

FFY 2020 Year End Report



October 1, 2019 –
September 30, 2020



Grand Valley
Metropolitan Planning Organization



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TASK 1.0 PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION:**BUDGET: \$399,901.10 - 91% EXPENDED****EXPENDED: \$302,185.98 (FEDERAL) + \$60,634.33 (LOCAL) = \$362,820.31 (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 2020 Activities and Accomplishments

- Completed the FFY 2019 year-end and FFY 2020 mid-year 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
- Prepare for and conduct 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: \$ 32,933.04 - 88% EXPENDED****EXPENDED: \$24,021.20 (FEDERAL) + \$4,933.42 (LOCAL) = \$29,014.61 (TOTAL)****FFY 2020 Activities and Accomplishments**

- Ongoing staff support for projects prioritized in the 2040 Regional Transportation Plan:
 - 29 Road Interchange PEL, PEL Technical Team Member, travel demand modeling, traffic analysis, and other support
 - I-70B 24 Road to 15th Street, with recent focus on I-70B 1st Street and Grand Avenue to Ute/Pitkin
- 2045 Regional Transportation Plan
 - Progressed and completed the planning process culminating in plan adoption February 24, 2020
 - Continued Steering Committee meetings and/or coordination through July 2020
 - Completed review and synthesis of all background data, related studies, plans, etc.
 - Continued public outreach process with presentations at community meetings, emails, and social media posts
 - Completed geocoding public comments, updated figures to aid in identification of areas for improvement in the transportation network
 - Using Steering Committee and public input, refined the Vision statement with Goals, Policies, and Strategies to support the Vision
 - Developed and implemented a data-driven approach to project prioritization that included geocoding and analysis of crash data (PM 1), infrastructure condition (PM 2), and system performance (PM 3)
 - Conducted a Federal Lands Transportation Needs Assessment Workshop, including representatives from all relevant federal land management agencies, including the Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, Forest Service, Bureau of Reclamation, Fish & Wildlife Service, and Central Federal Lands Highway Division (CFLHD) of FHWA
 - Following the workshop, a Federal Lands Transportation section was prepared for and included within the RTP
 - GVMPO staff participated in follow-up planning sessions with CFLHD and federal land managers at the state, regional, and national level
 - GVMPO staff presented information on the process and findings from the Federal Lands Transportation section to multiple stakeholder groups, including the Statewide MPOs in Colorado, local federal land

managers, the GVMPO TAC and GVRTC

- Developed and included a scenario and resiliency chapter that comprised of high-growth and low-growth scenarios as well as numerous resiliency alternatives, each of which was tested with the Mesa County Regional Travel Model (MCRTM)
 - Findings have been presented to the Statewide MPO representatives, the GVMPO TAC, and the Colorado Model Users Group (COMUG)
- Transportation Performance Management (TPM)
 - Coordinated with CDOT Region 3, CDOT HQ, and FHWA 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. Prepared an MOU for ongoing establishment of requirements for performance measures and targets for safety, infrastructure condition, system performance, freight, and air quality. Adopted a resolution to *set targets by supporting the CDOT statewide targets for PM2 and PM3.*
 - Updated the Performance-Based Planning and Programming section for inclusion in the 2021-2024 TIP and the 2045 RTP, 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
- 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
- Progressed with and completed the Mesa County Regional Travel Model (MCRTM) update process with support from consultant, Cambridge Systematics. Tasks completed:
 - Established forecast year land use and socioeconomics for 2025, 2035, and 2045, through close coordination with the Office of the State Demographer and local partners
 - Began using the MCRTM to prepare forecasts for project prioritization and for use by local partners

- Developed and implemented 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: \$9,409.44 - 88% EXPENDED

EXPENDED: \$6,863.20 (FEDERAL) + \$1,426.69 (LOCAL) = \$8,289.89 (TOTAL)

FFY 2020 Activities and Accomplishments

- Managed the State FY 2020-2023 TIP through formal amendments and administrative adjustments, see <https://rtpo.mesacounty.us/transportation-improvement-program-tip/>
- Prepared and adopted the State FY 2021-2024 TIP
- Conducted public involvement activities prior to adoption of amendments to the FY 2020-2023 TIP and the FY 2021-2024 TIP

TASK 4.0 TRANSPORTATION, TRANSIT, AND MULTI-MODAL PLANNING:

BUDGET: \$28,228.32 - 88% EXPENDED

EXPENDED: \$20,589.60 (FEDERAL) + \$4,280.07 (LOCAL) = \$24,869.67 (TOTAL)

FFY 2020 Activities and Accomplishments

Multimodal Options Fund (MMOF) SB-1

- Developed an application and evaluation process with input from CDOT Region 3 and HQ staff
- Issued a call for projects, received nine separate applications, completed evaluations, and made recommendations for award of funding for eight projects for five partner jurisdictions (The City of Fruita, The Town of Palisade, Mesa County, The Town of Collbran, GVMPO, and GVT)
 - 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

- A second call for projects was issued to allocate the funds remaining, resulting in a recommendation of award for an additional project for a sixth partner jurisdiction, the City of Grand Junction
- Working with CDOT and local partners to expedite project delivery. All projects are under contract except the GVMPO - State Travel Survey, GVT - Transit Capital, and Town of Collbran - Trail Feasibility Study.

Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning

- Supported CDOT's Safe Routes to School (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

- Adopted the Grand Valley Transit (GVT) Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (PTASP) by board resolution, August 24, 2020
- 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
- Managing the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on GVT operations
- 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.
- Awarded a 5310 Mobility Management grant through CDOT for continuation of an FTE

in 2020, 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 a competitive 5339 grant through CDOT for the buses not awarded funding for directly with FTA in October 2020. These awards will be announced by CDOT in Spring 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 should be completed by Spring 2021.
- Issued an RFP for GVT Bench and Shelter Advertising and are currently evaluating proposals
- 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. The most recently completed improvements include a shared-use path providing multi-modal connectivity between downtown Grand Junction, the Colorado Riverfront Trail, and high use public land areas along Monument Road including the Lunch Loops Trailhead, with a future phase extending to the east entrance of Colorado National Monument. A grand opening ceremony for the first phase was held February 20, 2020.
- 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
- 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.
- 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)
- 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