

Climate Change, Land Use, and Mass Transit in Gunnison County

Job Listing: #34140

Western Partner Organizations: Town of Crested Butte

Short Project Description

This project will involve analyzing the mass transit systems serving the north valley of the county of Gunnison, with a focus on analyzing programmatic opportunities to enhance the match between land uses and services and community needs and desires, and origins and destinations including first and last mile services. A critical part of the project will be to identify funding mechanisms to support enhanced services as well as analyze whether technology (e.g., virtual fixed route, on demand, and/or micro-mobility systems) offer cost effective mechanisms to achieve programmatic goals.

Long Project Description

The Town of Crested Butte has identified mass transit as one of its top priorities through a values- and community-based decision-making framework known as the [Community Compass](#). Mass transit sits at the nexus of many issues that the Town has committed to pursuing, including not just de-emphasizing cars and focusing on transit, but also acting on the urgency of climate change (by reducing our carbon footprint), and enabling people who live and work here to thrive (reducing or eliminating the need for cars can substantially reduce the cost of living).

Right now the Town and north valley have a unique opportunity to fundamentally rethink their relationship to cars. The County of Gunnison, within which the Town of Crested Butte is embedded, has committed to a north valley comprehensive plan to create an integrated approach to land management, including mass transit. The two mass transit agencies serving the Town, Mountain Express and the Regional Transportation Authority, have also committed to taking a strategic look at their operations. This project will help us think creatively about redefining our community's relationship to cars, exploring emerging tools and financial mechanisms needed to support an ambitious vision.

Objectives

- Generate a list of potential program enhancements based upon existing public feedback and CB Town goals, with an analysis of program levels and funding modes in similar resort communities (e.g., 3-5 communities identified through the Colorado Association of Ski Towns);
- Analysis of non-financial opportunities (e.g., land use, virtual fixed routes, operational efficiencies among mass transit agencies) to improve their service areas and population/employment, or origins/destinations (residential Units to square feet of commercial/entertainment) served;
- Identify and analyze funding opportunities for program enhancements (e.g., impact fees, sales tax, other).

Deliverables

- Written report summarizing findings.
- Oral presentation for CB Town Council.

Qualifications Needed

- Ability to analyze and present and integrate operational and programmatic information with financial information, linking finances to operation/programming.
- Basic Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Skills

- Strong written skills.

Commitment: 5-10 hours/week during September 23, 2024 - May 9, 2025

Pay Rate: \$16.75/hour

How to Apply:

Apply using the central [Yale Student Employment application systems](#) and search for **job listing # 34140**.

- You will be asked to upload your resume, statement of interest, and an additional document.
- In your statement of interest we would like to learn more about 1) why you are interested in this opportunity and 2) what makes you a good fit for this role.
- In the addition document, please answer these two question concisely:

1. Describe the specific skills, traits, and/or experience you would bring to the project? For skills, please state skill level (e.g., novice, some experience, extensive experience, expert).
2. Describe your learning style.