



City of Glenwood Springs Transportation Commission Final Minutes, regular meeting - January 4, 2022

The meeting convened (via *Zoom*) at 7:30am and adjourned at 9:40am.

Participants included:

Commission members: Sandy Lowell, Steve Smith, John Stephens, Ralph Trapani
City council members Ingrid Wussow, Shelley Kaup
City staff: Linda DuPriest, Debra Figueroa, Terri Partch
Guest: Betsy Suerth

Minutes

Proposed minutes for December 7, 2021 meeting were approved unanimously as final.

Managed parking/paid parking

In anticipation of city council consideration of options for downtown managed parking (*on council agenda January 6*), the commission discussed potential recommendations. Discussion and update points included:

- managed/paid parking program should include, in addition to city policies and enforcement, participation by large employers
- availability of free parking promotes driving
- among other parking initiatives, *Roaring Fork Transportation Authority* (RFTA) has purchased property at northwest corner, Glen Avenue and 27th, for additional commuter parking.

The commission unanimously endorsed “program 2” in staff report for January 6 council agenda:

- increase enforcement of existing time and location limits for parking downtown
- employ license-plate recognition technology and other new methods to support enforcement
- continue residential parking permits within enforcement area
- implement paid parking in downtown area
- employ graduated parking-fees, escalating ticket penalties, and other incentives for compliance (*e.g.* free parking first half hour, increased fines for repeat violations)
- provide and publicize longer-term free parking at old sewer plant lot (emphasize use by downtown employees)

- consider providing RFTA transit passes, free or discount parking for car-pools, and other incentives and assistance for employees

Bike-share expansion

The commission discussed emerging RFTA proposal, and accompanying consultant analyses, for expanding bike-share network and facilities into Glenwood Springs.

Linda reported that final details of total cost and municipal cost proportion are not yet complete. Consultant's preliminary recommendations include three phases of implementation in Glenwood Springs, with first phase capital cost estimate approximately \$680,000. A portion of that (perhaps 85%) would be paid by RFTA, costs and funding sources for subsequent phases not yet specified.

More detailed consultant presentation and RFTA board discussion/decisions is anticipated at March 10 RFTA board meeting. In anticipation, the commission approved recommendations for consideration by city council and relay through city's delegates to RFTA board. Detailed recommendations are in separate document, generally summarized as:

- clarify potential cost to city if bike-share is expanded
- clarify bike-share system proposed for Glenwood Springs—size and station locations
- investment in local bicycling infrastructure should be first priority for use of city funding, before investing in bike-share system
- consider alternatives (interim or permanent) to bike-share infrastructure, including partnerships with lodging, large employers, bicycle shops, among others
- use more safety-visible color for bike-share bicycles, if deployed in Glenwood Springs.

City boards and commissions, redesign, and purposes

City council will meet with delegates from all boards and commissions on January 27. Each commission is to submit initial recommendations by January 20; the commission will submit a separate document for this purpose. Meanwhile, in response to questionnaire distributed by city council, the commission agreed to recommend:

- priority topics for 2022 are transportation demand management and comprehensive review of city's long range transportation plan (including ranking of large and small capital projects)
 - transportation commission should continue to meet monthly
 - documented statements of purpose for transportation commission (city charter, internal commission mission statement) should replace the term "investigate" with more collaborative term (*e.g.* explore, assess, research)
 - commission should facilitate citizen engagement on transportation issues and proposals
 - mechanics and protocols for submitting commission recommendations should be clarified.

Transportation demand management/traffic volume projections

Terri presented and explained calculations and data used to project motor-traffic increases in and through Glenwood Springs, as part of *Multi-model Options for a Vibrant Economy* (MOVE) study. Sources include 2010 *Corridor Optimization Study*, Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) modeling, and OTIS real-time traffic-counts history.

Resulting rates of traffic-volume increase range from .7% to 2.8% per year. Projections do not consider potential effects of transportation demand management (TDM).

Discussion focused on methods for projecting and enshrining goals for TDM, intended to reduce traffic volumes, or at least reduce rate of growth in traffic volumes. Such goals could be set by city council relative to local traffic. Regional traffic goals (Highway 82) would need to involve other entities and authorities, including CDOT, federal transportation agencies, other local governments, and RFTA.

Access to certain programs and funding sources for TDM may require establishment of metropolitan planning organization (MPO) or similar inter-governmental entity; implementation of local TDM measures might be employed within existing governance structures and authorities.

MOVE pedestrian-bicycle improvements

Discussion of commission analysis and recommendations regarding (MOVE), Appendix D *Pedestrian and Bicycle Improvements Plan*, was postponed until February 1 commission meeting.

Small capital projects

Discussion of mechanics for implementing small capital projects—prioritization, funding, installation—was postponed until February 1 commission meeting.

Agenda topics for February commission meeting

- Update from city council/commissions work meeting
- TDM grant-request update, first steps of implementation
- MOVE pedestrian-bicycle recommendations (*in anticipation of city council work session and regular meeting, tentatively scheduled February 3 and 17*)
- Small capital projects implementation protocols

Other next steps, potential future agenda topics

Current, continuing topics

- Aspen tour, managed parking & TDM
- Transit coordination and refinements, RFTA and Ride Glenwood Springs
- Topical recommendations re final MOVE report and appendices
- TC as referral or review agency, development proposals

Standing topics, when timely

- Updates and discussion, priority capital projects, large and small

- Reports and discussion, smaller/shorter-term transportation projects, studies, and initiatives

The next regular meeting of the Transportation Commission will be **February 1, 2022, 7:30am.**