

Public Contemplates Mountain Area Master Plan Solutions

Community Input Taken Through Sunday, March 21

STEAMBOAT SPRINGS, COLORADO-March 1, 2021-After nearly a year of public meetings, online sessions and advisory and stakeholder group discussions, the Mountain Area Master Plan is sharing potential action and recommendations under consideration during the next phase.

“We’re quite happy with the participation during the initial phase of the master plan,” commented Rebecca Bessey, Planning and Community Development Director. “As we enter the next stage, it’s imperative to gain as much input as possible on the solutions, which set the stage for future direction.”

During the community engagement portion, the plan will share findings, the key problems identified and potential solutions. In addition, feedback will be collected on all levels of support for possible solutions. This phase will be open on EngageSteamboat.net/mamp through Sunday March 21.

Topics ranged across a wide spectrum, but seven key themes surfaced during the process including Parking, Gondola Transit Center, Year-Round Vibrancy, Character of the Built Environment, Navigation & Mobility, Identity, and Funding.

A series of display boards on areas of interest outline the input and data collected. Each board focuses on what was heard, what was learned, key problems, and potential solutions & opportunities.

<p>GONDOLA TRANSIT CENTER</p> <p>WHAT WE HEARD</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The GTC is chaotic - lodging shuttles, parking shuttles, transit, private vehicles and pedestrians all converge and there are frequent traffic backups. The crossing at the Steamboat Grand hotel in the GTC is unsafe. 	<p>KEY PROBLEMS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The GTC is the primary transit stop for access to the ski resort base area for the City bus system, parking shuttles and lodging shuttles. The GTC is overcrowded, inefficient, and unsafe for pedestrians. The GTC does not provide an attractive or intuitive arrival experience to the ski resort or Mountain Area. 	<p>WHAT WE LEARNED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public safety officials are concerned about insufficient access for emergency responders in the Mountain Area Improving the safety, functionality, and user experience in the GTC is a top priority of stakeholders in this plan. <p>Movement occurring per hour on peak days at: Mount Werner Cr. crossing @ the Grand</p> <p>385 southbound Transit 460 northbound Transit 520 Pedestrian crossings</p> <p>From the GTC Transportation Study (2019)</p>		
<p>POTENTIAL SOLUTIONS & OPPORTUNITIES</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td data-bbox="613 1192 873 1415"> <p>A</p> <p>Reconfigure GTC to create a pedestrian priority zone with efficient bus and shuttle drop-off and turnaround. Restrict private vehicle access but provide convenient, designated skier drop-off areas. See traffic flow map to right.</p> <p>Trade-Offs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improves pedestrian safety and access Increases transit efficiency and reduces conflicts Improves access for emergency vehicles Allows site redevelopment to achieve multiple goals Requires partnership between City and Ski Resort due to land ownership Requires wayfinding signage, convenient skier drop-offs and vehicle turnarounds, and significant operational changes to provide transit service to Ski Time Square </td> <td data-bbox="873 1192 1013 1415"> <p>B</p> <p>Install more crosswalks and enhanced pedestrian safety features at the GTC such as additional signage, lights, raised paths</p> <p>Trade-Offs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improves pedestrian safety Less expensive Does not improve transit efficiency or offer benefits of other improvements such as arrival experience, updated layout, etc. </td> </tr> </table>			<p>A</p> <p>Reconfigure GTC to create a pedestrian priority zone with efficient bus and shuttle drop-off and turnaround. Restrict private vehicle access but provide convenient, designated skier drop-off areas. See traffic flow map to right.</p> <p>Trade-Offs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improves pedestrian safety and access Increases transit efficiency and reduces conflicts Improves access for emergency vehicles Allows site redevelopment to achieve multiple goals Requires partnership between City and Ski Resort due to land ownership Requires wayfinding signage, convenient skier drop-offs and vehicle turnarounds, and significant operational changes to provide transit service to Ski Time Square 	<p>B</p> <p>Install more crosswalks and enhanced pedestrian safety features at the GTC such as additional signage, lights, raised paths</p> <p>Trade-Offs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improves pedestrian safety Less expensive Does not improve transit efficiency or offer benefits of other improvements such as arrival experience, updated layout, etc.
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“As the mountain area ages, it’s important to have a defined vision, supported across the community, to shape where we go and what we would like to see,” continued Bessey. “As well, the plan must protect the unique character of the community along with the Yampa Valley.”



The city has partnered with Cushing Terrell (formerly CTA) and Connect One Design to lead the public engagement with the community and produce the Steamboat Springs Mountain Area Master Plan. The comprehensive process is anticipated to run through June 2021. Find more information and take the survey at engagesteamboat.net/mamp.

-WeServeTheCity-

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