

## Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) Formation Committee – Meeting Recap

Location: Virtual – Zoom

Date: Thursday, August 21, 2025

Time: 12:00 – 1:00 PM

Attendees: Michael Buccino (City of Steamboat Springs), Sonja Macys (Routt County), Randy Looper (City of Craig), Ryan Banks (Town of Hayden), Stacey Geilert (Town of Yampa), Gail Gaery (City of Steamboat Springs), Jay Harrington (Routt County), Dan Foote (City of Steamboat Springs), Mathew Mendisco (Town of Hayden), Louis Finberg (Town of Oak Creek), Jonathan Flint (City of Steamboat Springs), Katie Carmody (City of Craig), Skyler McKinley (Town of Oak Creek), Dave Hunter (Steamboat Ski & Resort Corporation), Luke Bonucci (Alterra), Polly Jessen (Kaplan Kirsch) and Kirsten Crawford (Kaplan Kirsch), Scott Franz

### Quick recap

The meeting focused on the revised Steamboat Ski & Resort Corporation (SSRC) pledge agreement, which includes a commitment of \$1 million annually for three years and contains provisions related to a lift tax. The group discussed concerns about the timing and implications of the lift tax ordinance, including potential legal and political ramifications of linking it to the SSRC pledge. Various options were considered for addressing the language and timing of the pledge agreement, with the group agreeing to finalize the documents before the Steamboat Springs City Council meeting.

### Next steps

- Polly/Kirsten: Finalize the materials for the Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) and ballot question packets based on the revised pledge agreement.
- Dave Hunter: Consult with legal counsel about modifying the pledge agreement language.
- City of Steamboat Springs: Review the revised pledge agreement language at a special council meeting

### RTA Pledge Agreement Revision

The meeting focused on finalizing a revised SSRC pledge agreement for the RTA, committing to \$1 million annually for three years instead of one. Dave Hunter, representing SSRC, explained their commitment to the RTA and the revised agreement, which includes an extended timeline for negotiating a long-term agreement and an automatic termination clause if a lift tax is

implemented. The group discussed next steps, with Polly and Kirsten needing final approval from jurisdictions to move forward with the IGAs and ballot language for the September 5 deadline. The group discussed the timing and implications of the City of Steamboat Springs lift tax ordinance, which was scheduled for a second reading on September 2. Gail and Michael explained that any changes to the lift tax language would require either a special meeting or waiting until the September hearing, as the charter mandates an up-or-down vote on the second reading. The discussion centered on whether to advance the IGA to the city council, with some members expressing concern about linking the lift tax to SSRC's pledge.

The meeting focused on the language and timing of a pledge related to the RTA and lift tax. Gail explained that the city council directed Dan to include language committing \$1 million to the RTA, but the proposed language did not specify that the commitment would only take effect if the lift tax passed. The group discussed the possibility of amending the language to include this contingency. Dan clarified that the city council's second reading of the lift tax ordinance is scheduled for September 2. Polly suggested considering a pledge within the IGA of lift ticket revenues to address contingencies.

The group discussed concerns about the pledge agreement becoming ineffective if a lift ticket tax is placed on the ballot, potentially leaving both the pledge and tax funding uncertain. Sonja emphasized the importance of reaching consensus on the agreement language and noted that the city's support for the lift ticket tax could impact the RTA's timeline and voter support. Gail and Michael expressed that city council may vote against the lift ticket tax because of SSRC's revised \$3 million pledge, although some council members had expressed their disappointment with the SSRC and the pledge.

Gail agreed to hold a special City Council meeting to address the issue before the IGA had to be finalized and sent to jurisdictions for final approval and referral to the ballot. SSRC, Kaplan Kirsch and the City of Steamboat Springs agreed to finalize the pledge agreement before the City of Steamboat Springs special city council meeting.