

# Elected Officials Transportation Committee (EOTC)

**Thursday, October 24, 2024 - 4:00pm**

**Pitkin County Board of County Commissions Room**

**530 East Main, Aspen, CO 81611**

**Host and Chair – Pitkin County**

## **MEETING IS VIRTUAL AND IN PERSON**

**You can view the livestream on Grassroots TV (Channel 11 CGTV)**

Please click the link below to join the meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88959694100?pwd=IMXJldRcuXz3RkBK4XXzEUblWfseJH.1>

Passcode: 239289

Webinar ID: 889 5969 4100

## **AGENDA**

- I. 4:00 – 4:05 CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**
- II. 4:05 – 4:10 APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 5, 2023 ACTION MINUTES**  
**APPROVAL OF AUGUST 13 & 19, SEPTEMBER 11 & 25, 2024 ACTION MINUTES**
- III. 4:10 - 4:20 PUBLIC COMMENT FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA**  
*(Comments limited to three minutes per person)*
- IV. 4:20 – 4:30 INFORMATION ONLY: 2024 WORKPLAN UPDATES**
- V. 4:30 – 5:00 PUBLIC HEARING: EOTC 2025 BUDGET and WORK PLAN**  
*Decision needed: Administrative direction authorizing staff recommendation*  
*(Motion, Second, and Roll Call Vote by Jurisdiction)*
- VI. 5:00 – 5:45 CASTLE CREEK BRIDGE DISCUSSION**
- VII. 5:45 – 6:00 2025 EOTC MEETING DATES & PROPOSED TOPICS**
- VII. 6:00 ADJOURN MEETING**  
*(Motion, Second, and Roll Call Vote by Jurisdiction)*

**\* Next Regular EOTC meeting is October 2, 2025. Town of Snowmass Village, host**

**EOTC Background, Documents, and Packet Materials may be found here:**

**<https://pitkincounty.com/1322/Elected-Officials-Transportation-Committ>**

**EOTC Vision:** We envision the Roaring Fork Valley as the embodiment of a sustainable transportation system emphasizing mass transit and mobility that contributes to the happiness and wellbeing of residents and visitors.

**EOTC Mission:** Work collectively to reduce and manage the volume of vehicles on the road and parking system and continue to develop and support a comprehensive multimodal, long-range strategy that will insure a convenient, equitable and efficient transportation system for the Roaring Fork Valley.

Summary of State Statue and Ballot Requirements: The 0.5% County Transit Sales and Use Tax shall be used for the purpose and financing, constructing, operating and managing a public, fixed route mass transportation system within the Roaring Fork Valley.

## AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

**EOTC MEETING DATE:** October 24, 2024

**AGENDA ITEM TITLE:** 2024 Work Plan Updates

**STAFF RESPONSIBLE:** Linda DuPriest, Regional Transportation Director

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**ISSUE STATEMENT:** This memo includes key updates on projects from the 2024 Work Plan.

### **A. Brush Creek Park & Ride FLAP Project**

After delays at the manufacturer, lighting was finally installed in June of 2024, with the completed project passing final inspection by Pitkin County Community Development Department soon thereafter. We are still waiting on final billing resolution from the Federal Highway Administration's FLAP Program, which could stretch into 2025. Such a resolution could result in return of contingency funds in the approximate amount of \$1,068,355 into the EOTC unassigned fund balance. In early 2024 we applied for a federal grant for Level 2 EV chargers to be deployed in 35 spots at Brush Creek. We did not receive that grant. In summer of 2024, the EOTC joined a regional partnership managed through the Northwest Colorado Council of Governments to go for a new federal grant more favorable to large-scale EV projects. We expect to learn of the success of that application in early winter 2025.

### **B. Brush Creek Park & Ride Monitoring & Management Plan**

In early summer 2024 staff selected planning firm DJ&A to conduct the plan. The goal of the project is to determine how the lot is currently being used, including how many car trips are converting to transit trips into Aspen, Snowmass and other destinations, the extent to which the City of Aspen's carpool program is being utilized, monitoring of overnight and camping uses, parking activity by private businesses, and other operations activities. The scope of work includes public outreach to users and the general public down the Roaring Fork Valley to Glenwood Springs and beyond, plus an analysis of best practices in technological solutions for monitoring and management. Initial existing conditions analysis has begun, with observations during the JAS Festival and a "normal" week of commuting, to be followed by observations during peak winter visitor and ski season. The project is expected to wrap up in late Spring 2025.

### **C. Permanent Automatic Vehicle Counters**

After a successful trial of AI vehicle detection technology on HWY 82 near the Lumberyard, Staff members of the EOTC and Pitkin County Public Works and Telecommunications selected Rekor to provide the eight permanence automatic vehicle counters. Installation of the counters began in late September 2024, but was halted temporarily as the Florida-based Rekor technicians needed to return home in the aftermath of Hurricane Helene. EOTC staff had hoped to show a demonstration of the final tech product at this meeting, but that won't be possible. In 2025 staff will utilize data from the eight camera locations in compiling a comprehensive travel report of the upper Roaring Fork Valley that will feature not only numbers of vehicles, but the breakdown of over a dozen different types of vehicles and the approximate amount of greenhouse gas

emissions attributed to each type. This data will give us a much more detailed picture of the different types of “traffic” in the region to inform mitigation strategies.

#### **D. Truscott to Owl Creek Trail**

This project is an element of the Near Term Transit Improvement Program begun in 2021. It will complete an important gap in the Aspen pathway system between Owl Creek Road and the Truscott underpass near the Aspen Golf Course on the south side of Hwy 82. Residents, workers and visitors to Buttermilk and Home Team Barbecue, plus residents of Aspen Country Inn and the Pomegranate Condominiums will have safe and direct bicycle/pedestrian access to upvalley RFTA stops and the tunnel connecting to the pathway system into Aspen and Maroon Creek Rd. Consultant team lead by SGM has completed 90% design; in 2025 the final 10% will be completed in coordination with the Truscott Tunnel improvements design being managed by the City of Aspen. The two projects will tie in and be combined for one construction project planned in 2027.

#### **E. Buttermilk At-Grade Bike/Pedestrian Crossing Improvements**

Planning and design of at-grade pedestrian improvements at Owl Creek Rd and the southside of Hwy 82 began in late Spring 2024. The consultant team is coordinating with CDOT on various strategies for making the crossing more comfortable for pedestrians including redesign of the southeast corner, lighting, positioning of the pedestrian signal activation button, possible speed tables, leading pedestrian interval and others. Design and approval from CDOT are expected by early 2025, with construction planned for Summer.

#### **F. Maroon Bells CRMP Implementation Plan**

After late 2024 approval by the EOTC, the project will begin in October. The first task will deal with user conflicts between travel modes on Maroon Creek Road, pricing of parking, shuttle and e-bike services and studying visitor capacity.

#### **G. Aspen Airport Business Center Bike/Pedestrian Transportation Plan**

Progress of the City of Aspen’s Lumberyard housing project triggered a need to analyze, plan and design safe bicycle/pedestrian connectivity from the development into the east access to the AABC and RFTA bus stops. The plan will also consider bicycle/pedestrian safety issues throughout the AABC, including the area of Sage Way and Baltic Avenue, access to Colorado Mountain College, the North Forty neighborhood, RFTA operations facility, and to key eateries, businesses and residential developments throughout the AABC. The plan was proposed to the three EOTC jurisdictions separately in August and September 2024, for a desired project start date sometime in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of the year. While the Councils of Aspen and Snowmass Village approved the project, the Pitkin County Board of County Commissioners voted to further discuss the project with the full EOTC at this October 24<sup>th</sup> meeting.

#### **H. City of Aspen Transportation Projects**

City of Aspen staff will give a brief presentation for the Castle Creek Bridge replacement discussion in a separate agenda item.

#### **I. Town of Snowmass Village Transportation Projects**

Director of Transportation Sam Guarino will give a brief update on Town of Snowmass Village transportation projects for the remainder of 2024 and 2025.

**AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY**

**EOTC MEETING DATE:** October 24, 2024

**AGENDA ITEM TITLE:** EOTC 2025 Budget and Work Plan

**STAFF RESPONSIBLE:** Linda DuPriest, Regional Transportation Director

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**ISSUE STATEMENT:** Attached for review and approval is the proposed 2025 Budget and Work Plan. This is to provide transparency in the work efforts proposed to advance the 2020 EOTC Strategic Plan and 2020 EOTC Comprehensive Valley Transportation Plan (CVTP). In addition to the budget and work items, this Plan recommends a meeting date for 2025.

**BACKGROUND:** The creation of an annual Budget and Work Plan is a requirement of the EOTC Strategic Plan. This Plan is to bring together the following work projects facing the EOTC through 2025. The Plan is not intended to be all-inclusive and is anticipated to be updated as needed.

**EOTC REVENUES:** Funding for EOTC initiatives in 2025 will increase slightly over 2024. In 2024, expected revenues will trail 2023 by 6.3%; in 2025, revenues will exceed 2024 by approximately 6.8%. The attached proposed budget document shows expected revenues and expenditures from 2023 through 2029. Revenue details are as follows:

**1% Transit Sales Tax, pass-through** – 2024 year-end estimate is \$20,683,501. The 2025 estimate is \$21,775,758. 100% of this revenue category passes through to City of Aspen, Town of Snowmass Village and RFTA.

**0.5% Transit Sales Tax** – 2024 Year end estimate is \$10,687,786. The 2025 projection is \$11,203,664. Roughly 81% of this category passes through to RFTA, leaving the remainder for EOTC initiatives, yielding **\$2,026,405** to EOTC in 2024 and a projected **\$2,124,215** in 2025.

**Other EOTC Revenues** -- This includes construction use tax, intergovernmental contributions and interest income. Total revenues in these categories in 2024 is **\$1,221,750**. In 2025 this category represents **\$1,156,750**.

**Fund Balance** – With the expected revenues and proposed projects and work plan, fund balance at the end of 2024 is expected at **\$8,593,850**. In 2025, the fund balance projection is **\$9,506,247**. Both of these amounts are in addition to the \$6,000,000 in reserve for the Snowmass Transit Center.

**2024 WORK PLAN AND BUDGET:** Note that while the Work Plan includes all proposed projects to be undertaken by the EOTC in the coming year, some projects also require a budget expenditure to proceed, while others require funding from EOTC but no significant staff time. EOTC staff proposes the following for 2024:

**A. Brush Creek Park and Ride**

**EV Charger Install – Work Plan only (tentative pending outcome of Northwest Colorado Council of Governments regional EV grant application)**

Should the grant application be successful, Staff will work with private equipment provider and local utility on installation of 34 Level II chargers.

**Monitoring and Management Plan – Work Plan and Budget: \$75,000**

Due to the timing of the 2024 start of this project, it is anticipated that the work will continue into the first few months of 2025, in particularly to observe conditions unique to winter and ski season use by the commuting workforce, visitors, seasonal workers who live in their vehicles and winter residence by other unhoused individuals. This budget item is proposed also to fund expansion of the original scope of work to respond to questions arising from the study, should it be needed.

**Restrooms and Bus Turnaround Bid Planning – Work Plan and Budget: \$50,000 (tentative pending recommendation from Monitoring & Management Plan)**

The Brush Creek FLAP project originally included two work items that had to be omitted in 2023 due to high construction costs. It is likely that one cause of the exorbitant costs and lack of bids was the nature of the project being funded and managed by the Federal Highway Administration; many potential bidders avoid federally-managed infrastructure projects. It is possible that a locally-managed bid process could yield more reasonable costs that would allow the original vision for improving Brush Creek Park & Ride to be fully realized. In addition, questions remain about the practicality of providing restrooms at the Park & Ride unless there is a monitoring and management strategy, details of which will not be fully understood until the Brush Creek Monitoring & Management Plan is well underway, and recommendations are presented to the public and ultimately to the EOTC for approval. Issues with providing a heated building at a lot that has seen camping and long-term occupation by unhoused individuals include safety for all lot users, staffing for opening and closing the building each night, plus janitorial services, and additional law enforcement needs.

**EOTC Near Term Transit Improvement Program**

**B. Truscott to Owl Creek Trail – Work Plan and Budget: \$10,000 (tentative; work could occur in 2026)**

Remaining 10% design, construction documents, identification of funding sources, coordination with City of Aspen trails capital planning.

**C. Buttermilk Bike/Pedestrian At-Grade Crossing Improvements – Work Plan and Budget: \$240,000**

Design, public outreach, funding identification (if additional needed), and implementation for alternative pedestrian safety treatments including prohibiting right turn on red and providing a pedestrian leading interval at Owl Creek Rd plus right-turn-on-red prohibition, speed table across Owl Creek Rd, additional signage and lighting, enhanced law enforcement during ski season, and other potential solutions.

**D. Permanent Automated Vehicle Counters -- Work Plan and Budget: \$10,000 software and communication annual costs**

Counters will be installed in eight locations by late 2024: Brush Creek Rd; Owl Creek Rd; Airport/AABC Area; McClain Flats Rd; Castle Creek Bridge; Power Plant Rd; Maroon Creek Rd., Hwy 82 east of Aspen. A Comprehensive Travel Data Report to be compiled in 2025 will include motor vehicle counts, transit ridership, bicycle/pedestrian volumes on selected trails. After installation and deployment of the system, there will be an annual cost of approximately \$10,000 per year for ongoing software license and communication access.

**E. Maroon Bells Comprehensive Recreation Management Plan Implementation Plan – Work Plan only**

With the work on the project beginning in 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter of 2024, it is anticipated that the approved project budget of \$36,800 will be spent in 2024, with some project coordination and administration continuing into 2025.

**F. AABC Bicycle/Pedestrian Transportation Plan – Work Plan and Budget: \$100,000**

Pending discussion with the full EOTC at the October 24<sup>th</sup> meeting and subsequent approval, work on this project will begin in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2024. It is estimated that roughly half of the project budget of \$200,000 may be spent in 2024.

**Additional Work Plan and Budget Items**

**Ongoing Transportation Project funding – Work Plan and Budget Only: \$140,000**

This budget item is the ongoing contribution to regional WE-Cycle system. The EOTC director participates in the RFTA regional First/Last Mile Mobility advisory committee.

**Project Contingency Fund – Budget and Work Plan: \$100,000**

Now that the EOTC will meet altogether one time per year in the Fall, staff is proposing flexibility with a budget line item to address transportation challenges and opportunities that may

come up throughout the year. Another use for this budget category is to expand the scope of current projects should it be needed.

**X Games Transit Subsidy – Discussion and presentation by Aspen Skiing Company staff – Budget only; \$115,000**

**Member jurisdictions transportation projects support – Work Plan only** – EOTC staff will participate as appropriate in studies, committees and other work carried out by Pitkin County, City of Aspen, Town of Snowmass Village and RFTA.

**Aspen Pitkin County Airport multimodal transportation planning -- Work Plan only** – EOTC staff will assist with the second of RAISE grant application as needed, and provide multimodal transportation planning expertise for Airport Layout Plan project, ongoing in 2025.

**2025 EOTC Meeting Date**

Staff proposes Thursday October 2, 2025, 4:00 to 6:00 pm at the Town of Snowmass Village.

The Work Plan also calls for additional meetings, if necessary, in order to complete necessary tasks identified within the Plan. These meetings would be conducted individually at the three member jurisdictions.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

Adopt staff recommended 2025 EOTC Budget, Work Plan and Meeting Schedule (Motion, Second, and Roll Call Vote by Jurisdiction)

Adoption of the annual EOTC Work Plan and Meeting Schedule requires resolutions of approval from the City of Aspen, Town of Snowmass Village, and Pitkin County. Draft resolutions are attached to this memo. An affirmative vote by each jurisdiction at the EOTC meeting authorizes signature on these resolutions.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. Proposed 2025 Budget

## Pitkin County Transit Sales & Use Tax Fund 2025 Budget & Five-Year Plan

	2023 Actual	2024 Initial Budget	2024 Budget Adjustments	Projected Savings & Overages	2024 Year-End Estimate	2025 Budget	2026 Budget	2027 Budget	2028 Budget	2029 Budget
<b>Revenues</b>										
1% Transit Sales Tax	20,800,615	20,663,501	-	-	20,663,501	21,775,758	20,904,728	21,949,964	23,047,462	24,199,835
Pass-Through of 1% Sales Tax	(20,800,615)	(20,663,501)	-	-	(20,663,501)	(21,775,758)	(20,904,728)	(21,949,964)	(23,047,462)	(24,199,835)
<b>Net 1% Transit Sales Tax</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
0.5% Transit Sales Tax	10,716,082	10,687,786	-	-	10,687,786	11,203,664	10,755,517	11,293,293	11,857,958	12,450,856
Pass-Through of 0.5% Sales Tax (81.04%)	(8,684,313)	(8,661,381)	-	-	(8,661,381)	(9,079,449)	(8,716,271)	(9,152,085)	(9,609,689)	(10,090,173)
<b>Net 0.5% Transit Sales Tax</b>	<b>2,031,769</b>	<b>2,026,405</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,026,405</b>	<b>2,124,215</b>	<b>2,039,246</b>	<b>2,141,208</b>	<b>2,248,269</b>	<b>2,360,683</b>
Use Taxes	892,118	695,000	-	55,000	750,000	775,000	775,000	775,000	775,000	775,000
Intergovernmental	500,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fees and Charges for Services	5,400	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Revenue	-	-	-	-	-	55,200	-	-	-	-
Interest Income	530,187	461,750	-	-	461,750	507,157	461,880	530,820	503,410	565,790
<b>Total Net Revenues</b>	<b>3,959,474</b>	<b>3,183,155</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>55,000</b>	<b>3,238,155</b>	<b>3,461,572</b>	<b>3,276,126</b>	<b>3,447,028</b>	<b>3,526,679</b>	<b>3,701,473</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>										
Salaries and Wages	117,250	125,066	-	-	125,066	155,174	159,829	164,624	169,563	174,650
Employee Benefits	24,190	26,580	-	-	26,580	31,301	32,240	33,207	34,203	35,229
Health Insurance	10,598	11,642	-	-	11,642	14,552	15,280	16,350	17,495	18,720
Professional & Technical Services	18,661	32,487	-	-	32,487	68,436	70,147	71,901	73,699	75,541
Studies / Planning / Consultants	248,028	160,000	138,028	-	298,028	292,000	-	-	-	-
Property Services	185,973	104,500	-	-	104,500	115,500	118,388	121,348	124,382	127,492
Other Services	8,347	12,900	-	-	12,900	13,600	13,940	14,289	14,646	15,012
Supplies	1,444	1,000	-	-	1,000	1,000	1,025	1,051	1,077	1,104
Property	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Machinery & Equipment	5,269	252,500	-	-	252,500	-	-	-	-	-
Computers & Computer Equipment	-	2,000	-	-	2,000	2,000	-	-	-	-
Projects	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Snowmass Mall Transit Station	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pedestrian Access to SMV Mall	-	650,000	-	-	650,000	-	-	-	-	-
Brush Creek P&R FLAP Grant Match	3,198,317	500,000	1,068,355	(1,068,355)	500,000	1,068,355	-	-	-	-
Buttermilk Pedestrian Crossing Improv.	-	250,000	-	-	250,000	250,000	-	-	-	-
WE-Cycle Site Planning	-	50,000	-	-	50,000	-	-	-	-	-
Other Grants & Contributions	217,434	218,000	-	-	218,000	140,000	143,500	147,088	150,765	154,534
Other Expenditures	180,613	285,878	-	(106,971)	178,907	397,257	407,188	417,368	427,802	438,497
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>4,216,123</b>	<b>2,682,553</b>	<b>1,206,383</b>	<b>(1,175,326)</b>	<b>2,713,610</b>	<b>2,549,175</b>	<b>961,537</b>	<b>987,226</b>	<b>1,013,632</b>	<b>1,040,779</b>
Transfer to Other Funds	(25,000)	(35,000)	-	-	(35,000)	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Annual Surplus/(Deficit)</b>	<b>(281,649)</b>	<b>465,602</b>	<b>(1,206,383)</b>	<b>1,230,326</b>	<b>489,545</b>	<b>912,397</b>	<b>2,314,589</b>	<b>2,459,802</b>	<b>2,513,047</b>	<b>2,660,694</b>
Beginning Available Fund Balance					14,104,305	14,593,850	15,506,247	17,820,836	20,280,638	22,793,685
Ending Available Fund Balance					14,593,850	15,506,247	17,820,836	20,280,638	22,793,685	25,454,379
Reserved for Snowmass Village					6,000,000	6,000,000	6,000,000	6,000,000	6,000,000	6,000,000
<b>Unassigned Fund Balance</b>					<b>8,593,850</b>	<b>9,506,247</b>	<b>11,820,836</b>	<b>14,280,638</b>	<b>16,793,685</b>	<b>19,454,379</b>

**To:** Elected Officials Transportation Committee  
**From:** Aspen Skiing Company  
**Date:** October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024  
**Re:** 2025 X Games Aspen Transportation Funding Request

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In January, 2024, Aspen Snowmass hosted the 23<sup>rd</sup> consecutive X Games at Buttermilk Mountain with the support of our community partners. The event featured strong crowds, festival like feel, and incredible athletic highlights. It also helped us showcase everything our amazing resort and community has to offer on media platforms across the globe as well as providing top-tier winter sports athletes a venue to showcase their talents in a true ski town.

X Games continues to help fill occupancy in January, drive local tax revenues and increase global awareness of our sports and resort. X continues to offer a great means of communicating and interacting with youthful audiences on mainstream channels for the benefit of Aspen/Snowmass. One of many goals in hosting an event of this magnitude is to influence the influencers in the sport in an effort to support the youth in the sport and feed the generational pipeline for the sports of skiing and snowboarding.

Successful execution has always taken a collaborative effort between local entities, agencies, ASC and X to pull off an event of this caliber. The efforts resulted in record-breaking coverage of X Games Aspen.

#### **2024 Recap**

- 2.5 Billion media impressions earned:  
(Facebook, Instagram, Tik-Tok, Snapchat, Twitch, Caffeine and YouTube) 113% increase YoY
- 13.5 hours of Live TV reaching millions across the US in original programming, plus countless re-airings and repackaging highlighting Aspen Snowmass via global linear distribution.
- Televised and packaged for rebroadcast globally to 197 countries and more than 500MM homes
- 70+% of audiences between ages 18-34

We are looking forward to the 2025 X Games, with the return of a full competition schedule, music, on-site activations and spectators along with all the energy and vitality of a younger demographic coming to visit our valley and we need safe and efficient mass transit planning to accommodate attendees

***We again request up to \$115,000 in EOTC transit reimbursement, subject to final numbers, to support ASC's and the RFV's efforts to provide a safe mass transit experience for residents and destination guests at X Games.***  
*(This EOTC support level has not changed in value in 15 years despite significant cost escalation)*

Thank you for EOTC's continued support of this valuable community-wide initiative.

Joey Woltemath  
Director of Event Operations  
Aspen Skiing Company

# ELECTED OFFICIALS TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE (EOTC)

## DECISIONS REACHED & ACTION MINUTES INDIVIDUAL JURISDICTION MEETINGS August 13, 2024, Aspen City Hall August 19, 2024, Snowmass Town Hall September 11, 2024, Pitkin County BOCC Room

### Elected Officials in Attendance:

<u>Aspen</u>	<u>Pitkin County</u>	<u>Snowmass</u>
Mayor Torre	Chair Greg Poschman	Mayor Bill Madsen
John Doyle	Steve Child	Tom Fridstein
Bill Guth	Patti Clapper	Britta Gustafson
Ward Hauenstein	Francie Jacober	Susan Marolt
Sam Rose	Kelly McNicholas-Kury	Alyssa Shenk

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**ISSUE STATEMENT:** EOTC staff is proposing two additional regional transportation projects for late 2024, to be added to the workplan and budget. Included in the IGA establishing the EOTC in 1993, and later renewed in 2021, is a provision allowing for items to be brought before individual EOTC members at their regular meetings when the full 15-member EOTC is not available to meet at one time. Staff is presenting these two projects slated for Q4 in 2024 individually to the Councils of the City of Aspen and Town of Snowmass Village and the Pitkin County Board of County Commissioners in August 2024.

**BACKGROUND:** Two opportunities for regional transportation planning, including promotion of public transit and active transportation to reduce dependence on single-occupant vehicles in the upper Roaring Fork Valley have arisen for late 2024. EOTC staff sees these opportunities, and the transportation challenges they work to solve, as appropriate for EOTC funding and focus, as they affect transportation within Pitkin County, beyond the borders of the City of Aspen and Town of Snowmass Village. Those projects are:

- 1) Maroon Bells Comprehensive Recreation Management Plan (CRMP)
- 2) Aspen Airport Business Center Transportation Plan.

EOTC staff seeks approval for these projects to be added to the 2024 Work Plan and Budget. Project descriptions are as follows:

### **Maroon Bells CRMP: Transit, Parking and E-Bike/Cycling Management**

In 2023, with support from the John A. Volpe National Transportation Systems Center (Volpe Center), Pitkin County, the City of Aspen, the WRNF, Roaring Fork Transportation Authority (RFTA), Aspen Skiing Company, and the Aspen Chamber Resort Association developed a comprehensive plan to sustainably provide for and manage recreation at the iconic Maroon Bells

Scenic Area. The Maroon Bells Comprehensive Recreation Management Plan (CRMP) provides a framework to sustainably manage recreational access to, and activities within, the Maroon Creek Valley. This plan identifies goals and recommendations to improve sustainable access to and recreation in the Scenic Area while accounting for local economic and other community impacts. All modes of transportation and types of recreation activities were considered as part of this planning process.

Several transportation areas have emerged as needing further study and management strategies; 1) the RFTA shuttle and early-morning private shuttle reservation system, 2) parking availability and reservations, and 3) user conflicts along Maroon Creek Rd between groups of e-bikers and motorized traffic. Funding is needed to study and manage these transportation issues that affect Pitkin County as the manager of Maroon Creek Road, the City of Aspen and the Aspen Chamber and Resort Association in their outreach to E-bike rental companies, and the other partners. The cross-jurisdictional nature of mitigating user conflicts and optimizing the transit element lends itself to support from the EOTC in its mandate to manage regional transportation. The proposed EOTC budgetary contribution to the Maroon Bells CRMP over the next 18 months is \$36,800. A draft of the Implementation Plan provided by the Volpe Center is attached.

#### **Aspen Airport Business Center Bicycle/Pedestrian Transportation Plan**

The Lumberyard residential development in the vicinity of the Aspen Airport Business Center (AABC) is triggering significant changes to transportation access along the Hwy 82 corridor. These include the addition of a traffic signal for access to the Lumberyard and the elimination of the “right in, right out” access at the east end of the AABC. Two priority issues resulting from these changes are the need for enhanced bicycle and pedestrian access from the Lumberyard to the AABC and both upvalley and downvalley RFTA bus stops; plus, consideration of additional motor vehicle traffic that will be diverted from the eastern access to the signal at Hwy 82 and Baltic Avenue (the main entrance into the AABC).

As the AABC has developed over time, with the addition of the North Forty and other residential development, plus eateries and other uses, significant transportation infrastructure needs and safety issues have emerged. The development lacks sidewalks and bicycle facilities, both on- and off-street parking is under supplied, streets lack markings, and the intersection of Baltic Avenue and Sage Way is particularly hazardous for pedestrians and bicyclists due to its proximity to Hwy 82, lack of crosswalks, and conflicts with motor vehicles accessing Roxy’s Market and the gas station across Baltic. In addition to the new bicycle, pedestrian and vehicle traffic that will be generated by the Lumberyard and closing of the east access, potential future changes triggered by a multimodal plan for the airport, plus introduction of WE-Cycle into the AABC and Airport all call for a focused effort to improve access, connectivity and safety for all modes. The cost estimate for an AABC Bike/Pedestrian Transportation Plan is maximum of \$200,000, split between Q4 2024 and FY2025.

#### **BUDGETARY IMPACT:**

Going into 2024, EOTC held a reserved fund balance of \$6,306,456, and is projected to remain on that course through the end of 2024. These two proposed projects represent an additional expenditure of approximately \$136,800.

#### **RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

EOTC staff recommends approval of two additional projects in Q4 2024

**DECISIONS REACHED:**

The City of Aspen and Town of Snowmass Village Councils voted to approve both of the proposed projects. The Pitkin County Board of Commissioners requested additional information and discussion on the AABC Bike/Pedestrian Transportation Plan, and so voted to consider the two new projects in the presence of all 15 EOTC members at the October 24, 2024 meeting. It is understood that after discussion with the full EOTC, the AABC project will come back to the Pitkin County BOCC for two readings in November 2024.

DRAFT

# ELECTED OFFICIALS TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE (EOTC)

## DECISIONS REACHED & ACTION MINUTES REGULAR MEETING October 5, 2023

**Location (In Person and Virtual) –Aspen City Hall  
City of Aspen - Host & Chair**

- For a video production of this meeting, go to:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P3-BFhqWhpA>
- To access the Elected Officials Transportation Committee meeting packet material:  
<https://www.pitkincounty.com/1322/Elected-Officials-Transportation-Committ>, then  
(‘EOTC Archived Packets’)

### **Elected Officials in Attendance:**

#### **Aspen – 4**

Mayor Torre  
John Doyle  
Ward Hauenstein  
Sam Rose

#### **Pitkin County - 5**

Chair Francie Jacober  
Steve Child  
Patti Clapper  
Kelly McNicholas-Kury  
Greg Poschman

#### **Snowmass - 4**

Mayor Bill Madsen  
Alyssa Shenk  
Britta Gustafson  
Susan Marolt

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### **CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

Mayor Torre called the meeting of the Elected Officials Transportation Committee (EOTC) to order at 4:00 p.m. followed by a roll-call for attendance.

### **APPROVAL OF THE APRIL 6, 2023 ACTION MINUTES**

Mayor Torre asked for a motion to approve the Agreements and Decisions reached from April 6, 2023. Commissioner Clapper made the motion; it was seconded by Commissioner Jacober. A group vote was called; all members voted Yes.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA**

Gail Schwartz, President of Habitat for Humanity of the Roaring Fork Valley and Pitkin County Sheriff Michael Buglione addressed the committee on the need for affordable housing in the upper valley, for the general workforce, and in particular to help recruit and retain first responders. Sheriff Buglione said that some deputies and other employees must commute from far away as Newcastle, which puts stress on operations and employees during emergency response times. While it is not a requirement for deputies to live in Pitkin County, it is highly preferable for first responders to live close to where they work. Ms. Schwartz presented the idea of developing affordable housing on the Brush Creek Park & Ride site, in the bare area to the north of the developed parking lot. Members discussed this idea, noting that Colorado

Department of Transportation owns the land through, with regulations attached about what uses can occur on the property. Ms. Schwartz stated that she has had conversations with CDOT Region 3 staff about the site. Members further discussed issues with the site, and some history of conversations around use of the property.

Rachel Richards addressed the committee to offer comments and her concerns about projects proposed for the 2024 Workplan and Budget, suggesting that funding should be preserved for higher priority, “big picture” solutions to reduce single occupant vehicles and encourage more people to use transit. Ms. Richards said the EOTC should be more involved in discussions about the Entrance to Aspen.

Toni Kronberg addressed the committee on the need to prioritize the workplan and budget to focus on the big picture by making sure proposed projects fulfill the EOTC’s mission statement. She also expressed concerns about the safety of HWY 82.

Cecily D’Angelo of Roaring Fork Safe Passages introduced the organization and described its efforts to create wildlife crossings of Hwy 82 in the upper valley. Ms. D’Angelo looks forward to working with the EOTC and other transportation leaders in the future.

### **2023 WORKPLAN UPDATES**

Updates were given on the following 2023 workplan items:

**-Brush Creek Park & Ride FLAP project** – Members discussed the new improvements to the lot, and had several questions regarding how the future electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure would be set up and how it would be managed; dealing with workers living at the lot and other issues. Ms. DuPriest said that any operations questions can be addressed in the monitoring and management analysis proposed for the 2024 Workplan and Budget, to be voted on later in the meeting.

**-Permanent Automatic Vehicle Counters** – Staff reported on the pilot project wherein one vendor, Rekor, has installed a camera and AI program on Hwy 82 near the Lumberyard property. An example of a report the vendor can provide was shown, eliciting questions and discussions on what the technology will show and how the data will be used. Mayor Torre gave direction to staff to compose a memo at a later date that would explain what the data will be used for.

**-HOV Lane Enforcement** – Staff reiterated from a prior EOTC discussion that EOTC funds cannot be utilized for work on non-public transportation strategies. Commissioner McNicholas-Kury expressed a need for a forum for the EOTC to deliberate on this topic outside of the limits of the funding mandate. It was suggested as a topic for a future EOTC retreat.

**-City of Aspen Transportation Projects** – Staff updated the group on the Castle Creek Bridge replacement project and the Parking/Transportation Demand Management study, both currently underway. Commissioner McNicholas-Kury inquired about the EOTC’s role in projects that affect the region such as the Entrance to Aspen. Mayor Torre replied that input from all the elected officials in the region is welcome. Councilmember Hauenstein agreed that there should be an opportunity for input.

### **PUBLIC HEARING ON 2024 WORKPLAN AND BUDGET**

Staff presented the 2024 Workplan and Budget and recommended approval. Members asked for additional detail on the proposed Snowmass Village Pedestrian/Bikeway, Brush Creek Rd from Divide Road to Mall project. Town staff Mike Horvath and Anne Martens plus Mayor Bill

Madsen answered questions about the need and proposed budget. Members had questions about how this project related to the Snowmass Transit Project for which the EOTC had committed \$6 million to in prior years. Snowmass staff stated this project would be in addition to that request. Members discussed whether funds for this new project could be allotted from the transit center budget. Pitkin County Manager Jon Peacock clarified the process that set aside the \$6 million and how it would require a separate resolution from the Board of County Commissioners to re-appropriate funds. Councilmember Shenk proposed that the Town could apply to RFTA for a First/Last Mile Mobility (FLMM) grant to offset some of the funds being requested of the EOTC. Town of Snowmass Village Manager Clint Kinney offered comments virtually about the need for the project; Planning Director David Johnson and CEO Dan Blankenship of RFTA suggested ways the Town could apply during RFTA's FLMM grant budget cycle. Mayor Torre proposed leaving a placeholder in the budget for the project, conditioned on the Town applying for various grants.

Staff presented the remaining projects in the 2024 Workplan and Budget. Mayor Torre opened the Public Hearing to receive comment. Toni Kronberg spoke on the need to collaborate on high-level solutions to maximize the transit system to reduce number of vehicles.

Member interest in City of Aspen projects as well as the HOV Lane Enforcement and other “big picture” goal setting, as discussed earlier in the meeting during 2023 Workplan updates, led to a motion for the EOTC to hold a retreat in 2024. Mayor Torre asked for a motion; Commissioner McNicholas-Kury made the motion; Commissioner Child seconded. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes.

***Decision reached: Staff is directed to present a proposal for a retreat in 2024.***

Mayor Torre asked for a motion to approve the 2024 Workplan and Budget. Commissioner Clapper made the motion; Councilmember John Doyle seconded. A roll call vote was called resulting in all Ayes.

***Decision reached: Approval of 2024 Workplan and Budget.***

### **EOTC COMMITTEE MEMBER UPDATES**

Commissioner Poschman told the group of a letter received from RFTA CEO Dan Blankenship and invited him to speak on the need for housing for RFTA employees who support upper valley transportation. Mr. Blankenship stated that operations are complicated by employees living so far away from their workplaces, particularly in the upper valley. Commissioner Poschman suggested this topic for a future EOTC meeting.

### **ADJOURN REGULAR MEETING**

Commissioner Clapper moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:31pm. Councilmember Doyle seconded. Mayor Torre asked and received Aye votes from all members.

### **City of Aspen**

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Torre, Mayor  
City Council

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Nicole Henning  
City Clerk

**Town of Snowmass Village**

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Bill Madsen, Mayor  
Town Council

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Megan Boucher  
Town Clerk

**Pitkin County**

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Greg Poschman, Chair  
Board of County Commissioners

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Sam Engen  
Clerk to the Board of County Commissioners

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Linda DuPriest  
Regional Transportation Director

# ELECTED OFFICIALS TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE (EOTC)

## DECISIONS REACHED & ACTION MINUTES INDIVIDUAL JURISDICTION MEETINGS September 25, 2024, Pitkin County BOCC Room

### Elected Officials in Attendance:

#### Pitkin County

Chair Greg Poschman

Steve Child

Patti Clapper

Francie Jacober

Kelly McNicholas-Kury

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**ISSUE STATEMENT:** EOTC staff is proposing two additional regional transportation projects for late 2024, to be added to the workplan and budget. Included in the IGA establishing the EOTC in 1993, and later renewed in 2021, is a provision allowing for items to be brought before individual EOTC members at their regular meetings when the full 15-member EOTC is not available to meet at one time. Staff presented these two projects slated for Q4 in 2024 individually to the Councils of the City of Aspen and Town of Snowmass Village and the Pitkin County Board of County Commissioners in August and September 2024.

Two of the three EOTC member jurisdictions approved both of the two proposed projects at their meetings on August 13, 2024 for the City of Aspen and August 19 for the Town of Snowmass Village respectively. The Pitkin County BOCC considered the two projects on September 11, 2024, and decided one of the projects, the Airport Business Center Bicycle/Pedestrian Transportation Plan warranted additional information and discussion with the entire 15-member EOTC present. The other project, the Maroon Bells Comprehensive Recreation Management Plan Implementation Plan, did not warrant additional consideration, but was combined with the other project as one item to be approved.

Pitkin County legal department later determined that the Maroon Bells project could be brought before the BOCC again, for a decision on just the one project. Staff brought this project back to BOCC on September 25, and it was approved unanimously for the board.