

**SH 82 Grand Avenue Bridge
Design Elements Issue Task Force Meeting
March 12, 2014**

Background

The Grand Avenue Bridge project team has moved into a more detailed design phase on the proposed Grand Avenue Bridge; new pedestrian bridge; and supporting changes to Grand Avenue, 7th Street, 8th Street, and the area on the north side of I-70. To date, the Environmental Assessment process for the Grand Avenue Bridge Project has focused on developing the footprint and major elements of the Build Alternative. As the project moved into more detailed design, the formation of a Design Elements Issue Task Force (ITF) was suggested to provide input into the architectural/urban design elements and landscaping.

The project team developed a process for the Design Elements ITF, and the Project Leadership Team (PLT) endorsed the process as consistent with the overall public involvement plan. The Design Elements ITF process outlines the actions needed to make recommendations on specific design details over two scheduled meetings. The ITF will develop recommendations for consideration by the project team. This process is consistent with the Context Sensitive Solutions (CSS) approach to provide opportunities for public and agency involvement during planning, design, and construction phases of a project.

Individuals invited to participate in the ITF were citizens, officials, and/or business owners who have demonstrated a high level of interest in the Grand Avenue Bridge project or represent an interest group; and who were expected to provide relevant input and report back to the community and others they represent. They were asked to commit to participate in the two scheduled ITF meetings on March 12 and April 9, 2014.

During the March 12 meeting, participants worked with design team members to improve and refine initial options based on previous stakeholder input, project critical success factors and project criteria. At the April 9 meeting, the design team will present the refined option or options for each of the elements for further discussion or endorsement. These will form the basis for the ITF recommendations for the project design. Input obtained from the ITF will also be presented to the larger Stakeholder Working Group (SWG) and City Council.

Presentation and Summary of Feedback

The Design Elements ITF met from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on March 12, 2014. The presentation slides used during the meeting are attached. The following summary provides some of the key responses and feedback received from the ITF on each of the design topic areas listed.

Historic Context

Presentation

The project team presented an overview of their understanding of key historic context concepts received over the past 2.5 years from input from the PLT, SWG, community meetings, and City Council:

- Overview of Glenwood Springs historic character
- Lots of relief, brick arches, detailing
- Metal work with brick and stone
- Artwork
- Weathering steel
- Stonework in retaining walls and piers
- Urban grid on both sides of Colorado River - pedestrian bridge will tie together

Feedback

The general sense of the ITF members was that these concepts reflected the community's priorities. They suggested the following additional considerations and observations:

- Historic views from Bridge and of Bridge
- Possible code considerations with elements (e.g., metal awnings)/materials
- Peach-blow color
- Buff color/bricks/weathered steel - concrete grey not consistent
- Form liners offer opportunity

Stairs and Elevators

Presentation

Discussion of the stairs and elevators reflected input from the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) design charette held March 5 to discuss improvements to the proposed 7th Street promenade. The presentation included findings from the charette and initial design considerations for integrating the stairs and elevators in that location.

- Layout of elevators (north-south entry/exit; east-west entry/exit)
- Piers and roof treatment on elevator tower
- Overlooks, clocks, graphics, signage
- Staircase with bike channel
- Use of area under the staircase
- Restroom location options (under staircase, under Grand Avenue Bridge, in new County parking facility)

Feedback

A number of suggestions for further consideration were provided:

- Consider elements to discourage skateboards in bike channel
- Maintain pedestrian access at all times
- Bike parking in this area needed
- Backup generator for elevators required
- Clock - consider there is a clock a block away - provide more creative options

Pedestrian Space Between 7th Street and 8th Streets

Presentation

The presentation focused on options for the layout and materials used in the area under the new Grand Avenue Bridge and the connections to the pedestrian bridge on the north side of 7th Street. These included:

- Area use/layout
- Landscape, pavers
- Lighting
- Visual connections to 7th Street and to elevator towers
- Abutment wall treatment (Todd Wadsworth contractor team artwork)
- Use of closed wing street space
- Two concepts: Continuation of 7th Street Improvements; Connecting the Plaza Across 7th Street

Feedback

The ITF discussed the advantages and disadvantages for the different options and suggested an option that maintains flexibility for future use and provides a bright, well-lit space. Suggestions for further consideration included:

- City code related to tree placement
- Can we convey lighting under bridge? (Relative to today)
- Lighting, outlets, hose bibs, and conduit under Bridge
- Noise/acoustics under Bridge
- Articulate things that could/should be cut in addition to priorities. Consider public-private partnership opportunities
- Add “green” elements
- Need to maintain access between alleys and sides of Grand Avenue under the bridge
- Existing memorial bricks – contact group that initiated. Consider putting in walls, maintenance issue as plaza pavers
- Wall artwork – consider possibility of taggers and vandalism
- Can we show other real life examples of space under bridge?
- Something between option 1 and 2 – Soften and accommodate east-west connection

Pedestrian Bridge

Presentation

The presentation provided an update of the design effort to accommodate the features identified in earlier meetings with the public and City Council. Elements presented included:

- Overlook locations and number
- Variable depth vs. constant depth girders
- Piers square on diagonal as unifying treatment with vehicle bridge
- Pier material and finish
- Railing
- Lighting

Feedback

There was discussion about how specific features have evolved from earlier concepts to current options to address structural and engineering challenges. The ITF agreed with some of the changes while suggesting further consideration of roof/gazebo treatments shown in previous concepts. Comments included:

- Constant depth girder OK
- Look at gazebo over river overlook or gazebo placement more like original layout
- Concerns with lighting and car lights on the two bridges where they converge
- Deck surface – safe material
 - Hot water for deicing?
 - Delineate bikes and pedestrians? No current issues on the existing bridge.

Grand Avenue Bridge

Presentation

A number of design features of the Grand Avenue Bridge have been discussed and developed as part of the ongoing Environmental Assessment process (e.g., alignment and pier locations). The focus of this presentation was on more detailed and aesthetic considerations, including:

- Overview of two types of bridge structures and construction method
- Piers square on diagonal as unifying treatment with pedestrian bridge
- Railing over the river
- Railing in downtown section – transparent barrier
- Treatments for downtown section – artwork, railing, lighting, poles, abutment

Feedback

A number of suggestions were provided on the design elements of the Grand Avenue Bridge, including:

- Barriers on abutment in downtown – transparent sound wall well received
 - Concern with cleaning/maintenance
 - Look at lighting the barrier
- What it looks like
 - On it and from multiple view points
- Abutment walls-architectural features
- Peach-blow color
- Incorporate art

Additional Concerns and Discussion on South Side Design Elements

After lunch the participants were asked to reflect further on the presentations and discussion in the morning. A number of additional thoughts, suggestions, and questions were raised for further consideration:

- Sound barrier cleaning
- Run-off and freezing
- Integrate different design disciplines in overall design
- Scale and proportion of the Grand Avenue Bridge and the pedestrian bridge
- Lighting – dark sky
- Retain historic character
- Pier caps – don't block view

- Art should tie into “Victorian” town
- Less concrete in elevator design
- Arch detail for pedestrian bridge overlooks
- Elevator structure windows
- Conflicts (bike, pedestrians, traffic) at elevator doors
- Trucks and deliveries on 7th Street
- For the next meeting, bring back options and tiers of treatments that exemplify priority and elimination options

Landscaping — North Side

Presentation

This presentation focused on landscaping in the entrance to Glenwood Springs in the area of off-ramp, Laurel Street and 6th Street. Key points included:

- Character of Glenwood Springs
- Three landscape treatment options: Traditional, Xeric, Organic
- Considerations: appearance, level of maintenance

Feedback

Participants provided suggestions, preferences and thoughts for further consideration:

- Can we look at water features?
- Combination option to minimize maintenance with added seasonal planters
- Native Colorado
- Maintain sight lines and make visual impact
- Pedestrian wayfinding
- Traffic speeds coming off I-70
- Arches
- Need to show area from I-70 to new bridge
- Need driver’s eye view

Pedestrian and Bicycle Underpass

Presentation

Design options for the new pedestrian and bicycle underpass connecting the Colorado River Trail to the 6th Street area were presented:

- Opportunity for a gateway treatment
- Three design options: Historic Influence, Continuity with Grand Avenue Bridge, Enhanced Concrete Entryway

Feedback

A number of concerns and suggestions were provided by the ITF:

- Trench drain north side entrance
- Lighting – be creative
- Portal – Option 1 seemed to have support
- Portal higher priority than interior

Walls

Presentation

This project will include a number of retaining walls, ranging in height from about 2 feet to about 10 feet. Options for design treatments, color and materials were presented:

- 21 walls in the project
- Options for wall enhancements (lower to higher cost)
- Identification of more prominent, visible walls to consider higher-end treatments
- Artwork

Feedback

The ITF provided thoughts and considerations for how the treatment might vary based on the size and location of the walls. These included:

- Short walls – consider boulders
- Think about locations where snow/slush might splash on bike path or other streets
- Form liners wherever people can't touch
- Consider priorities for wall treatments – south side bridge touchdown important, entry area north side important

Streetscape and Wayfinding

Presentation

In addition to the design elements above, the ITF was asked to provide guidance on the use of the following:

- Seating, lighting, drainage grids
- Wayfinding for pedestrians/bicyclists and vehicles

Feedback

ITF feedback on these features included:

- Add pedestrian sign at Village Inn to direct pedestrians to the crosswalk
- Add directional signing for the left turn to west Glenwood Springs
- Continuity of color north-south, sides can be different

Next Steps

The project team will use the information provided by the Design Elements ITF, the SWG, other public input, and the City Council to further develop and refine the design elements for the project. The design team will review the input and incorporate the ideas as possible, developing options that more closely align with the suggestions.

The project team will bring the revised options back to the ITF on April 9 and present how the input from the ITF, the SWG and City Council was used to develop new or revised options. The project team will also present information on the relative costs of some of the options and information needed to develop recommendations on prioritizing elements and treatment trade-offs.

Recommendations from the ITF, SWG, and City Council will be presented to the Project Working Group to help develop the best design that meets the community's interests in a cost-effective package of design elements.

Participants and Organizations/Roles Represented

Design Elements ITF Members

Bob Andre	Downtown business owner
Tom Barnes	City of Glenwood Springs Staff
Don Bernes	North side business owner
Dave Betley	City of Glenwood Springs Staff
Ron Carsten	Historic Preservation Commission
Jodie Collins	Downtown Development Authority
Tom Fleming	Downtown Partnership
Mike Gamba	Glenwood Springs City Council
David Hauter	Architect / designer
Jeremy Heiman	Glenwood Springs River Commission
Cindy Hines	Frontier Historical Society
Lisa Newman	Architect / designer
Sumner Schachter	Glenwood Springs Planning and Zoning Commission
Suzanne Stewart	Glenwood Springs Chamber
Dave Sturges	Glenwood Springs City Council
Terry Wilson	City Glenwood Springs Staff
Erin Zalinski	Downtown business owner

Project Team Members

Josh Cullen	CDOT - Project Engineer
Joe Elsen	CDOT - Region 3, Central Program Engineer
Jennifer Forbes	Project Team - Elevator/Stairs
Craig Gaskill	Project Team - Project Engineer & Planner
Fred Gottmoeller	Project Team - Bridge Architect Grand Avenue Bridge
Julia Jung	Project Team - Pedestrian Bridge
Jennifer Klaetsch	CDOT - Region 3, Landscape Specialist
Jim Leggitt	Project Team - Designer
Jennifer Merer	Project Team - Landscape Architect
Pat Noyes	Project Team - Facilitator
Mary Speck	Project Team - Coordinator
Tracy Trulove	CDOT - Region 3, Communications Manager
Roland Wagner	CDOT - Region 3, Resident Engineer