

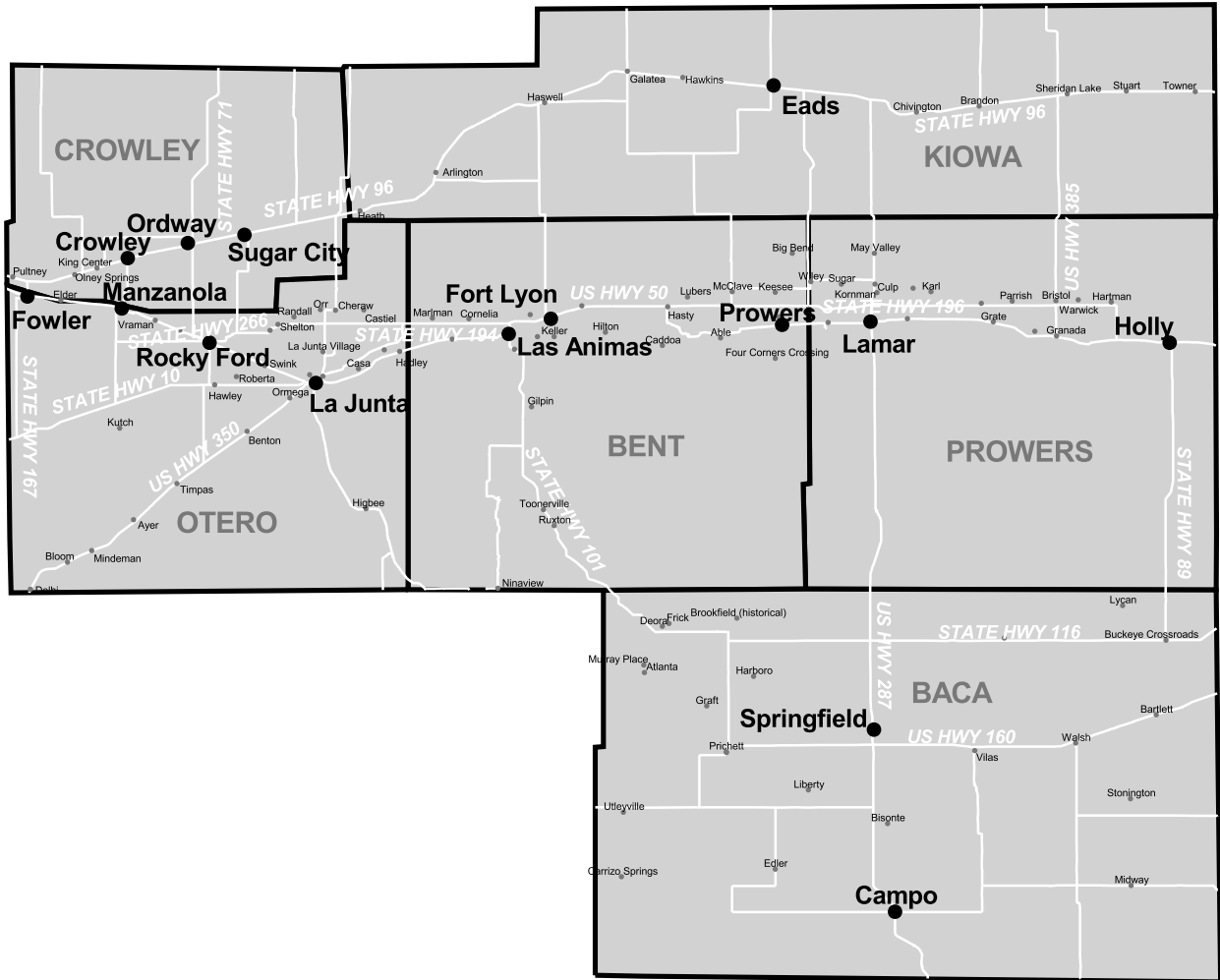
Regional Community Setting

Transportation has always played an important role in southeastern Colorado. The study area for this project is **Baca, Bent, Crowley, Kiowa, Otero, and Prowers** Counties, including the cities of Lamar and La Junta. The area, shown in Figure II-1, is located in the Lower Arkansas Valley in southeastern Colorado. The six-county region is a rural, sparsely populated area with an economy based primarily in agriculture, services, and retail. The cities of Lamar and La Junta are the primary shopping and business activity centers. The region is part of the Arkansas River drainage basin and consists primarily of plains and grasslands. There are numerous tourist attractions and recreational opportunities in the area. The population has a larger-than-average percentage of elderly people, persons with disabilities, and people in poverty. The six-county region had a total population of 52,449 in 2000, an increase of 7.5 percent from 1990. Prowers and Otero Counties had the largest populations with a total of 66 percent of the six-county population.

BACA COUNTY

Baca County is located in the southeastern corner of the state and is the home of the Comanche National Grassland. **Springfield**, the county seat, and the smaller communities of **Bartlett, Campo, Pritchett, Two Buttes, Walsh, and Vilas** are located along the main highways. The two main highways are US Highway 160 running east/west and US Highway 287/385 running north/south. Baca County had a total population of 4,517 in 2000, a decrease of 0.9 percent from 1990, and is the county with the highest percentage of seniors. Springfield is the location of the Southeast Colorado Hospital.

Figure II-1
Study Area



8 0 8 16 Miles



BENT COUNTY

Bent County is the location of the massive John Martin Reservoir, a popular recreation area, as well as Bent's Fort and the Kit Carson Museum. The county seat is **Las Animas**, located on US Highway 50, which runs east/west through the county. The towns of **Fort Lyon** and **Prowers**, along with the smaller communities of **Hasty**, **McClave**, and **Caddoa**, are also located along the highway; however, Las Animas is the major center of activity. The communities of **Toonerville** and **Nina-view** are located in the southwest corner of the county. Bent County had a total population of 5,998 in 2000, an increase of 19 percent from 1990.

CROWLEY COUNTY

Ordway is the county seat of Crowley County and is located at the intersection of the two main highways in the county — State Highway 96 which runs east/west and State Highway 71 which runs north/south. The smaller communities of **Crowley**, **Sugar City**, and **Olney Springs** are located along SH 96. Crowley County has the highest percentage of people living in poverty, a total of 32.2 percent in 1997. The population of Crowley County was 5,518 in 2000, an increase of 40 percent from 1990 due to the construction of a correctional facility.

KIOWA COUNTY

Kiowa County has many reservoirs and is the location of the Sand Creek Massacre. **Eads** is the county seat and is located on State Highway 96 which runs east/west. The towns of **Haswell**, **Chivington**, **Brandon**, **Sheridan Lake**, and **Towner** are also located on SH 96; however, Eads is the main center of activity and is the location of the Weisbrod Memorial County Hospital. US Highways 287 and 385 run north/south through the county, and Eads is located at the intersection of SH 59 and SH 96. Kiowa is the least populated county with only 1,622 residents in 2000, a decrease of four percent from 1990. There is less than one person per square mile in Kiowa County.

OTERO COUNTY

Otero County, home of the Koshare Kiva Dancers, is the most populated county with more than 16 people per square mile. **La Junta**, the county seat, had a population of 7,568 in 2000 and is the center of activity for the county with Otero Junior College and the Arkansas Valley Regional Medical Center. **Rocky Ford** is also a major center of activity with a population of 4,286 in 2000. US Highway 50 runs east/west through the county, and the towns of **Fowler, Manzanola, Rocky Ford, Swink**, and **La Junta** are located along US Highway 50. US Highway 350 runs southwest from La Junta, connects to Timpas, and then to Trinidad. The town of **Cheraw** is in the northeastern part of the county. Otero County had a population of 20,311 in 2000, an increase of less than one percent from 1990. Otero County is the major regional center of activity for the six-county area.

PROWERS COUNTY

Prowers County, the “goose hunting capital of the nation,” is the wintering ground for thousands of flocks of Canada and snow geese. Hunters come to participate in the annual Two Shot Celebrity Goose Hunt and track mule deer, whitetail deer, pheasant, duck, dove, and quail. Many wildlife watchers visit the area. **Lamar**, with a population of 8,869 in 2000, stands on the Santa Fe Trail at the location of Big Timbers, once a 25-mile-long grove of huge cottonwood trees along the banks of the Arkansas River. Lamar is the location of Prowers Medical Center and Lamar Community College. The towns of **Lamar, Granada, Holly**, and **Wiley**, along with the smaller communities of **Bristol** and **Hartman**, are located along US Highway 50, which runs east/west through the county. US Highway 287/385 runs north and south through the county, and Lamar is located at the main intersection of these highways. The population of Prowers County was 14,483 in 2000, an increase of nine percent from 1990. Prowers County is the second largest county in the six-county region. The major economy for this area is agriculture and industrial. This is a major area for seasonal and migrant labor workers.

TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM OVERVIEW

Railroads

Rail transportation plays an important role in the movement of freight and passengers in the Southeast Region. The Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad (BNSF) operates a mainline between Albuquerque and Kansas City through the southeastern part of Colorado, along the Arkansas River and US 50 corridor. The BNSF line connects the region to the major population centers of Denver, Albuquerque, and Kansas City through La Junta, then southwest paralleling US 350. The Union Pacific Railroad also serves the area.

AMTRAK currently provides passenger rail service with daily stops in both directions in Lamar and La Junta. The AMTRAK Southwest Chief operates between Chicago and Los Angeles. It enters Colorado at the Kansas state line east of Lamar and leaves the state at the New Mexico state line east of Trinidad.

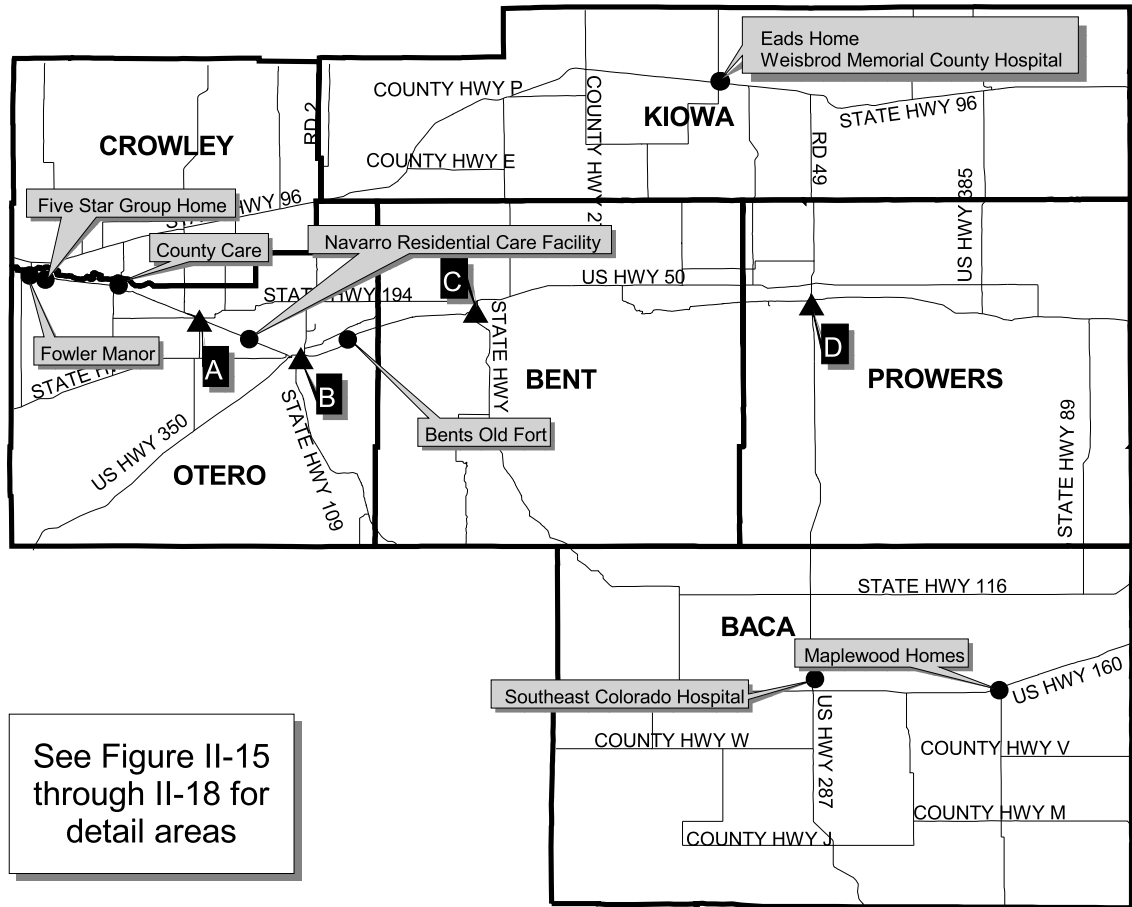
Aviation Facilities

There are six general aviation airports in the region. These airports are located in the cities of Eads, Holly, La Junta, Lamar, Las Animas, and Springfield.

MAJOR TRANSIT DESTINATIONS

Major transit destinations are important in terms of land use, trip generation rates, and their ability to be served by public transit. Figures II-2 through II-6 show the location of important points of interest identified within the study area. Many of these destinations are clustered together into what can be termed “activity centers.”

**Figure II-2
Major Activity Centers**

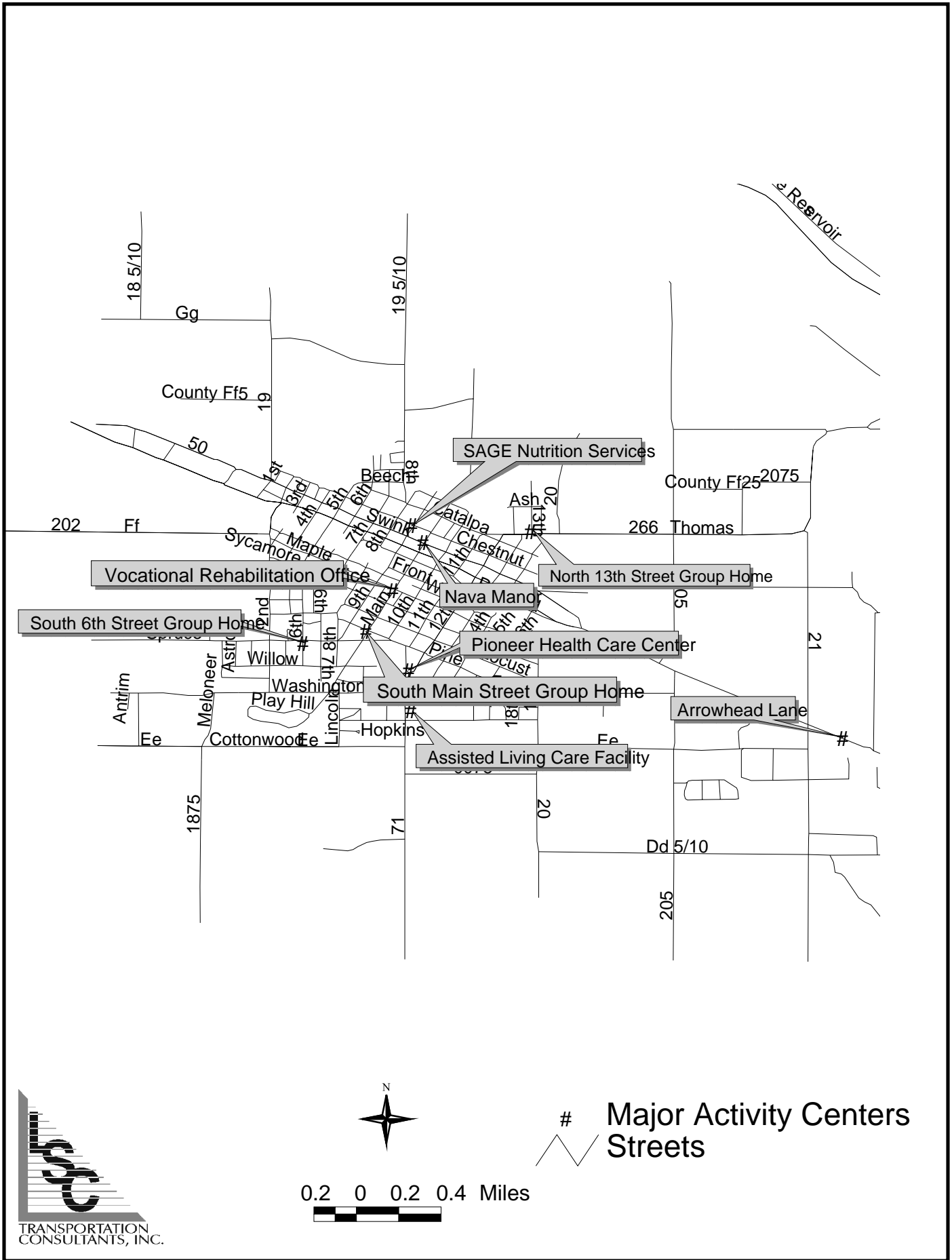


See Figure II-15 through II-18 for detail areas

- Activity Centers
- ▲ Detail Areas
- ▬ Major Roads
- Counties



9 0 9 18 Miles



0.2 0 0.2 0.4 Miles

Major Activity Centers
 Streets

STUDY AREA DEMOGRAPHICS

1990 Population

The permanent population for Southeast Colorado study area was reported by the 1990 Census to be 48,770 persons. The 2000 population estimates from the Colorado Department of Local Affairs report an increase to 51,220 persons (five percent). Table II-1 presents 1990 population characteristics by county and census block group. The population density is illustrated in Figures II-7 and II-8. Table II-1 also provides gender and race information. Figures II-9 and II-10 illustrate the location of census block groups within the study area.

**Table II-1
1990 General Population Characteristics**

County	Census Tract	Census Block Group	Land Area (sq.ml.)	Total Population (Persons)	Population by Gender		Population by Race				
				#	Male	Female	White	Black	American Indian	Asian/Pac. Is.	Other Race
Baca	9846	1	213.11	103	65	38	103	0	0	0	0
	9846	2	150.08	182	90	92	182	0	0	0	0
	9846	3	3.87	866	428	438	817	0	33	0	16
	9846	4	183.03	234	106	128	186	0	8	0	40
	9846	5	201.48	94	31	63	94	0	0	0	0
	9846	6	126.57	113	78	35	113	0	0	0	0
	9847	1	283.93	180	99	81	180	0	0	0	0
	9847	2	2.51	528	246	282	495	0	9	0	24
	9847	3	0.17	256	126	130	224	0	3	0	29
	9847	4	28.79	856	410	446	815	2	10	4	25
	9847	5	188.81	275	127	148	265	0	2	0	8
	9848	1	95.41	64	28	36	64	0	0	0	0
	9848	2	103.28	98	58	40	98	0	0	0	0
	9848	3	222.15	116	59	57	116	0	0	0	0
	9848	4	56.48	199	97	102	199	0	0	0	0
	9849	1	363.30	293	147	146	293	0	0	0	0
9849	2	334.13	99	56	43	99	0	0	0	0	
TOTALS: BACA COUNTY				4,556	2,251	2,305	4,343	2	65	4	142
Prowers	9856	1	144.94	447	235	212	385	0	0	3	59
	9856	2	18.37	1,028	510	518	902	0	17	0	109
	9857	1	160.11	260	128	132	216	0	0	0	44
	9857	2	47.81	682	347	335	393	2	0	0	287
	9858	1	132.15	805	377	428	767	0	6	0	32
	9858	2	27.12	734	350	384	693	0	4	0	37
	9859	1	6.53	773	324	449	624	0	0	0	149
	9859	2	6.64	905	411	494	728	0	43	0	134
	9859	3	0.23	1,185	579	606	799	6	32	0	348
	9859	4	0.31	553	282	271	324	0	5	0	224
	9859	5	0.17	646	313	333	591	0	6	0	49
	9860	1	35.85	1,464	754	710	1352	30	25	0	57
	9860	2	0.28	1,022	430	592	960	0	6	0	56
	9860	3	0.16	752	352	400	743	0	0	0	9
	9860	4	32.66	940	457	483	811	0	8	0	121
	9860	5	0.23	740	373	367	717	0	0	0	23
9861	1	327.39	197	102	95	177	0	0	0	20	
9861	2	703.59	214	109	105	214	0	0	0	0	
TOTALS: PROWERS COUNTY				13,347	6,433	6,914	11,396	38	152	3	1,758
Bent	9866	1	268.15	816	423	393	760	0	5	0	51
	9866	2	1,050.07	249	128	121	249	0	0	0	0
	9867	1	203.34	1,019	667	352	868	13	0	5	133
	9867	2	14.54	1,116	503	613	1073	8	0	14	21
	9867	3	0.28	736	337	399	625	0	5	8	98
	9867	4	0.35	676	322	354	611	0	5	6	54
9867	5	4.41	436	217	219	432	4	0	0	0	
TOTALS: BENT COUNTY				5,048	2,597	2,451	4,618	25	15	33	357
Otero	9876	1	183.88	1,145	608	537	1104	20	18	0	3
	9876	2	3.49	1,046	522	524	1006	0	0	0	40
	9877	1	0.33	952	392	560	747	0	23	14	168
	9877	2	0.53	709	284	425	504	0	0	33	172
	9877	3	0.22	772	360	412	596	0	0	0	176
	9877	4	0.25	1,054	485	569	901	0	36	5	112
	9877	5	0.25	1,370	607	763	1328	6	13	0	23
	9877	6	0.38	762	389	373	732	7	19	4	0
	9878	1	6.87	626	305	321	525	0	0	21	80
	9878	2	4.83	1,338	638	700	1278	9	0	12	39
	9878	3	5.69	699	401	298	552	0	19	0	128
	9878	4	20.31	1,155	590	565	1121	0	11	12	11
	9879	1	18.23	1,069	525	544	827	20	5	0	217
	9879	2	0.48	1,181	506	675	906	19	19	20	217
	9879	3	33.28	644	360	284	467	6	0	48	123
	9880	1	13.16	1,030	496	534	590	7	8	0	425
9880	2	0.23	738	368	370	377	0	7	0	354	
9880	3	0.18	579	263	316	407	0	0	0	172	
9880	4	0.46	576	289	287	360	0	22	0	194	
9881	1	27.53	913	448	465	644	4	14	2	249	
9881	2	931.57	169	93	76	164	0	5	0	0	
9882	1	15.51	1,025	482	543	979	0	0	2	44	
9882	2	2.08	633	300	333	584	0	2	0	47	
TOTALS: OTERO COUNTY				20,185	9,711	10,474	16,699	98	221	173	2,994
Crowley	9896	1	309.49	412	218	194	381	0	4	2	25
	9896	2	404.68	697	332	365	692	0	5	0	0
	9896	3	58.07	1,525	1257	268	1127	229	67	3	99
	9896	4	12.32	639	331	308	617	2	7	13	0
	9896	5	15.78	673	312	361	635	0	12	10	16
TOTALS: CROWLEY COUNTY				3,946	2,450	1,496	3,452	231	95	28	140
Kiowa	9901	1	216.91	179	94	85	172	0	6	0	1
	9901	2	259.57	160	76	84	160	0	0	0	0
	9901	3	262.62	120	57	63	120	0	0	0	0
	9901	4	189.86	970	465	505	948	0	2	0	20
	9901	5	342.84	121	62	59	115	0	6	0	0
	9901	6	513.94	138	70	68	126	0	0	0	12
TOTALS: KIOWA COUNTY				1,688	824	864	1,641	0	14	0	33
TOTAL: STUDY AREA			9,598.44	48,770	24,266	24,504	42,149	394	562	241	5,424

Source: 1990 US Census of Population and Housing, STF 3A on CD-ROM

Transit-Dependent Populations

This section provides information on individuals considered by the transportation profession to be dependent upon public transit. In general, these population characteristics preclude most such individuals from driving and increase the dependence on friends and relatives for transportation.

The four types of limitations which preclude persons from driving are: (1) physical limitations, (2) financial limitations, (3) legal limitations, and (4) self-imposed limitations. Physical limitations may include everything from permanent disabilities such as frailty due to age, blindness, paralysis, or developmental disabilities to temporary disabilities such as acute illnesses and head injuries. Financial limitations essentially include those persons unable to purchase or rent their own vehicle. Legal limitations refer to such limitations as persons who are too young (generally under age 16) or those persons whose privileges have been revoked (DUI, etc.). The final category of limitation includes those people who choose not to own or drive a vehicle (some or all of the time) for reasons other than those listed in the first three categories.

The census is generally capable of providing information about the first three categories of limitation. The fourth category of limitation is generally recognized as representing an insignificant proportion of transit ridership. Table II-2 presents the regional census statistics including zero-vehicle households, youth population, elderly population, mobility-limited population, and below-poverty population. These types of data are important to the various methods of demand estimation presented later in Chapter IV.

Youth Population

The total population of youth aged 10 to 15 years for the study area was 12,397 persons in 1990, representing 25.4 percent of the total population. Prowers County has the highest number of youth with 28.2 percent of the population between 10 and 15 years old.

**Table II-2
Transit-Dependent Population Characteristics for Southeast Colorado Census Block Groups**

County	Census Tract	Census Block Group	Land Area (sq.m.)	Zero-Vehicle Households		Total Number of Households	Total Number of Youth Aged 0-15		Total Number of Elderly 60 & over		Mobility-Limited Population		Below-Poverty Population		Total Population (Persons)
				#	%		#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	
Baca	9846	1	213.11	0	0.0%	36	44	42.7%	24	23.3%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	103
	9846	2	150.08	0	0.0%	76	43	23.6%	46	25.3%	2	1.1%	7	3.8%	182
	9846	3	3.87	24	7.0%	342	201	23.2%	201	23.2%	21	2.4%	155	17.9%	866
	9846	4	183.03	0	0.0%	71	89	38.0%	28	12.0%	6	2.6%	55	23.5%	234
	9846	5	201.48	0	0.0%	40	27	28.7%	26	27.7%	0	0.0%	16	17.0%	94
	9846	6	126.57	0	0.0%	63	15	13.3%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	113
	9847	1	283.93	0	0.0%	61	47	26.1%	52	28.9%	25	13.9%	27	15.0%	180
	9847	2	2.51	12	5.6%	213	86	16.3%	214	40.5%	10	1.9%	81	15.3%	528
	9847	3	0.17	16	12.3%	130	28	10.9%	94	36.7%	7	2.7%	52	20.3%	256
	9847	4	28.79	18	4.5%	404	169	19.7%	226	26.4%	33	3.9%	148	17.3%	856
	9847	5	188.81	4	3.8%	105	67	24.4%	55	20.0%	7	2.5%	58	21.1%	275
	9848	1	95.41	0	0.0%	22	30	46.9%	7	10.9%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	64
	9848	2	103.28	0	0.0%	37	21	21.4%	23	23.5%	0	0.0%	30	30.6%	98
	9848	3	222.15	0	0.0%	37	47	40.5%	14	12.1%	0	0.0%	40	34.5%	116
	9848	4	56.48	0	0.0%	97	24	12.1%	91	45.7%	18	9.0%	32	16.1%	199
9849	1	363.30	5	3.9%	128	69	23.5%	97	33.1%	6	2.0%	96	32.8%	293	
9849	2	334.13	0	0.0%	34	42	42.4%	10	10.1%	0	0.0%	56	56.6%	99	
TOTALS: BACA COUNTY			2,557.09	79	4.2%	1,896	1,049	23.0%	1,208	26.5%	135	3.0%	853	18.7%	4,556
Prowers	9856	1	144.94	6	3.7%	163	134	30.0%	73	16.3%	24	5.4%	56	12.5%	447
	9856	2	18.37	19	5.0%	382	271	26.4%	231	22.5%	11	1.1%	170	16.5%	1,028
	9857	1	160.11	8	7.6%	105	54	20.8%	64	24.6%	0	0.0%	72	27.7%	260
	9857	2	47.61	23	9.9%	233	235	34.5%	108	15.8%	25	3.7%	232	34.0%	682
	9858	1	132.15	4	1.4%	282	250	31.1%	107	13.3%	13	1.6%	96	11.9%	805
	9858	2	27.12	0	0.0%	264	193	26.3%	83	11.3%	29	4.0%	109	14.9%	734
	9859	1	6.53	10	3.3%	305	194	25.1%	136	17.6%	27	3.5%	174	22.5%	773
	9859	2	6.64	5	1.5%	328	260	28.7%	128	14.1%	19	2.1%	297	32.8%	905
	9859	3	0.23	39	9.2%	424	380	32.1%	168	14.2%	54	4.6%	353	29.8%	1,185
	9859	4	0.31	26	13.1%	199	157	28.4%	108	19.5%	7	1.3%	84	15.2%	553
	9859	5	0.17	12	4.6%	262	191	29.6%	142	22.0%	10	1.5%	149	23.1%	646
	9860	1	35.85	7	1.5%	454	443	30.3%	185	12.6%	31	2.1%	201	13.7%	1,464
	9860	2	0.28	83	19.3%	431	321	31.4%	193	18.9%	37	3.6%	333	32.6%	1,022
	9860	3	0.16	0	0.0%	309	211	28.1%	125	16.6%	7	0.9%	166	22.1%	752
	9860	4	32.66	11	2.9%	379	282	30.0%	116	12.3%	14	1.5%	179	19.0%	940
9860	5	0.23	0	0.0%	327	94	12.7%	224	30.3%	18	2.4%	59	8.0%	740	
9861	1	327.39	0	0.0%	80	15	7.6%	83	42.1%	0	0.0%	6	3.0%	197	
9861	2	703.59	0	0.0%	63	81	37.9%	24	11.2%	0	0.0%	20	9.3%	214	
TOTALS: PROWERS COUNTY			1,644.36	253	5.1%	4,990	3,766	28.2%	2,298	17.2%	326	2.4%	2,756	20.6%	13,347
Bent	9866	1	268.15	2	0.7%	278	232	28.4%	124	15.2%	17	2.1%	157	19.2%	816
	9866	2	1,050.07	0	0.0%	103	59	23.7%	67	26.9%	0	0.0%	43	17.3%	249
	9867	1	203.34	0	0.0%	263	271	26.6%	240	23.6%	16	1.6%	151	14.8%	1,019
	9867	2	14.54	32	7.4%	431	224	20.1%	322	28.9%	32	2.9%	131	11.7%	1,116
	9867	3	0.28	45	15.1%	298	151	20.5%	236	32.1%	4	0.5%	186	25.3%	736
	9867	4	0.35	28	10.8%	260	158	23.4%	182	26.9%	36	5.3%	216	32.0%	676
	9867	5	4.41	28	13.7%	205	104	23.9%	101	23.2%	29	6.7%	73	16.7%	436
TOTALS: BENT COUNTY			1,541.14	135	7.3%	1,838	1,199	23.8%	1,272	25.2%	134	2.7%	957	19.0%	5,048
Otero	9876	1	183.88	8	2.4%	338	293	25.6%	147	12.8%	16	1.4%	155	13.5%	1,145
	9876	2	3.49	21	4.9%	425	263	25.1%	255	24.4%	77	7.4%	194	18.5%	1,046
	9877	1	0.33	59	15.6%	379	278	29.2%	232	24.4%	70	7.4%	410	43.1%	952
	9877	2	0.53	63	18.4%	342	139	19.6%	196	27.6%	44	6.2%	124	17.5%	709
	9877	3	0.22	44	16.4%	268	214	27.7%	114	14.8%	52	6.7%	204	26.4%	772
	9877	4	0.25	36	10.5%	343	377	35.8%	98	9.3%	22	2.1%	322	30.6%	1,054
	9877	5	0.25	44	9.0%	491	433	31.6%	204	14.9%	14	1.0%	388	28.3%	1,370
	9877	6	0.38	9	3.0%	305	139	18.2%	121	15.9%	18	2.4%	32	4.2%	762
	9878	1	6.87	13	5.6%	231	179	28.6%	144	23.0%	22	3.5%	170	27.2%	626
	9878	2	4.83	11	2.3%	481	300	22.4%	382	28.6%	33	2.5%	133	9.9%	1,338
	9878	3	5.69	39	13.0%	300	130	18.6%	244	34.9%	59	8.4%	103	14.7%	699
	9878	4	20.31	17	4.4%	388	313	27.1%	148	12.8%	28	2.4%	123	10.6%	1,155
	9879	1	18.23	14	3.6%	391	276	25.8%	184	17.2%	22	2.1%	232	21.7%	1,069
	9879	2	0.48	33	7.3%	449	317	26.8%	287	24.3%	25	2.1%	171	14.5%	1,181
	9879	3	33.28	9	3.3%	273	119	18.5%	181	28.1%	14	2.2%	58	9.0%	644
9880	1	13.16	101	28.0%	361	331	32.1%	172	16.7%	51	5.0%	670	65.0%	1,030	
9880	2	0.23	34	12.1%	280	183	24.8%	173	23.4%	61	8.3%	232	31.4%	738	
9880	3	0.18	46	18.9%	244	150	25.9%	140	24.2%	30	5.2%	140	24.2%	579	
9880	4	0.46	22	8.9%	247	134	23.3%	146	25.3%	44	7.6%	246	42.7%	576	
9881	1	27.53	16	4.5%	352	212	23.2%	216	23.7%	34	3.7%	249	27.3%	913	
9881	2	931.57	0	0.0%	68	43	25.4%	26	15.4%	5	3.0%	32	18.9%	169	
9882	1	15.51	17	4.5%	376	240	23.4%	277	27.0%	54	5.3%	151	14.7%	1,025	
9882	2	2.08	14	4.8%	293	135	21.3%	210	33.2%	42	6.6%	159	25.1%	633	
TOTALS: OTERO COUNTY			1,269.75	670	8.8%	7,625	5,198	25.8%	4,297	21.3%	837	4.1%	4,698	23.3%	20,185
Crowley	9896	1	309.49	5	3.0%	168	106	25.7%	127	30.8%	13	3.2%	91	22.1%	412
	9896	2	404.68	11	4.2%	264	192	27.5%	130	18.7%	29	4.2%	188	27.0%	697
	9896	3	58.07	15	7.4%	203	134	8.8%	146	9.6%	8	0.5%	155	10.2%	1,525
	9896	4	12.32	34	12.9%	263	176	27.5%	137	21.4%	12	1.9%	156	24.4%	639
	9896	5	15.78	21	7.9%	266	139	20.7%	239	35.5%	39	5.8%	103	15.3%	673
TOTALS: CROWLEY COUNTY			800.34	86	7.4%	1,164	747	18.9%	779	19.7%	101	2.6%	693	17.6%	3,946
Kiowa	9901	1	216.91	2	3.1%	64	51	28.5%	31	17.3%	2	1.1%	20	11.2%	179
	9901	2	259.57	2	3.3%	61	43	26.9%	34	21.3%	8	5.0%	8	5.0%	160
	9901	3	262.62	5	10.2%	49	25	20.8%	32	26.7%	9	7.5%	8	6.7%	120
	9901	4	189.86	17	4.5%	380	246	25.4%	292	30.1%	39	4.0%	163	16.8%	970
	9901	5	342.84	0	0.0%	39	37	30.6%	7	5.8%	0	0.0%	20	16.5%	121
	9901	6	513.94	0	0.0%	55	36	26.1%	25	18.1%	0	0.0%	9	6.5%	138
TOTALS: KIOWA COUNTY			1,785.76	26	4.0%	648	438	25.9%	421	24.9%	58	3.4%	228	13.5%	1,688
TOTAL: STUDY AREA			9,598.44	1,249	6.9%	18,161	12,397	25.4%	10,275	21.1%	1,591	3.3%	10,185	20.9%	48,770

Source: 1990 US Census of Population and Housing, STF 3A on CD-ROM

Elderly Population

Elderly persons (age 60 or older) represent 21.1 percent of the total population of the study area. Figures II-11 and II-12 graphically illustrate the distribution of elderly persons across the region. Generally, the largest numbers of elderly persons are found in Rocky Ford, La Junta, Las Animas, Lamar, and Springfield. These areas of high elderly concentration are important areas for senior service programs. A general trend across the United States is that the elderly population has been increasing as a proportion of the total population.

Mobility-Limited Population

The mobility-limited population, as a whole, represents approximately 3.4 percent of the study area. Figures II-13 and II-14 show the distribution of the mobility-limited population in the study area. The census block groups with the highest density are located in the Rocky Ford, La Junta, and Lamar areas. Census Block Group 9847 1, near Springfield, has the highest percentage with 13.9 percent of the population being mobility-limited persons.

Low-Income Population

Low-income persons tend to depend on transit to a greater extent than persons with a high level of disposable income. Based on the 1990 US Census, the Southeast Colorado area reported that 20.9 percent (10,185) of the population ranked below poverty level. Figures II-15 and II-16 present the density of below-poverty persons within the study area. The most dense areas with persons below poverty level are located within and around Rocky Ford, La Junta, Las Animas, and Lamar. In 1990, Census Block Group 9880 1, located near Rocky Ford, had the highest percentage of persons below poverty level with 65 percent of the population below poverty level.

Zero-Vehicle Households

The final census information related to the “transit-dependent” is the distribution of households without their own vehicle. That distribution is shown for the study area in Figures II-17 and II-18. The census indicates that 1,246 of the study area’s 18,161 households did not have a vehicle in 1990, representing about 6.9 percent of the total. The highest number of zero-vehicle households was located in Block Group 1 in Census Tract 9880. This block group had approximately 28 percent of the households without a car. This area is located north of Rocky Ford in Otero County.

Population Projections

Population trends for Southeast Colorado are shown in Table II-3. Figure II-19 graphically illustrates the population trends.

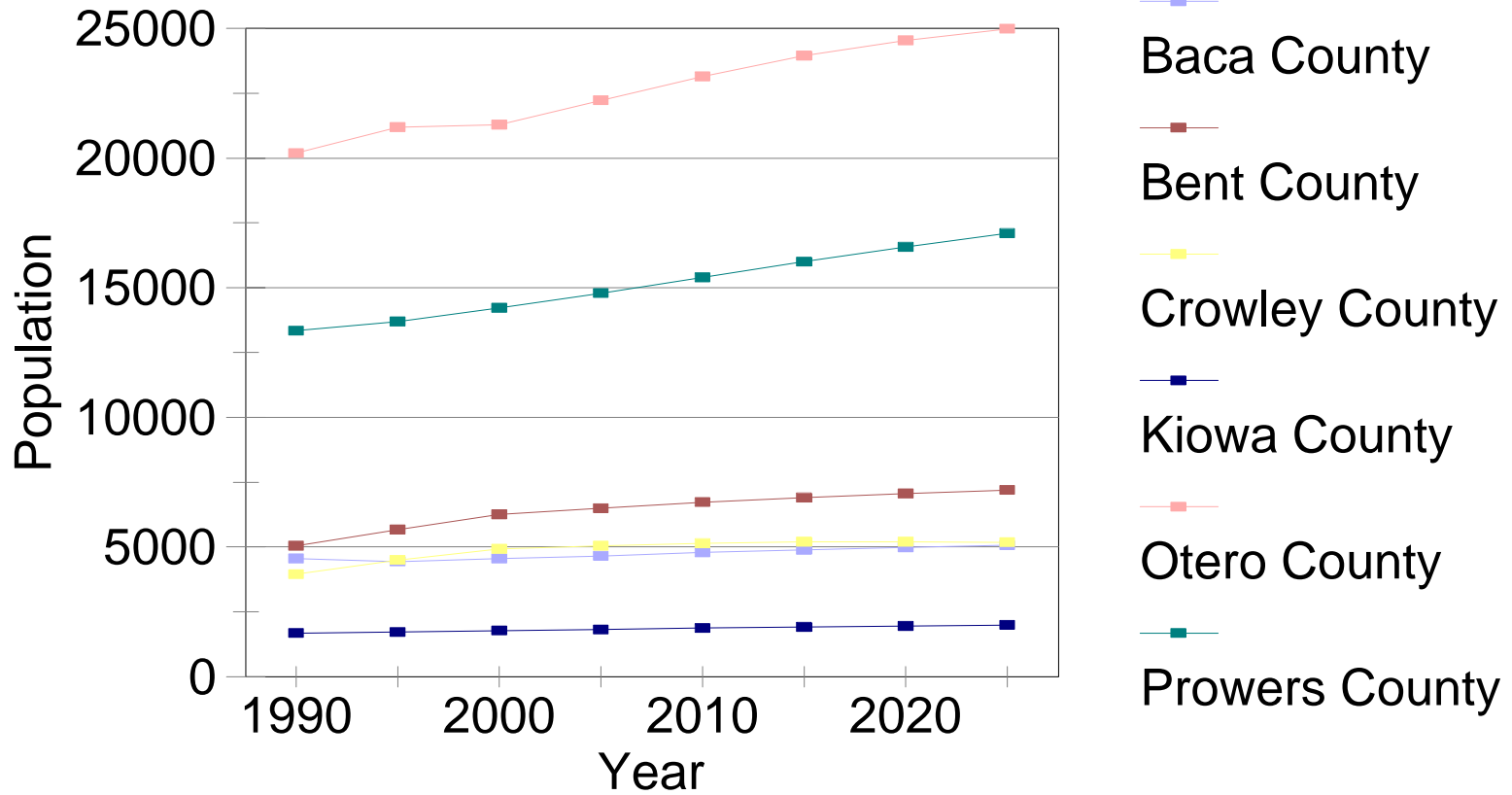
**Table II-3
Population Projections**

Location	1990	1995	2000	2005	2010	2015	2020	2025
State of Colorado	3,304,042	3,782,175	4,250,110	4,653,254	5,085,467	5,527,839	5,973,767	6,427,169
Baca County	4,556	4,443	4,562	4,649	4,785	4,896	4,984	5,062
Bent County	5,048	5,676	6,258	6,501	6,736	6,901	7,056	7,193
Crowley County	3,946	4,499	4,938	5,046	5,144	5,194	5,201	5,193
Kiowa County	1,688	1,726	1,787	1,825	1,871	1,922	1,964	1,998
Otero County	20,185	21,190	21,292	22,220	23,146	23,941	24,536	24,987
Prowers County	13,347	13,685	14,220	14,786	15,386	15,993	16,571	17,095

Source: Colorado Department of Local Affairs

Figure II-19

Population Projections



Economy and Employment

Table II-4 shows the available 1999 information on employment by county. The primary employment sector for the area is government. Prowers County has the lowest percentage of government jobs in the area at 23 percent, and Bent County has the highest percentage at 62 percent. Retail trade and services also play an important role in the area.

Major Employers

Table II-5, on the following page, lists the major employers in the study area by county.

**Table II-4
Employment by Sector of the Economy**

Industry	Baca County		Prowers County		Bent County		Otero County		Crowley County		Kiowa County	
	1999	%	1999	%	1999	%	1999	%	1999	%	1999	%
Agriculture, Forestry	34	3%	684	11%	48	3%	324	4%	58	5%	30	6%
Mining	D	D	98	2%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	11	2%
Construction	40	3%	163	3%	52	3%	180	2%	16	1%	21	5%
Manufacturing	32	2%	1,163	18%	14	1%	712	10%	D	0%	D	D
Transp., Comm., Utilities	45	3%	173	3%	30	2%	455	6%	15	1%	33	7%
Wholesale Trade	63	5%	270	4%	21	1%	443	6%	0	0%	25	5%
Retail Trade	202	16%	1,337	21%	165	10%	1,413	19%	124	11%	74	16%
Financial, Insurance, Real Estate	42	3%	263	4%	62	4%	261	4%	27	2%	D	D
Services	76	6%	741	12%	222	14%	1,712	23%	346	31%	9	2%
Public Administration	755	58%	1,469	23%	990	62%	1,786	25%	519	47%	248	54%
TOTAL	1,292	100%	6,361	100%	1,604	100%	7,286	100%	1,105	100%	463	100%

Notes:

D indicates that the data cannot be reported since it would disclose confidential information. may not sum due to data suppression.

Source: State of Colorado

Table II-5
Major Employers in the Southeast Colorado Area

County	Employer	County	Employer
Baca	Baca County	Otero	Arkansas Valley Regional Medical Center
	Cross Road Travel Plaza		Burlington-Northern Santa Fe (BNSF)
	Feed Lots		CentrutyTel
	Hospitals		City of La Junta
School Districts	City of Rocky Ford		
Bent	Bent County		Colorado Boys Ranch
	Bent County Prison		Dean Specialty Foods
	Colorado Feeds		Debourgh Manufacturing
	Corp. of Engineers		Feed Lots
	Feed Lots		Lewis Bolt & Nut
	Fort Lyon Canal		Otero County
	Fort Lyon Prison		Otero Junior College
	Thaxon's		Prior Manufacturing
Crowley	Centel		Prowers
	Crowley County	Cargill	
	Foxley Cattle	CF Maier Composts	
	Prison	City of Lamar	
	School Districts	Colorado Feeds	
Kiowa	Kiowa County	County Market	
	Newsham Hybrids (USA)	Neoplan	
	Nursing Homes	Newsham Hybrids (USA)	
	School Districts	Prowers County	
	Weisbrod Memorial Hospital	Prowers Medical Center	
		Ranch Manufacturing	
		School Districts	
		Southeast Power	
		Suetrak	
		Wal-Mart	
		WHO Manufacturing	

Source: Southeast Colorado Transit Development Plan 1997-2001