Transportation Momentum: How to keep it moving

AARP National Livability Conference
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Carly Rietmann – Eagle County, CO
Jim Becker – Larimer County, CO
Chad Federwitz – Pitkin County, CO
Agenda

Panelists will share:

• Strategies for both rural and urban communities

• Solutions that work for resort communities with seasonal population swings and wide income disparities

• Solutions for remote, mountainous, and weather-impacted communities.
Colorado

- State Population – 5.607 million
- Aging demographics of state
- Common forms of transportation
  - Transit
  - Some rail
  - Multi-modal
  - Cars, cars, cars!
Colorado
Colorado

- Bustang
- Colorado DOT - interregional and intercity express bus service
- Bustang vs. Bustang Outrider
Larimer County, Colorado

Jim Becker, MNM
Partnership For Age-Friendly Communities in Larimer County
Larimer County - Pop: 53,605

Make up:

- Some rural mountain
- Some rural plains/farm
- A couple of 100,000 - 150,000 cities
- One major mountain/tourist area
Challenges/Barriers

• Front range connections - to Denver, to other Northern Colorado communities

• Lack of services to rural portions of the county
Progress

- Established a coalition/planning group
  - AAA, County government, PAFC, local providers
  - Pooled resources to:
    - Do a comprehensive needs assessment
    - Ongoing meetings to pursue recommendations (overall) from assessment
    - pursue funding opportunities, especially to develop an implementation plan
Progress

• Communicate and coordinate - among partners, with state, with new stakeholders
• Have a clear goal in mind: specific implementation plan in place by end of 2019
• Utilize outside resources AARP, NADTC, FTA, etc.
Challenges & Barriers to implementation

• Things can move slowly - timing on grants, etc.
• Taking a holistic view & involving communities (relationships between housing, health & treatment, social isolation, economic disparity, transportation need)
• It is a complicated problem where complex solutions can make best use of limited resources
Eagle County, Colorado

Carly Rietmann, MPH
Eagle County Public Health & Environment
Eagle County - Pop: 53,605
Demographics

• Median age in US: 37.8
• Median age in Colorado: 36.9
• Median age in Eagle County: 35.1

According to 2010 Census data, the population of older adults, defined as 65 or older, has increased by 135% in Eagle County since 2000, thus ranking it third in the state for the greatest growth during that decade. Given the expected continued aging in Eagle County, Eagle County's population 65 and older is expected to continue growing rapidly due to the current age distribution of the population and the number of those who may choose to age in place. Eagle County's population 65 and older is expected to increase 139% this decade, from 2010 to 2020.
Geography

- Mountain corridor: I-70
- Loveland Pass
- Vail Pass
- Rural resort community
Challenges & Barriers

• Specialists: 130 miles
• Procedures: 20 – 30 miles
• Non-drivers
• Cost of living
• Lack of family support
• Paratransit restrictions
• Volunteer recruitment – $ of gas
Solutions

- Mtn. Ride Call Center
  - NWCCCOG – 5 county region
- Regional Transportation Coordinating Committee
- Volunteer driver program
- Eco Transit
  - Fixed route
  - Paratransit service
Pitkin County - Pop: 17,890
Demographics

- Population over 60: 4500 (25%)

- The median age of residents is 43.4.

- The County is experiencing rapid increases in the population over the age of 65 with the number of persons over the age of 65 in 2045 expected to nearly double.

- The median HHI: $71,196; Average wage per job is just $49,460 — 14% lower than the State average.

- Community sustainability concerns: Affordability of Housing, Healthcare, Transportation and an Aging Workforce.
Geography

- Rural resort community
- Mountain corridor: HWY 82, 133
- Independence Pass
- Includes the communities of Aspen, Snowmass Village, Redstone and portions of the town of Basalt.
Challenges & Barriers

- Geography and isolation
- Non-drivers
- Cost of living
- Parking
- Snow removal/safety
- Lack of family availability/support
- Paratransit restrictions
- Jurisdictions
- Volunteer recruitment
Solutions

- Mountain Ride Call Center
- NWCCOG – 5 county region
- Roaring Fork Regional Transportation Authority (RFTA)
  - Fixed routes
  - Paratransit services
  - Senior van
- Drivers Assisting Seniors for Health (DASH) volunteer drivers program.
- High Mountain Taxi
Solutions

- City of Aspen
  - Mobility Lab
  - Down Towner
  - Crosswalk signals
- Rio Grande Trail
  - Bikes on Busses
  - We-Cycle
Since 1983, RFTA has evolved into the nation’s largest rural transit agency by working closely with each of the Valley’s jurisdictions to provide:

• Transit services to meet the needs of the visitors, residents, employees, and the major employment centers spanning from Rifle through Glenwood Springs to Aspen.

• This includes:
  – Regional and local bus routes
  – The first rural rapid transit system
  – Senior and paratransit transportation
Areas for Improvement

• Outlying areas, such as Redstone
• Coordinating with jurisdictions outside of RFTA service areas
• Paratransit service areas
• Pedestrian accessibility issues
Thank you!

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