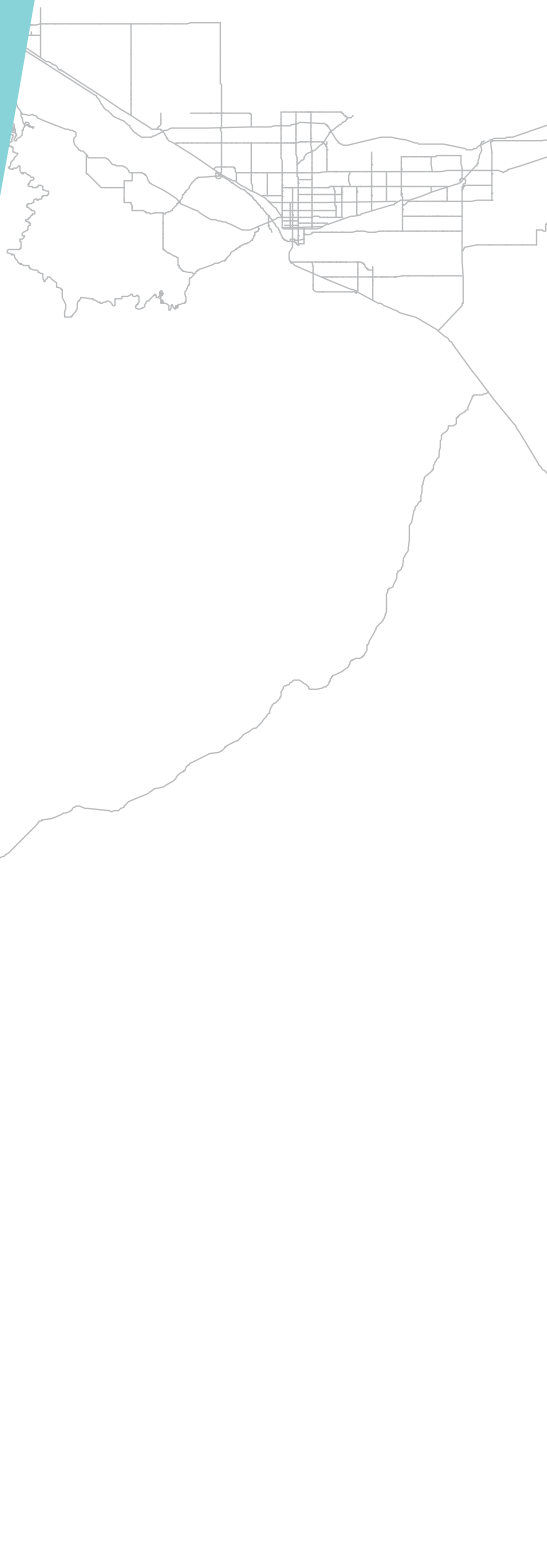
Annual Report 2023



REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLANNING OFFICE

Grand Valley MPO • Grand Valley TPR • Grand Valley Transit

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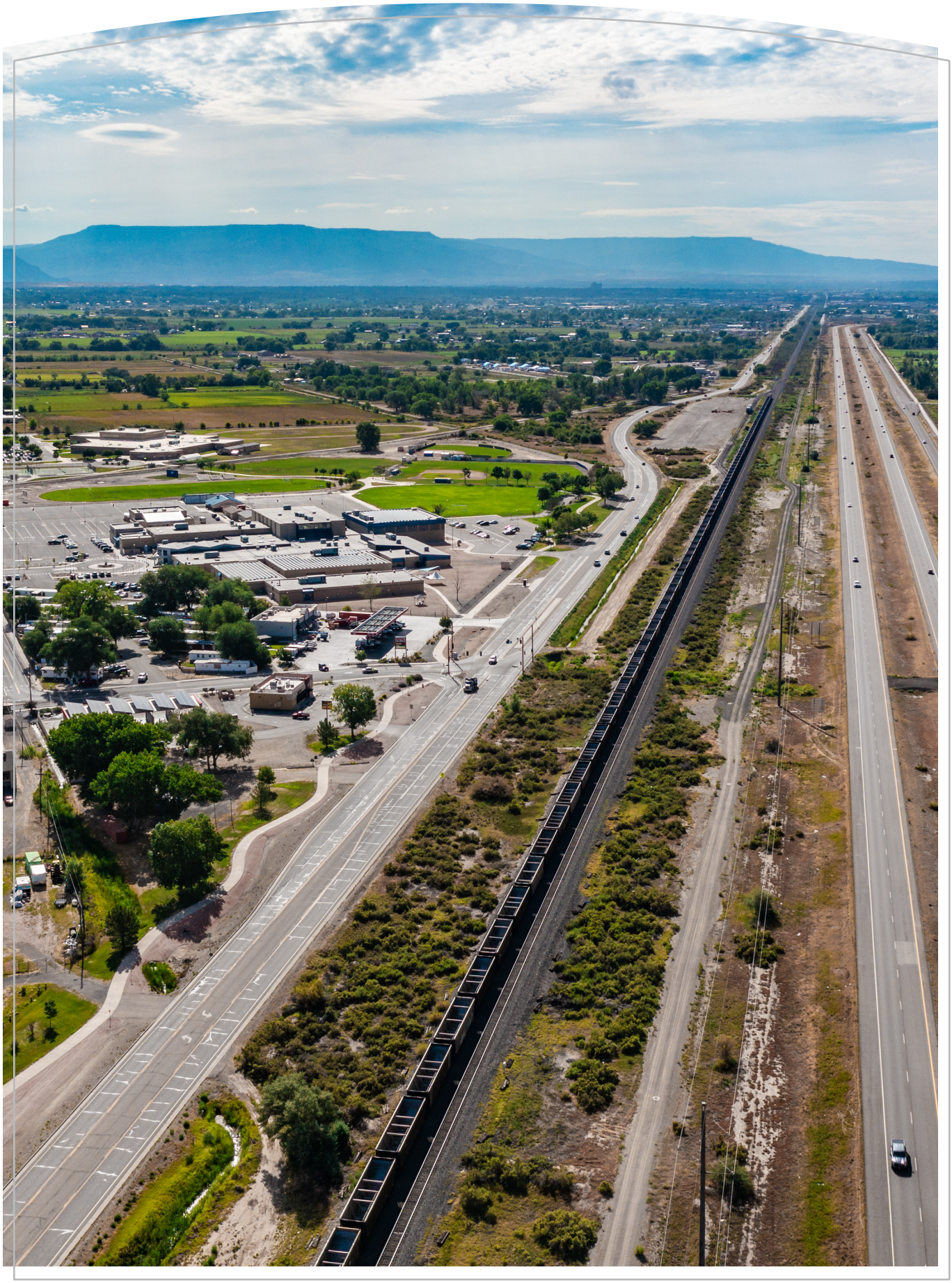
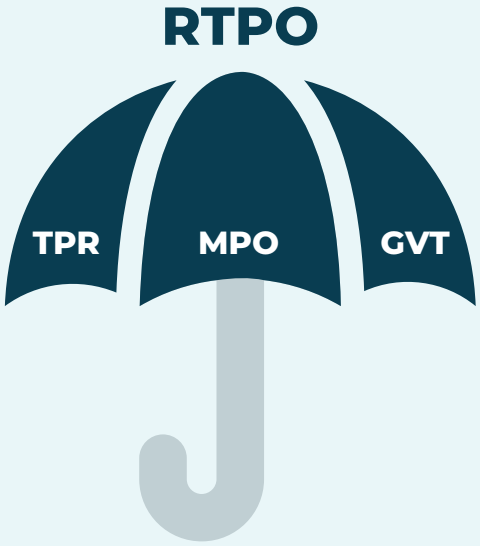
Learn more about the RTPO at rtpo.mesacounty.us



About the Regional Transportation Planning Office (RTPO)

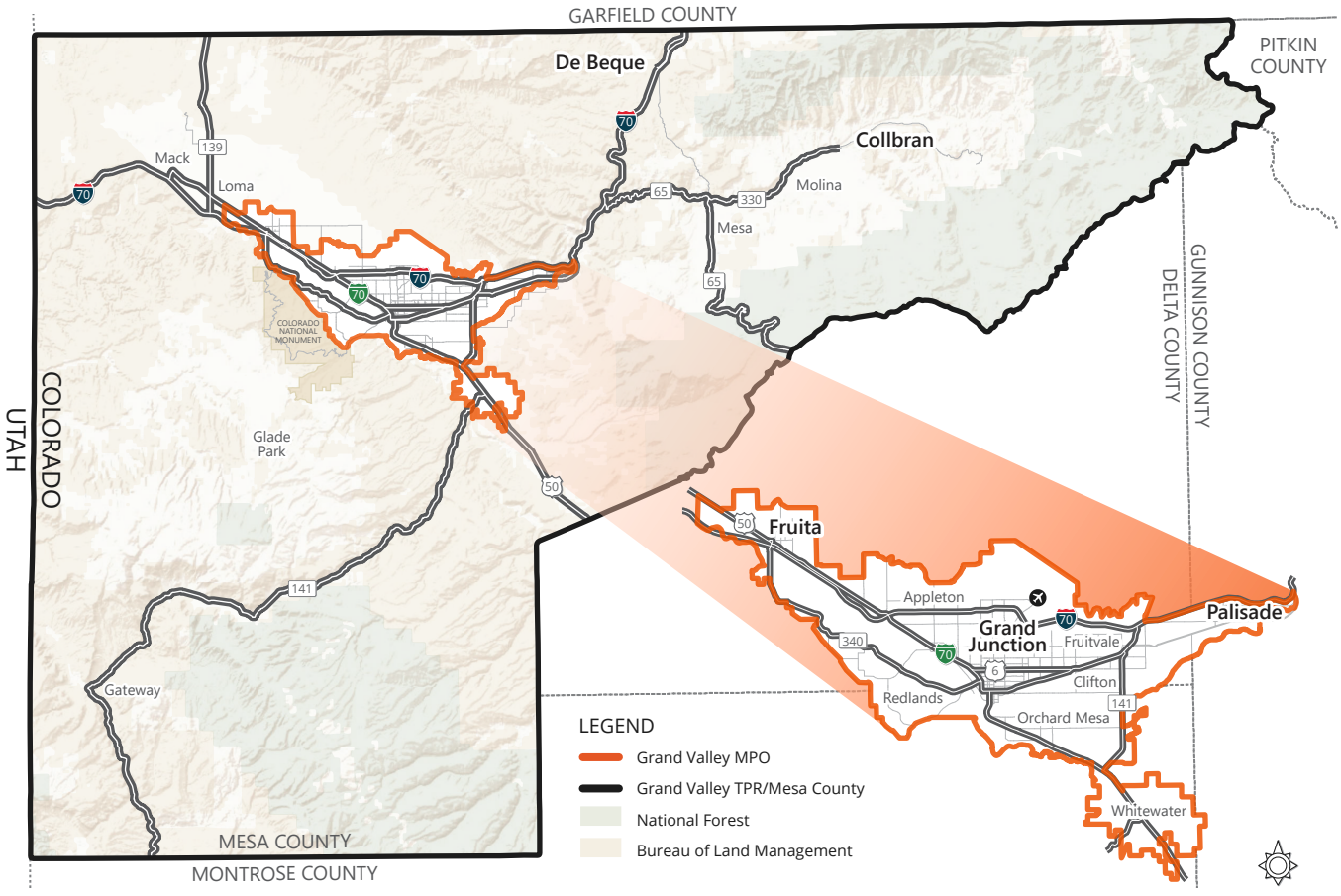
The RTPO is an umbrella organization that provides technical and administrative staff for the:

- Grand Valley Transportation Planning Region (TPR)
- Grand Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)
- Grand Valley Transit (GVT)



About the RTPO

	Grand Valley TPR	Grand Valley MPO	GVT
Key Roles of the RTPO	One of 15 regions in Colorado that has a voice on statewide transportation policy, plans, and issues	A regional planning and programming organization that is federally required for 50,000+ people	The public transit and paratransit service provider connecting the Grand Valley
Population	155,702 (2020)	~141,500 (2020)	~117,500 (2020)
Square Miles	3,341	128	69
Established	1992	1982	2000
Areas of Service	All of Mesa County, including Collbran and DeBeque.	Grand Junction, Fruita, Palisade, and the urban portions of unincorporated Mesa County	Grand Junction, Fruita, Palisade, and the urban portions of unincorporated Mesa County



Leadership

Grand Valley Regional Transportation Committee

The Grand Valley Regional Transportation Committee (GVRTC) is the policy and decision making body of the RTPO. The role of the GVRTC is to:

- Present a clear regional voice on transportation planning and transit issues
- Conduct regional transportation and transit planning from a regional perspective
- Help prioritize requests for state and federal funding
- Administer the functions of the Regional Transportation Planning Office

Greg Mikolai
Chair
Town of Palisade

Cody Davis
Vice-Chair
Mesa County

Jason Nguyen
Representative
City of Grand Junction

Ken Krie
Representative
City of Fruita

Regional Transportation Planning Office Staff

Dana Brosig
Director

Brevin Currier
Operations Manager

Sarah Brooks
Mobility Manager

Rachel Peterson
Transportation Planner

Andrew Gingerich
Transit Planner

Danielle Sterle
Transit Coordinator

Chris Benson
Bus Stop Maintenance Technician

Vision

Travel in the Grand Valley will be on well-maintained corridors that are safe and accessible for people walking, biking, driving and taking transit, and will leverage partnerships and reliable funding sources for enhancing multimodal travel for users of all ages and abilities.

~ 2045 Regional Transportation Plan

Regional Impacts

The RTPO qualifies local governments for millions of dollars in state and federal grants.

2023 Tour

January
Welcomed Cody Davis to GVRTC

January
Eliminated the DASH Service

February
Awarded Safe Streets and Roads for All Action Plan Grant

March
Hired Danielle Sterle, Transit Coordinator

April
Restored Saturday GVT Service Hours

April
Launched a New Website

June
Bid Farewell to Dennis Simpson and Welcomed Jason Nguyen to GVRTC

June
Installed a Mural at the Motel 6 Bus Stop on Horizon Drive

July
Began Work on the 2050 Travel Demand Model

August
Received the 2023 Excellence in Transportation Achievement Award in Planning for the 2022 North Avenue Enhanced Transit Corridor Study

December

Bid Farewell to Transportation Commissioner Kathy Hall and Welcomed Barb Bowman

December

Received Mesa County Fleet's First Electric Vehicle for Bus Stop Maintenance

November

Kicked-off the Mesa County Safety Action Plan

August

Attended the 24 Road Path Ribbon Cutting

Participation with Partner Projects

Studies, Plans, and Pilots

- EV Readiness Plan[1]
- Micromobility Pilot Study[1]
- Pedestrian & Bicycle Plan[1]
- I-70/29 Road Interchange Study[1&2]
- Clifton Community Commons Vision Plan[2]
- Mesa Together Master Plan[2]
- Colorado Freight Plan[3]
- Colorado Travel Survey[3]

Construction Projects

- 32 1/2 Road & Clifton Campus Roadway Improvements[2]
- Grand Junction Mobility Hub[1&2]
- I-70B South of Rood[3]
- Mt. Garfield Culvert Study[3]
- Palisade Improvements Project[3]

Lead Jurisdiction: [1]Grand Junction, [2]Mesa County, [3]Colorado

2023 Project Highlights

Multimodal Transportation and Mitigation Options Fund (MMOF) Selected Projects

The RTPO selects projects to receive State and/or Federal funding from MMOF, which promotes a "complete and integrated multimodal system." After a call for projects in Fall 2022, the MMOF selection committee chose to fund the five project applications.

Agency	Project Name & Type	Project Description	Funding
City of Grand Junction	**North Avenue Enhanced Transit Corridor Improvements** *Construction*	Provide lower stress, multimodal paths and transit facilities along North Avenue on the north side between 28 ½ and 29 Road and on the south side between 29 Road and 29 ½ Road.	MMOF Award: $962,500 Local Match: $1,687,500 Total Cost: $2,650,000
Town of Palisade	**Elberta Avenue at Government Highline Canal Crossing** *Construction*	Supplement Revitalizing Main Street grant by covering the cost of two pedestrian bridges over the Government Highline Canal.	MMOF Award: $610,000 Local Match: $1,277,185 Total Cost: $1,887,185
Mesa County	**32-1/2 Road, Phase 2 Corridor Design** *Multimodal Study*	Design of road reconstruction with multimodal improvements along 32 ½ Road, north of Grand Valley Mainline Canal to Front Street.	MMOF Award: $655,000 Local Match: $300,000 Total Cost: $955,000
City of Fruita	**Hwy 340 Riverfront Trail Connection Design** *Multimodal Study*	Design of a trail connection from James M. Robb Colorado State Park under the Highway 340 Bridge at the Colorado River and then up Highway 340 to end at Red Cliffs Drive.	MMOF Award: $160,000 Local Match: $90,000 Total Cost: $250,000
Mesa County	**Riverfront Trail Connection Conceptual Design** *Multimodal Study*	Feasibility study and conceptual design for extending the Riverfront Trail network for the missing section between 33 ½ Road & D ½ Road and 36 ¼ Road & Riverbend Park, extending into Palisade.	MMOF Award: $102,139 Local Match: $0 Total Cost: $102,139
RTPO	**GVT Operations Expansion Pilot** *Transit Operations*	Transit service expansion as well as fleet purchases.	MMOF Award: $740,000 Local Match: $0 Total Cost: $740,000

Grand Valley Transit Onboard Survey, Counts, and Analysis

Transit agencies typically conduct periodic onboard surveys in order to better understand ridership. This is usually done every 2-5 years, however Grand Valley Transit (GVT) had not conducted an onboard survey since 2014. Not only was GVT overdue for an update, but considering the significant change in ridership due to the COVID-19 pandemic it seemed especially important to have a fresh understanding of ridership. The onboard survey collects information about individual riders, how they use GVT, and how they feel about current services. Rider input will help shape future analysis.

In addition to the onboard rider survey, an online community survey was also conducted. This community survey was open to both riders and non-riders in an effort to understand how the wider community perceived GVT and to collect their feedback.

Grand Valley Transit Maintenance Facility

D2C Architects, Inc. led the project design and Buildings by Design was awarded the Construction Management/General Contractor (CM/GC) contract

A new transit fleet maintenance facility has been in discussions for several years as the GVT fleet has outgrown the available space in the City of Grand Junction Fleet Facility; impacting GVT operations and maintenance. In 2023, design work began for a 19,400 SF pre-engineered metal building to be built at 2553 Riverside Parkway in Grand Junction. The new transit fleet maintenance facility will include eight bus bays, a wash bay, an office, parts storage, and a farebox repair room.

Project construction is expected to start in Summer 2024. The project is estimated to cost around $7.5M, using both federal and state funds.

2023 State of Transportation

Bike Month: *May & Sept.*
Love to Ride Challenge Collective Miles
19,203 2023

Walk & Wheel Day Student Participation

	Spring	Fall
2023	583	900
2022	500	840

8
2023 Bicylist Deaths

13
2023 Pedestrian Deaths

Shared Micromobility Pilot
132,300 miles traveled
82,400 total rides
Thats **5.5x** around the equator

Number of Mesa County:

Deaths
2023: 20
2022: 28

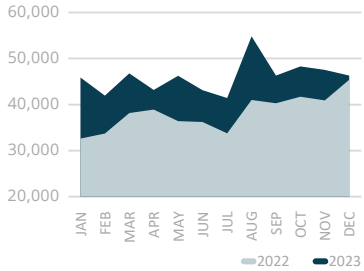
Serious Injuries
2023: 102
2022: 65

Daily Vehicle Miles of Travel (DVMT) on Highways in 2022
2,275,318 All Vehicles
247,539 Trucks

Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) by Improvement Type
54% Capital Improvement
6% Asset Management
7% Planning/Study
10% Transit Operating
23% Transit Capital

GVT Free Ride Promotions
4 days for April Saturdays
8 days for JUCO
8 days for Better Air in August
2 days for the Air Show
30 days for Veterans
10 days for December Saturdays

GVT Fixed-Route Ridership



+92,672 Boardings

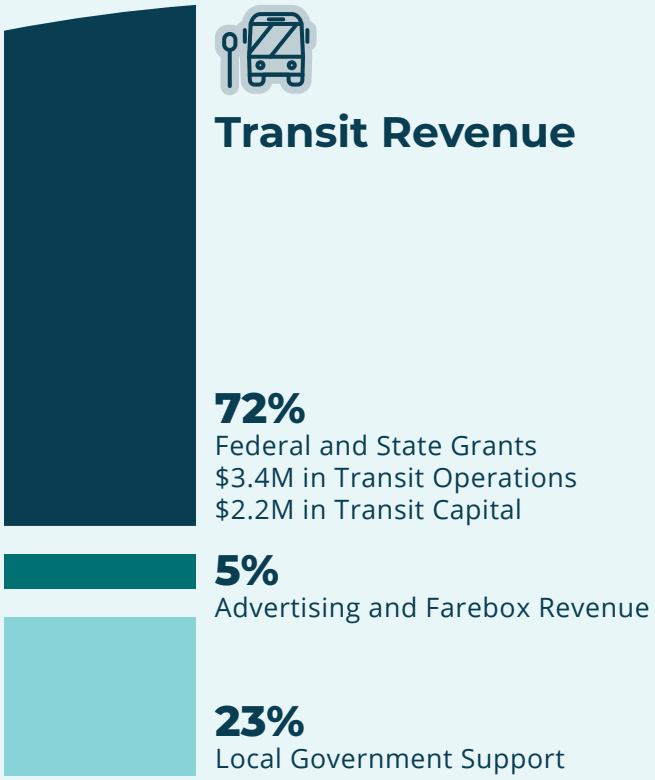
Student Free Ride Programs
30,334 rides given to D51 students
6,335 rides given to CMU students

Paratransit Ridership
28,504 Paratransit rides

AMTRAK **Ridership**
+19%
24,628 Amtrak 2023
20,712 Amtrak 2022

BUSTANG **Ridership** by Boardings
222 Telluride—GJ Outrider
1,164 Durango—GJ Outrider
Data Unavailable for West Line

2023 Revenues and Expenditures

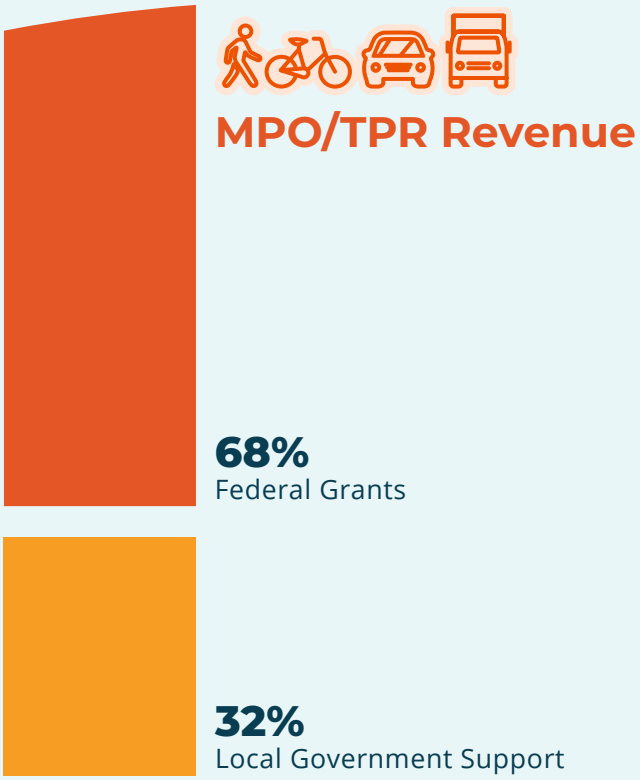


Transit Revenue

72%
Federal and State Grants
$3.4M in Transit Operations
$2.2M in Transit Capital

5%
Advertising and Farebox Revenue

23%
Local Government Support



MPO/TPR Revenue

68%
Federal Grants

32%
Local Government Support

Expenditures

- Salaries
- Benefits
- Contracted services
- Staff training
- Memberships
- Advertising
- Office supplies and technology
- Other direct and in-direct costs

Work Program Tasks

- Program Administration
- Regional Transportation Planning
- Transportation Improvement Program
- Transportation, Transit, and Multimodal Planning

2024
Look Ahead

In coordination with partner governments, the RTPO will work on several major plans and projects in 2024. These efforts will enhance the safe and efficient movement of people and goods in Mesa County and secure federal and state funding.

JAN 24'
FEB 24'
MAR 24'
APR 24'
MAY 24'
JUNE 24'
JULY 24'
AUG 24'
SEP 24'
OCT 24'
NOV 24'
DEC 24'
JAN 25'
FEB 25'
MAR 25'
APR 25'
MAY 25'

Mesa County
Safety Action Plan
Enhancing Roadway Safety in Our Community

Adoption: October 2024

A planning document that aims to reduce the number of deaths and serious injuries on our roads across Mesa County.

2050 Regional Transportation Plan

Adoption: February 2025

A community-driven planning document that looks 20 years into the future to identify prioritized multimodal projects. Updates will include the Travel Demand Model, Coordinated Public Transit and Human Services Transportation Plan, and possibly a Greenhouse Gas Mitigation Action Plan.

Transit Fleet Maintenance Facility Construction

Construction Begins: Summer 2024

Metal building to be built at 2553 Riverside Parkway in Grand Junction. The new transit fleet maintenance facility will include eight bus bays, a wash bay, an office, parts storage, and a farebox repair room.