

CHAPTER IV

Current Travel Patterns

ORIGIN-DESTINATION PATTERNS

In 1998, Garfield County commissioned an origin-destination study which was completed by Charlier and Associates. This information is currently being updated, and the updated information will be incorporated into this study as it becomes available.

The 1998 study focused on two surveys administered to employers and employees in the Roaring Fork region. More than half of the people holding jobs in the region live and work in different towns. Only about 39 percent live in the same town where they work. Aspen, Glenwood Springs, and Parachute have the highest number of people who live and work in the same town. Silt, El Jebel, and Basalt have the lowest number of people living and working in the same town. This number reflects the extent to which people are dependent on transportation to reach their jobs. Forty-four (44) percent of Glenwood Springs workers live in Glenwood. Sixteen (16) percent of Rifle workers live in Rifle.

CENSUS JOURNEY TO WORK INFORMATION

County-to-County Commute Patterns

Approximately 98 percent of Garfield County workers (age 16 and over) commute within Garfield County or to Pitkin or Eagle Counties. According to 2000 Census data, 74 percent of Garfield County residents work in Garfield County. Sixteen percent commute to Pitkin County and eight percent to Eagle County. Table IV-1 shows Journey to Work patterns for residents of Garfield County.

Table VI-1 Journey to Work Patterns			
Residence	Work		
	Garfield	Eagle	Pitkin
Garfield	16,586	1,746	3,685
<i>Source: Census Transportation Planning Pkg., 2000.</i>			

Mode of Transportation to Work

The 2000 US Census yields information useful to this study effort regarding residents’ means of transportation to and from work. Table IV-2 shows the mode of travel for residents in the county. This information reflects data tabulated for employees 16 years of age and older who were at work when the census questionnaire was completed.

Table IV-2 Mode of Transportation to Work for Workers in Garfield County				
Mode	1990 #'s	%'s	2000 #'s	%'s
Drove Alone	9,873	66.9%	14,604	64.8%
Carpool	2,869	19.4%	4,691	20.8%
Public Transportation	181	1.2%	680	3.0%
Motorcycle	130	0.9%	183	0.8%
Bicycle/Walk	996	6.7%	1,210	5.4%
Work at Home	707	4.8%	1,172	5.2%
Total	14,756	100%	22,540	100%
<i>Source: 2000 US Census</i>				

As indicated in Table IV-2, in both 1990 and 2000 the great majority of the county’s residents drive alone to work. However, the percentage of people driving alone declined in 2000 from 1990. Carpooling is the next mode of choice with approximately 21 percent of the workforce choosing this mode of transportation in 2000. Public transportation was used by three percent in 2000.