



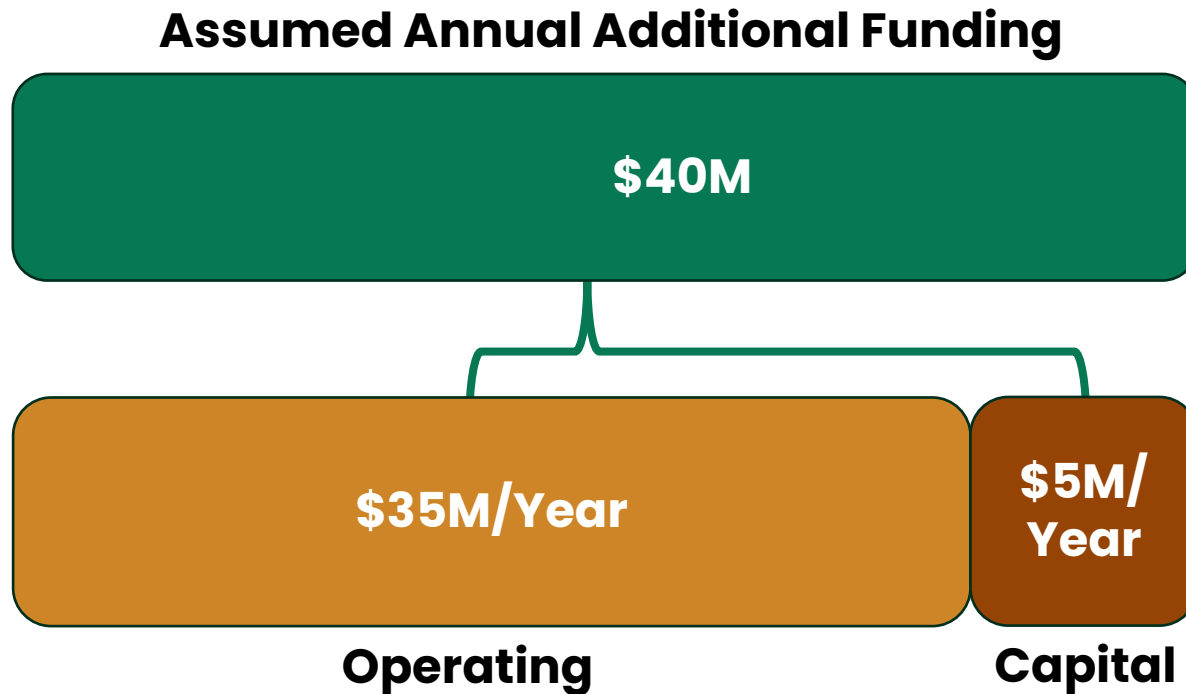
Boulder County Subregional Forum Technical Advisory Committee

Funding the Plan

September 21, 2026



Scenario Assumptions



Scenario 1: Grow Ridership

Attract more transit trips in high-demand corridors

Scenario 2: Cover the County

Expand geographic access and regional connectivity

Scenario 3: Support Daily Life

Make transit a more useful option for everyday travel

Funding the Plan

- Goal: \$40M in annual revenue
- Can be achieved through one funding source individually, or multiple funding sources combined
- Each source has benefits and drawbacks
 - Limits on use (e.g. capital or operations)
 - Revenue potential
 - Geographical applicability
- Home rule and statutory communities have different options/applicability
 - Boulder County is a statutory county
 - Home rule communities in Boulder County are: City of Boulder, Lafayette, Longmont, Louisville, Erie, Superior, Ward
 - A Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) is being analyzed as an organizational and funding mechanism

Potential Funding Sources

- Sales tax
- Property tax
- Occupation privilege fee
- Transportation mobility fee/transportation utility fee
- Lodging tax
- Rental car tax/fee
- Vehicle registration fee
- Impact fee/capital expansion fee

Getting to \$40 Million



Sales Tax

- \$40M annually is roughly equivalent to an additional 0.45-cent sales tax (based on 2024 taxable sales of ~\$9 billion)
- This equates to an additional \$0.45 on a \$100 purchase



Property Tax

- \$40M annually is roughly equivalent to a 1.65 mill property tax (based on 2026 assessed valuation), or \$1.65 per \$1,000 of assessed value
- With municipal share back, where the county receives 57% of collected revenue, annual revenue would need to be \$70M, equivalent to 2.9 mills

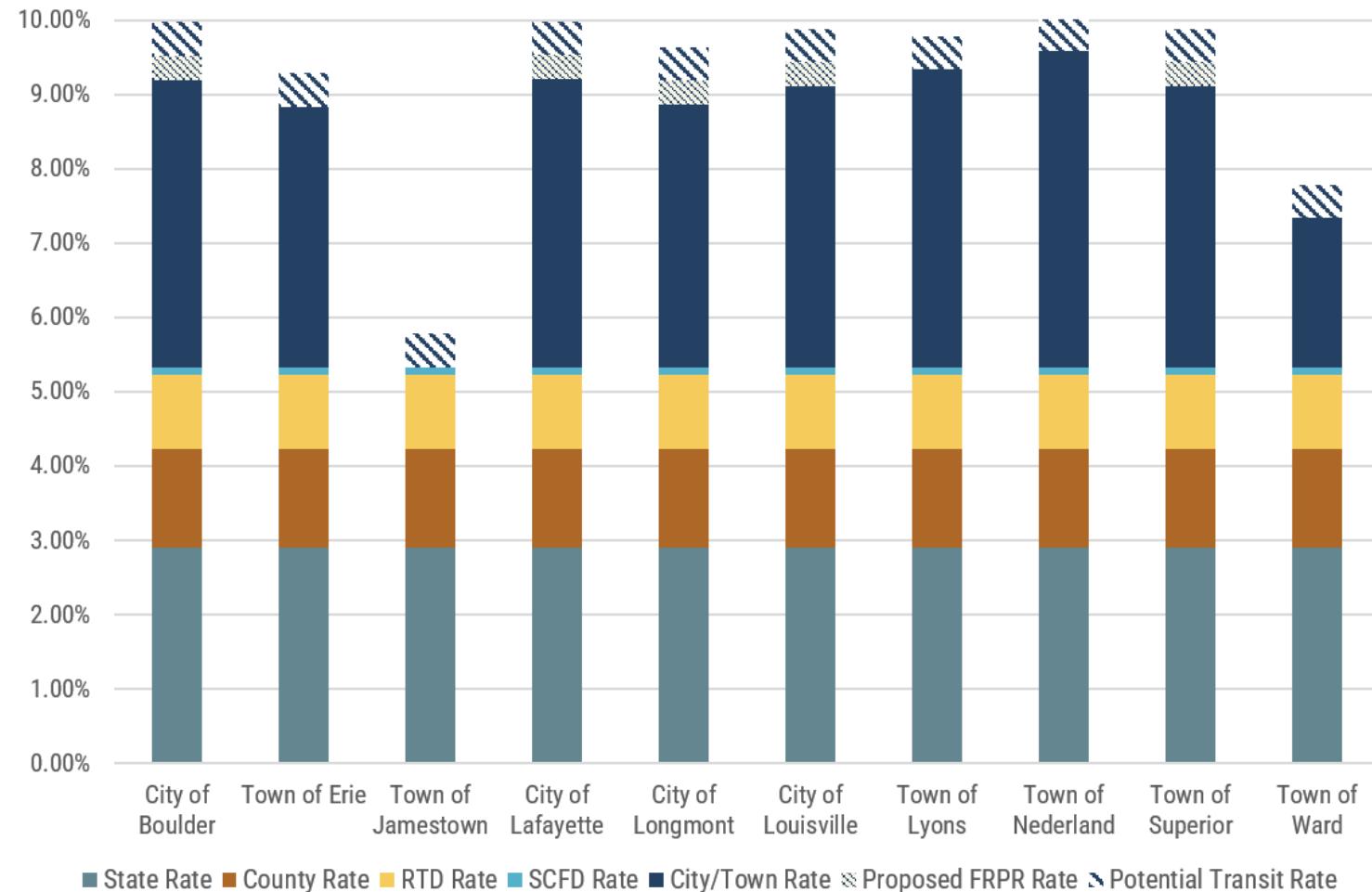


Occupational Privilege Fee (OPF)

- \$40M annually is roughly equivalent to a \$25/month OPT (per employee per month, split between employer and employee)
- Assumes that 82% of employees in the county are subject to the OPT (157,000 employees)
- Note that 10% of employees (~15,700), are state/federal employees and thus pay no employer contribution

Sales Tax

- Current sales tax rates vary across Boulder County
 - All in, unincorporated areas and sales in Jamestown are taxed at 5.335%
 - In Boulder, the all-in rate is 9.195%, or 9.345% for Food Service
 - Local sales tax rates range from 2% in Ward to 4% in Lyons
- All tax rates in Boulder County include the RTD and SCFD sales taxes
 - RTD: 1%
 - SCFD: 0.1%
- The state sales tax rate is 2.9%
- Longmont, Louisville, Lafayette, Superior, and City of Boulder will be voting on a 0.33% sales tax for Front Range Passenger Rail in November



Sales Tax in Context



Increase to County Levy

- A 0.45 cent sales tax would represent a 34% increase to the current County sales tax of 1.335 cents



Overall Increase

- Depending on the community, this would be an increase of between 5% - 8% over current total sales tax rates (not including November 2026 ballot measures)

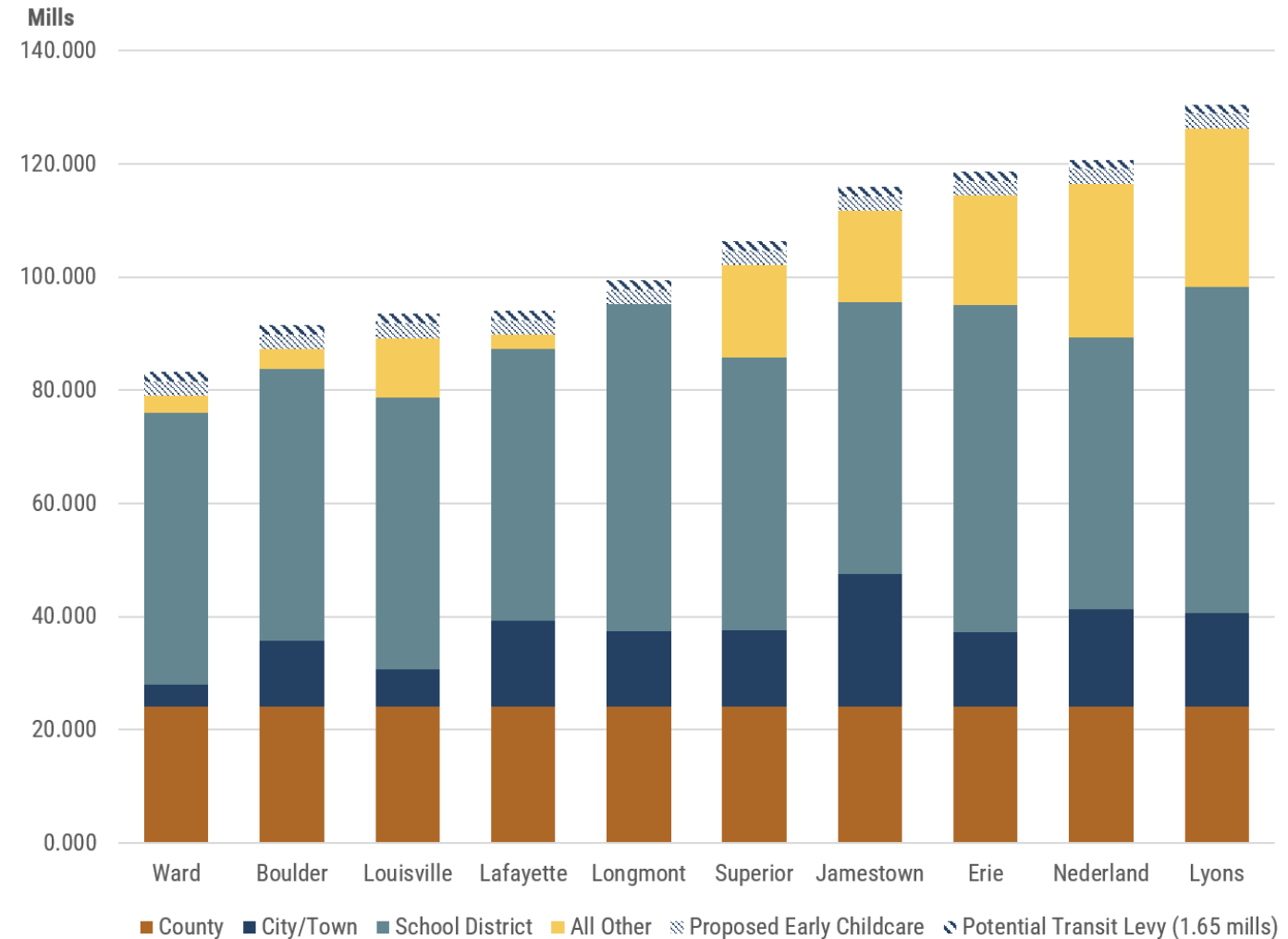


Current Rates

- Current rates in the County range from 5.335 cents in Jamestown to 9.585 cents in Nederland
- 6 out of 10 communities in the County have sales tax rates over 9 cents, including City of Boulder, Lafayette, Superior, and Louisville, which are all voting on the FRPR sales tax this fall

Property Tax

- Boulder County's total assessed valuation in 2024 was \$11,542,975,548
 - \$6,881,414,087 residential (60%)
 - \$2,964,223,821 commercial (26%)
 - \$1,521,056,522 industrial (13%)
- Boulder County mill rate is 24.046 mills
- Overall mill rates range from ~79 mills (Ward) to ~126 mills (Lyons)
- School District mill rate ranges from ~48 mills to ~58 mills
- All other mills vary depending on the fire protection district(s) and other special districts
- A 2.579 mill for early child care is on the November 2026 ballot



Property Tax in Context



Increase to County Levy

- A 1.65 mill property tax would represent a 6.9% increase to the current County mill levy of 24.046 mills
- A 2.9 mill property tax would represent a 12% increase to the current County mill levy



Overall Increase

- Depending on the community, a 1.65 mill would be an increase of between 1-2% over current total property tax rates
- This would be an increase of between 2-4% over current total property tax rates (not including November 2026 ballot measures)



Impact by Land Use

- Residential (6.8%) and commercial (26%) land uses are taxed at different assessment rates
- For a \$750,000 home (assessed value of \$46,240), 1.65 mills would be an additional \$76.30 of property tax annually
- For a \$750,000 business (assessed value of \$195,000), this would be an additional \$321.75 of property tax annually

Occupational Privilege Fee (OPF)

Background

- Raises revenue through businesses operating in a local jurisdiction and/or employees of the business
- More beneficial in places that serve as “employee hubs” due to the burden incurred by commuters

Applicability

- Can only be adopted by home rule communities
- Does not apply to all employees
 - Average of 82% of employees are subject, based on hours worked and other factors
- Government and non-profit employers may be exempt from paying employer share

Implementation

- Can position as a fee, but may require voter approval under TABOR
 - Has not been adopted since TABOR was passed in 1992
- Total monthly fee is generally split 50/50 between the employer and employee

OPF in Context



Increase to Current Rate

- No community in Boulder County currently levies an OPF



Overall Increase

- A \$25 OPF would be the highest in the state



Peer Communities

- Only 4 communities in the state currently levy an OPF
 - Greenwood Village \$4
 - Sheridan \$6
 - Glendale \$10
 - Denver \$9.75

Other Revenue Sources

LOW REVENUE GENERATION POTENTIAL, LIMITED APPLICABILITY

- **Transportation Maintenance Fee/Transportation Utility Fee**
 - Can be implemented through ordinance by home rule communities
 - Can only be used for operations & maintenance (not capital)
- **Lodging Tax**
 - Counties cannot levy a county lodging tax in municipalities that already have a lodging tax
 - Most municipalities already have lodging taxes, as well as the majority of the lodging inventory
- **Rental Car Tax/Fee**
 - Can only be implemented by home rule municipalities
- **Vehicle Registration Fee**
 - Can only be charged by a special district
- **Impact Fee/Capital Expansion Fee**
 - Would apply to unincorporated areas and (usually) any statutory town
 - Would not apply to any home rule jurisdiction unless there was an agreement in place
 - Funds can only be used for capital projects

Regional Transportation Authority (RTA)

- Municipalities, counties, and special districts can create an RTA to address transportation needs within a specific geographic region
- RTAs can finance, construct, operate, and maintain regional transportation systems within their boundaries (and sometimes outside their boundaries)
- An RTA in Boulder County may need IGAs with CDOT and RTD for proposed transportation system elements that affect, alter, or negatively impact road systems controlled by those entities
- RTA boards may also create local improvement districts (LIDs) within their boundaries to facilitate the financing, construction, operation, or maintenance of regional transportation system improvements

Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) cont'd

- RTAs can establish and collect, tolls, rates, and charges to finance a transportation system
- RTAs may also
 - Levy sales taxes up to 2%
 - Impose an annual motor vehicle registration fee up to \$10
 - Levy a visitor benefit tax (lodging tax) (no more than 50% of revenues can come from this tax)
 - Impose a uniform mill levy up to 5 mills
 - Establish regional transportation activity enterprises
 - Issue bonds

RTA	Sales Tax Rate	Property Tax Rate
Aerotropolis	--	5.0 mills
Eagle Valley	0.5%	--
Gunnison Valley	1.0%	--
Pikes Peak	1.0%	2.65 mills
Roaring Fork	0.4-1.0%	2.65 mills
San Miguel	1.07%	2.086 mills
South Platte Valley	0.1%	--



Looking Ahead

Q4 2026

- RTD Connect Workshop in Boulder County
Sept 30, 2026
- Update Linking Boulder County scenarios
based on RTD's CONNECT

October Forum TAC Meeting
Debrief RTD CONNECT
Scenarios

November Forum Meeting
Potential Linking Boulder County Revenue
Sources Presentation & Discussion

