

CHAPTER IV

Existing Deficiencies

ROADWAY

The City of Rifle does not currently suffer from excessive congestion and many of the problems that are associated with a lack of capacity. Occasional long delays may occur, but on an average day, most intersections and streets operate well below their capacities. As growth occurs, congestion will increase, delays will rise, and traveling in and around Rifle will become more cumbersome.

The I-70 interchange ramps at SH 13 have met the warrants for traffic control signals. Traffic control signals are required to provide sufficient intersection capacity for the existing traffic volumes.

One improvement can be implemented on Railroad Avenue without any physical roadway improvements. Currently, the main street through Rifle does not have any coordination between signalized intersections. As a result, there is extra delay in the overall system. The current hardware that is in place is appropriate for the implementation of a signal coordination plan. A plan would permit the town to set a progression speed on Railroad Avenue. Speeding could be discouraged while still maintaining north/south traffic flow.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

The Roaring Fork Transportation Authority (RFTA) began service to Rifle in April 2002. This service runs seven days per week with stops in Rifle, Silt, and New Castle. Current deficiencies for this service include the lack of bus benches and shelters. The “street furniture” provided by either RFTA



or the City of Rifle is a key determinant of the transit system’s attractiveness to both passengers and community residents. In addition, they increase the physical presence of the transit system in the community. Bus benches and shelters can

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play a large role in improving the overall image of a transit system, and in improving the convenience of transit as a travel mode. More importantly, shelter is vital to those waiting for buses in harsh weather conditions.

There is a lack of local transit service which would provide access to destinations within Rifle. The RFTA service will provide transportation to other communities, but there is a lack of service in Rifle.

BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN FACILITIES

The current bicycle and pedestrian facilities in Rifle only include the existing one-half mile of Rifle Creek Trail. This constitutes a current deficiency in bicycle and pedestrian facilities within the city. However, the Rifle Creek Trail System has plans through Fiscal Year (FY) 2005 for the expansion of the Rifle Creek Trail System. The Rifle Creek Trail System will eventually extend from 9th Street through the Old Bridge Subdivision to the city's main park facility, Deerfield Park. The trail system does not provide access to and from the residential areas east and west of the Rifle Creek corridor. This is an existing deficiency which will be worsened by new development to the east and west.

SAFETY

As mentioned in Chapter III, the available information regarding accidents in the Rifle area did not provide sufficient information to perform a complete analysis at intersections. Although the Rifle Police Department currently uses a database to record accident information, improvements to the database are needed in order to perform detailed intersection accident analyses.