

# Introduction

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Grand County and Jackson County contracted with LSC Transportation Consultants, Inc. (LSC) to prepare a Transportation Development Program (TDP) Update for Grand County and the first Transit Development Plan for Jackson County. This Final Report presents a summary of the community setting, a review of the existing transportation providers in the study area, issues to be addressed in the study, the needs for services, the alternative means for meeting those needs, evaluation of the alternatives, and finally, an implementation plan for the preferred alternative.

The study focuses on transportation issues within Grand and Jackson Counties. The report focuses on the towns and the rural areas of each county. The plan also discusses transportation for the disabled population and for school children. For some residents of the study area, public transportation is their only link to work, shopping, health care facilities, and other necessary services. For others, public transportation does not exist in their area and there are not any alternatives other than driving an automobile.

As in many regions, Grand and Jackson Counties are taking a close look at public transit services and are seeking to find the most effective means of providing those services. Currently, some public transportation is provided by several providers in Grand County and one provider in Jackson County. Grand County continues to grow, with increasing demands on the road system and the existing public transit systems. Jackson County has little growth, but residents must commute long distances to reach employment centers. One important step toward providing an integrated community-wide transportation system is involving key players such as the towns and County Planning and Engineering Departments, school districts, Councils on Aging, and residents of both counties.

## BACKGROUND

Over the past decade, transportation planning efforts in Grand and Jackson Counties have been moving increasingly in the direction of interdependence and coordination. In 1991, Grand County updated their existing TDP, focusing specifically on the elderly and disabled. In 1999, the Northwest Regional Planning Commission developed the 20-year Regional Trans-

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portation Plan, which includes Grand and Jackson Counties. This plan incorporates all modes of transportation, including transit. However, the transit element was limited and provided little detail for either of these two counties.

This report incorporates two technical memoranda presented to the TAC and study area communities. The first technical memorandum discussed the community setting, including socioeconomic trends in the area, and reviewed the existing transportation services provided in the study area. Technical Memorandum #2 analyzed possible alternatives to meet the future demand for transit. The estimates and analysis were based upon the data presented in Technical Memorandum #1. The second technical memorandum concluded with a set of preliminary recommendations. The preliminary recommendations were reviewed and a preferred plan developed by the Transit Advisory Committee and Consultant Team. The preferred plan is presented as part of the implementation plan.

## **SUMMARY OF REPORT CONTENTS**

Chapter II of this report summarizes the setting for transit services by describing the study area location. As part of the description, population, employment, and land use trends are discussed. The locations of major activity and employment centers are identified and related to the travel patterns within the community.



Chapter III addresses study issues and goals. Study issues were identified through a series of key-person interviews with key representatives of the community who are involved in some way with transit services.

The existing transportation providers within the study area are reviewed in Chapter IV. These providers include The Lift, Grand County Council on Aging, Jackson County Council on Aging, East Grand School District, and other local transportation providers.

In Chapter V, future demand has been estimated through a variety of techniques. The chapter presents a number of approaches to estimate the need. A final set of estimates is established as the basis for understanding what portion of the future needs are currently unmet.

Chapter VI presents the results of The Lift and Grand County Council on Aging onboard surveys. Four other surveys were distributed throughout the study area and are summarized in the chapter. These include an employer survey, employee survey, lodging/visitor survey, and a resident survey.

Chapter VII and Chapter VIII offer short-range and long-range service alternatives for meeting increasing future demands. The alternatives range from no changes to the existing conditions to major modifications like starting new services. Each alternative is evaluated in terms of its anticipated costs, ridership, and performance as related to the existing operations.

Chapter IX introduces the capital alternatives for Grand and Jackson Counties. Chapter X presents the institutional and possible financial alternatives. Existing funding sources are reviewed. Additional funding sources are identified, some based upon the experience of similar agencies in other states. The advantages and disadvantages of each financial alternative are discussed.

Transit-friendly land use planning concepts are presented in Chapter XI. The concepts are related both to general transportation issues in Grand and Jackson Counties, 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 XII presents the Short-Range and Long-Range implementation plans. The locally-preferred alternatives were developed into detailed implementation plans. These implementation plans are presented with the larger concepts and future goals set into specific action steps.