



# CONFLUENCE CONNECTION PROJECT

*Glenwood Springs Seeking to Enhance Safety, Connectivity, & Mobility in Key Downtown Redevelopment Area*

The City of Glenwood Springs CO, in partnership with the Downtown Development Authority, the Roaring Fork Transportation Authority (RFTA), the Union Pacific Railroad, and the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT), seeks U.S. Department of Transportation TIGER funding to support the “Confluence Connection Project.”



Glenwood Springs is making big progress toward a decades-old vision for revitalizing the underutilized brownfield area at the confluence of the Roaring Fork and Colorado Rivers. In January, Glenwood Springs received a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Brownfields Area-Wide Planning grant to undertake the market assessment, land use designs, leveraging strategies, and community engagement necessary to propel major redevelopment of several catalytic riverfront parcels surrounding the Confluence. However, a gap in transportation infrastructure supporting the Confluence area poses a barrier to redevelopment efforts, and a major disconnect in the transportation network connecting key transportation facilities, civic hubs, and the city’s poorest West Side neighborhoods. Facilitating the planned growth and economic development at the Confluence will require addressing this broken transportation link, which is already a substantial problem for connectivity and safety of residents and visitors.

The Confluence Connection project will extend Eighth (8<sup>th</sup>) Street, where the civic complex (City Hall, county buildings, courts) and other key entities are located, to connect with the bridge that provides access to the downtown for the economically distressed neighborhoods on the western side of the Roaring Fork River. The City will also construct a new RFTA transit facility on 8<sup>th</sup> Street, which will provide a key public bus transit and bicycling access point for commuters at the nexus of a network of trails including the Glenwood Canyon Recreational Trail and the Rio Grande Trail, a heavily trafficked passenger railroad corridor, and the convergence of 1-70 and Highway 82. This 8<sup>th</sup> Street Connector and RFTA Transit facility will build upon \$1.7 million in bridge and streetscape investment by Glenwood Springs and CDOT taking place now in the downtown area as part of the Grand Avenue Bridge replacement project. This Confluence Connection project will:

- Enhance the efficiency and accessibility of Bus Transit operations;
- Connect a regional multiuse pathway into downtown bicycle and pedestrian networks;
- Improve safety of the rail/pedestrian interface;
- Provide a more direct route for emergency service response; and,
- Enable and encourage the planned brownfields redevelopment of the Confluence area, which is envisioned to include much-needed affordable housing, a hotel with associated retail, stormwater management infrastructure, and riverfront recreational access.

Please join Glenwood Springs in implementing practical solutions to enhance connectivity, drive economic development, and improve safety at the Confluence.

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