

**City of Glenwood Springs
Transportation Commission Minutes**

August 4, 2020; 7:30 a.m. to 9:38a.m.
Via Zoom

Minutes approved by the Commission on October 6, 2020

1. Attendance

Commissioners: Roger Poirier, John Stephens, Ralph Trapani, Rob Gavrell, Steve Smith
City Council: Charlie Willman, Shelly Kaup, Paula Stepp
Staff: Terri Partch, Linda DuPriest, Michael Hixson, Jenn Ooton
Others: Dave Malehorn

2. Adoption of minutes - July 2020 minutes approved.

3. Review of South Midland design for bicyclists and pedestrians from Cardiff Bridge Rd to Mt. Sopris Dr. - Terri showed the CDOT-approved plans: the bike/ped facility will be a sidewalk/path along the east side of Midland with following widths: 6 ft wide at Cardiff Bridge Rd, then moving south, tapers to 8ft, then to 10ft just before Park West, then back to 6 ft in front of Mountain Market, then back to 10 ft to Mt. Sopris Drive. A very robust discussion ensued, and is summarized as follows: Commission Members' comments and questions followed by staff and Council comments and action steps.

Commission Comments and Questions

- **Width of bicycle/pedestrian sidewalk/path varies along corridor.** Commissioners were concerned that the width of the sidewalk/path necks down to 6 feet wide in some sections including at Mountain Market and at Cardiff Bridge Rd. Commissioners asked if it meets current bike/ped design standards or the City's design standards. Of particular concern was the need for a wide path plus signage and markings at the intersections of Park West Drive, to provide for the high numbers of kids who walk and ride bikes to school, plus a general concern with inadequate width for a facility that will be shared by bicyclists and pedestrians. No recommendations were made by the Commissioners at this time.
- **Bicyclists should continue to be welcome in the roadway.** Commissioners discussed that bicyclists will likely continue to use the travel lanes on Midland for a higher speed and obstacle-free route, and they may want to use the road both for themselves and for the safety of sidewalk/path users, both in the section between 27th and 4 Mile, and from 27th north all the way to 8th. Many cyclists wish to avoid the Rio Grande Trail because it is across the river and therefore less convenient to access for some trips, or at times crowded, etc. The Commissioners recommended the City to install have "Share the Road" signs all the way to 27th. Such signs would let both cyclists and motorists know bicyclists are welcome in the roadway.
- **Bicycle/pedestrian facility design at 4 mile/Airport Rd roundabout.** Commissioners were concerned that the roundabout as designed may be difficult to for bicyclist traffic going up and coming down 4 Mile; it was stated that the City tends to put in bike lanes or a path but doesn't continue it through intersections and roundabout. Any crosswalks in the roundabout should be the

same width as the sidewalk/path, and signage should address both bicyclists and pedestrians (an example is the W11-16 from the MUTCD). There is also a concern about bike and pedestrian access from Four Mile to the sidewalk/path that will be on the other side of Midland. Commissioners requested the Engineer to propose modifications of = the design to provide some kind of accommodations for bicyclists in the roundabout, to direct riders heading up to and back from 4 Mile. Terri or Linda or other Engineering staff to revisit the design and present ideas at the next meeting.

- **Safety issue where bicycle/pedestrian sidewalk/path crosses Park West.** Commissioners were concerned about potential sight distance issues on the north side of Park West Drive, where fences tend to block motorists' view of bikes/peds approaching from the north. Commissioners wondered if since this is a new, major roadway project, could it trigger a review of this safety problem. Commissioners asked the City Engineer to give thought to this issue and propose potential solutions.
- **Construction phase inclusion of bicycling and walking.** Commissioners recommend that the construction Contracts for the area include construction requirements that preserve not only pedestrian ut also bicycle interim signage and access.

Staff and Council Member response and comments

- **History of Midland project.** Terri explained the history of the Midland project, and some of the constraints that had to be dealt with, resulting in the current design for bicycling and walking, including physical constraints of slope, rock fall areas and lack of width, plus budgetary limits. These determined that bike/pedestrian facilities could only be designed on the east side of the roadway, and that the sidewalk/path had to be necked down in places.
- **Bicycle design for 4 Mile/Airport Rd roundabout.** Similar constraints also extended to the lack of bicycle facilities in the roundabout at 4 Mile and Airport Rd: lack of adequate right-of-way and funding.
- **Bicyclists should continue to be welcome in the roadway.** Terri and Linda will research ways to educate the bicycling and motoring public that bicyclists are welcome in the roadway on Midland in this section and also extending all the way to 8th. Linda suggested signage plus a public information campaign explaining why many cyclists may not feel comfortable using a sidewalk, particularly transportation or recreation cyclists moving at higher speeds. Such an effort would occur when the Midland project is completed, and could extend into the future, or even expanded to apply to other roadways.

4. Circulation on Blake and Palmer between 23rd and Walmart. Terri updated the Commission on the Bell Rippy project, specifically issues of traffic circulation on Blake, Palmer and other streets in the area, and reported that Council made the decision to open the Blake gate, possibly before the end of this year. She covered a short history of the Blake gate issue and neighborhood concerns, and how important opening she felt opening the gate would be for the Bell Rippy development and general street connectivity in this part of town.

Terri presented various ideas / options as to how to control / direct areas traffic, including proposals to make Blake one-way between 23rd and 27th.,. Terri advised that Engineering Dept. has been asked to develop ideas for managing the new traffic circulation that will result both from the Bell Rippy development and opening the gate, including traffic calming options, bicycle and pedestrian facilities, and others.

Commissioners asked to hear from the Council Members present. Council Member Charlie Willman stated that he was not in favor of opening the gate unless Blake was to be one way between 23rd and 27th, and that at the Council meeting where this item was discussed that Council Members Shelly Kaup and Paula Stepp expressed similar concerns. Council Member Shelly Kaup agreed with Council Member Willman and wanted to see examples of traffic calming for Blake that would help mitigate issues with cut-through traffic and speeding that might result from drivers using Blake to avoid HWY 82. She suggested the City consider creative traffic calming that is effective and also attractive.

Commissioners directed staff review various options and bring back for further discussion at a future meeting. In discussion, Commissioners noted some concerns with cut-through traffic such as occurred with the Grand Avenue Bridge construction, but noted that locals, in addition to non-local residents, also cut through neighborhoods to avoid HWY 82.

GWS citizen Dave Malehorn, a resident of the area, gave his public comment. Mr. Malehorn described his feeling the area is not very easy to walk or bicycle through, and that any changes to circulation should consider all traffic, not just cars, and that traffic cutting through the neighborhood to avoid HWY 82 is a big concern for him and other neighbors. He applauded the Bell Rippey development for closing off Palmer to cars in its most recent plans, and when the Blake gate is opened he would like to see Blake be one way southbound between 26th and 27th.

Terri presented various traffic calming alternatives to Commissioner members to mixed reviews. Commissioners directed Engineering staff to develop such proposals and alternatives to present at the next meeting. Terri will bring traffic calming and bike/pedestrian facilities ideas to the next Commission meeting.

5. Quick review and approval of small and large project lists.: Commissioner Steve Smith and other Commissioners discussed final proposed additions / revisions to the lists, including:

- 8th Street: Add crosswalk at Cowden and confirm small 3 ft path on north side of 8th
- 8th Street: Fix “racetrack” right hand slip lane at Midland that was installed for the Grand Avenue Bridge closure but was never fixed. Commissioner Ralph Trapani noted that it is unacceptable that this feature continued to exist.
- Traver Trail and 6th path; Need a way to prevent cars from parking behind bus stop and blocking trail. Steve Smith: Add bollards west of there.
- Both lists in general: Have Terri and/or Linda keep these lists updated.

Council Member Charlie Willman would like these final updates to be completed before the next Council meeting. Commissioners asked about all the access points along the Rio Grande Trail, and Terri reported that these will be fixed by fall of this year. Commissioner Rob Gavrell wanted confirmation that these will get done this year, as they have been on the list ever since he got onto the Commission.

6. Other business. Terri noted that Commissioner John Stephens wanted to discuss the MOVE Study and asked if that could be moved to next month’s meeting. It was agreed. Commissioners want to add an item to every meeting to work on a funding plan for the small and large projects, rather than just keep them on a list. It was stressed that we can’t wait around for the next street tax; we need to be creative and offer funding ideas. Another important item is a downtown parking plan. Terri reminded the group that such plan is part of the scope of the MOVE study, and that ideas from that study will eventually be presented to the

Commission. Terri mentioned that she'd been involved in a meeting with the City of Aspen about how their downtown parking fees help fund infrastructure projects, and she sees ideas as having potential for Glenwood, as well. Terri to report on ideas generated from / takeaways from her City of Aspen meeting at the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 9:38 a.m.