



Downtown Glenwood Springs, Colorado is shown with Grand Avenue (State Highway 82) dividing the town in half.



CONTACT:

Jillian Sutherland, AICP
Program Director
817 Colorado Ave Ste 200
Glenwood Springs, CO 81601
970.928.3411
jillian@communitybuilders.org

NEW MOBILITY WEST COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE OVERVIEW & APPLICATION

In today's economy, successful communities are creating transportation systems that not only move people and goods, but improve the quality and character of the community. They recognize that building a strong and more vibrant economy relies on expanding mobility choices. In short, great communities have great transportation systems. This is the motivation behind New Mobility West (NMW), an initiative that provides communities across the Rocky Mountain West with tools and resources to improve their transportation systems while creating safer and more connected neighborhoods, stronger and more vibrant downtowns and a healthier economy.

ABOUT NMW COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE

An initiative of Community Builders, NMW provides direct technical assistance to communities across the Rocky Mountain West to address specific challenges or opportunities at the crossroads of transportation and community development. Assistance will be awarded through a competitive application process that is outlined in this document. Assistance projects are tailored to local needs and opportunities and take place over four to six months.

NEW MOBILITY WEST ASSISTANCE FOCUSES ON THREE KEY ISSUES



Park Avenue in Anaconda, Montana shown in its current state, and with improvements for increased safety and comfort for bicyclists and pedestrians (photo simulation).

1. STATE HIGHWAYS IN COMMUNITIES

Communities and state departments of transportation (DOTs) are commonly confronted with an array of challenges when a highway runs through a downtown, along a main street or through other areas. NMW assistance can help communities and DOTs create win-win solutions that address both transportation and community goals.



The Jackson Hole Community Pathways system is the result of long-term vision, local planning and capital investment strategies.

2. LOCAL CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLANNING AND INVESTMENT

A budget is the ultimate policy statement. Cities, towns and counties must maximize the return on their investment in transportation infrastructure. At the same time, market demand is pushing for projects that address multiple modes of transportation. NMW assistance will help communities take a strategic approach to capital planning and investment to expand mobility options while improving the community and attracting new investment.



Russell Street in Missoula, Montana is a primary transportation and commercial corridor that the City is trying to redevelop into a multimodal, mixed-use corridor.

3. RESHAPING COMMERCIAL CORRIDORS

Often found in a community's historic downtown or just outside of it, commercial corridors have traditionally focused solely on attracting and accommodating vehicular traffic. A growing number of communities are looking to reshape their commercial corridors into more vibrant and walkable places. Assistance will focus on helping communities revitalize these areas as well as expand mobility options by examining options for strategic infrastructure investments and policy reform.

Assistance projects can tackle a variety of issues related to transportation and community development, such as:

- Helping local leaders and state departments of transportation (DOTs) address challenges that occur when a main street doubles as a state highway
- Crafting or implementing a Complete Streets program
- Developing a vision to revitalize a commercial strip into a walkable place
- Integrating bicycle and pedestrian facilities into Capital Improvement Plans

These projects can utilize a variety of tools, such as:

- Walk audits for specific streets
- Design charrettes
- Educational workshops
- Visioning and strategic planning
- Planning and design assistance
- Policy analysis / development
- Helping stakeholders address contentious issues

Who can apply?

Applications can come from municipal or county governments, downtown development authorities, urban renewal authorities or non-profit organizations. However, strong partnerships are essential for moving a project forward. This is why in addition to a project narrative, it is required that applicants submit letters of support from project partners and key stakeholders.

Applications can only come from Colorado, Wyoming, Idaho and Montana. Because NMW aims to bring resources to underserved communities across the region, preference will be given to projects from rural towns and medium-sized cities and regions, up to 100,000 in population. However, strong applications from larger communities will be considered.

What do projects entail?

Successful applicants will work with the NMW team to create a scope that meets the community's specific needs and fits within the timeframe and budgetary constraints of the NMW assistance program. Typically, projects will include a two-to-three day site visit and workshop. Each project will include a short, visually compelling report with clear recommendations and action steps.

Projects need to be highly focused. Total project time, including planning/scoping, execution and wrap-up, should not exceed six months. Projects will include at least one site visit and potentially more depending on the scope and scale of the project. Larger projects can be broken up into smaller phases if needed, in order to fit within budget or project timeframe.

How will proposed projects be evaluated?

Applications will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

Clear Project Concept: Presents clear and achievable goals for the project that have the opportunity to create meaningful change in the community.

Community Need: There is a demonstrated need for assistance.

Partner Commitments: Demonstrate specific commitments from partnering organizations to actively participate in the project. Critical entities include local government (staff and elected officials), and at least one other local partner, which can include community organizations, local businesses, or other institutions.

Implementation Capacity: Demonstrate opportunities for implementation based on project results, including capacity, funding, and necessary support from key decision-makers.

Regional Relevance: Project has the potential to be used as a model for other, similar communities in the Rocky Mountain West.

Match: Though not required, applicants that indicate any monetary or in kind resources they can contribute to the project will be more strongly considered.

Applications are being accepted now through March 18th for the Spring/Summer 2016 round of assistance, which will take place from April 2016 to September 2016. The next round of assistance will be offered Fall/Winter 2016.

How can I apply?

To apply, submit the following materials in PDF format no later than **Friday, March 18th, 2016**. Successful applications will clearly articulate the challenge at hand and desired outcomes:

1. **Project Narrative:** The project narrative describes the transportation-related challenge or opportunity your community is facing that you would like to address through the program, and also demonstrates your community's capacity for implementing change. Please separately address each of the below criteria (max 250 words for each):
 - a. Goals and objectives that technical assistance through NMW could help move forward.
 - b. Describe demographic changes that are shaping your community (i.e. high population growth, average age of population, average income or home value, growing families, etc.). Include the current population number and the projected growth rate for the next 10 years.
 - c. A description of particular transportation-related and/or land use issues, hurdles or opportunities that you face on this project or initiative.
 - d. Ongoing or upcoming planning or development efforts to address the issue described.
2. **Partnership Verification (Max 500 words):** Successful projects require a strong partnership of key stakeholders to implement the actions necessary to reach goals. The partnership verification should describe the support or partnerships already in place for this project, including demonstrated support from the key decision-makers affiliated with the project. Include:
 - a. An explanation of who the decision-making authority is that can influence the desired change(s) and explain their involvement in the issue to date.
 - b. A description of any existing opposition within the community related to this project that we should know about should this project be selected.
3. **Capacity Statement (Max 500 words):** The capacity statement explains the anticipated actions necessary to reach the goals of the project, including how well the community is positioned to implement resulting recommendations, opportunities, or short-term actions within the next year. Include an explanation of the level of need for assistance. If you did not receive technical assistance, please describe how long it would take you to accomplish the same work without our assistance.
4. **Letters of Support:** Submit 2-5 letters of support from key project partners or stakeholders that the project will directly benefit or affect. If the application is being submitted by a local non-profit, a letter of support from the local government is required.
5. **Match or In-Kind Resources:** Please list any matching dollars or in-kind resources your team can contribute to the project if selected (this is not required for acceptance into the program).

Optional supplemental materials can include maps, aerial imagery, video clips or media, or other relevant information.

Applications for the Spring/Summer 2016 round of assistance under NMW's Community Assistance Program are being accepted through **Friday, March 18th, 2015**. Materials can be submitted to Jillian Sutherland at jillian@communitybuilders.org.

Jillian can be reached at 970.928.3411 for additional information. It is recommended, though not required, that applicants contact Jillian before submitting their application to discuss the proposed project and application process.