



CHAPTER I

Introduction

Mesa County, on behalf of Grand Valley Transit, (GVT) contracted with LSC Transportation Consultants, Inc. to provide technical assistance in selecting sites for a Transit Operations/Maintenance Facility and a Transfer Facility in the Grand Junction area. Throughout this process, as sites were selected and evaluated, it became evident that due to other constraints, an Administrations/Transfer Facility became the focus of this work. This report details the process to site an administration/transfer center; however, maintenance requirements and discussion were conducted.



Mesa County (specifically the greater Grand Junction area) is served by Grand Valley Transit, contracted through Mesa County. Grand Valley Transit (GVT), now operated by Laidlaw, serves the Grand Junction area with 11 fixed routes using approximately 25 buses, including paratransit and spares. Based upon recommendations in the *2030 Regional Transportation Plan, Transit Element*, Mesa County has taken a proactive step in locating and selecting a preferred site for a maintenance, administrative/operations, and vehicle storage facility.

The Transfer Center will provide a facility which will allow passengers to easily transfer between both current and future GVT buses. The previous facility was located at Mesa State College and became unavailable to GVT in November 2006. It was therefore critical for GVT operations to site a new transfer facility which would accommodate system sustainment and function well into the future. Due to funding constraints, it was advised that a co-located transfer and administration facility would be critical. This report therefore will detail the work to date to site an administrative/transfer center. The final site will allow both functions to operate on one site, given the constraints known. At this time, environmental mitigation is required for this site to become available to the GVT for development. This process is continuing into 2007.

PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

The initial goal of this project was to assist in the selection of suitable sites for the development of a transit maintenance, administration, and storage facility, referenced as an Operations Center, as well as a new transfer facility which will meet the needs of GVT. Objectives include evaluating and prioritizing locations for the implementation of the new facilities, developing conceptual design plans, and guiding local staff in developing an implementation plan for the new facilities.

The end result of this project was a preferred site selection, and supporting documentation for the Federal Transit Administration for a transit administration facility and bus transfer facility in the greater Grand Junction area. Grand Valley Transit has received Senate Bill 1 funding for the administration/transfer facility. This funding must be programmed into the Capital Improvements Program for the Grand Junction/Mesa County Metropolitan Planning Organization and the Grand Valley Transportation Planning Region.

REPORT CONTENTS

Chapter II presents the public involvement program used throughout this study. This included open houses, onboard passenger surveys as part of a separate planning study, and presentations to the Steering Committee and to local community leaders. A key component was the integration of public open houses for input into both the location of an administrative facility and a transfer facility. Typically, the siting of a new transfer facility impacts current bus patrons much more than that of the location for an administrative and or maintenance facility, and therefore, requires more public input. As part of the transfer facility site selection, onboard surveys were conducted to better understand travel patterns of GVT patrons.



Chapter III presents a review of the current system operations, and more specifically, planning documentation which directs the growth of GVT into the future. Information provided a basis for future facility requirements as GVT is likely to

expand service during the life of a new administration and transfer facility. This information is critical to determining the optimal location of a transfer facility.

Chapter IV presents current and future facility requirements for both the administration facility and transfer facility. Each of these facilities requires a multitude of items to function properly. Requirements include such things as adequate office space, parking, bus storage, restrooms, ticket purchases, and a host of others. While there is a discussion and analysis of the maintenance facility, as mentioned, the focus shifted toward siting the administrative/transfer facility. Chapter V presents a review of the preliminary sites for further analysis.

Chapter VI presents the site selection process. This includes discussion and evaluation of the sites for development. Chapter VII presents the final site which was selected for development.

STUDY APPROACH

The approach to the siting of different facilities which meet the needs of GVT follows a somewhat similar planning approach. However, each facility has such widely different requirements that the study represents two distinct, but parallel, efforts on the part of the study team.

One important step toward providing community-wide acceptable sites is involving key players such as the Steering Committee, key stakeholders, Colorado Department of Transportation, current bus patrons, school district representatives, other transportation providers, and local residents. The process followed the general planning approach used by LSC:



Project Team

An initial “kick-off meeting” was held in Grand Junction, Colorado on November 9, 2005. The meeting was attended by members of the RTPO, Mesa County, GVT, City of Grand Junction, and representatives from various city departments. 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 transfer site selection.

The project team discussed various criteria which would be critical in the siting of both the operations/maintenance center and the transfer facility. These initial criteria are further presented in this report. As well, initial sites were presented for review by the Team.

It was advised that two distinct stakeholders groups should exist throughout the planning time frame—the first group to help guide the siting of the operations center and the second group to aid in the siting of the transfer facility. These groups are separate because of the varying functions and possible locations of each facility. As mentioned, a siting for an operations center does not have the impacts on passengers as does that of a transfer facility, and therefore the groups who assist in the planning vary.

The following groups represent the stakeholders who were involved in the siting of the facilities:

- Grand Valley Transit Staff
- Grand Junction/Mesa County Metropolitan Planning Organization
- Mesa County Transportation Planning Region
- Various City Departments such as Engineering, Streets, and Maintenance

