



City of Glenwood Springs Transportation Commission

March 2, 2021 Monthly Meeting Minutes

The March 2021 monthly meeting of the City of Glenwood Springs Transportation Commission was called to order at 7:33 a.m. on March 2, 2021 via Zoom™.

Present were Commission Chair Sandy Lowell (SL), and Commissioners John Stephens (JS), Ralph Trapani (RT), Lee Barger (LB), Steve Smith (SS) and Robert Gavrell (RG).

Also present were City Council Members Charlie Willman (CW) and Shelley Kaup (SK), City Engineer Terri Partch (TP), COO Steve Boyd (SB) and Transit Planning and Development Lead Linda DuPriest (LD). City Manager Deborah Figueroa joined the meeting later.

I. Call to Order / Modifications to the Agenda.

SL moved to delay approval of February minutes until April, owing to their late delivery for review. SS seconded. Unanimous approval.

II. Approval of the February 2, 2021 Meeting Minutes.

Moved to the next meeting per the above.

III. Staff Report – Ongoing and Developing Trans. Construction Issues.

• *Presentation / update on **South Bridge.***

RT asked about why the sudden urgency with decision-making on change of airport / SB road intersection / alignment design. LB asked about how / why the late design changes should require the reduction of 43 feet of runway. He asked whether tunnel maintenance had been included in the forecast costs of the project. TP explained that redirecting the angle of the bridge would be costly and could negatively affect the angle of approach. LB suggested there is also a great cost in a tunnel. RT and RG echoed LB's concern. SK suggested that she was hesitant to try to change the alignment at this time. CW suggested he was struggling with the decision in light of light use of the airport by local area pilots. SS and RG both suggested the primary use of the airport for its firefighting purposes, and is better thought of as a public safety amenity that has private users, then as a private user amenity. JS asked again that the County be approached for funds.

RG asked about any efforts to incorporate a BRT station in the design, of the alignment / intersection either at SH 82 itself or at what had previously been the maintenance hanger, if it were to be demolished as a

consequence of the new alignment / runway shortening proposal before Council TP expressed that no exploration of that possibility had yet been done.

RG made the following Motion:

The Transportation Commission recommends any South Bridge alignment solution that does not shorten runway length at the airport without further studied review of the aviation consequences of any such shortening. In lieu of such careful review, the Transportation Commission is in favor either of a tunnel along the current alignment (as presently proposed) or any alternative alignment that avoids loss of runway length.

LB seconded. Discussion. Motion approved on a vote of 5 to 1. (SS opposed without assurances that any changed alignment would not negatively impose on Jackson Ranch).

- *Update on 27th Street Underpass Project – timeline and current design drawings.*

Presentation. Questions. Commissioners recommended that access ramp on east side be at least ten feet wide to safely accommodate all users, including bicycle riders, and that sight distances and turning radii at tunnel ends be large enough to be clear and safe for both pedestrians and bicyclists. JS also asked, if possible, to modify turn radius from tunnel under Hwy 82 onto bike width ramps on east side as too acute for easy bike access.

TP committed to bring such comments to RFTA. RG asked that a comment be made to RFTA for its design to continue to contemplate a future south bound bus station for BRT to avoid conflicts at the 27th street intersection. Bids accepted in the fall.

- *Update on Blake Gate – status of counsel review of TC recommendation.*

TP expressed Blake Gate is on the agenda for the next council meeting. Staff recommendation still opposes the recommendations of the TC. SS wants to clarify recommendation as a six month one way 26th to 27th only. CW committed to making this recommendation known to Council.

- *Report on / discussion concerning upcoming priorities and looming construction issues.*

SL asked staff if there were any anticipated upcoming projects warranting involvement by the TC. TP responded that there no pending projects other than those currently being discussed, apart from development proposals that might impact traffic. TP to have assistant City Engineer compile a list of looming development proposals that might impact traffic.

IV. Staff Report – Ongoing and Developing Trans. Planning / Program Issues.

SL noted it is time to begin review of small and large capital projects priorities lists. JS recommended moving such discussion to the April TC meeting. CW concurred, noting CC would not need such recommendations until late June/early July. In preparation, TP for such discussion, will send to TC current priorities' lists, with updating notes.

JS asked about the status of the questions submitted to Council, which, by recommendation of the TC, the answers to which need to be solicited and compiled to assist any future TDM planning. TP suggested that with the end of the MOVE study, there is no longer an ability for staff to pursue these questions. TP reported that RFTA was considering additional funding for those portions of the MOVE study which it wanted to pursue, perhaps on its own.

DF advised she did not feel CC gave specific direction to pursue the questions submitted by the TC, though both **DF and SK then confirmed that Council had given staff the direction to pursue TDM as recommended.** JS suggested the City's delegates to RFTA could ask the questions, some of which were simply asking RFTA to go on record stating its current planning intentions. SK committed to consider the matter.

CW advised that he had connected Steve Beckley and RG to discuss a possible north-Glenwood trolley service, intended primarily to connect visitors to area amenities, as initially discussed in the 2019 Ride GWS study. RT suggested the need for similar service connecting downtown with the Meadows Mall. RG suggested that a report on these discussions would be forthcoming after he spoke with Beckly. CW also noted a bill introduced in state legislature to authorize \$70-90 million for "main street" improvements (response to economic impacts of virus). He suggested such finding might be useful for such a tourist tram and also 6th Street improvements.

V. Sub-Committee Reports and Action Items.

A. Transit Sub-Committee. Report and recommendations.

No report.

B. Bike/Ped Sub-Committee. Report and recommendations (RT).

SS updated on recent activity of the Bike / Ped Subcommittee including areas of focus and inquiry. Recommendations will be presented at the next TC meeting for immediate interim/maintenance measures at specific locations, including 8th Street, 6&24 path, Blake Avenue, and 6th Street. The Bike/Ped SC is also working with city transportation staff and parks staff on updating the bicycle-pedestrian-trail master plan.

C. Parking Sub-Committee. Report and recommendations.

No report.

VI. New Business – Discussion Items.

• *Follow-up Discussion from Joint TC / CC work session. Next steps.*

SL asked what should be the next steps. TP suggested initial conversations between City and local resident CDOT engineer have occurred. RT suggested we may need to go higher with state level officials. SL asked for example, how Aspen spearheaded this approach when they began this approach. All expressed Aspen took a leading role, but so did CDOT. Many small projects led to Aspen's TDM program and that should serve as the model for GWS' TDM program also.

• *Presentation of CDOT's OTIS website. (LB)*

LB presented the OTIS website at CDOT and explored its capabilities. LB notes that the OTIS system can be adapted to provide more details of travel, including traveler destinations. That was appreciated by all Commissioners.

• *Imagine Glenwood presentation - upcoming event.*

RG presented that he had reached out to Sumner Schachter about a joint event between the City and Imagine Glenwood to offer TC help in presenting certain topics. Was later told the event was already planned and TC was welcome to participate but not necessarily to present. The meeting will be held via Zoom on March 11.

- *Status of Commissioners' appointments.*

CW reported that as of Wednesday there will be four vacancies – RP, LB, RD, and JS. Only two applications have been submitted (RG and JS). LB submitted an application but he was term limited off, and RP did not reapply. Discussion as to whether LB could continue to be an appointed member if there were a vacancy and Council appointed him to fill the vacancy in the absence of any applicants. All encouraged LB to continue to attend all the meeting until such time as he could be reappointed, the following year.

VII. Old Business Topics (skipped for time).

VIII. Agenda Planning for Next Meeting.

The Commissioners discussed that at the next meeting the following topics should be on the agenda:

Election of Officers – 020.020.050.

Approval of February and March minutes.

Update on South Bridge vote by Council in light of TC recommendation.

Bike / Ped Sub Committee report.

Transit Sub Committee report following its meeting re: north GWS tram circulator.

Review of list of looming development proposals that might have an impact on traffic compiled by TP.

Review of large and Small construction project priorities following TP's provision of such list.

SL moved to adjourn. LB seconded. Meeting ended at 9:53 a.m.