GLENWOOD SPRINGS

Long Range Transportation Plan

2015-2035

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1 Executive Summary

Vision

Create a multi-modal transportation system that safely and efficiently moves people and goods, enhances the quality of life, promotes economic vitality, and exemplifies the historic community character that is Glenwood Springs.

Goals

The success of the transportation system is dependent on the interaction of many factors. Every project the City undertakes will consider each of the following goals:

Revisit the Plan
Revisit the LRTP every year to evaluate project implementation progress and to review project prioritization and applicability of programs under the current financial environment.

Connectivity
Improve multi-modal transportation network connectivity in Glenwood Springs.

Safety
Promote system safety for all modes of transportation.

Accessibility
Enhance the existing multi-modal system to offer better choices for all users.

Convenience
Provide efficient and convenient multi-modal travel throughout Glenwood Springs.

Sustainability
Consider the economic costs, benefits, and partnerships for each identified project.

Accountability
Consider the environmental and health costs and benefits for each identified project.

Livability
Improve quality of life for residents and visitors in Glenwood Springs.

Adaptability
Identify measurable strategies for each project.

Complete Transportation Networks
The completeness of a transportation network is judged on its ability to facilitate different modes of transport that result in higher individual mobility than networks that serve mainly one mode. A complete network is also one that strengthens connections between those different modes making travel more convenient for users at all levels of service.

Community Engagement

Ongoing input was gathered throughout the planning process, from data gathering to final recommendations. Approximately 400 members of the public participated in the planning process (not including the final public event or second round of wikimapping). The following are a summary of the engagement tools used to solicit feedback:

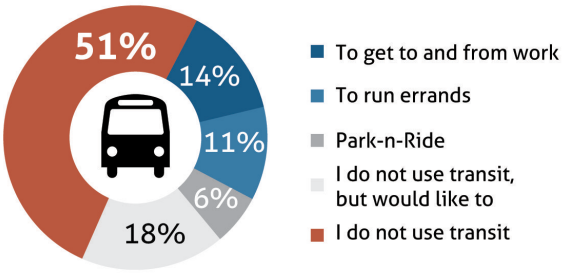
- Meetings with the Internal Review Team, City Council, Transportation Commission and River Commission
- Engagement with community members through:
  - 1 public open house (September 2014)
  - 2 public events (September 2014, August 2015)
  - Project website (Entire Planning Process)
  - 1 Online survey (August-November 2014)
  - 2 Wikimaps (August 2014, August 2015)
  - Multiple stakeholder meetings

Glenwood's Downtown Market public event

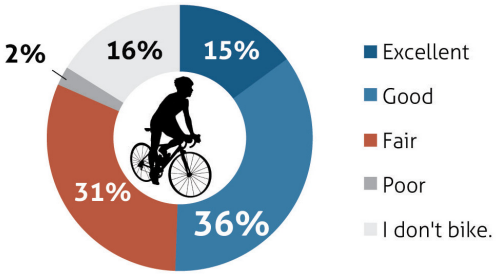
Key Themes

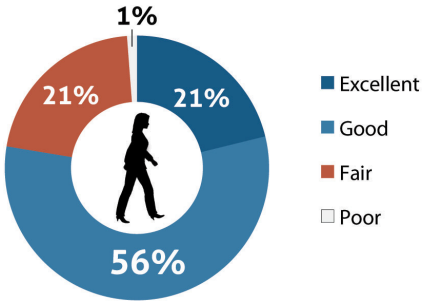
A number of key themes emerged from the public survey (99 respondents):

- The overall quality of the transportation system, including roads, bicycle and pedestrian facilities and transit, is generally good
- The reconstruction of the Grand Avenue Bridge is a concern, but the need is apparent
- Addressing congestion on SH-82 is a high priority
- Although over half of all respondents do not use transit, many indicated that they would like to use transit. Of the respondents who do use transit, most use it to get to and from work



- While gaps in networks were identified, most respondents rated the overall experience of bicycling and walking as good to excellent.





- Improving the bicycle and pedestrian environment is very important.

Infrastructure Recommendations

Based on existing conditions analysis and public input, this plan outlines recommendations to establish a complete and balanced multi-modal transportation network that safely and efficiently meets the needs of all users, regardless of age, ability, or mode of transportation.

Bicycles and Pedestrians

Glenwood Springs offers residents and visitors easy access to a sound sidewalk network and numerous shared-use pathways for both transportation and recreational purposes. The compact nature of the City is a result of the surrounding natural features and existing topography that translates into short intra-city trips for its residents and visitors with a diversity of available mobility options.

The plan recommends on- and off-street projects that enhance and expand pedestrian and bicycle networks. Recommendations include shared-use paths, on-street bicycle facilities, sidewalk connections, wayfinding signs, intersection improvements, and new bridge connections.

Roads

Within the neighborhoods in and around downtown, roads form a grid system, which is traditional for an urban area, and encourages more pedestrian and bicycle usage. In the newer areas of Glenwood Springs, however, the residential developments lack this connectivity, primarily due to the topographic challenges. Consequently, streets are typically curvilinear and connectivity is more circuitous.

The recommendations focus on improving vehicular circulation, connectivity, providing additional capacity by either expanding existing facilities or adding new facilities and completing system gaps.

Bridges

The Colorado River, Roaring Fork River, SH-82, and I-70 bisect Glenwood Springs and create barriers to and challenges in increasing the overall connectivity of the City's transportation network. Enhanced connectivity through the construction of additional bridges was identified as a high priority throughout the planning process.

The plan recommends both multi-modal and pedestrian/bicycle bridges to improve connectivity and fill gaps in the transportation network.

Glenwood Springs' 2015 Bike to Work Day

Programs

The plan recommends programs that benefit multiple user groups and have an education, encouragement or enforcement focus.

Priority programs include expanded Bike to Work Day programming, Safe Routes to School and enhanced pedestrian and bike counts and data collection.

Other programs recommended are geared toward encouraging people to bike around Glenwood Springs by making their experience safer and more comfortable. These programs include:

- Bicycle training
- Bicycle parking request forms
- Biking and walking summer events
- Group bike rides and walks for older adults
- Mayor's bike ride
- Continuing education for City staff

Why Invest in Walking and Bicycling Facilities

Health Benefits
This plan recommends new and enhanced pedestrian and bicycle facilities for recreation and daily trips. Walking and bicycling helps people meet recommended physical activity levels and cultivates a healthier community.

Economic Benefits
Investing in bicycling and pedestrian facilities stimulates the local economy by supporting local businesses, generating tourism revenue, and creating jobs.