

Meeting Log

Upper Gunnison Valley Transportation Plan - 2008 Update

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Southern Study Area Staff & Stakeholders Meeting

August 13, 2008, 5:30 pm–7:00 pm

Gunnison County Commissioners' Chambers

Notes:

- After introductions, Jacob gave a brief overview of the project's status and activities conducted to date, the purpose of today's discussion, and how input received will help shape the planning process.
- Jacob and Scott then led the group through a facilitated discussion to review and obtain feedback and direction regarding the new Plan's initial draft concept and policy recommendations discussed in a separate handout. Jacob and Scott explained that feedback from this meeting, a similar meeting in Crested Butte, and from the RTA Board this week would help shape the final Plan's recommendations. The ensuing discussion and feedback received are summarized as follows:
 - It was suggested that the survey responses be examined in order to determine how people from specific communities responded to certain questions.
 - A bypass in Gunnison may be needed to handle future development, re-route commercial traffic, and address potential mine-related activity. The bypass might also help with future traffic from the Gunnison Rising annexation. It was suggested that the consultants talk with City Manager Ken Coleman for more information about the potential Gunnison bypass.
 - There was also discussion as to how much, if any, economic impacts a Gunnison bypass would have on downtown.
 - Many hurdles/issues to constructing a bypass were noted: sage grouse habitat, BLM land, private property, Western State College, the Gunnison Rising annexation, and other environmentally sensitive areas.
 - ROW should be secured as a condition of entitlement if the Gunnison Rising annexation is approved.
 - There is strong desire for local transit service within Gunnison, but demand for and viability of such service may not yet be met. A bus circulator is currently part of the West Gunnison Neighborhood development proposal. Future growth may make local service viable.
 - The potential park-and-ride lot at the Ohio Creek/SH 135 intersection was discussed. Approximately 20 parking spaces are being planned for this location. A proposed PNR lot at Cement Creek and Highway 135 was also discussed.
 - Bicycle/pedestrian planning efforts were also discussed, particularly a trail from Crested Butte to Gunnison.

