

ASPEN TRAILS METROPOLITAN DISTRICT
BUDGET MESSAGE
2012 BUDGET

The **FINAL** Aspen Trails Metropolitan District (ATMD) budget for 2012 is attached. The District was created in 2003. The primary purpose for the District is to provide road maintenance and improvement to 5 miles of road. The secondary purpose is to create Parks and Recreation opportunities in the District.

This is the ninth budget year for the District which continues to see growth, and demand for a greater level of service to meet the community's needs. The District did not hire a part time manager in 2011 as budgeted, but is planning to do so in 2012. As a result, administrative and professional fees continue to be budgeted at a rate higher than recent expenses. The unspent funds budgeted for this position in 2011 have again been allocated to additional maintenance, operations and capital improvements in 2012. The District is budgeting for a possible election in 2012, should that become necessary. The District expects that high fuel costs will continue to impact maintenance expenses and road improvement efforts. Snow removal remains an uncontrollable expenditure, since this is contracted based on the amount of snowfall and number of hours required for plowing. Snow events typically occur in January and February, when the District has the least funding available to pay for it due to the timing of the receipt of our annual fees and tax revenue. Allowing a balance to again carry over in the General Fund should ease this pressure. The District plans to allocate funds to road maintenance and capital improvements resulting from the year-end surplus to help offset these cash flow concerns through the winter and early spring each year. As the District continues to gain experience each year, we anticipate our budgeting becoming more accurate each season.

A portion of the Capital Improvement reserve fund is being allocated this year to spend on continuing road improvements within the District. Phase II roadwork will be reviewed in the spring and summer to determine which projects will be funded in 2012. Unless the 2011/2012 winter is extremely severe, the District anticipates having sufficient funds for continued road maintenance and road improvements during summer 2012.

The proposed budget shows revenue from several sources. An assessment fee of \$300 per lot will continue to be collected, in addition to miscellaneous fees and interest income. Property tax revenue for operations and maintenance as well as for debt servicing will be collected during 2012 for the 2011 property tax year. The District will continue to benefit from a distribution of Specific Ownership Tax collected on vehicle registrations within the state.

The District continues to receive a small allotment from the Conservation Trust Fund (CTF) monies distributed by the State of Colorado from net lottery proceeds. The funds for parks and recreation are minimal, but have been accruing for several years. The District has allocated a portion of these funds to be spent on parks and recreation facilities in the District in 2012. CTF funding is based on the sale of lottery tickets, and is therefore an estimated amount.

The District uses the (modified) accrual method of accounting as the basis for budgetary accounting.

Respectfully submitted by Ryan Bidwell, ATMD Treasurer, _____