

ZERO FARE *for* Better Air



Zero Fare Program 2023 Update



Ozone Season Grant Program Goals

The program was designed through Senate Bill 22-180 to help transit agencies in the state rebuild ridership and reduce driving during ozone season by offering fare free transit services.

This is one key strategy to help reduce ozone-forming emissions and ground level ozone during the summer months.

How the OSTG Program works

The Colorado Energy Office awarded a grant directly to RTD and one to the Colorado Association of Transit Agencies (CASTA). CASTA then administered a grant award process for eligible transit agencies (other than RTD) in the state.

In 2023 agencies had the opportunity to participate for the entire ozone season from June 1 through August 31.

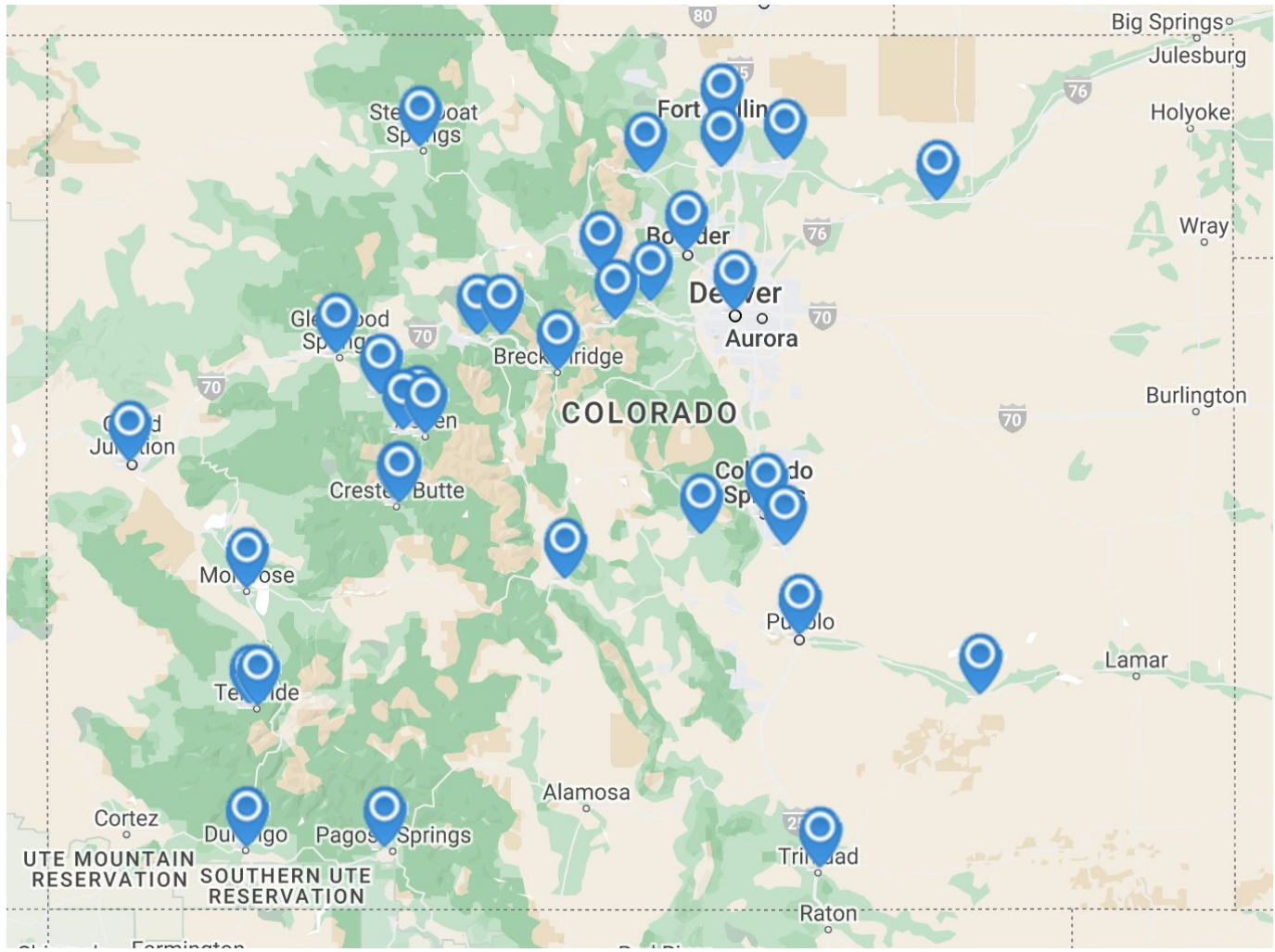
- 12 agencies participated June-August

- 2 agencies participated just July-August

- 2 agencies participated only in August



2023 Zero Fare Participants



Funding Flexibility

What this program got right from the start: flexible funding. Communities found ways to leverage this funding to increase awareness of their services and add ridership that was right for their town, city or region:

- The Chaffee Shuttle added a new route between Salida and Buena Vista.
 - Estes Transit extended their service by 2 hours a day.
 - Grand Valley Transit provided system wide fare free service.
 - Vail Transit implemented a new service to four popular trailheads in the community.
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Why were some agencies not able to participate?

- Lack of bus drivers
 - Lack of vehicles
 - Lack of staff capacity
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Zero Fare Grant Requests

Vail Transit	\$79,914.00
Mountain Metropolitan Transit	\$2,072,176.05
South Central Council of Governments	\$1,550.00
City of Pueblo	\$414,898.85
Greeley-Evans Transit	\$175,127.00
City of Durango - Durango Transit	\$9,704.00
The Chaffee Shuttle	\$96,354.02
Town of Estes Park, Estes Transit	\$19,433.72
La Junta Transit	\$4,800.00
Town of Basalt	\$39,558.00

Archuleta County	\$17,790.00
Mountain Express Transit	
Fountain Municipal Transit	\$6,374.94
Boulder County	\$20,210.29
Grand Valley Transit (Mesa County)	\$126,018.91
All Points Transit	\$15,086.00
Northeastern Colorado Association of Local Governments (NECALG)/Prairie Express	\$3,125.00
	\$3,102,120.78

Ridership May through August

Agency	May-June Change	June-July Change	July-August Change
Vail Transit		47.91%	-18.96
Mountain Metro Transit	84.74%	10.19%	11.60%
South Central Council of Governments	-38%	59%	-5%
City of Pueblo	26.46%	3.13%	27.98%
Greeley-Evans Transit	-2.80%	-10.51%	57.39%
City of Durango - Durango Transit	16.74%		
The Chaffee Shuttle	6.01%	-15.18%	
Town of Estes Park, The Peak	431.33%	241.74%	-23.81%
La Junta Transit	16.63%	-11.64%	15.11%
Town of Basalt		24.72%	
Archuleta County Mountain Express Transit	42.46%	-4.78%	-0.84%
Fountain Municipal Transit	41.40%	18.78%	20.58%
Boulder County	-13.16%		
Grand Valley Transit (Mesa County)			31.41%
All Points Transit			
NECALG	-5.12%	22.79%	8.69%

*Some sections left blank because agency ridership is still being reported



Rider Surveys

Thanks to the Ozone Season Transit Grant Program Flexibility bill (HB23-1101) we were able to do a survey effort in August.

A few preliminary results:

- Most people were using transit to go to work or home
 - When asked “How would you have traveled today if transit wasn’t free?” 20% said a personal vehicle while almost 10% said they would not have traveled.
 - Over 40% reported that they were not a regular transit rider before Covid (2020).
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Rider Quotes

- “This was awesome to do for the community as I ride almost everyday and it means alot to me helps me and my daughter get her to daycare everyday bless you all”
 - “With the free rides I was able to get out more and have fun.”
 - “The La Junta City Transit is my main mode of transport for grocery stores, laundry, meds and the senior citizen facility...Thank you for investing in S.E. Colorado”
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CASTA



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Zero Fare webpage:

<https://coloradotransit.com/resources/zero-fare-program/>