



City of Glenwood Springs Transportation Commission Final Minutes, regular meeting - February 1, 2022

The meeting convened (via *Zoom*) at 7:30am and adjourned at 9:40am.

Participants included:

Commission members: Sandy Lowell, Steve Smith, John Stephens, Ralph Trapani
City council members Ingrid Wussow, Shelley Kaup
City staff: Linda DuPriest, Debra Figueroa, Jenn Ooton Terri Partch
Guests: Jon Harman, Dean Kinkel, Betsy Suerth

Minutes

Approval of January 4 minutes postponed, pending clarification of traffic growth rate projections (under Transportation Demand Management).

City council/boards & commissions work session (*January 27*)

Summary and report from participants and observers include:

- Responses to city council questions include:
 - prefer to continue meeting monthly
 - interest in commission/applicants has increased
 - interest in meeting and/or conferring with other commissions with overlapping

missions

- City council appreciates work and contributions from Transportation Commission
- City council will discuss possible changes and clarifications to commissions' respective structures, roles, protocols, and duties

Question raised about protocols for Transportation Commission interaction with city professional staff (in addition to, or incorporated with, advising city council), prompted extensive discussion, without final resolution. Themes considered include:

- commission advises city council on general policy and standards, and on select project-specific questions, as requested
- transportation topics to be considered by city council presented first to commission for review, comments, recommendations
 - some project-specific topics and other issues not needing city council review presented by staff for commission review and response
 - commission consulted at scope-of-work phase for projects and for consultant assignments

Further discussion is expected, pending city council commission-structure decisions noted above.

Transportation Demand Management, grant update

City has received grant for designing transportation management association (TMA), with consultant assistance; grant plus city match and in-kind assistance totals approximately \$70,000.

Staff will present contractor scope-of-work/design for commission review (probably at March commission meeting).

Initial TMA will focus on city geography and authority, expected to evolve into independent community-engagement entity (that is, not a regional multi-jurisdictional authority).

Related discussion included observations that (nationally) traffic has returned to pre-pandemic levels, while transit ridership remains lower than pre-pandemic. Ride Glenwood Springs ridership has remained steady through pandemic, with highest ridership per hour within immediate region. *Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) Intermountain Transportation Planning Region* is hosting discussions with municipalities and transit agencies on increasing transit service along intermountain I-70.

Small transportation capital projects (*carried over from January meeting*)

The commission has posed questions about how projects on the city council-approved small projects priorities list are documented, funded, and implemented by city staff.

Terri explained that city funding for smaller transportation projects and maintenance generally are funded from streets tax. (Large projects generally are funded with A&I revenue, plus outside sources.)

Small projects—or, more often, incremental components of projects—are incorporated into Engineering Department’s professional services budget. Funding for actual implementation of small priority projects comes, at least in large part, from grants pursued by city engineering and grant-writing staff.

John noted February 8 funding-sources workshop for multi-modal projects, presented by *Bicycle Colorado*, recommending city staff and commission members consider attending. [Recording of the workshop will be available afterward.]

Managed parking update

Terri reported city council decision to pursue full enforcement of existing parking regulations, with additional staff and equipment. Staff will also investigate and report to city council on two variations of possible next phase:

- further enhanced enforcement with graduated fines for repeat over-time parking, incentives for directing downtown employees to outlier parking areas (including soon-to-be-expanded parking at old wastewater treatment site (7th Street)
- variations of paid parking

Linda is preparing, in consultation with *Downtown Development Authority* (DDA) scope-of-work and request-for-proposals for consultant assistance in evaluating the additional phases, to be presented to city council. Scope-of-work will be presented to the commission for review and comment before going to city council.

Confluence project update

Jenn reported that previous request-for-qualifications for a master developer was closed without awarding a contract, pending related land-exchange negotiations with school district.

6th Street renovation funding

Terri asked commission advice regarding funding sources for 6th Street renovation (and related components of 8th Street renovation).

The city has hired an engineer to prepared design for implementing the 6th Street project (funded by DDA). Funding for construction costs has been expected from a combination of A&I bonding authority and federal and/or state grants.

Earlier applications for funding from CDOT Main Streets program and from federal RAISE grants were not approved. In considering whether to re-apply in upcoming grant cycle, federal requirements re construction management and environmental review is now a factor, increasing project costs by perhaps 20%. (Previous applications did not implicate federal requirements.)

After discussion, commission recommended seeking the state and federal funding. Betsy noted that typical project-cost threshold for seeking/not seeking federal funding is \$1 million. Combination of 6th and 8th projects is expected to cost at least \$5 million.

RFTA bike-share study

Asked about status of commission recommendation to city council regarding ongoing *Roaring Fork Transportation Authority* (RFTA) consultant work on possible expansion of regional bike-share (submitted January 4), Terri reported that the recommendations will be presented to council in coming weeks. City council will consider whether to accept the recommendations and to otherwise advise council representatives to RFTA board.

Guest comments

Guests attending (applicants to the commission who will be considered by city council February 3) expressed enthusiasm for joining the commission and approval of structure and function of commission meetings.

Thank you, Sandy

Ralph noted Sandy Lowell's pending departure from the commission, after long service. Ralph, other commission members, and city staff expressed appreciation for Sandy's expertise, insights, and patient service on the commission and to the city.

Sandy responded noting that he now serves on steering committee for city's comprehensive plan update, asking all to advise him in that important new role.

Tasks, homework, follow-up

- Convey to city council commission bike-share recommendations – Terri
- Review *Long Range Transportation Plan* – all
- Attend Bicycle Colorado federal funding workshop – all
- Clarify traffic growth projections – John, Ralph, Terri, Linda

Agenda topics for March 1 commission meeting

- Commission roles, duties, protocols, with further clarification from city council
- RFTA bike-share study update, including city council response
- TDM, including scope-of-work for managed parking consultant, and clarification of traffic growth-rate projections
 - Timeline and plan for annual review of *Long-Range Transportation Plan 2015-2015*, including capital projects prioritization
 - MOVE study components to be considered by city council
 - Reconvene working subcommittees?

Standing topics, when timely

- Updates and discussion, priority capital projects, large and small
- Reports and discussion, studies, and initiatives, and shorter-term and maintenance projects

The next regular meeting of the Transportation Commission will be **March 1, 2022, 7:30am** (*tentatively virtual, stand by for details*).