

SH 82

# Grand Avenue Bridge

# Welcome

**Public Scoping Meeting\***

**November 15, 2011  
4:30 P.M. to 7:00 P.M.**

**Glenwood Springs Community Center**  
100 Wulfsohn Road • Glenwood Springs, CO

**[www.SH82grandavenuebridge.com](http://www.SH82grandavenuebridge.com)**

*\*Open House format. No formal presentation*



## Purpose of Tonight's Scoping Meeting

- Provide background information on the project.
- Obtain input from members of the public.
- Present draft key issues, needs, and goals.
- Explain the environmental process.
- Answer questions about the project.
- Listen to suggestions and concerns.
- Identify how the public can get involved.
- Present the next steps in the process.



## What is Scoping?

- The process at the beginning of a new project where the project team “scopes” out relevant issues to study.
- Involves the transportation agencies, the resource agencies, and the public.
- The public generally has an intimate knowledge of a study area, and their input is invaluable.
- Scoping helps identify issues and concerns that are important to the agencies and the community affected by the project.



## Project Overview

CDOT, in concert with the Federal Highway Administration, is leading the Grand Avenue project. The project's intent is to address functional, structural and safety deficiencies and bring it up to current standards for a four-lane bridge.



## Project Overview

- Improvements to the Grand Avenue Bridge will be funded by the Colorado Bridge Enterprise.\*
- The project team will fully consider rehabilitation options for the bridge.
- CDOT is committed to working with the Glenwood Springs community throughout this study.
- The design of any improvements will address federal, state, and local standards.

*\*The Colorado Bridge Enterprise (CBE) operates as a government-owned business within Colorado Department of Transportation. The purpose of the CBE is to finance, repair, reconstructed and replace bridges designated as structurally deficient or functionally obsolete, and rated "poor".*



## Project Team

Lead agencies on the project team are the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). They are being assisted by a consultant team, led by Jacobs Engineering. Other project team members include representatives from:

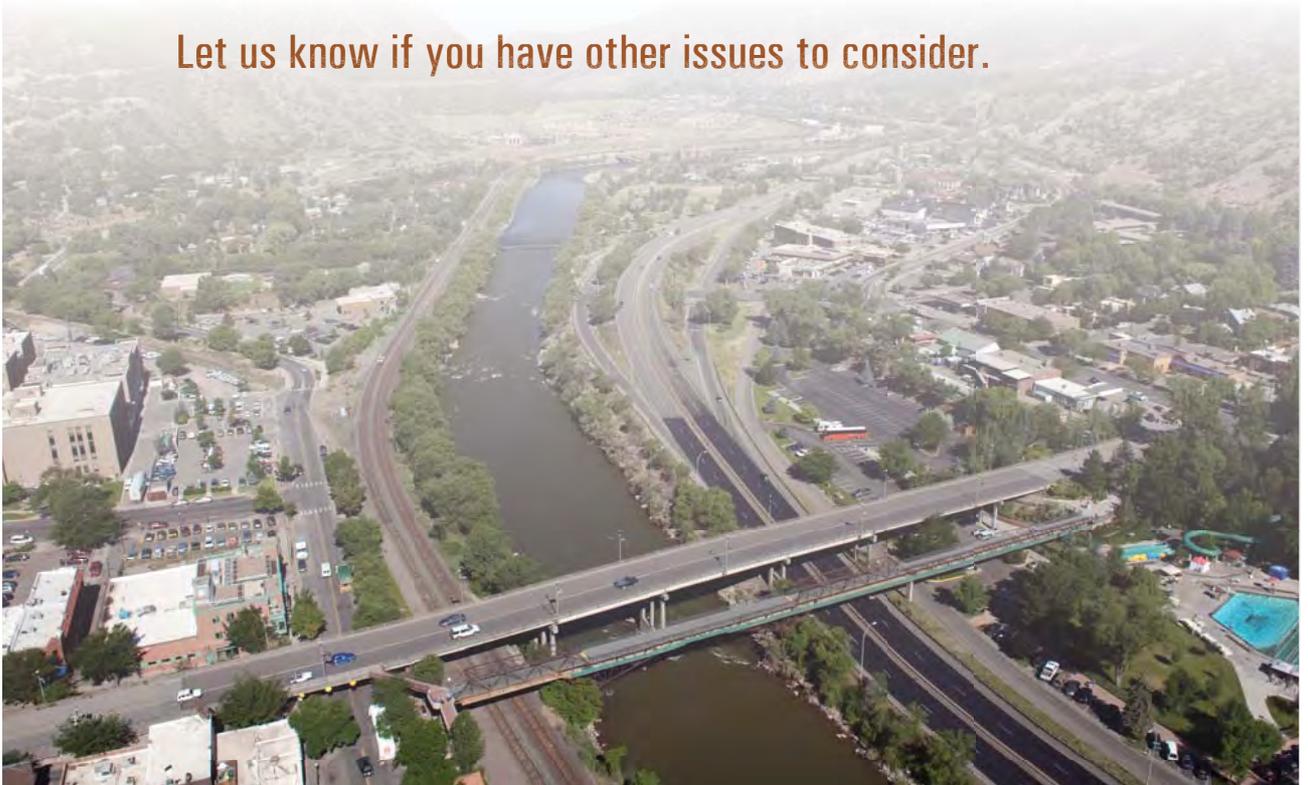
- City of Glenwood Springs
- Garfield County
- Eagle County
- Pitkin County
- Glenwood Springs Resort Chamber Association
- Historic Preservation Commission
- Colorado Bridge Enterprise
- Glenwood Hot Springs

Numerous resource agencies will also be providing input and review. Additionally, there will be multiple opportunities for the general public and key stakeholders to provide input and review the findings.

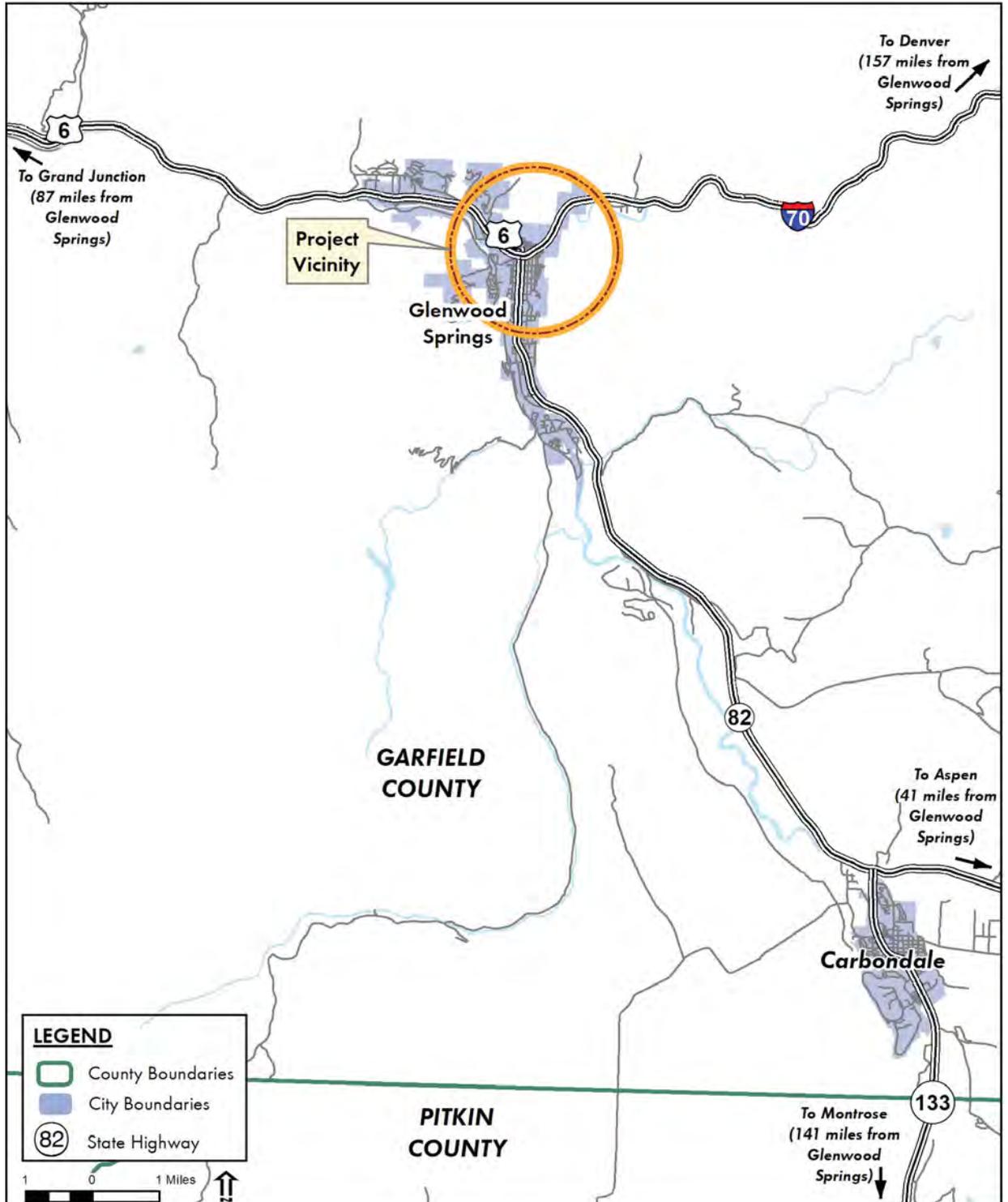
## DRAFT Project Key Issues

- Providing for Safety
- Accommodating Local Access
- Minimizing Construction Impacts
- Avoiding and Minimizing Environmental Impacts
- Accommodating Traffic
- Addressing Pedestrian, Bicycle, and ADA Access
- Solving Problems into the Future
- Developing Project that Fits the Context of the Community

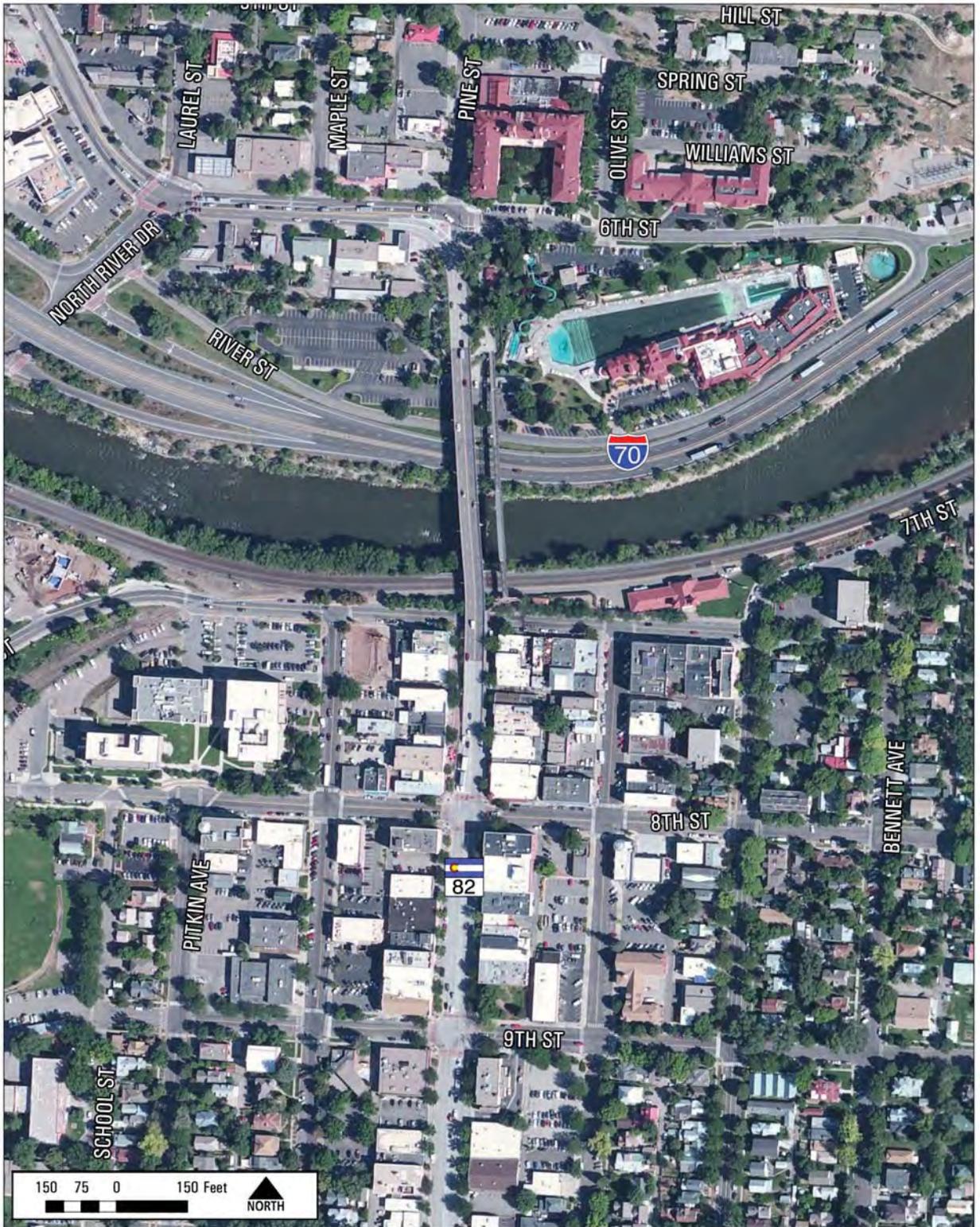
Let us know if you have other issues to consider.



## Regional Map



## Vicinity Map



## Schedule

Tasks	2011	2012	2013	2014
Initiation & Feasibility	██████████			
Alternatives		██████████		
NEPA Documentation		████████████████████		
Design			████████████████████	
Construction Start				◆



## Other Studies in the Area

Many studies have looked at transportation needs in the Glenwood Springs area. Previous work has identified many community issues and concerns. The Grand Avenue Bridge project is focused on the existing SH 82 Grand Avenue bridge.

### Related Studies:

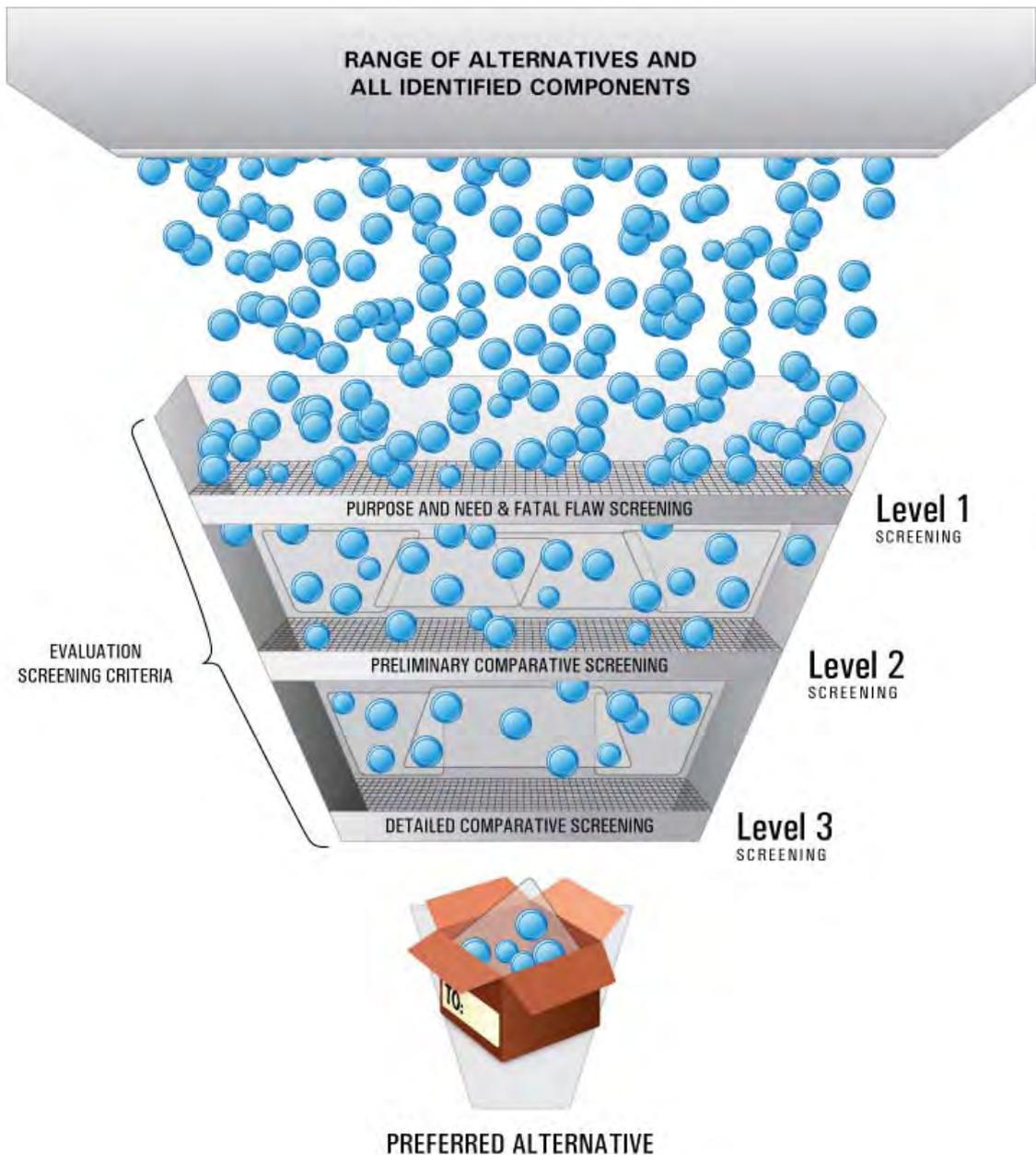
- **2005:** *SH 82 Corridor Conditions Assessment*,  
CDOT, City of Glenwood Springs
- **2007:** *SH 82 Corridor Optimization Study*  
City of Glenwood Springs
- **2010:** *SH 82 Corridor Optimization Plan*  
City of Glenwood Springs, Roaring Fork Transportation  
Authority (RFTA), Garfield County

### Other Studies in the Region:

- **2003:** *West Glenwood Springs to Aspen Corridor  
Investment Study*,  
Roaring Fork Transportation Authority
- **2004:** *Intermountain 2030 Regional Transportation Plan*,  
Intermountain Transportation Planning Region
- **2005:** *Wildlife & Ecological Resources Management Plan*,  
*October 2006*,  
Roaring Fork Transportation Authority (RFTA)

## Alternatives Screening Process

An alternatives development, evaluation and screening process will be used to determine the Preferred Alternative. This process will involve several levels of screening as displayed below.



## What is an Environmental Assessment?

A transportation-related Environmental Assessment (EA) is a specific level of documentation required under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). An EA includes:

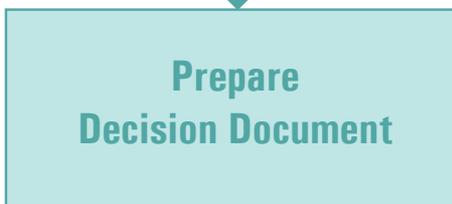
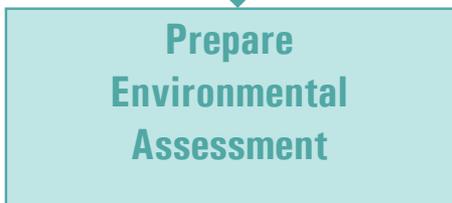
- Definition of the purpose and need for the project.
- Description of a range of reasonable transportation improvements alternatives.
- Evaluation of potential social, economic, historical, and environmental impacts of proposed improvements. Definition of measures to avoid, minimize or mitigate negative impacts.
- Description of public involvement and input to decision-making.



## Environmental Assessment Process

We are Here  
in the Process

### Steps in the Process



### Activities

- Public & agency meetings
- Collect environmental data
- Identify existing traffic conditions
- Identify issues and concerns
- Define future land use
- Develop future traffic projections
- Collect data on roadway deficiencies
- Document need for improvements
- Develop evaluation criteria
- Develop measures of effectiveness
- Define initial alternatives
- Screen initial alternatives
- Define remaining alternatives
- Document alternatives considered
- Evaluate impacts of reasonable alternatives
- Identify preferred alternative
- Document the process followed
- Identify mitigation measures
- Provide EA to public & agencies
- Conduct Public Hearing
- Receive comments
- Provide basis for decision
- Commit to mitigation for impacts
- Document decision
- Address public and agency comments
- Signed by CDOT and FHWA

## Environmental Assessment Categories

- Land Use
- Social
- Environmental Justice
- Economic
- Bicycle and Pedestrian
- Visual
- Right-of-Way
- Parks and Recreation
- Hazardous Materials
- Noise
- Wetlands
- Vegetation & Noxious Weeds
- Wildlife and Fisheries
- Threatened and Endangered Species
- Floodplains
- Water Quality
- Historical & Archaeological Resources
- Paleontological Resources
- Section 4(f) and 6(f) Resources
- Construction Impacts
- Cumulative Impacts

# Preliminary Critical Issues



"Existing narrow lanes cause some drivers of large vehicle to take both lanes when crossing the bridge."



**LEGEND:**

- Traffic and Design Issues
- Environmental Issues
- Historic Districts

Historic Properties and Districts	
Map Number	Site Name
1	Hotel Colorado
2	Glenwood Hot Springs Historic District
3	SH 82 Bridge over Colorado River
4	Denver and Rio Grande Railroad
5	Rex Hotel
6	Glenwood Springs Commercial District
7	Mirror Bar
8	Parkinson Building
not shown	Noonan Building
not shown	Citizens National Bank Building
not shown	Glenwood Hot Springs Bathhouse
not shown	Denver and Rio Grande Railroad Station

## Preliminary Stakeholder Issues

Stakeholder Group	Identified Concerns	Potential Solutions
<b>Downtown Business Groups</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Downtown Development Authority</li> <li>• Chamber Resort Association</li> <li>• Downtown Partnership</li> </ul>	Maintain access and visibility during construction; effects to downtown character from potentially higher traffic volumes and speeds.	Maintain parking to the extent feasible; minimize traffic disruptions, particularly during peak seasons; enhance visibility, parking, and walkability; integrate pedestrian concerns and urban design elements into project design.
<b>Glenwood Hot Springs Board</b>	Maintain aquifer; future development/land use.	Geothermal testing and mapping to avoid subsurface breaches; incorporate business access, visibility, and other business factors into criteria.
<b>City of Glenwood Springs</b>	Mobility of traffic; effect on through traffic; business impacts; consistency with new comprehensive plan	All of the above, plus consideration of past and present planning processes including alternate route planning.
<b>Glenwood Springs City Council</b>	See City of Glenwood Springs above; open and effective communication	See City of Glenwood Springs above; effective and open public process
<b>Garfield County</b>	Effect of construction activities on regional mobility.	Minimize construction impacts on the travelling public; consider overall mobility.
<b>Eagle County and Pitkin County</b>	See Garfield County above.	See Garfield County above.
<b>Colorado Bridge Enterprise</b>	Address bridge deficiencies consistent with needs and funding constraints.	Clearly define purpose and need; include criteria tied to any specific funding constraints or safety needs.
<b>U.S. DOT, FHWA</b>	Ensure process is legally sufficient and project needs are met.	Conduct a legally sufficient process.
<b>Roaring Fork Transportation Authority</b>	Effect on bus schedules, routes, and stops.	Consideration of routes in construction phasing; allow for future buses on bridge and approaches.
<b>Historic Preservation Commission and Historic Groups</b>	Impacts to historic resources, historic districts, and historic character.	Avoid, minimize, and mitigate impacts to historic resources.
<b>Whitewater Rafting</b>	Safety of rafting customers.	Eliminate piers in river.
<b>Emergency Services</b>	Disruption to service provision.	Maintain safe access and detours.

## What is Context Sensitive Solutions (CSS)?

“Context Sensitive Solutions (CSS) is a collaborative, interdisciplinary approach that involves all stakeholders to develop a transportation facility that fits its physical setting and preserves scenic, aesthetic, historic, and environmental resources, while maintaining safety and mobility. CSS is an approach that considers the total context within which a transportation improvement project will exist. CSS principles include the employment of early, continuous and meaningful involvement of the public and all stakeholders throughout the project development process.”

— U.S. DOT Federal Highway Administration



## DRAFT Context Statement

The Grand Avenue bridge over the Colorado River, Interstate 70 and the railroad tracks, connects north and south Glenwood Springs, I-70 and State Highway 82, and the historic districts of downtown and the Glenwood Hot Springs.

The bridge stands as a gateway to the city of Glenwood Springs, Glenwood Canyon, the Roaring Fork Valley, and Colorado's western slope communities. It serves local, regional and state travel, local commuters, emergency response, bicyclists and pedestrians.

The soaring walls of Glenwood Canyon; the rich history of Glenwood Springs, built at the confluence of the Colorado and Roaring Fork Rivers; mining; tourism and recreation define a splendid and vivid context for the Grand Avenue bridge.



## How will CSS be Used on This Project?

- Community participation on the Project Leadership Team.
- Stakeholders engaged early and continuously.
- Broad community and agency involvement in defining the context.
- Context and stakeholder values reflected in the evaluation process.
- Decisions made in a fair and transparent manner.



## How Can You Get Involved?

- Get on the project mailing list (sign in tonight).
- Look for information in the newspaper.
- Visit the project website:  
[www.SH82grandavenuebridge.com](http://www.SH82grandavenuebridge.com)
- Attend future project meetings.
- Sign up for a group presentation (at sign-in table).
- Fill in a comment form (see next board).



## Please Give Us Your Comments

- Talk with project staff.
- Fill in a comment form (tonight) or mail to project team - address on comment form:

Josh Cullen, Project Manager  
Colorado Department of Transportation  
202 Centennial Street  
Glenwood Springs, CO 81601

- Fax your comments to:  
Josh Cullen  
Fax: 970.947.5133
- E-mail your comments to:  
[Joshua.Cullen@dot.state.co.us](mailto:Joshua.Cullen@dot.state.co.us)
- Submit your comments via the project website:  
[www.SH82grandavenuebridge.com](http://www.SH82grandavenuebridge.com)



## Next Steps for the Project Team:

- Analyze comments received at tonight's open house.
- Analyze existing and future traffic conditions.
- Collect and analyze detailed environmental data.
- Define project purpose.
- Refine project needs and goals.
- Develop alternative screening criteria.
- Develop and evaluate alternatives.
- Begin EA documentation work.
- Continue public outreach (via meetings, mailings, articles, web page and other appropriate techniques).

