

1. INTRODUCTION

The demand for transit in Eagle County is high for a number of reasons:

- The concentration of people and jobs in a few major corridors that are well suited for transit and long commute distances.
- Very high volumes of visitors, especially in the ski season, who travel between a limited number of locations that are also well suited for transit.
- Limited and relatively expensive parking in Vail and at Beaver Creek.

ECO Transit developed this Transit Development Plan, or TDP, to identify short-term changes to improve service with only a very modest increase in expenditures (5%), that could be accommodated through existing funding sources. The effort focused on identifying improvements to ECO Transit service, plus additional efforts that ECO Transit could initiate to increase collaboration with Eagle County's other I-70 corridor transit providers (Vail Transit, Avon Transit, and Beaver Creek Transit) to develop a more seamless countywide system.

The Eagle County TDP consisted of the following tasks:

- **Stakeholder outreach** that consisted of stakeholder interviews and community presentations to determine common objectives and desires.
- A **market analysis** that examined the underlying demand for transit throughout the county.
- **Surveys** to identify the travel patterns and desires of existing riders as well as non-riders.
- An **analysis of the existing system** that consisted of an in-depth analysis of each of ECO Transit's routes and other related issues.
- The **identification and analysis of potential improvements** that could build upon the strengths of the existing system and address identified weaknesses and serve new markets.
- The development of **recommendations** to improve service, which are presented in this document.

This document presents the study recommendations, plus additional desirable improvements that would go somewhat beyond current financial constraints but that should be considered if additional funding can be identified. The work conducted that led to these recommendations is presented in the appendices.

WHAT THE TDP RECOMMENDATIONS ARE AND WHAT THEY AREN'T

As described above, the focus of the TDP was to identify short-term improvements that could be implemented within existing budget levels and/or with only small increases in operating costs. The recommended changes will provide important service improvements for existing riders and attract new riders. However, the scope of the recommendations was limited by the short-term timeframe and cost constraints.

Over the course of the study, many stakeholders expressed a desire for more extensive improvements, ranging from greater increases in service, the development of new routes and new types of services, new facilities, and more. However, these types of improvements would go well beyond the scope of this project and would need to be considered as part of subsequent efforts.