

What is the Pikes Peak Rural Transportation Authority?

1. The Pikes Peak Rural Transportation Authority is a 20-year-old regional government with six member entities and an annual budget of just under \$160 million. We have just reached the \$2 billion mark for having contributed this amount of funding for transportation improvements for our member entities since our establishment on January 1, 2005.
2. In November 2004, voters in the City of Colorado Springs, unincorporated El Paso County, City of Manitou Springs, and the Town of Green Mountain Falls approved the establishment of the PPRTA with a 1-cent sales tax for transportation improvements and a distribution allocation of 55% for transportation Capital projects (via a voter-approved list of projects on a 10-year sunset with extension only by ballot measure), 35% for transportation Maintenance projects, and 10% for the City of Colorado Springs' Mountain Metropolitan Transit (MMT) department for their bus system. The Capital and Maintenance funds are allocated to the member entities by population using the most recent Federal census. The 55% capital portion of our budget has twice been approved by our voters for 10-year extensions by 80/20 margins, with the current Capital program set to expire on December 31, 2034. This program is administered by the Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments (PPACG) with 2.5 FTE's, well under the 1% of budget Administrative cost limit set in the founding ballot measure.
3. Fountain, Monument, Palmer Lake, Calhan, and Ramah did not choose to join on the initial ballot measure in November 2004.
4. Ramah went to their voters in November 2008 and were approved to join on January 1, 2009, which brought us to 5 member entities.
5. Calhan went to their voters in November 2021 and were approved to join on January 1, 2022, which brings us to 6 member entities.
6. Fountain went to their voters in November 2023 and were denied to join.

Rick Sonnenburg, PPRTA Program Manager