



SH 82

# GRAND AVENUE BRIDGE

## SH 82 Grand Avenue Bridge

### DRAFT PROJECT PURPOSE

*The purpose of the project is to provide a safe, secure, and effective multimodal connection from downtown Glenwood Springs across the Colorado River and I-70 to the historic Glenwood Hot Springs area.*

### DRAFT PROJECT NEEDS

The Grand Avenue Bridge serves as a vital link of SH 82 across the Colorado River, I-70, and the Union Pacific Railroad, connecting downtown Glenwood Springs with the historic Hot Springs, Hotel Colorado, and I-70. The importance of the bridge to local and regional transportation underscores the following transportation needs:

1. Improve multimodal connectivity between downtown Glenwood Springs, and the Roaring Fork Valley, with the historic Hot Springs pool area and I-70.

The Grand Avenue Bridge connects the Hot Springs pool and Hotel Colorado area to the core commercial corridor located south of the bridge along Grand Avenue. However, the bridge's condition impairs this connection for a variety of transportation users. For example, very substandard lane widths (9 feet, 4 inches) and the absence of shoulders across the bridge pose an issue for RFTA's existing bus service, emergency service vehicles, and other large vehicles, forcing these vehicles to use both lanes. In addition, the absence of shoulders on the bridge makes for unsafe bicycling and precludes pedestrian use that was originally carried on the bridge. The lack of nearby alternate routes compounds these problems. Future traffic increases will worsen the bridge's ability to provide connectivity.

2. Address the functional and structural deficiencies of the bridge to improve public safety, including emergency service response, and reliability as a critical transportation route.

The aging and poor condition of the bridge increases the risk of bridge closure. The location of some existing bridge piers adjacent to I-70 increases this risk, since these piers are vulnerable to large vehicle collisions. Any closure would have major consequences to the travelling public. Users of the bridge, which include local and through traffic, commuters, and emergency service vehicles, would be required to use lengthier alternative routes during bridge closure. Alternate routes range from approximately five miles for detours through West Glenwood, to 141 miles for an I-70 closure.