



## **Partnership Program Application**

### **A) Applicant Information**

Project Sponsor Name	Town of Erie
Project Sponsor Type	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Local Government <input type="radio"/> TMA/TMO
Additional Partners	
Subregional Service Council	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Boulder County <input type="radio"/> Northeast <input type="radio"/> Northwest <input type="radio"/> Southeast <input type="radio"/> Southwest
Contact Person	Miguel Aguilar
Email	maguilar@erieco.gov
Phone Number	720-698-2293

### **B) Project Information**

Project Title
Erie Flex Ride Service (Erie Bee)
Briefly describe the project location. <i>Please include a map and GIS layer (as a .zip file) as an attachment with your submission. If you need assistance creating a GIS shapefile for your service area, please reach out to Cory Schmitt (cory.schmitt@rtd-denver.com) no later than April 30.</i>
The proposed project location encompasses the entirety of the Town of Erie, Colorado. The flex ride transit service, named Erie Bee, will operate within the Town and extend to key destinations including the Historic Downtown, Erie Community Center, and Erie High School. The service area will also include commercial businesses on US 287 in Lafayette (near Walmart and Kohl's) and the Children's Hospital in Broomfield on CO 7.
Project Type (select one)
<input type="radio"/> Fixed-route transit service – service operating on a specific route <input type="radio"/> On-demand transit service – demand-responsive service operating in a specific area <input checked="" type="radio"/> Other mobility service – service that does not fall into the above two categories <input type="radio"/> Other – project that does not provide service, but enhances mobility through other means

Project Description (a few paragraphs describing your project in more detail)
<p>The Town of Erie (the Town) faces a pressing challenge in providing sufficient transit service, both geographically and operationally. This gap in mobility leaves many residents, employees, and visitors without reliable first/last mile connections, limiting access to essential destinations and reducing community mobility. To address this need, the Town is implementing a flexible transit service to enhance connectivity and provide reliable access to key locations. The new flex ride transit service, named Erie Bee, will connect significant destinations such as the Historic Downtown, Erie Community Center, and Erie High School. The service will extend to commercial businesses on US 287 in Lafayette (near Walmart and Kohl's) and the Children's Hospital in Broomfield on CO 7.</p> <p>The Town will seek a qualified third-party vendor to operate the flex ride transit service, ensuring it is reliable, accessible, and efficiently managed. The selected vendor will provide licensed drivers, multiple ADA-compliant vehicles (initially two), a dispatcher, a call center, scheduling software, and a comprehensive operations plan for the next five years. The vendor will also maintain accurate ridership and trip data to assess future needs and support continuous improvement.</p> <p>While the Town has secured funding for the first two years of flex ride operations, additional support is needed to sustain the service into the third year. This grant application seeks funding for 2027 to ensure continuity and maintain reliable transit access for the community. Without this funding, the continuation of this essential service is uncertain, potentially leaving residents, employees, and visitors without critical transit options.</p>

For funding requests for mobility services, please answer the following four questions:
1. What are the proposed days and hours of operation?
The service operations will be Monday-Friday, 6 am to 8 pm.
2. Have you had any conversations with service providers? <i>Note that the service provider will need to be selected competitively.</i>
Yes, the Town of Erie has initiated conversations with potential service providers and will select the vendor through a competitive procurement process.
3. Will you charge the customer for the service?
No, the Erie flex ride service will be free to customers.
4. What is the area of the proposed service area (in square miles)?

20 sq miles
Please provide a project implementation timeline, either below or attached to your application, including launch date and important milestones. <i>Assume a minimum of four months to complete agreements and procure a service provider (if applicable). RTD will announce awardees in August.</i>
<p>October 2025: Begin Service Operations - Year 1</p> <p>October 2026: Continued Service Operations – Year 2</p> <p>June 2027: Contract with RTD for Partnership Grant.</p> <p>August 2027: Performance review of vendor for continued service.</p> <p>October 2027: Renew the vendor's contract based on a successful performance review.</p>
RTD hopes to fund projects that are “shovel-ready.” Please describe other funding sources, amounts, your experience in managing these types of projects, and note potential risks to project implementation. If your project includes funding from outside sources, include a letter of support or documentation of the funding source.
<p>Erie’s flex ride service (Erie Bee) has secured initial funding for the first two years through the Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG) Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) grants. The Town has committed its required local match funding for the DRCOG grant to support the service's successful implementation and operation for 2025 and 2026.</p> <p>The Town of Erie has significant experience managing grant-funded projects, including transportation and mobility initiatives. This includes coordinating transportation improvement grants from DRCOG’s TIP and various CDOT grants, supporting roadway improvements, studies, and the Erie Flex Ride.</p> <p>The Transportation Division has extensive experience coordinating transit projects, managing procurement processes, and ensuring compliance with grant requirements. The Division developed a Service Development Plan outlining the flex ride service area and operating hours. Transportation staff collaborate with the Town’s Grants team for pre- and post-award activities, ensuring adherence to state and federal requirements.</p>
Does your organization have a procurement policy and/or standards? If yes, please provide additional information, such as a link to the procurement policy, attach the policy to your submission, or describe your organization’s procurement policy. RTD will provide procurement support for organizations that do not have a procurement policy and/or standards in place.

Yes, the Town of Erie's Purchasing Policy is attached.

### C) Project Data

Using [DRCOG's Data Tool](#), please provide the following information about populations served. For fixed-route proposals, include populations within a ¼ mile buffer. For on-demand proposals, include populations within the service area boundaries.

Total population	39,620
Total households	10,332
People of color	8,478
People with low-income	2,799
People with limited English proficiency	1,117
People 60 and over	6,859
Youth Under 18	10,995
People with a disability	2,556
Households without a vehicle	187
Housing cost-burdened households	3,231

### D) Project Budget

Calendar Year	RTD Funding	Local Funding	Total
2026			
2027	\$720,000	\$180,000	\$900,000
2028			
<b>Total Project Cost</b>			\$900,000

Describe sources of funding, including any contingencies (necessary budget approvals, etc). <i>Local match must be a cash match; in-kind is not eligible as match. If approved, projects will be reimbursed up to 80% of project costs by RTD. Reimbursements will be made either monthly or quarterly.</i>
<p>Funding for Service:</p> <p>2025: DRCOG TIP &amp; Town of Erie (the Town) match</p> <p>2026: DRCOG TIP &amp; Town match</p> <p>2027: RTD Partnership Grant &amp; Town match</p>
Operating cost assumptions (e.g. cost per hour)
Operating costs per hour will range from \$75 to \$150, depending on the selected vendor.
Is your project/funding request scalable? <i>If so, please indicate the least amount of funding you could accept, and how the project scope would be reduced. If not, please explain justification for non-scalable projects.</i>
<p>Yes, the project funding request is scalable.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Full Request: \$720,000 - This amount would support up to three vehicles and allow for expanded service hours and days.</li> <li>• Reduced Request: \$650,000 - This reduced amount would still support up to three vehicles but would not include expanded service.</li> </ul>
Are you proposing to purchase vehicles and how will you procure?
No.
Proposed vehicle cost assumptions, if applicable:
N/A
Where will vehicles be serviced and maintained? <i>Note that RTD is unable to service and maintain other organization's vehicles.</i>

N/A
Please attach a line-item project budget. <i>Note that funding for the construction of infrastructure is ineligible.</i>

### E) Demonstration of Benefits and Needs

Why is this project needed?
<p>The Town of Erie (the Town) is a fast-growing community with limited transit service. Currently, RTD operates only one fixed route service on the west side of Erie, providing direct connections to Boulder. This limited service leaves many residents without access to reliable public transportation, and community feedback has consistently highlighted the need for improved transit options within the Town.</p> <p>As Erie continues to grow, the need for consistent transit coverage across the community has become more apparent. Previously, some residents living in Weld County were located outside RTD's service area, creating a checkerboard pattern with portions of the Town both inside and outside the service area. To address this, residents in the Weld County portion of Erie voted to annex the entire Town into RTD's service area, ensuring consistent transit access.</p> <p>As a growing suburban community with a diverse and aging population, Erie needs transit solutions that accommodate residents who are unable to drive, are uncomfortable driving, or do not own a vehicle. This service will connect people to key destinations such as medical facilities, employment centers, schools, shopping areas, and recreational activities, filling a critical gap that existing transit services cannot address. The project will enhance connectivity, support community mobility, and ensure all residents can access essential services and opportunities by providing reliable and flexible transit options.</p>
Who benefits from the project?

The Erie Flex Ride Service will be available to everyone in Erie at no cost, benefiting the Town's youth, aging populations, transportation-burdened households, and households with only one vehicle. In addition to Erie residents, the service will also benefit employees, visitors, and anyone traveling through the area who needs access to transit connections. By improving connectivity to RTD services, the project will also support increased ridership for RTD.

Does the project serve equity populations? Please describe.

The Erie Flex Ride Service (Erie Bee) will benefit diverse economic and demographic groups throughout Erie, providing accessible and reliable transportation for all community members. This service will enhance quality of life by connecting residents to medical services, educational facilities, employment, shopping, and recreational activities. By making reliable transit readily available near homes, schools, jobs, and recreation areas, the service will positively impact all population groups in Erie.

This service will benefit all residents of Erie. It will provide transportation choices that connect community members to medical services, schools, jobs, shopping, and recreational facilities. Reliable and accessible transit will improve quality of life and mobility across the community.

- **Low-Income Households, Households Without a Motor Vehicle, and Housing Cost-Burdened Households:** Low-income households represent 7% of Erie's population, housing cost-burdened households make up 8%, and households without a motor vehicle account for 1%. These residents often face challenges accessing reliable transportation and may rely on costly ridesharing services or personal vehicles for local trips. By offering a free and reliable transit option, the flex ride service will reduce transportation costs and help these households allocate more of their income to other essential needs.
- **Individuals with Limited English Proficiency:** This group represents 3% of the project area population. The selected vendor will ensure that the call center and mobile app provide language support to assist residents in their preferred language. Erie's Transportation Management Organizations (TMOs) will also conduct outreach to educate non-English-speaking residents on using the transit service, scheduling trips, and connecting with other transit options.
- **Older Adults and Youth:** Adults aged 65 and over account for 17% of the population, while children aged 5-17 make up 28%. Erie has a higher percentage of children than most communities in the region. The service will increase mobility for both age groups, including those who may not drive, choose not to drive, or lack vehicle access, by offering transportation without requiring a caregiver, parent, or companion.

- **Individuals with Disabilities:** This group makes up 6% of the project area population. The flex ride service will include ADA-accessible vehicles equipped with lifts and operated by drivers trained to assist passengers with disabilities, ensuring the service is inclusive and supportive of residents with mobility challenges.

Does the project fill a gap in existing transit service? Please describe.

The Town of Erie currently has a population of just over 40,000, but only 5,000 residents live within a ¼ mile of a transit route, most of whom reside on the Boulder County side of town. The remaining residents do not have access to transit or RTD services.

This transit service will provide on-demand connections throughout the town, offering a more direct and flexible option than fixed-route services and addressing the existing transit gap.

How does the project align with [RTD's Strategic Plan](#)? Specifically, how will it impact two of RTD's strategic priorities - Community Value and Customer Excellence?



### Strategic Priority 1: Community Value

This project aligns with RTD's strategic priority of Community Value by expanding transit services into underserved areas. The Town of Erie, located on the northern border of the RTD service area, has limited access to transit, with only one bus route serving a small portion of the community. Most residents, particularly those outside the Boulder County side, lack reliable connections to the larger metro area and transit network. By funding this project, RTD will enhance mobility for Erie residents and support the growing need for transit in the northern region.

Many Erie residents have expressed the need for more transit options, citing difficulty in reaching both local and regional destinations. The current service is insufficient, with the JUMP route offering infrequent service throughout the day and no service on Sundays, while the LD route is situated on the far west side of town, making it inaccessible for many. An on-demand transit service will bridge the first/last mile gap, providing reliable connections until RTD can expand fixed-route services in Erie.

This project also supports broader environmental and transportation goals by encouraging residents to shift from personal vehicles to transit. As a suburban community, most people who travel in Erie are car-dependent. By offering a flexible and convenient transit option, the project will reduce car trips and support emission reduction goals set by RTD, the State, and the Town.

### Strategic Priority #2: Customer Excellence

An on-demand flex ride service will significantly improve customer experience by addressing Erie's current transit coverage gap. The Town's existing transit options are insufficient and infrequent, leaving residents unable to access critical destinations such as Erie High School, Historic Downtown, retail areas along CO 7, and many residential neighborhoods. By introducing an on-demand transit option, customers will benefit from reliable, personalized, and accessible transportation without the need to follow a fixed schedule.

This service will empower residents and visitors to travel where they need to go without the stress of navigating limited transit routes or depending on personal vehicles. Many community members have voiced their frustration with Erie's lack of transit options. Implementing this service will demonstrate that the Town and RTD have listened to their concerns and responded with a practical solution, showcasing excellent customer service at a relatively low cost to both the Town and RTD.

How has the project (or similar project) performed in the past? Has it been successful and/or met performance metrics? If new, n/a.

N/A

Please use the space below to provide any additional information about your project.

The Erie Flex Ride project (Erie Bee) currently has funding secured for the first two years of operations. This grant application seeks funding to continue service operations into the third year, in 2027.

The Town of Erie (the Town) has developed a Flex Ride Service Plan, which the Town Council approved in August 2024. This plan outlines the service area, days and hours of operation, and performance metrics to evaluate the service. The plan also includes provisions for increasing service based on demand and available funding.

The Town is inspired by the success of other microtransit services in the Denver Metro area, such as the Lone Tree Link, Ride Longmont, and Denver's Montbello Connector. The Town aims to offer similar flexible transit options to its residents.



## Application Submission Checklist

Please submit all application material to RTD via the [application portal](#) by May 14, 2025, at 5pm MT. When submitting, please begin all file names with your organization name (e.g. RTD\_application.pdf).

- ☒ Application form (required)
- ☒ Line-item project budget (required)
- ☒ Map of project location (required)
- ☒ GIS layer of project location (required, submit in a .zip file)
- ☒ Project schedule (required, either in the application on page 3 or as an attachment)
- ☒ Procurement policy (required, either in the application on page 3 or as an attachment)