

FFY 2021 Mid-Year Report



October 1, 2020–
March 31, 2021



Grand Valley
Metropolitan Planning Organization



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TASK 1.0 PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION:**BUDGET: \$717,117.80 - 71% EXPENDED****EXPENDED: \$424,112.09 (FEDERAL) + \$83,799.14 (LOCAL) = \$507,921.23 (TOTAL)**

The Grand Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (GVMPO) was administered throughout Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2020 in a manner that:

- Maintained the region's eligibility to receive federal transportation capital and operating assistance, and
- Provided the environment for a continuous, cooperative, and comprehensive transportation planning process throughout the GVMPO and Grand Valley Transportation Planning Region (TPR).

FFY 2021 Activities and Accomplishments

- Completed the FFY 2020 year-end reviews
- Managed the FFY 2020-2021 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)
- Prepared monthly invoices, maintained membership lists, prepared meeting agendas, and recorded meeting notes and minutes
- Worked with CDOT to establish and comply with the administrative and technical procedures required under the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act, as well as prior legislation
- Prepared for and conducted regular Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and Grand Valley Regional Transportation Committee (GVRTC) meetings
- Prepared for and conducted bi-monthly coordination meetings with staff representatives from FHWA, FTA, CDOT HQ and CDOT Region 3
- Provided regular staff support to CDOT, local partners, the TAC, Local Coordinating Council (LCC), and GVRTC, and other organized sub-committees
- Provided regular staff support for general office management, program administration, accounting and bookkeeping functions
- Furthered development and implementation of the GVMPO's public involvement and outreach activities:
 - Regular postings to the GVMPO website, see <http://rtpo.mesacounty.us/> for more information
 - Improved and updated the Grand Valley Transit (GVT) website, as needed, see <http://gvt.mesacounty.us/> for more information

TASK 2.0 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLANNING:**BUDGET: \$ 59,056.76 - 68% EXPENDED****EXPENDED: \$33,198.29 (FEDERAL) + \$6,901.11 (LOCAL) = \$40,099.40 (TOTAL)****FFY 2021 Activities and Accomplishments**

- Ongoing staff support for projects prioritized in the 2040 and 2045 Regional Transportation Plans:
 - I-70B 24 Road to 15th Street, with recent focus on I-70B 1st Street and Grand Avenue to Ute/Pitkin
 - US 6A – Fruita
 - US 6B – North Avenue
 - US 6C – Clifton to Palisade
 - 29 Road Interchange PEL, PEL Technical Team Member, travel demand modeling, traffic analysis, and other support
- 2045 Regional Transportation Plan
 - Continued public outreach process with presentations at community meetings, emails, and social media posts
 - Continued use of a data-driven approach to project prioritization that includes geocoding and analysis of crash data (PM 1), infrastructure condition (PM 2), and system performance (PM 3)
- Transportation Performance Management (TPM)
 - Ongoing coordination with CDOT Region 3 and CDOT HQ to evaluate alternative approaches to Safety Performance Management (PM) Target Setting, resulting in the adoption of a resolution to *set targets by supporting the CDOT statewide safety targets and to plan and program projects to contribute toward the accomplishment of the statewide safety targets.*
 - Coordinated with CDOT regarding target setting for PM 2 & PM 3, Infrastructure Condition and System Performance. Adopted a resolution to *set targets by supporting the CDOT statewide targets for PM2 (updates to Pavement Condition targets).*
 - Updated the Performance-Based Planning and Programming section for inclusion in the 2022-2025 TIP, providing guidelines for planning and programming projects that contribute toward the accomplishment of the GVMPO targets for PM1, PM2, PM3, and Transit Asset Management.
- Regular participation in the Statewide Transportation Advisory Committee (STAC), Statewide MPO Meetings, and the Freight Advisory Council
- Ongoing coordination with CDOT in the development and implementation of the Statewide Transportation Plan and supporting plans

- Continued development of in-house technical capacity for running and maintaining the TransCAD travel demand modeling (TDM) software
- Participation in the FHWA Travel Model Improvement Program training
- Mesa County Regional Travel Model (MCRTM) update process fully completed with the exception of finalizing model documentation. Other completed tasks:
 - Regular use of the MCRTM to prepare forecasts for project prioritization and for use by CDOT and local partners, including:
 - US 6 projects
 - I-70B
 - Fruita Circulation Plan
 - Fremont Street design project (Fruita)
 - Study of feasibility of converting 4th and 5th Street from one-way to two-way traffic (City of Grand Junction)
 - Numerous large-scale development projects with the potential for regional traffic impacts
 - Use of the land-use model for wastewater treatment demand planning (City of Grand Junction)
 - Patterson Road Access Control Plan (City of Grand Junction)
 - Refined the methodologies for modeling scenarios, including high-growth, low-growth, and numerous resiliency scenarios
- Coordination with members of the TDM Oversight Committee, comprised of representatives from the local jurisdictions and CDOT, including all TAC members
- Ongoing coordination with CDOT in the development of the Statewide Travel Model and participation in the Colorado Model Users Group (COMUG)
- Ongoing transportation legislation review, input and coordination efforts
- Continued transportation planning and collaboration with Colorado National Monument, National Park Service; Bureau of Land Management, Grand Junction Field Office; the Grand Junction District of the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, and Gunnison National Forest; the Colorado West Land Trust; Mesa County; and the City of Grand Junction

TASK 3.0 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM:**BUDGET: \$16,873.36 - 68% EXPENDED****EXPENDED: \$9,485.23 (FEDERAL) + \$1,971.74 (LOCAL) = \$11,456.97 (TOTAL)****FFY 2021 Activities and Accomplishments**

- Managed the State FY 2021-2024 TIP through formal amendments and administrative adjustments, see <https://rtpo.mesacounty.us/transportation-improvement-program-tip/>
- Prepared and adopted the State FY 2022-2025 TIP
- Conducted public involvement activities prior to adoption of amendments to the FY 2021-2024 TIP and the FY 2022-2025 TIP

TASK 4.0 TRANSPORTATION, TRANSIT, AND MULTI-MODAL PLANNING:**BUDGET: \$50,620.08 - 68% EXPENDED****EXPENDED: \$28,455.68 (FEDERAL) + \$5,915.23 (LOCAL) = \$34,370.91 (TOTAL)****FFY 2021 Activities and Accomplishments****Multimodal Options Fund (MMOF) SB-1**

- Continued to provide support for MMOF-funded projects in development by local partners, nine projects in all, for the City of Fruita, the Town of Palisade, Mesa County, the Town of Collbran, GVMPO, GVT, and the City of Grand Junction
 - Two of the projects, Transit Capital and Transit Operations for GVT, were restructured into a single capital project to make the most efficient use of CARES Act funding
- Working with CDOT and local partners to expedite project delivery. All projects are under contract.

Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning

- Prepared and submitted an application for funding to the CDOT Safe Routes to School (SRTS) program for the *Grand Valley Safe Routes to School Smart Project*. The application was successful and resulted in an award of approximately \$81k SRTS funding with an additional \$20k match from local partners.
- Supported CDOT's SRTS program as a member of the Statewide SRTS Advisory Committee, including preparation for the 2021 application and grant cycle (currently one GVMPO staff member is an SRTS Advisory Committee member)
 - Participated in SRTS Advisory Committee meetings
 - Reviewed and provided comments and input on application materials and selection criteria
- Support member jurisdictions with planning, programming, and design expertise in the development of bicycle and pedestrian facilities

- Coordination with staff, appointed boards, and elected officials representing jurisdictions and organizations within the MPO, for instance:
 - Regularly collaborated with the Urban Trails Committee (UTC) appointed by the Council of the City of Grand Junction; currently one GVMPO staff member participates as a UTC member and provides updates to the TAC
 - Coordinated with School District 51 staff and faculty
 - Currently two GVMPO staff members serve on the Colorado Bike Month and Bike to Work Day planning committee
- Provided support for CDOT’s Share the Road program through ongoing implementation of the Grand Junction Shares the Road campaign

Transit Planning

- US 6B – North Avenue Enhanced Transit Corridor – currently developing a scope of work and RFP for the planning and design phase of transit improvements for North Avenue, to include first/last-mile improvements, the addition of a multimodal path along the corridor, improved transit amenities, and potentially, the implementation of Transit Signal Priority. Planning and eventual initial implementation phases are funded with SB 267 and City of Grand Junction matching funds.
- Mobility Hub Project – The purpose of the Grand Junction mobility hub project is to provide a centralized location for frequent, reliable, and high-quality transit and multimodal mobility choices in central Grand Junction. Consistent with city, county, and regional plans the implementation of a mobility hub seeks to:
 - Create a centralized hub to facilitate between modes
 - Improve local and regional connectivity
 - Provide greater transit access
 - Improve safety for all modes of transportation
 - Improve connectivity between residential areas and employment
 - Extend the transit and multimodal network
 - Increase transit reliability
 - Support the stability of local neighborhoods and businesses
 - Facilitate a visitor experience that does not require a vehicle
 - RTPO Staff is coordinating the siting study and providing support for the subsequent 2021 RAISE grant application.
- Update of the Transit Asset Management Plan in coordination with the 2045 RTP
- Update of the Transit and Human Services Coordination Plan in coordination with the 2045 RTP
- Implementation of the Grand Valley Transit (GVT) Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (PTASP)
- Managing the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on GVT operations including

managing \$5.4 million of CARES Act funds received. Also recently received an additional \$875,000 in ARP Act funds.

- Awarded a competitive 5339 grant from CDOT for the purchase of another Gillig CNG lowfloor bus and three CNG cutaway paratransit buses. These buses were ordered in August/September 2020 and will be delivered in Summer 2021.
- Awarded a 5310 Mobility Management grant through CDOT for continuation of a FTE in 2021, activities included:
 - Preparation and management of the GVT Rebranding Implementation Plan
 - Development of social media platforms – Mobile Mesa County including Facebook, Instagram, and a YouTube channel; ongoing, active outreach
 - Monthly radio show on KAFM Community Radio – Mobile Mesa County. Discussing transportation topics and all things mobility in Mesa County
 - Transit advertising, media buys, and special GVT rider promotions
 - Rider training including group travel training sessions and Train the Trainer programs in partnership with local area agencies and municipalities
 - Regular communication with the Local Coordinating Council
 - Local partnership efforts with the Fruita Area Chamber of Commerce and Palisade Chamber of Commerce to promote GVT services; including collaboration to increase accessibility to transit, increase communication about GVT services, and working efforts to help improve bus stops
- Applied for competitive 5339 bus and bus facilities grants through FTA for two replacement lowfloor buses and three additional cutaway paratransit buses. No funding was awarded even though both applications were scored as *Highly Recommended*.
- Applied for two competitive 5339 grants through CDOT for the buses not awarded funding for directly with FTA in October 2020. Funding was awarded for two lowfloor CNG replacement buses and three cutaway CNG paratransit expansion buses in March 2021.
- Issued an RFP for the awarded FASTER grant through CDOT for ITS-Paratransit Upgrade & ITS Fixed Route Replacement. Contract was awarded in October 2020 to Routematch and implementation has been ongoing since then and scheduled to be completed Spring 2021.
- Issued an RFP for GVT Bench and Shelter Advertising and contract was awarded to Fuel Media with a minimum of \$20,000 expected in advertising revenue.
- Hired a temporary employee in February 2021 to maintain the GVT bus stops which was being done by the previous bench and shelter advertising contractor.
- Ongoing coordination with CDOT's Division of Transit and Rail (DTR)
- The GVMPO staff continues to work with other local transportation providers and with

GVT staff in support of short and long range transit planning

- GVT Strategic Plan, April 2018, ongoing implementation of strategies

Access Management, Support for Development Review, Other

The GVMPO worked throughout the year with CDOT and local communities in support of access permitting processes, including:

- Provided information and technical assistance to applicants
- Attended pre-application coordination meetings with applicants and staff at the applicable local jurisdiction
- Participated in development review processes for numerous project development applications made to the City of Grand Junction, City of Fruita, Town of Palisade, and Mesa County
- Worked with local jurisdictions to enhance their efforts to improve and implement access management policies

Local Government Support

The GVMPO provided staff support for carrying out project prioritization processes for Mesa County, the Cities of Grand Junction and Fruita, and the Town of Palisade, providing for coordination with the plans and programs of the GVMPO and advancing the priorities in the RTP.

- Staff participation in the 2020 Census Complete Count Committee for Mesa County
- Continuation of a comprehensive project development process for the Monument Road Corridor, in cooperation with the City of Grand Junction, Mesa County, the Colorado West Land Trust, the Bureau of Land Management, and Colorado National Monument.
- Participation as a member of the team completing a comprehensive update of the Mesa County Road & Bridge Specifications, including an update and consolidation of roadway functional classification countywide. The specifications and roadway functional classification updates were adopted December 2020.
- Federal aid local government project delivery
- Provided technical assistance to local economic development offices and agencies
- Provided transportation related data and information
- Mesa County Air Quality Advisory Committee (MCAQAC), currently one GVMPO staff member serves as the chair of the MCAQAC, and coordinates various initiatives including the Volkswagen settlement process. Working with the Mesa County Health Department, the MCAQAC provides review and input regarding various voluntary air quality monitoring and management initiatives.
- Participation and providing input at numerous Greenhouse Gas Reduction Roadmap meetings, including Employee Trip Reduction Program and GHG Pollution Standard.

- Outreach, communication and coordination efforts
- Continued work with municipal partners to progress with development of ADA Transition Plans, in compliance with CDOT, FHWA, and FTA regulations, to be in place MPO-wide
- Continued work with applicable municipal partners to develop and maintain Title VI Nondiscrimination Plans and practices, in compliance with CDOT, FHWA, and FTA regulations
- GVMPO staff members have closely participated in the Comprehensive Plan update processes for the City of Grand Junction and for the City of Fruita

Regular or Special Outreach and Coordination Efforts

GVMPO staff coordinates with and/or participated as members of numerous groups, organizations, and committees including the following:

- Local Coordinating Council (LCC), ongoing coordination, assistance, communications and periodic meetings
- Ongoing participation in the Grand Valley Momentum Initiative, an effort to improve the economy of the Grand Valley through increased tourism, especially visitation to public lands by outdoor recreation enthusiasts. The MPO role has included facilitating transportation discussions and working groups focused on multi-modal transportation that supports economic development and public health goals.
- Statewide Transportation Advisory Committee (STAC)
- Green House Gas(GHG) Roadmap Advisory Group
- Statewide MPO Meetings
- Freight Advisory Council
- Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (AMPO)
- Grand Junction Area Chamber of Commerce
- Fruita Chamber of Commerce
- Palisade Chamber of Commerce
- Grand Junction Economic Partnership (GJEP)
- Club 20 (an organization of counties, communities, tribes, businesses, individuals and associations in Western Colorado)
- Six County Infrastructure Coalition (comprised of six Utah counties with transportation infrastructure interests that straddle the Colorado/Utah border)
- American Public Transportation Association (APTA)
- Colorado Association of Transit Agencies (CASTA)
- Colorado Motor Carriers Association (CMCA)
- Transit & Rail Advisory Committee (TRAC)

- Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE)
- Urban Trails Committee (UTC)
- Grand Valley Bikes
- Mesa County Bicycling Alliance (MCBA)
- Bicycle Colorado
- Community Transportation Association of America (CTAA)
- Various project specific steering committees and technical teams