

TRANSPORTATION ACTION PLAN

The current means of travel in Whitewater is by individual, private automobile trips. The nature of agricultural and ranching operations that once dominated the area necessitated private automobile travel. Similarly, when Whitewater was primarily agricultural and ranching uses, there were fewer property owners and less traffic. This unincorporated area of Mesa County has historically not had the need or the population to support transit services to this area.

As Whitewater grows, so too will the traffic. It is important to plan for the potential impacts of a larger population in the area including safer intersections on Highway 50 and an hierarchy of streets to provide safe, efficient travel throughout the community as well as contribute to a sense of place.

Existing Conditions & Findings: The current transportation facilities in the Whitewater area consist of two State Highways and multiple paved and unpaved local roadways. U.S. Highway 50 is the primary connection to Grand Junction to the north, and Delta to the south. The Unaweep/Tabeguache Scenic Byway, State Highway 141, connects to U.S. Highway 50 on the south side of Whitewater and winds southwest through the historic mining communities of Gateway, Uravan, and Naturita and ends at the mining camp of Placerville in San Miguel County. Other than an existing underpass at First Street and U.S. Highway 50, there are no formal pedestrian or bicycle facilities in Whitewater.

The transportation network must be improved to accommodate planned growth. Given the proposed land uses within Whitewater, long-range traffic projections were calculated considering Mesa County's current roadway classification system to develop a Whitewater Transportation Plan.

The Whitewater Transportation Plan identifies long range goals and objectives for the transportation system and prioritizes how and when the transportation network will be developed as Whitewater grows. Future road sections will vary depending on the roadway capacity required for the new zoning and appropriate street classifications will be assigned to accommodate the distribution of traffic across the transportation network. Future transportation infrastructure development will follow the design criteria set forth in the *Road and Bridge Specifications*, Mesa County, Colorado.

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Transportation Goals

Goals:

COMMUNITY

- To develop and implement a multi-modal transportation network in Whitewater.
- Promote safe and inviting pedestrian, bicycle and other non-vehicular circulation and connectivity to increase social interaction, contribute to a sense of community and enjoy the surrounding natural environment.
- Mesa County, Regional Transportation Planning Office, Colorado Department of Transportation, developers and others with an interest in the Whitewater area will work to provide the residents and visitors of Whitewater with a responsive transportation system to ensure the safe and efficient movement of people and goods.



Source: [www.pedbikeimages.org/Dan Burden](http://www.pedbikeimages.org/Dan_Burden)

ECONOMY

- Promote commercial development that supports neighborhood needs thereby reducing traffic to neighboring communities for basic needs.
- Mesa County and the Whitewater Public Improvement will be fiscally responsible for infrastructure and amenity improvements/development in the planning area.

DESIGN & LOCATION

- To protect, enhance, and mitigate the aesthetic appearance of the community through sensitive circulation and access planning, design, and development.
- To create circulation routes that are both functional and lend to a sense of place.



Source: [www.pedbikeimages.org/Dan Burden](http://www.pedbikeimages.org/Dan_Burden)

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Transportation Policies

Policies:

COMMUNITY

- Pedestrian activity and safety will be an integral part of transportation planning.
- Mesa County will work to create a comprehensive pathway system to connect the various neighborhoods on both the east and west sides of Highway 50.
- Construction of roads shown on the Whitewater Transportation Plan will provide reasonable and adequate traffic circulation for the community.
- Mesa County will coordinate recommended road closures shown on the Whitewater Transportation Plan with the construction of new facilities in the area as development occurs.
- Mesa County will periodically evaluate the Whitewater Transportation Plan for changes and updates that may be needed.
- Mesa County will continue to coordinate transportation planning with CDOT.



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ECONOMY

- Mesa County will work with CDOT, developers and others with an interest in the Whitewater area to maximize and efficiently use limited resources to build adequate public infrastructure.

DESIGN & LOCATION

- Directional signage shall be located at all key arterial and highway entries.
- Parking shall be less prominent and located in the back of buildings when possible, for both commercial and residential uses.
- Comprehensive access management will reduce the noise and pollution of accelerating and decelerating vehicles.
- Urban streets shall include formal curb and gutter and a storm water drainage system to mitigate the drainage from impervious surfaces. A less formal swale system is not acceptable for this area due to maintenance requirements.
- Accessible vehicular parking that does not dominate the entry to either residential or commercial uses.

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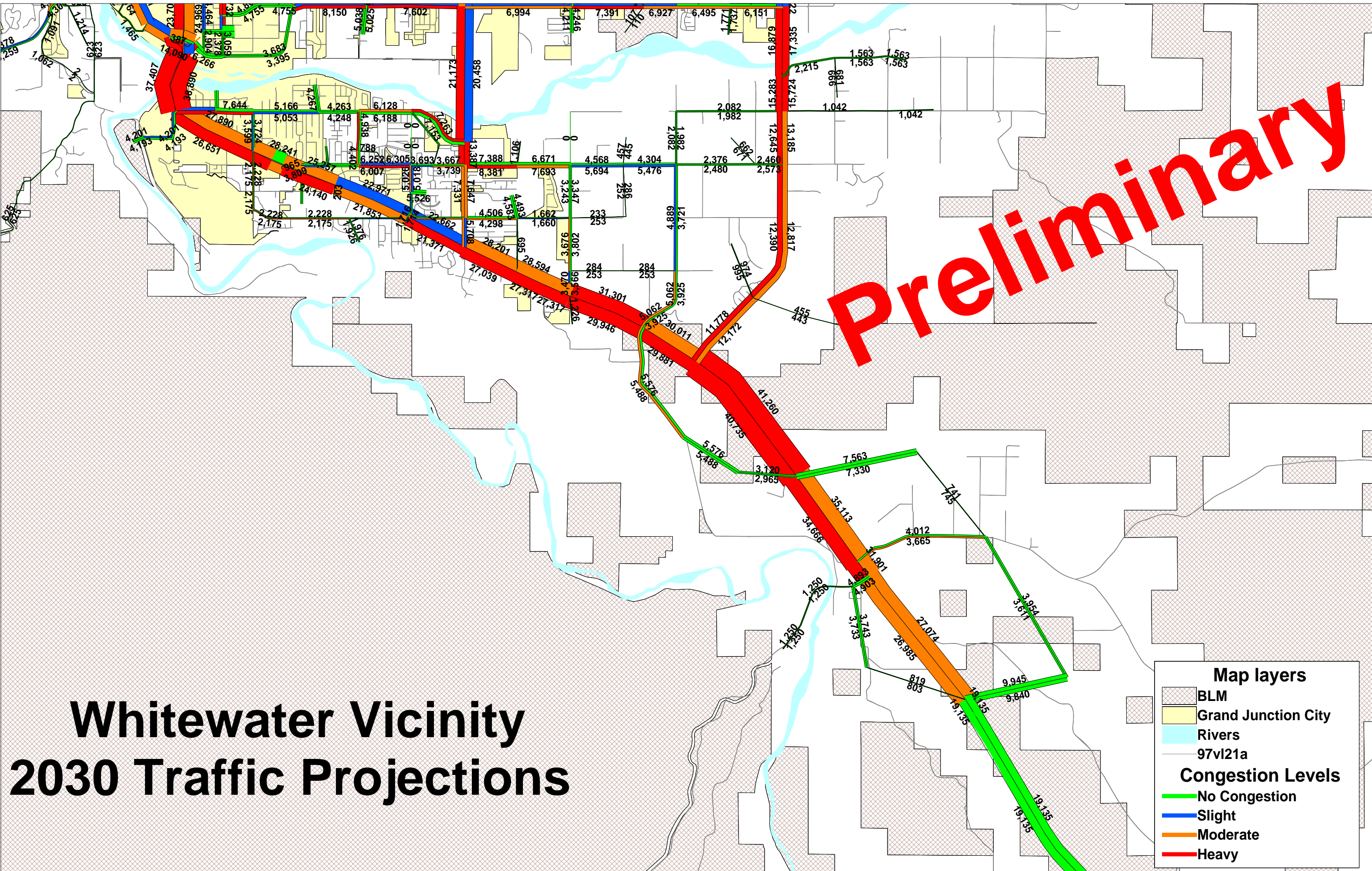
Transportation Action Items

Action Plan:

- Update the Rural Transportation Plan (GVCP) with the adoption of this plan.
- Expand the Urban Trails Planning area to include the Whitewater Community and include the trail recommendations of this plan into the Urban Trails Plan.
- A frontage road will provide access to commercial uses along the east side of Highway 50 where multiple highway access points are undesirable.
- Mesa County will make the improvements suggested in the Whitewater Transportation Plan using funds budgeted in Capital Investments Programs to leverage grants and other funding sources to the maximum extent possible.
- All development shall adhere to the conformance statement, transportation goals, and transportation standards as described in the Road and Street Functional Classifications for Right-of-Way and Access Plan of 2006 or as subsequently amended. The Right-of-Way and Access Plan is depicted in the June 1, 2006 Mesa County Road Access Policy.
- Future industrial uses along Coffman Road will use the Highway 50 and Coffman Road intersection for access and be discouraged from travel through the residential Post Office Vicinity area.
- Mesa County, CDOT, and others with an interest in Whitewater will work to improve the underpass located between 1st and 3rd Streets to promote safe pedestrian and bicycle crossing of Highway 50 when feasible and practicable.
- Mesa County and School District 51 will coordinate efforts to ensure potential school locations and bus routes are accommodated in transportation planning.
- Require all new development to be consistent with the Whitewater Transportation Plan.
- Continue to coordinate transportation planning with land use planning in the development review process.
- Site specific, detailed transportation studies and traffic analyses will be needed as individual parcels develop.



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Preliminary