Program of Projects for FTA ARPA funds for small UZAs



Board of County Commissioners

October 26, 2021

Shoshana Lew
Executive Director
Colorado Department of Transportation
2829 W. Howard Place
Denver, CO 80204

Dear Executive Director Lew,

In the spirit of shared goals and multi-agency partnerships, Boulder County and the Regional Transportation District (RTD) are jointly requesting that the approximately \$34 million in American Rescue Plan Act COVID relief funds intended for operating costs of public transit during the public health emergency within specified Boulder County Urbanized Areas (UZAs) be directed to Boulder County. Boulder County will work with local communities as well as with RTD, CDOT, and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) to develop a program of local and regional transit service delivery strategies. These strategies will be co-developed through a multi-agency collaborative approach. These federal funds will be invested in accordance with all federal funding requirements.

In support of our regional climate, air quality, and social equity goals, Boulder County and RTD and our state and local agency partners have the shared responsibility to encourage and support the use of public transit and other sustainable transportation options. We understand the magnitude of the impacts to RTD and our local communities from the COVID-19 pandemic and recognize that our collective paths forward to restore public health and our vibrant economy will require strong partnerships and collaboration.

RTD and Boulder County are committed to working together with CDOT, FTA, and all our agency partners to provide safe, affordable, equitable and sustainable transit service to our constituents to achieve our shared goals.

We thank our state and federal partners for working together for the betterment of our greater community.

Sincerely,

Matt Jones

Marta Loachamin

Claire Levy

Debra A. Johnson,
RTD General Manager/CEO

cc:

Governor Jared Polis

Cindy Terwilliger, Federal Transit Administration Regional Administrator, FTA Region 8
RTD Board of Directors

Matt Jones County Commissioner **Claire Levy** County Commissioner **Marta Loachamin** County Commissioner

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May 2022

NOTICE:

PROGRAM OF PROJECTS – FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT FUNDS FOR SMALL URBANIZED AREAS WITHIN BOULDER COUNTY

Boulder County has planned the following Program of Projects (POP) for the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding identified for the small Urbanized Areas (UZAs) of Boulder, Longmont, and Louisville-Lafayette-Erie.

Once final apportionments have been announced by the FTA and designated by the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT), the final dollar amounts may change, but identified projects will remain the same.

The POP complements the Denver Regional Council of Governments’ (DRCOG) FY2022-2025 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), CDOT State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), and the Regional Transportation District’s (RTD) current and proposed service levels as proposed in their System Optimization Plan, and Boulder County’s Transportation Master Plan and other transit-related state, regional and local plans.

In 2021, Boulder County began the process to become the Designated Recipient of FTA ARPA funds for the small UZAs located in Boulder County as outlined below:

| Boulder County UZAs | ARPA approximate available funding (2022-27): |
|--------------------------|---|
| | Boulder County |
| Boulder | \$32,292,525 |
| Longmont | \$ 1,355,722 |
| Louisville-Longmont-Erie | \$ 592,721 |
| | |
| Total: | \$34,240,968 |

As part of this process, and working in collaboration with local community partners, Boulder County has developed the proposed Program of Projects (POP) including:

Fixed Route Operating Expenses for restoring transit service operations impacted by the pandemic for the following routes: local HOP circulator within the City of Boulder; regional services for Lyons-Boulder recently renamed the “Lyons Flyer”, CO7/JUMP, CO119/BOLT, US287/LD1/2/X, Boulder-Nederland; and on-demand services in Lafayette/East Boulder County communities and Gunbarrel; plus applicable ADA paratransit service. Recognizing that our agencies and communities are continuing to experience on-going pandemic related impacts, there may be additional

routes/transit services needed from now through 2027 that could be applicable/eligible for these FTA ARPA funds. \$34,240,968 Federal, Local Match n/a.

Detailed information on the aforementioned projects may be obtained by contacting:

Kathleen Bracke, Deputy Director, Boulder County/Community Planning & Permitting-Transportation Planning, phone: (970) 219-6765 and email: kbracke@bouldercounty.org. Address: 2045 13th Street, Boulder, Colorado 80306

The formal public comment period begins on May 25, 2022 and concludes on June 30, 2022. A public meeting will be held virtually on June 8th from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. to allow for questions and comments.

To register for the virtual public meeting, please visit the Boulder County [transit planning website](#). All members of the public are encouraged to attend and provide comment at this open public hearing. Comments can also be submitted via the Boulder County Transit website: <https://www.bouldercounty.org/transportation/multimodal/transit-planning/> under Program of Projects or in writing to the Boulder County Community Planning & Permitting Office: 2045 13th Street, Boulder, Colorado 80306

Public comment is encouraged and if warranted, the Program of Projects may be amended prior to publication of the final Program of Projects. The public is invited to comment on the POP to Boulder County as well as through the Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG) Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) process. Pending no amendments after the public hearing, this proposed FFY2022 Program of Projects will be considered the final Program of Projects and will be forwarded to the DRCOG Transportation Advisory Committee and Council for review and consideration for approval. This public notice and time established for public review and comments on the TIP will satisfy the FTA Program of Projects requirements for the Urbanized Area Formula Program. This notice will serve as the final POP unless projects contained within are amended.