

### Grand Avenue Bridge Piers south of 7<sup>th</sup> Street Keep Sidewalks Open to Pedestrians and Businesses

The placement of the Grand Avenue Bridge piers between 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Streets downtown was determined based on input from the Downtown Development Authority (DDA), the project's Stakeholder Working Group (SWG), City Council, and the general public.

There were two options considered:

- Placing the piers under bridge.
- Placing the piers on the outside edges of the bridge.



*Bridge piers are located on outside edge of the bridge.*



*Bridge piers are located on inside of the bridge.*

The DDA had expressed a desire to provide more open space under the bridge that could be used for festivals and other public events. Subsequently, their consultant recommended that outside piers would best create an area large enough to accommodate these activities.

At an SWG meeting held May 30, 2013, the two options were rendered and were part of the discussion of the highway bridge design elements. Participants remarked that the piers on the inside would provide more space for the sidewalks on either side of the bridge.

The renderings were viewed by several hundred people at the City of Glenwood Springs Strawberry Days event in June and at several Downtown Markets throughout the summer. Comments indicated that a majority preferred the piers under the bridge. The primary reason expressed for this was to provide more space along the sidewalks.

Additional engineering evaluation was completed on both options that addressed constructability and cost aesthetics. The results of the evaluation were as follows:

Criteria	Outside Piers	Inside Piers
Construction Location	Closer to existing buildings	Further away from existing buildings
Construction Duration	Longer	Shorter
Cost	Higher	Lower
Additional Beam Between Piers	Needed to support the bridge	Not required

The project team provided a summary of this engineering evaluation and the input on the options received from the DDA and the public events to City Council at a workshop on October 3, 2013. City Council recommended the inside piers.

A grading plan for the area under the bridge has been developed with the inside piers. This grading plan would create a flatter, more useable area under the bridge, and would not require any changes to the existing sidewalks, which minimizes impacts to adjacent businesses.