

Background

The decision about how to provide ADA-compliant access from the new pedestrian bridge to 7th Street required an almost year-long process, during which several variations on pedestrian ramp and elevator(s) had been generated and supported by different parties. As part of the SH 82 Grand Avenue Bridge project, the ramp and/or elevator(s) would be part of the capital cost of building the project; however, once built, the Colorado State Statute that governs the “Division of Authority” between state and municipal governments requires the City of Glenwood Springs (City) to take on the maintenance and operation responsibilities. Because of this, it was ultimately the City’s decision about which option best fit their long-term goals and community acceptance.

To support its decision-making process, the City Council requested that the SH 82 Grand Avenue Bridge project team prepare a comprehensive set of information. The Project Leadership Team (PLT) suggested that an Issue Task Force (ITF) be formed to review and assemble the most current and relevant information for the City Council. The ITF was made up of members of the PLT and other identified participants.

Issue Task Force Product

The ITF met on December 10, 2013, to review and resolve inconsistencies in the information that had been generated by the project team, the Downtown Development Authority, and City staff. The ITF took into consideration that this decision must be consistent with the project’s established Critical Success Factors and Context Sensitive Solutions process and, which recognizes that selecting the best solution requires balancing a wide range of concerns and issues. To illustrate the balance, the ITF created a format that best illustrated comparative information for the following:

- Elevators and lifts
- Capital costs
- Annual operations and maintenance costs
- Life-cycle costs (replacement costs)
- ADA compliance
- Multimodal (bikes and pedestrians/accessibility for all users)
- Views
- Economic
- Consistency with community and opportunity for redevelopment
- Public space
- Future options
- Parking
- Security and Safety

The ITF assembled the information into a packet that was submitted to City Council on December 12, 2013. A full-page ad placed in the *Glenwood Springs Post Independent* on December 17, 2013, contained renderings of various options so the general public could provide input to the City Council prior to its decision. At its January 2, 2014, meeting, the City Council endorsed its preference for double elevators as the access option.

A summary of the full decision-making process about this ADA access and the packet the ITF prepared for City Council is available at www.coloradodot.info/projects/sh82grandavenuebridge/alternatives-development.html.