



City of Glenwood Springs Transportation Commission

Minutes, Regular Meeting – May 4, 2021 (approved June 1, 2021)

The meeting convened at 7:30am and adjourned at 9:50am.

Participants included:

Commission members – Rob Gavrell, Sandy Lowell, Steve Smith, John Stephens, Ralph Trapani
City council members – Shelley Kaup, Ingrid Wussow
City staff – Linda DuPriest, Debra Figueroa, Matt Langhorst, Jenn Ooton, Sara Weigel
Guests Trish Kramer, Jason Smith

Minutes

Minutes for April 6, 2021 meeting were approved unanimously.

Election of officers

Ralph Trapani was unanimously elected vice-chair.
Steve Smith was unanimously elected secretary.

MOVE study

Linda reported that consultants' report and recommendations have been delivered; she is reviewing details and will meet with RFTA staff and consultants on May 6.

Among topics being reviewed and to be discussed are:

- Parking – Meanwhile, city co-hosted April 20 public meetings to discuss parking management (paid parking) with downtown business and building owners. Jenn reported that participants appeared to be more open to managed/paid parking than previously.
- Transit – Linda reported that recommendations relating to local transit service and connections also will be discussed at her May 6 meeting with MOVE consultants.

Jenn reported that the refined MOVE report and recommendations will be delivered to city council in June (June 3 meeting?). That schedule prompted extensive discussion of Transportation Commission's role in reviewing such documents and policy recommendations, and the timing of the commission's involvement.

Debra noted that a) documents/reports will not be provided to the commission while in draft form and b) city staff will attend only regular commission meetings (not available for documents discussion in commission sub-committees *e.g.*).

Commissioners responded that such limitations appear to relegate the commission's review to documents already on in final form, thus eliminating opportunity to advise in a timely way.

Ingrid posited that the commission should review documents at some stage beyond draft but before final, and before final delivery to city council. Debra concurred that delivery to city council can be delayed/adjusted to create a window for commission review and recommendations.

Conclusions/next steps

- Linda will review report and meet with consultants
- Staff will arrange review and delivery schedule to allow opportunity for commission to review and comment
- Delivery of MOVE report to city council anticipated in June

Transportation demand management

Linda reported the city prepared a TDM plan in 2000, including components similar to those presented from her recent research on structure and governance for a TDM program.

The 2000 report included specific intentions, and some measures were initially implemented and later discontinued. Linda is investigating that history.

Linda's next steps include identifying list of outreach targets/stakeholders, both within Glenwood Springs and regionally; her first outreach consultation with city public information officer will be May 11.

Rob noted that outreach list used for Grand Avenue bridge reconstruction constitutes a good initial list for TDM outreach.

Sandy commented that a successful TDM program needs specified staff leadership. Ralph reported CDOT involvement in the 2000 TDM plan and concurred that loss of city staff leadership caused loss of momentum.

Ralph also observed that general commuter patterns have shifted since 2000 (Glenwood Springs imports more workers now *e.g.*), and that those shifts need to be incorporated in updated TDM effort. Jenn concurred, separately noting increased commuting from Eagle County.

John reminded that the *State of Colorado* also has produced TDM guides, which may be useful to city's effort.

Ralph reminded that TDM has environmental/climate implications, in addition to addressing congestion and infrastructure. *Clean Energy Economy for the Region* (CLEER) is developing model plan for de-carbonizing transportation; this should be incorporated into city's efforts.

Shelley noted that new *State of Colorado* climate/greenhouse gas rules are anticipated. Active city TDM program may prove useful in respond to and complying with those rules.

Conclusions/next steps

- Linda will further review 2000 TDM plan to decipher opportunities and shortcomings
- Linda and PIO will craft list of outreach targets for developing updated plan
- Commissioners will collect additional information and suggest sources to inform TDM momentum

RFTA transit scheduling updates

Linda reported that scheduling will be part of May 6 MOVE meeting.

Transportation grants pending

Jenn reported that the city is actively pursuing two grants:

- CDOT grant of \$150,000 to improve bicycle-pedestrian bridge connection at Two Rivers Park (tween ped bridge and Devereux bridge; not northward connection to Highway 6&24) – 90% design is completed, with total cost estimated \$900,000. This project includes cooperative investment from Glenwood Adventure Park (for Centennial Street).

- CDOT and other state grants for 6th Street reconstruction – Master plan completed; DDA seeking design contractor (RFP closes ~May 7). City has reserved ~\$2 of A&I funds for 6th Street construction.

John reminded that Transportation Commission had submitted recommendations for refining the 6th Street master plan (noted in current capital projects ranking list); Steve to re-deliver list of recommendations to Jenn.

CDOT grant already received will be used for directional signs translation, and for flagstone/pavers repair and improved bicycle racks on downtown wings.

Larger CDOT grants are available for identified hazard/safety locations; crash/injury data is required (and often lacking).

Conclusions/next steps

- Steve deliver 6th Street refinement recommendations to Jenn
(• Grant opportunities further discussed under “Transportation Priority List” topic below)

Data collection

Several participants acknowledged the importance of updated travel/commuter/hazard data as component transportation planning and design.

Linda reported that she is pursuing improved data in context of TDM, including information from the emerging MOVE report.

John noted that latest RFTA origin/destination data is from 2014 and was incomplete then.

Jenn noted that emerging 2020 U.S. Census data shows shifts in local travel patterns; she will send internet link to that information and related presentation.

Conclusions/next steps

- Improved travel data needed for multiple purposes
- Jenn will send link to U.S. Census information

Transit Subcommittee

The subcommittee has discussed potential for north-side/downtown shopper/tourist shuttle.

Linda is conferring with *Chamber Resort Association* and *Downtown Development Authority* on opportunities for and feasibility of improved visitor transport. MOVE report will also inform that discussion.

Ralph noted successful tourist shuttle operations in North Carolina, Utah, and Colorado as possible models.

Rob reported problem of temporary loss of RFTA transit stop during current reconstruction of South Blake Avenue.

John advocated for deliberate emergency-access plans for neighborhoods facing possible hazards.

Debra reminded that city is hiring new deputy fire chief, whose duties will include emergency planning. Ingrid reminded that details of emergency planning probably are not appropriate topic for Transportation Commission involvement.

Transportation Priority Lists

Participants confirmed importance of annual review and revision of large and small transportation capital improvements lists, starting with Transportation Commission review and recommendations.

Updated lists serve as component of annual city budgeting process, beginning at staff level in June, at city council in July. Commission recommendations should be delivered in June.

Steve presented contextual excerpts from the city's Long Range *Transportation Plan 2015-2035*, including:

- Annual review is to address possible updates to full plan, in addition to capital projects lists
- Plan includes several goal and purpose statements that comport with current Transportation Commission initiatives (TDM, network continuity, multi-modal emphasis, and practical criteria for prioritizing projects and programs)
- Plan includes section on "programs" (page 1-4) intended to address transportation continuity and safety in manner other than construction. This section may be appropriate home for proposed TDM and for parking management

Steve reported Bicycle-Pedestrian Subcommittee's recommendation to create addition categories for infrastructure projects:

- Smaller capital projects (\$50,000 threshold?)
- Repair/maintenance/SWAT improvements, integrated into annual and daily city staff work plans

Commissioners and staff agreed that the new categories will be helpful. Identifying smaller projects (rather than lumping as <\$1 million projects) may help in securing grants or in using existing city funds to complete.

Meanwhile, public works has expressed openness to a periodically updated, prioritized list of maintenance and repair projects.

Conclusions/next steps

- Commission will review and update recommendations on small and large capital projects ranking, possibly including projects not on current lists (*June meeting, individual draft lists coordinated by Rob meanwhile*)
- Commission will present recommendations for smaller capital projects and for repair/maintenance tasks (*June meeting*)
- Commission will consider recommending updates to other components of the long range transportation plan, including TDM and parking programs
- Steve will resend current list of repair/maintenance recommendations

Next agenda

- Transportation capital projects ranking (*all*)
- Long range transportation plan updates (*all*)
- Data and other information from U.S. Census (*John, Rob, Jenn*)
- TDM continuing momentum (*all*)
- MOVE report and commission review (*Linda, all*)
- Transportation Commission as review agency (*Rob, Jenn*)
- Project updates – South Midland; 27th underpasses; South Bridge; Blake/gate (*staff*)