

PATHS TO MESA VERDE

Mancos | Mesa Verde | Cortez



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Project Review

The trail has been in concept for 15+ years

Amenity migration is a leading factor in in the county's changing demography and outdoor recreation is an expanding economic sector

Southwest Colorado is increasing in population, and has gained national popularity as a destination area for tourism and recreation.

PATHS TO MESA VERDE

Mancos | Mesa Verde | Cortez

The City of Cortez, The Town of Mancos and Montezuma County recognized a common interest and jointly applied for a Federal Highways Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) Grant

The TAP Grant is being used to fund this feasibility study

80% of the feasibility study is funded by the Federal Highways Administration. The remaining 20% is funded by a three way partnership between Cortez, Mancos and Montezuma County.

PATHS TO MESA VERDE

Mancos | Mesa Verde | Cortez

Mesa Verde National Park (MVNP) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) are also partners

This multi-use path has been recognized by FWHA and CDOT as a needed transportation facility in rural Southwest Colorado.

The proposed trail has been selected by Governor Hickenlooper to be in the Colorado Beautiful top 16 priority trails for Colorado.

PATHS TO MESA VERDE

Mancos | Mesa Verde | Cortez

The study area for the PTMV project is parallel to U.S. Highway 160 (US 160) and may be located within 2 miles of US 160 on either side of the highway

The Paths to Mesa Verde project would connect Cortez, Mancos, and Mesa Verde National Park with approximately 16 -24 miles of multi-modal linkages.

The trail would also connect with amenities such as Phil's World, the Fairgrounds and Pueblo Community College.

PATHS TO MESA VERDE

Mancos | Mesa Verde | Cortez

Benefits of Trails to Rural Communities

Health / Quality of Life

Safety

Economic Values

PATHS TO MESA VERDE

Mancos | Mesa Verde | Cortez

Health / Quality of Life

Trails make economic sense and contribute to decreasing health costs; A recent study quantifies the benefits of money spent on trail development from a health standpoint concluding “The cost-benefit ratio was 2.94, which means that every \$1 investment in trails for physical activity led to \$2.94 in direct medical benefit.

Wang G, Macera CA, Scudder-Soucie B, et al. “A cost-benefit analysis of physical activity using bike/pedestrian trails.” Health Promotion Practice, 6(2): 174–179, 2005.

Trails are very Popular; A study conducted in the United States indicated that about one-quarter of adult men and women used a walking, hiking or bicycling trail at least once per week.

Librett JJ, Yore MM and Schmid TL. “Characteristics of physical activity levels among trail users in a U.S. national sample.” American Journal of Preventive Medicine, 31(5): 399–405, 2006.

Trails Improve the Quality of Life within Communities; Trails have consistently been shown to have an overwhelming positive influence on the quality of life for trail neighbors as well as the larger community.

The Effect of Greenways on Property Values and Public Safety; The Conservation Fund and Colorado State Parks, State Trails Program (1995) compiled by Suzanne Webel, Boulder Area Trails Coalition

PATHS TO MESA VERDE

Mancos | Mesa Verde | Cortez

Safety

The US 160 is a two-lane, principal arterial roadway that contains several sections with insufficient clear zones, limited visibility, narrow shoulders and numerous accesses.

Using the existing US 160 shoulder as a bicyclist, pedestrian, or other non-motorized user poses a serious safety risk.

Research also shows that 60% of people are in the “interested, but concerned” segment of bicyclists. This segment prefers physical separation from motor vehicles to operate their bicycle. The PTMV trail would provide a safe and inviting corridor for transportation and recreation users.

PATHS TO MESA VERDE

Mancos | Mesa Verde | Cortez

Economic Values

State Economy; Biking contributed \$1.6 billion total impact to the state's economy —

Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade 2015.

Tourism is Significant; Total expenditures by out-of-state tourists who participated in bicycling (\$317,879,193). The majority of out-of-state visitors who rode a bike during their visit likely participated in other activities during their stay

"The Effect of Greenways On Property Values and Public Safety", A Joint Study by : The Conservation Fund and Colorado State Parks State Trails Program, Colorado State Parks, State Trails Program, Sydney Shafroth Macy, Stuart H. Macdonald, March 1995.

including \$434 million spent in-state on bicycle events, races and vacations, and another \$448 million spent by out-of-state tourists.

PATHS TO MESA VERDE

Mancos | Mesa Verde | Cortez

Bicycling is very Popular in Colorado; Bicycling contributes \$1.1 billion to the Colorado economy, Ten percent of Colorado households reported taking a bicycle vacation in the previous year

Walking / Hiking is even more Popular; Many more people walk than bike. Estimates put spending on day-hikes by state residents at \$497 million in economic activity. Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade 1625 Broadway, Suite 2700 Denver, Colorado 80202

Proximity to Trails enhance property values; The effect of the trails on neighboring property has been found to be beneficial rather than detrimental. "The Effect of Greenways On Property Values and Public Safety", A Joint Study by : The Conservation Fund and Colorado State Parks State Trails Program, Colorado State Parks, State Trails Program, Sydney Shafroth Macy, Stuart H. Macdonald, March 1995

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Mancos | Mesa Verde | Cortez

Charitable Bike Rides are among one of the top recreational expenditures for biking.

, estimates BBC Research & Consulting, which conducted the study. Retail sales of products related to biking and exports of Colorado biking equipment contributed another \$185 million. Although many more people walk than bike, the activity isn't as equipment intensive. BBC estimates spending on day-hikes by state residents contributed \$497 million in economic activity.