

## City of Glenwood Springs Transportation Commission

Meeting June 2, 2020

Via Zoom; recording of minutes not available due to technical problems

### 1. Attendance and receipt of minutes:

Commissioners present: Sandy Lowell, John Stephens, Ralph Trapani, Steve Smith  
City Council: Charlie Willman, Shelly Kaup  
City Staff: Terri Partch, Jenn Ooton, Linda DuPriest, Michael Hixon  
Others : Jamie Raehal

**2. Finalizing Large and Small Project Lists** – Discussion was continued from May meeting. Final list will be sent out with next month’s agenda for final approval at June meeting.

**3. Discussion of traffic management for South Midland construction** – Terri Partch presented the traffic management plan for the roadway project from 27<sup>th</sup> to 4 Mile, scheduled for Fall 2020. Commissioners want to ensure bicyclists and pedestrians will be accommodated during the project, specifically sidewalks next to Park West, crosswalk at Mountain Market, conflicts at Hager Lane, and sidewalks accessing Sopris Elementary. Schedule and contractor fees due to delays and other aspects of the plan were discussed. Various commissioners would like to know when 100% plans are available for viewing.

**4. MOVE study** – Terri presented initial work from the Mobility Options for a Vibrant Economy study, a partnership with RFTA to study the BRT system and other transit-related issues. Items of particular interest to the Commission were the option of building a BRT road, or “busway” next to the Rio Grand Trail (and Rivertrail) between 23<sup>rd</sup> or 27<sup>th</sup> Streets and 8<sup>th</sup> Streets, including a transit station in the vicinity of 8<sup>th</sup>. Several commissioners expressed concerns about this option due to impacts on the trail experience for people particularly in the Rivertrail section. Others suggested to keep an open mind and be open to further exploration of the idea particularly the potential for development in the area that could enhance the trail. In addition, a transit station in the Downtown area was discussed, with several Commissioners opposed to the idea. As another strategy to make BRT run better through Glenwood, Commissioners wished to have the MOVE study delve into signal timing, including optimization and pedestrian crossing timing.

**5. Discussion regarding working from home and TDM** – Discussion continued from May meeting. Councilmember Kaup had introduced the idea that responses to COVID such as Shelter in Place and Safe at Home are opportunities to explore if having City employees (and other employees in town) working from home is an effective long-term transportation demand management tool resulting in safer streets and reduced car traffic. Commissioners expressed various viewpoints and ideas including the following:

- Would employee productivity suffer if people were rarely face to face?
- Fewer people commuting into Glenwood each day could have negative effect on local businesses, since we import approximately 70% of our workforce.
- Parents of young children would continue to have to manage kids while trying to perform their jobs from home.
- This should be an individual business decision.
- This idea has been discussed with City Manager.

- ERP systems allows online permitting and bill pay; promoting this would reduce the number of people who must visit City Hall.
- Greenwood would have to expand broadband to make sure residents in all parts of town could work online at a consistently high level.
- Should City leadership, Council take the lead on this idea in the future?
- Social isolation is a concern when forcing people to stay away from the office.
- Less traffic on our streets has been a pleasant result of COVID; perhaps various TDM programs could be explored to continue this effect after everyone returns to work in offices and other work sites.
- TDM is our job.

It was agreed to continue exploring this topic in the future.

**6. Bell Rippy Project update** – Terri Partch and Jenn Oton reported on Planning Commission’s deliberations on this item. Votes taken at that meeting included approval of a variance related to parking lot location, rejection of variances on building types and approval of rezoning. It was noted that the Planning Commission did not vote on the project as a whole and proposed a public meeting to address the neighborhood’s concerns. Also noted was that the developers have a funding timeline related to the Opportunity Zones. Palmer Avenue resident Jamie Raehal spoke, expressing concerns about additional traffic in the neighborhood, and speeding cars on streets where kids play, and people walk due to the lack of sidewalks. She appreciated that the City is creating an opportunity for neighborhood residents to speak out. The public meeting will be held via Zoom on June 8<sup>th</sup> from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.

**7. Adjourn.** Meeting was adjourned at approx. 9:15 a.m. The next Transportation Commission meeting will be held on via Zoom on July 7<sup>th</sup> from 7:30 to 9:30 a.m.