

Alta Town Council

Staff Report



To: Town Council

From: Chris Cawley, Assistant Town Administrator

Re: Shuttle Program

Date: March 1, 2023

Attachments:

Background

Since roughly 2010, Alta Chalets has coordinated between various Alta community partners to contribute funding to what has been known as the “Alta Resort Shuttle,” a free, around-town service operated by Alta Shuttle that makes trips between residential areas along the Bypass Road, Alta Ski Area base facilities, and other locations. Over the past two seasons, partners have contributed more funding to support additional shuttle service programs. Below is a summary of the three distinct shuttle service programs operating in Alta this winter. All three services are free of charge and open to the public:

- Traditional “Resort Shuttle” running between residential areas on the bypass road, Alta Ski Area base facilities, and other locations in Alta
- New “Town Shuttle” service primarily intended to pick bus passengers up at the GMD bus stop and circulate between numerous former Ski Bus stop locations, including the Snowbird Cliff Lodge
- The “Night Shuttle,” which was first offered in ski season 21-22, and offers rides upon request between Alta and Snowbird

Alta Chalets has indicated that after 13 years of doing so, they no longer want to coordinate between funding partners or otherwise manage the shuttle program. Alta Chalets does not retain any of the contributions collected to fund shuttle operations, and they have managed the program essentially as a service to the community. If another entity does not step forward to take over the program, the program may not operate next season.

Request for Town Council Discussion and Possible Action: Should the Town of Alta Consider Operating a Shuttle Program in the Future?

There is some precedent for the Town of Alta offering shuttle services, which is that the Town of Alta funded and managed a contract with a transportation company to offer

the Albion Basin Summer Shuttle service for many years. Additionally, there are numerous examples of local governments in ski area communities (separately from special-purpose transit districts like UTA) offering local transportation services similar to Alta's shuttle program. Staff has been discussing the feasibility and desirability of the Town leading an effort to plan for the future of the shuttle program, but before we advance our conversation any further or assemble a working group to plan the next steps, we'd like to understand whether the council is comfortable with staff taking this next step. Council members may ask questions or discuss the topic and may consider a simple motion of support.