



January 29, 2021

Governor Jared Polis  
State Capitol Building  
200 E Colfax Ave., Rm 136  
Denver, CO 80203

RE: Transportation Funding Package

Governor Polis,

The City of Aspen understands how important it is to provide consistent funding to CDOT to maintain and improve roads throughout the state of Colorado. But, transit and multi modal programs and projects are extremely important as well. Transit and multi-modal programs help to reduce the pressure on our road system and give citizens alternatives to the automobile.

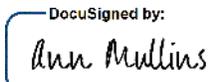
The City of Aspen would like to see transit and other multi-modal projects be included in the new comprehensive transportation funding package currently under negotiation. Transit and multi-modal projects and operations are an important part of every urban and rural community. In the Aspen and the Roaring Fork Valley the Roaring Fork Transportation Authority (RFTA) provides transit service to almost 5 million riders a year. This service is critical to reducing emissions, reducing VMT, reducing congestion and providing daily service to many essential workers and visitors to the resort area. This service is an important part of the climate action plan adopted in Aspen and the valley.

The City of Aspen has several multi-modal programs that rely on state funding as well. These include bike sharing, car sharing, micro transit, pedestrian programs, employer outreach and programs with our schools. These programs rely on grant funding from the state and would not be possible without that support.

These transit services and multi-modal programs need consistent and continued funding at the state level. This includes funding for operations and vehicle replacement. The state currently only provides about \$15 million a year for transit and multi-modal programs. Many states provide much more. Every year is a scramble for funding with the loss of transit services and multi-modal programs as a possibility. It is very difficult to plan and operate in an environment that has an unstable and inconsistent funding system.

The City of Aspen urges you to include transit and multi-modal programs in the comprehensive transportation funding package under consideration.

Sincerely,

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Ann Mullins  
Aspen City Council & RFTA Board Member

cc: Senior Policy Advisor Cary Kennedy [Cary.kennedy@state.co.us](mailto:Cary.kennedy@state.co.us)  
Senator Faith Winter [faith.winter.senate@state.co.us](mailto:faith.winter.senate@state.co.us)  
Representative Gray [matt@matthewgray.us](mailto:matt@matthewgray.us)  
CDOT Executive Director Shoshana Lew, [shoshana.lew@state.co.us](mailto:shoshana.lew@state.co.us)  
Transportation Commissioner District 7 Kathy Hall [Kathy.hall10@outlook.com](mailto:Kathy.hall10@outlook.com)