

# FFY 2022 Unified Planning Work Program Year End Report

October 1, 2021 – September 30, 2022



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## 1.0 Program Administration

Budgeted: \$329,276.03 ~ 89% Expended

Expended: \$294,095.36 = \$245,288.60 Federal + \$48,806.76 Local

The Grand Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (GVMPO) was administered throughout Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2022 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 2022 Activities and Accomplishments

#### General Program Administration

- Provided regular staff support for general office management, monthly invoices, program administration, accounting, and bookkeeping functions.
- Worked with CDOT to establish and comply with the administrative and technical procedures required under the Infrastructure and Investment Jobs Act (IIJA) as well as prior legislation.
- Conducted bi-monthly coordination meetings, as needed, with staff representatives from FHWA, FTA, CDOT HQ, and CDOT Region 3.

#### Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

- Completed the FFY 2022 mid-year review
- Managed the FFY 2022-2023 UPWP
- Adopted the FFY 2022-2023 UPWP, Amendment #1

**MPO Committee Support**

- Maintained membership lists, prepared meeting agendas, and recorded meeting notes and minutes.
- Prepared for and conducted regular Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and Grand Valley Regional Transportation Committee (GVRTC) meetings.
- Provided regular staff support to CDOT, local partners, the TAC, Local Coordinating Council (LCC), GVRTC, and other organized sub-committees.

**Public Involvement and Outreach**

- Furthered development and implementation of the GVMPO's public involvement and outreach activities:
  - Regular postings to the GVMPO website, see [rtpo.mesacounty.us](http://rtpo.mesacounty.us) for more information.
  - Monthly release of the "Mobile Mesa County" e-newsletter and regular postings on Mobile Mesa County's social media platforms including Facebook and Instagram.
  - Improved and updated the Grand Valley Transit (GVT) website, as needed, see [gvt.mesacounty.us](http://gvt.mesacounty.us) for more information.
- Met compliance requirements set forth by the Public Participation Plan.

## 2.0 Regional Transportation Planning

Budgeted: \$27,116.85 ~ 86% Expended

Expended: \$23,354.91 = \$19,335.53 Federal + \$4,019.38 Local

### FFY 2022 Activities and Accomplishments

#### Regional Transportation Plan

- Ongoing staff support for projects prioritized in the 2045 Regional Transportation Plans:
  - I-70B 24 Road to 15th Street
    - Phase 5, I-70B, 1<sup>st</sup> Street and Grand Avenue to Rood
    - Phase 6, I-70B south of Rood and east
  - Mobility Hub, support for study of feasibility and RAISE grant application
  - US 6A – Fruita
  - US 6B – North Avenue
  - US 6C – Clifton to Palisade
  - I-70 Interchange at 29/30 Road
  - North Avenue Enhanced Transit Corridor Study
- Continued implementation of Regional Transportation Plan.
- Developed and finalized Amendment #1 to the 2045 Regional Transportation Plan and Transit and Human Services Plan.
- Created materials and planned operations of a Transportation Open House.

#### Regional Travel Demand Modeling

- Mesa County Regional Travel Model (MCRTM)
  - Finalized model documentation.
  - Regularly used the MCRTM to prepare forecasts for project prioritization and for use by CDOT and local partners, including:
    - CDOT: US 6, I-70, and I-70B; Fruita: Fruita Active Circulation Plan, Fremont Street, and 19 Road & K Road; Grand Junction: 4th and 5th Street, Cimarron Estates, Redlands 360, Three Arrows, and Mesa Mall; and Mesa County: Loma.

- Continued learning and coordination with:
  - CDOT in the development of the Statewide Travel Model and participation in the Colorado Model Users Group.
  - 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.

### **Statewide Transportation Planning**

Ongoing coordination with CDOT in the development and implementation of the Statewide Transportation Plan and supporting plans:

- 10-Year Plan
  - Assisted with CDOT's September 2022 10-Year Plan Update.
- Greenhouse Gas Rule
  - Staff members have been involved in the modelling group and mitigation group to determine the needs and impact of the rule to the GVMPO.
  - Staff representative on the State Interagency Consulting Team (IACT) and provided input on the GHG Rule Policy Directive.
- Transportation Performance Management
  - 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.*
- CDOT Committees
  - Regular participation in the Statewide Transportation Advisory Committee (STAC), Statewide MPO Meetings, and the Colorado Freight Advisory Council.
  - Coordination with members of the transportation demand management (TDM) Oversight Committee.
  - Freight coordination initiative with staff members at CDOT HQ and Region 3, local partners, the Grand Junction Economic Partnership, the Colorado Office of

- Economic Development and International Trade, UPRR, BNSF, and local shippers and receivers.
  - Statewide Household Travel Survey Oversight Committee participation.
- CDOT Summits/Trainings
  - Attended the CDOT 2022 Traffic Safety Summit.
  - Participated in the virtual CDOT Complete Streets Training.
  - Participated in the virtual CDOT Bicycle and Pedestrian Facility Design Trainings.
  - Participated in the virtual CDOT Roadway Data Improvement Program Workshop for Colorado.
- Legislative Review
  - Ongoing transportation legislation review, input, and coordination efforts.
  - Submitted comments for the Clean Transit Enterprise Rulemaking as rule is collecting funds from the GVT service area, but GVT is not eligible for funds as all of our fleet is fueled by CNG.

### 3.0 Transportation Improvement Program

Budgeted: \$7,747.67 ~ 86% Expended

Expended: \$6,672.83 = \$5,524.44 Federal + \$1,148.39 Local

#### FFY 2022 Activities and Accomplishments

- Managed the State FY 2022-2025 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) through formal amendments and administrative adjustments.
- Prepared the State FY 2023-2026 TIP for adoption in April 2022.
- Updated the TIP Amendment Process and created modification forms for requested TIP changes.
- Managed the State FY 2023-2026 TIP through formal amendments and administrative adjustments.
- Conducted public involvement activities for TIP amendments.



## 4.0 Transportation, Transit, and Multi-Modal Planning

Budgeted: \$23,243.01 ~ 86% Expended  
 Expended: \$20,018.50 = \$16,573.31 Federal + \$3,445.18 Local

### FFY 2022 Activities and Accomplishments

#### Multimodal Options Fund (MMOF)

- 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.
  - Excess funding from the Mesa County SRTS project are being transferred to GVT Capital project.
- GVRTC approved use of FY22 and FY23 MMOF funds for GVT Capital projects with priority going to a fleet maintenance facility and then bus purchases. This option was also presented and approved by the TAC and MMOF Selection Committee. However, FTA funding was awarded for these funds so TAC and GVRTC then approved some of the funds going to transit with the balance awarded through a Call for Projects.
- Developed an application for the 2022 MMOF and Carbon Reduction Plan Call for Projects.
- Working with CDOT and local partners to expedite project delivery. All projects are under contract.

#### Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning

- Colorado Safe Routes to School (SRTS) program
  - Awarded approximately \$81k SRTS funding with an additional \$20k match from local partners for the *Grand Valley Safe Routes to School Smart Project*. Under contract with Ryan Sawyer Marketing for development of visuals and hired three CMU Computer Science students for development of phone app. First phase of app development completed and beta tested and use for first round of the incentive program in October 2022.



- Began working with local partners to progress other elements of the project.
- Developed SRTS website: [www.mesacounty saferoutes.com](http://www.mesacounty saferoutes.com), which has had 136 unique visitors, several of which have come from advertisements on Peachjar and social media.
- Supported CDOT's SRTS program as a member of the Statewide SRTS Advisory Committee, including preparation for the 2021 application and grant cycle (one GVMPO staff member was an SRTS Advisory Committee member):
  - Participated in SRTS Advisory Committee meetings.
  - Reviewed, 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 and studies.
- 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 UTC.
  - Coordinated with School District 51 staff and faculty.
  - Currently one GVMPO staff member (funded by FTA 5310) serves as the organizer/coordinator of Grand Valley Bike Month activities as well as 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

- Project Status
  - US 6B North Avenue Enhanced Transit Corridor Study
    - Completed the North Avenue Enhanced Transit Corridor Study, which developed a conceptual design for a multimodal path for the entire length of North Ave as well as a 30% design for one-mile section of North Avenue in addition to other transit enhancement recommendations. The City of Grand Junction will oversee the final design and construction of

the path planned for 2023/24. RTPPO has funding for other transit system enhancements and will determine how to best use them in the system.

- Mobility Hub Project
  - The purpose of the Grand Junction mobility hub project is to provide a centralized location for frequent, reliable, high-quality transit, and multimodal mobility choices in downtown Grand Junction.
  - RTPPO Staff coordinated the siting study, developed an equity analysis, and provided support for the subsequent 2022 RAISE grant application which was successful.
  - Presented an overview of the Mobility Hub Project to local partners, businesses, and stakeholders at the Mobility and Redevelopment in Downtown Grand Junction Workshop.
  - Hosted a Mobility Hub Project Site Selection Workshop and included the public outreach for the equity analysis as part of a Transportation Open House.
- Grand Valley Transit Funding Awards
  - Managing the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on GVT operations including managing \$5.4 million of CARES Act funds (expended in 2022) and \$875,000 in ARP Act funds received (currently covering the Transit Planner position and will fund the design and NEPA of the transit fleet maintenance facility).
  - Awarded the Congressionally Designated Spending funding in the amount of \$1,223,000 for the purchase of two Gillig CNG lowfloor bus and two CNG cutaway buses. Low-floor buses are ordered and should be delivered in 2023. Cutaway buses are not ordered due to delays due to CDOT Price Agreement and chassis shortages.
  - Awarded a 5310 Mobility Management grant through CDOT for continuation of a FTE in 2022, activities included:
    - Preparation of a Marketing 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.
  - Promotion of the free middle and high school student bus pass program and Kids Ride Free program.
  - Leading the implementation of the Safe Routes to School- non-infrastructure project grant.
- Applied for and received funding for the competitive FY22 5339 bus and bus facilities/low-no emissions grants through FTA for two replacement cutaway buses and two expansion cutaway buses. Received approx. 1M in federal funds.
  - Applied for and received funding for the competitive FY22 5339 bus and bus facilities/low-no emissions grants through FTA for funding for the transit fleet maintenance facility. Received \$2.8M towards construction of the facility.
  - Applied for a bus replacement grant through CDOT's Division of Transit and Rail FY23 Consolidated Call for Capital Projects (CCCCP) for 1 lowfloor bus. Awards have not yet been announced.
  - Submitted all required documentation for CDOT's Division of Transit and Rail CY2022 Comprehensive Review in March 2022. Site visit conducted in May 2022. No feedback from CDOT.
  - Submitted a request for Congressionally Directed Spending (earmarks) for four cutaway transit buses in March 2022. Request was not included in FY23 adopted appropriations bill.
  - GVRTC approved use of ARPA funds for design and NEPA analysis for a fleet maintenance facility as well as non-revenue transit fleet and a full-time Transit Planner. RFQ for consultant conducted in July. Currently finalizing contract with consultant.
- Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (PTASP)

- Continued Implementation of the Grand Valley Transit (GVT) PTASP.
- GVT Strategic Plan
  - Ongoing implementation of strategies from April 2018 plan.
- Coordination Efforts
  - 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.

### **Access Management, Support for Development Review, and Other**

- The GVMPO worked throughout the year with CDOT and local communities in support of access permitting and land development processes, including:
  - Provided information and technical assistance to applicants, as requested.
  - Attended pre-application coordination meetings with applicants and staff at the applicable local jurisdiction, as requested.
  - 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**

- Submitted an application for the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Action Plan Grant Application. The application included crash data analysis, facilitating the grant advisory team, Memorandum of Agreement development, narrative and budget development, coordinating letters of support, and presentations to the Board of County Commissioners and GVRTC.
- The GVMPO provided staff support for carrying out project prioritization processes for CDOT, 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:
  - 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), one GVMPO staff member served as the chair of the MCAQAC until his retirement in February, 2021. Another staff member has stepped into this committee in a committee member capacity.
- On behalf of local partners, participation and providing input at numerous Greenhouse Gas Reduction Roadmap meetings, including Employee Trip Reduction Program, and GHG Pollution Standard.
- Participated in research by the Center for Community Resilience on access to early childhood education and mobility infrastructure, as hosted by the Mesa County Health Department.
- Participated in Community Health Improvement Planning efforts.
- GVMPO staff members have closely participated in the Comprehensive Plan update processes for Mesa County.
- GVMPO staff attended the City of Grand Junction's Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan Open House and participated in the bicycle audit.
- One GVMPO staff member provided input as a member of the Micromobility Pilot Selection Committee.
- 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.

### **Regular or Special Outreach and Local Coordination Efforts**

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

- 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.
- Grand Junction Area Chamber of Commerce
- Fruita Chamber of Commerce
- Palisade Chamber of Commerce
- Grand Junction Economic Partnership (GJEP)
- Grand Junction District of the Grand Mesa
- Grand Junction Field Office
- 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)
- Urban Trails Committee (UTC)
- Grand Valley Bikes
- Mesa County Bicycling Alliance (MCBA)
- Clifton Technical Group/Clifton Community Spaces
- Colorado National Monument
- Uncompahgre National Forest
- Gunnison National Forest
- Colorado West Land Trust
- Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (AMPO)
- American Planning Association (APA)
- American Public Transportation Association (APTA)
- Bureau of Land Management
- Community Transportation Association of America (CTAA)

- Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE)
- National Park Service
- National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA)
- Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD)
- Colorado Department of Transportation's Highway Safety Office
- Colorado Association of Transit Agencies (CASTA)
- Colorado Motor Carriers Association (CMCA)
- Transit & Rail Advisory Committee (TRAC)
- Bicycle Colorado
- Various project specific steering committees and technical teams.