WORKSHOP · TUE, OCT 13 · 2:30-3:30 PM

When Every Route Matters: Integrating Mobility and Resilience Hubs in Mountain Communities

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Mountain towns face one road in and out, shaky power, and a population that swings from off-season Tuesday to peak-season Saturday. Planners who lived through the Tubbs, 416 and Beaver Creek fires made the case for planning resilience hubs, mobility hubs and evacuation together, not in silos.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

1. **Picture a visitor's worst night.** A family with kids, older parents and a near-empty EV wakes to smoke and a power outage, with no cell service and one known road out. Plan for them, not just residents.
2. **Resilience hubs start with community trust.** Use a well-used, trusted building, new or repurposed, with supplies and backup power for about a 72-hour outage. It is not "build it and they will come."
3. **Mobility hubs are more than fancy bus stops.** They combine transit, bike and scooter share, charging, wayfinding and real-time info, and must be easy for first-time visitors to understand.
4. **Evacuation plans must flex for peak days.** Plan for peak population, special events, remote campers, visitors not signed up for alerts, fuel and charging limits, and snow or mountain pass routes.
5. **Every partner and mode is on the table.** This summer, rafters in a remote Colorado River canyon were evacuated by rail with buses waiting, thanks to relationships set up in advance.

WHAT LOCAL OFFICIALS CAN DO

- ☐ **Decide if your resilience center is a shelter or a hub,** a place to stay overnight or a place to gather and get people out. Size and siting follow from that.
- ☐ **Build backup power with microgrids and storage** so resilience hubs don't rely on generators that conflict with climate goals.
- ☐ **Sign interagency agreements and run drills** with school districts, transit, resorts and railroads. Set decision triggers and a clear chain of command.
- ☐ **Keep alerts consistent from one source of truth,** and relay them through trusted community groups and health providers.
- ☐ **Line up portable message signs.** Solar-powered roadside signs were critical in the 2013 Beaver Creek fire.
- ☐ **Use mobility hub tech in emergencies:** real-time screens, transit apps and text alerts, backed by backup power.
- ☐ **Train hotel and resort staff** to guide visitors who don't know the town.

BY THE NUMBERS

72 hours
Power outage a resilience center should be able to ride out

5
Boulder parking garages being turned into mobility hubs

WATCH OUT FOR

- ! Local emergency management positions are being scaled back in some places, including parts of Idaho, which makes this planning harder.
- ! Keeping tourism open vs. easing pressure on limited services is a hard call during nearby fires. Have a communications lead so media doesn't set the narrative.

RESOURCES

Colorado Department of Local Affairs
State definition and basic ingredients for resilience centers

Fort Collins Mobility Hubs Guidebook
City plan by Fehr & Peers, with hub types and design standards

Peer example
Groveland Resilience Center, Tuolumne County, Calif., with microgrid and storage

Brendle Group
brendlegroup.com

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Summarized from the session recording and presenter slides. Figures are as presented; confirm with presenters before citing.

CONTACTS

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