



CHAPTER I

Introduction

The City of Glenwood Springs contracted with LSC Transportation Consultants, Inc. to complete the Glenwood Springs Transit Access Study, a tool to be used by local decision makers related to bicycle and pedestrian access to bus stop facilities in the Glenwood Springs area.



It is essential to provide safe pedestrian facilities so that passengers may access the transit system and their ultimate destination. Similarly, safe access to schools is very important. A lack of safe pedestrian access often leads to significant traffic congestion as parents drive their children to and from local schools. These and many other considerations will be important factors as we develop the transit access plan for the Glenwood Springs area.

The City of Glenwood Springs currently provides myriad transportation services through Ride Glenwood Springs. Regional service is provided through the Roaring Fork Transportation Authority (RFTA). This project will assist the City of Glenwood Springs' decision-makers and local planners in understanding and improving current access to transit. Glenwood Springs can at times be overwhelmed with pedestrian activity, and there have been numerous recommendations to improve pedestrian movement and safety along the major thoroughfares. The information gained through this study will provide the necessary data to make informed decisions for pedestrian improvements necessary to accommodate reasonable access to transit stops. Information can then be used wisely to allocate funding and place projects into the Capital Investment Plan.

PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

The primary goal of this project will be to assist local decision-makers with a prioritized list of pedestrian-related facility improvements which will be included

Introduction

in the Glenwood Springs Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) as related to bus stop improvements and direct access to stops. These prioritized projects will identify both short- and long-term investments in the area. While current and future improvements are required to provide safe and accessible pedestrian walk ways (sidewalks), some historical developments in this area did not incorporate these facilities. Most current bus stops in the area are in rather good shape and meet minimum design standards.

STUDY AREA

The study area is the City of Glenwood Springs and appropriate areas surrounding current bus stop facilities. This includes the direct and adjacent access to these stops within a short distance, mainly at major street intersections and local destinations.

REPORT CONTENTS

Chapter II presents an initial field investigation of the area. This preliminary investigation included on-site visits of the area and initial inventory of existing facilities. The initial inventory identified all bus stops served both by Ride Glenwood Springs and RFTA, and a precursory investigation of these facilities.

Chapter III discusses transit-related planning considerations as they relate to bus stops in the area. This chapter also discusses Americans with Disabilities Act considerations as interpreted from the US Access Board in the recent Public Right-of-Way design considerations.

Chapter IV presents the inventory of bus-related facilities. This includes detailed maps and databases of existing bus stop facilities, shelters, and direct access to these facilities. This inventory is presented in text, tables, and graphics.

Chapter IV also presents general improvement considerations for the area. Following these general improvements, specific improvements and priorities will be detailed in the next Technical Report.

STUDY APPROACH

The approach to preparing a prioritized list of bus stop improvements involves both a subjective and objective means to determine the best improvements for the community. One important step toward providing communitywide acceptable recommendations involves key groups and individuals such as the Transportation Commission, local residents, key stakeholders, Colorado Department of Transportation, current bus patrons, and others as identified throughout the study.

Project Team

An initial “kick-off meeting” was held in Glenwood Springs, Colorado on June 5, 2007. The meeting was attended by the Transportation Commission of the City of Glenwood Springs. The project team met to discuss project goals, priorities, the public participation process, and a time line for completion of the final study. The project team also discussed which local stakeholders would be critical in completing the study and how to best inform the residents of the study.

Current Issues and Priorities

During the June kick-off meeting, the project team identified some of the issues with pedestrian access in the Glenwood Springs area. Several of the issues discussed deal with accessibility for both passengers and cyclists. Currently, the pedestrian network has some connectivity issues as well as accessibility in terms of compliance with ADA guidelines for bus stops. Additionally, connectivity with the cycling community was seen as an important issue.

Issues

The following does not represent a comprehensive list of issues in the area, but provides a preliminary list developed by the project team as well as through on-site visits:

- Some connectivity issues from subdivision to destinations.
- Schools and the connectivity and safety issues with pedestrian networks from home to school.
- A lack of design standards or policies.
- Existing barriers – US 6 limited right-of-way.
- Stops need to be ADA compliant.

Introduction

- Cyclists' needs and the trail and bike network need to be examined in relation to bus activity.

Additional Community Input

It is envisioned that two community open houses will be held during this planning effort. The first will be to present the initial findings and to document community issues and visioning for the area. This includes getting specific input on future improvements. The second community open house will be held following the Draft Report which will document the recommended Capital Improvements Plan and priorities, as well as a funding plan.