

CHAPTER 4: TRANSPORTATION

Overview and Background

In January 2000, the County Planning Commission adopted the La Plata County Transportation Plan as an element of the La Plata County Comprehensive Plan. A summary of the transportation plan follows.

Plan Summary

The La Plata County Transportation Plan was initiated in August 1998 in order to develop a coordinated strategy for the management and improvement of the County's transportation system for the next 20 years and beyond. The plan studies the county road network and predicts the need for future improvements and traffic management strategies based on roadway conditions, traffic volumes, and realistic growth projections.

The overall findings of the study indicate that many roadway improvements will be required in coming years to safely accommodate existing and future traffic on county roads.

Since the costs of such improvements will be extremely high, the study prioritizes recommended improvements and identifies potential funding sources to finance recommended projects.

The Plan Was Developed Through a Year-long Process, Which Included the Following Major Steps:

- Analysis of existing roadway conditions, signage and striping, traffic counts, speed patterns and accident histories
- Citizen input gathered from nine public meetings and the circulation of questionnaires, meetings with local government and agency staff members, and truck and heavy equipment operators.
- Modeling of existing and projected traffic patterns to identify future needs and related improvements

The Plan includes the following elements, which are intended to guide the management and expansion of the County road system for the next 20 years and beyond:

- 1) ***A comprehensive set of transportation policies*** intended to guide future management, planning, and funding decisions are defined in Section 3.
- 2) ***Prioritized recommendations for improvements to existing roads and the strategic construction of new roads and upgrading/realignment of existing roads.*** Projects are categorized as Safety, Capacity or Road Network Efficiency Improvements - Section 9, 11 & 12.

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- 3) ***Definition and categorization of most roads in the county road network according to their role within the overall network*** - Chapter 9.
- 4) ***Financially constrained analysis and prioritization of recommended projects*** and an identification of alternative funding sources- Chapter 13 and 14.
- 5) ***Discussion of measures intended to reduce traffic congestion***, including park and ride lots and road improvements to better accommodate bicycles - Chapter 15.
- 6) ***Discussion for the implementation of the Model Traffic Code, Benefits and Costs*** - Chapter 16.
- 7) ***Measures to mitigate the impacts of trucks and heavy vehicles*** - Chapter 17.

A copy of the Plan is available for review at the County Planning Office or Engineering Office.

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