

CHAPTER I

Introduction

The Casper Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) contracted with LSC Transportation Consultants to prepare a Transit Service Plan specifically focusing on the urban areas of Casper. This Final Report presents a summary of the existing conditions related to public transit services, estimates transit demand for the study area, and analyzes possible alternatives to meet the future demand for transit. Information in this report includes a description of the community, a review of the current transportation providers, issues to be addressed in the study, and concludes with a set of recommendations.



The study focuses on transportation issues within the urban area of Casper, to include the towns of Bar Nunn, Evansville, Mountain View, and Mills and surrounding Natrona County. The report focuses on transportation for the general public, elderly and disabled population, and for school children. General public transportation service in Casper is provided by the Casper Area Transportation Coalition (CATC). For some residents of the area, this service is their only link to work, shopping, health care facilities, and other necessary services.

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

The purpose of this report is to analyze and recommend strategies for responding to changes in the community which will affect the delivery of public transportation services over the next few years. This Transit Plan describes the existing conditions in Casper related to public transit services, discusses service and other alternatives for meeting needs into the future, identifies the locally-preferred set of alternatives, and presents the implementation plan.

Introduction

As in many regions, the City of Casper and the MPO are taking a close look at public transit services and are seeking to find the most effective means of providing those services. Currently, public transportation is provided by CATC and the local taxi cab company. A key element in the plan is to clearly evaluate the unmet needs of local residents and businesses. The current effort focuses on the feasibility of providing public transit services to meet the needs of the community. One important step toward providing an integrated communitywide transportation system is involving key players such as the Metropolitan Planning Organization, the Casper School District, Casper College, CATC, local social service agencies, and residents of Casper and the surrounding areas.

ORGANIZATION OF THIS REPORT

Chapter II discusses the issues and study goals determined by local officials, the Project Team, and area residents. The goals have been refined based on discussions and public comments.

Chapter III includes a description of the study area and the communities within the area. The locations of major activity and employment centers are identified and related to the travel patterns within the county. Information on community demographics, key transit destinations, and economics are summarized. Chapter IV provides a summary of the existing transportation providers within the Casper Study Area.

Chapter V describes the needs assessment for the area including the demand estimation. The updated ridership model and technical data are included, along with the areas of greatest transit need within Casper and the immediate surrounding area.

Chapter VI presents the Strategic Transit Plan. The locally-preferred alternatives were developed into the detailed Short-Range Plan. That Plan is presented with the larger concepts and future goals set into specific action steps. The Plan was reviewed, refined, and/or modified to the satisfaction of the residents and leaders within Casper and Natrona County.



Chapter VII offers service alternatives for meeting increasing future demands. The alternatives range from introducing a fixed-route service in Casper to route-deviation service. Each alternative is evaluated in terms of its anticipated costs, ridership, and performance as related to existing operations.

Chapter VIII introduces the financial alternatives for the Casper area. Existing funding sources are reviewed. Additional funding sources are identified, some based upon the experience of similar areas in other states. As in the previous chapters, the advantages and disadvantages of each are discussed. Chapter IX presents the management alternatives for the study area.

Transit-friendly land use planning concepts are presented in Chapter X. The concepts are related both to general transportation issues in Casper and Natrona County, as well as transit-specific issues. Many of the concepts improve auto safety and traffic flows while at the same time improving transit efficiency and effectiveness.

Finally, Chapter XI presents the detailed Operating and Implementation Plan. This plan identifies the specific steps for implementing the Casper Strategic Transit Plan, including recommendations on operations and management.