

Meeting Log

Upper Gunnison Valley Transportation Plan - 2008 Update

Southern Study Area Stakeholders Meeting

April 1, 2008, 4:30 pm–6:00 pm

Gunnison City Council Chambers

Notes:

- After introductions, Jacob gave a brief overview of the project, 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 involving responses, thoughts, and input to several key questions. Each question and responses received are summarized below.
- Question: What has been the greatest success of regional planning efforts to date?
 - Transit service for the 2007/08 ski season was a great success.
 - Formation of the RTA and free bus service throughout the Valley are major successes.
 - The fact that the RTA actually owns the buses is an important success.
 - Free Mountain Express service between Crested Butte and Mt. Crested Butte is very successful.
- Question: What has been the most unanticipated challenge of regional planning efforts to date?
 - Weather is a major challenge.
 - A lack of park-and-ride lots, bus stop pullouts, and transit facilities in general is challenging.
 - Another challenge is how CDOT regulations affect local planning efforts.
 - The implementation and implications of the Trails Master Plan are also challenging.
 - Projected traffic and development increases over time and preserving Gunnison's unique character are important long-term challenges.
- Question: What are the most important current transportation issues facing the region?
 - Air service is unreliable, primarily due to unpredictable weather.
 - There are multifaceted parking issues throughout the Valley. There are different perceptions of parking issues between local residents and visitors/tourists. Is there really a major parking issue in Gunnison?
 - How can downtown Gunnison maintain its local and unique character while also serving as the primary route for commercial and construction traffic, especially through downtown Gunnison?
 - There are commuting issues between each community – Gunnison, CB South, Crested Butte, and Mt. Crested Butte.



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- Pedestrian safety, especially in crossing the highway to access bus stops along Highway 135.
 - Potential park-and-ride lots – locations, operation, etc.
 - Pedestrian links needed between the Community School, recreation center, and the proposed library in Crested Butte.
 - Transit service is needed serving CB South. The Cement Creek Road/Highway 135 intersection is also an important issue.
 - Transit needs to be more attractive to encourage higher ridership. Free transit service should be maintained. More marketing and general advertising might also encourage greater ridership.
 - Transit service should operate longer and later during the day.
 - Skier visits should be increased to their prior peak.
 - A positive change has been the new ownership of CBMR.
- Question: What are the greatest long-term transportation issues and opportunities the region will face in the future?
- Potential redevelopment of the Gunnison Airport.
 - Rising gas prices and their affect on skier/tourist visits.
 - Ensuring safe access to transit stops along Highway 135.
 - Whether regional transit service should remain free.
 - Traffic increases related to proposed mine development as well as commercial and construction traffic.
 - The potential impacts of new development, particularly from proposed annexations for Gunnison Rising and West Gunnison.
- Questions: What final work products would be most useful to you? How should the success and usefulness of the new Plan be evaluated?
- The plan should focus on how to continue providing free public transportation.
 - The plan should have realistic priorities and objectives. As part of this, a series of milestones, thresholds, and benchmarks should be developed.
 - Identify additional and alternative funding sources.
 - As feasible, the new plan should anticipate future development, redevelopment, and potential annexations.
 - Stress alternative transportation, and prioritize regional bus service focus.
 - Consider intercity transit issues (reliable service to/from DIA).
 - Identify the private sector's role in transportation planning and funding, especially transit planning and service.
- Jacob and Scott concluded the meeting by thanking everyone for their participation and inviting additional input. They also noted that a second round of stakeholder meetings would be held later in the process to review draft concepts and recommendations.

