



Board of County Commissioners

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March 28, 2024

The Honorable Michael Bennet
United States Senate
261 Russell Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Joe Neguse
United States House of Representatives
1419 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Hickenlooper
United States Senate
374 Russell Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Bennet, Senator Hickenlooper, and Congressman Neguse,

We strongly support Eagle Valley Transportation Authority's (EVTA) application for Congressionally Directed Spending through the Department of Transportation Transit Infrastructure Grants account. Congressionally Directed Spending would be used to fund four new hybrid transit buses to accelerate the implementation of fare-free transit in Eagle County. EVTA has begun implementing a fare-free service zone that currently includes Edwards, Vail, Avon, Minturn, Eagle and Beaver Creek. Since the implementation of this fare-free zone, the demand for transit has increased and rider numbers are up; consequently we have a need for more transit vehicles.

Providing riders a choice of public transit rather than single-rider vehicles meets a number of our strategic priorities, including supporting our workforce and protecting our mountain ecosystems. We support EVTA's Expansion Vehicles to Accelerate Fare-Free Transit Implementation because it will provide affordable daily workforce transportation, encourage visitors to leave their cars behind, reduce congestion on an already-overcrowded Interstate 70 route, reduce carbon emissions and environmental impacts, and reduce the need for adding to expensive parking infrastructure.

Eagle County commits to working with EVTA to promote and encourage public transportation use, provide ongoing input and support, and to advance our shared public transportation goals and initiatives. Please give Eagle Valley Transportation Authority's application your highest consideration.

Sincerely,

Matt Scherr

Chair

Jeanne McQueeney

Commissioner

Kathy Chandler-Henry

Commissioner