

# Introduction

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Grand County and Jackson County contracted with LSC Transportation Consultants, Inc. (LSC) to prepare a Transportation Development Program (TDP) Update for Grand County and the first Transit Development Plan for Jackson County. This revised Technical Memorandum #1 presents a summary of the existing conditions related to public transit services. The Technical Advisory Committee requested more complete data and analysis than presented in the first report. Therefore, this revised Technical Memorandum is similar to the first, but contains the additional requested data. Information in this report includes a description of the communities, a review of the existing transportation providers in the study area, and issues to be addressed in the study.

The study focuses on transportation issues within Grand and Jackson Counties. The report focuses on the towns and the rural areas of each county. The plan also discusses transportation for the disabled population and for school children. For some residents of the study area, public transportation is their only link to work, shopping, health care facilities, and other necessary services. For others, public transportation does not exist in their area and there are not any alternatives other than driving an automobile.

As in many regions, Grand and Jackson Counties are taking a close look at public transit services and are seeking to find the most effective means of providing those services. Currently, public transportation is provided by several providers in Grand County and one provider in Jackson County. Grand County continues to grow, with increasing demands on the road system and the public transit systems. Jackson County has little growth, but residents must commute long distances to reach employment centers. One important step toward providing an integrated community-wide transportation system is involving key players such as the towns and County Planning and Engineering Departments, school districts, Council on Aging, and community residents of both counties.

## BACKGROUND

Over the past decade, transportation planning efforts in Grand and Jackson Counties have been moving increasingly in the direction of interde-

pendence and coordination. In 1991, Grand County updated their existing TDP, focusing specifically on the elderly and disabled. In 1999, the Northwest Regional Planning Commission developed the 20-year Regional Transportation Plan, which includes Grand and Jackson Counties. This plan incorporates all modes of transportation, including transit. However, the transit element was limited and provided little detail for either of these two counties.

This report represents the first of two interim reports, which will be submitted for review and comment prior to the submittal of the final product. Reports subsequent to this will cover complete survey results, the alternative means for meeting public transportation needs, evaluation of the alternatives, and finally, an implementation plan for the preferred alternative.

