

Charlier Associates, Inc.

PROJECT EXPERIENCE

CLEAR CREEK CANYON TRAIL FEASIBILITY REPORT

Jefferson County, Colorado (Completed 2005)

Charlier Associates was part of a multi-disciplinary team led by Wenk Associates to assess the feasibility of developing a 12-mile multi-use trail through scenic Clear Creek Canyon, located immediately west of the City of Golden in Jefferson County, CO. Part of the Jefferson County Open Space (JCOS) system, the 3,265-acre park consists of steep rock cliffs that provide habitat for wildlife such as bighorn sheep and golden eagles. Centered on State Highway 6 and the adjacent historic Clear Creek, the open space is also a destination for rock climbing, kayaking, gold panning, fishing, hiking and picnicking.

Facility development is presently limited to the highway itself, with numerous informal pull-offs located next to the road. Highway 6 serves as one of two main routes to the casino communities of Black Hawk and Central City, and was concurrently being studied for shoulder widening and safety improvements as part of a CDOT Gaming Areas Access EIS. Existing traffic volumes of 19,000 ADT are projected to increase to 33,900 ADT by 2025.

As the team's transportation planner, CAI served as a liaison between the two projects to help ensure that proposed DOT roadway improvements work with proposed JSOC facility development within a severely topographically constrained corridor. CAI roles in the project included:

- Identified trends, high accident locations, and types of crashes along US 6 that may impact design of the trail project.
- Inventory and assessment of parking capacity and safety at 44 existing informal pull-offs.
- Recommendations for 4 new trailheads and 11 smaller JCOS parking areas along the 12-mile route.
- Examinations of canyon visitation, recreation used, and future demand to identify strategies for protection and appropriate use of Jefferson County's recreational, cultural and natural resources.
- Assisted with development of six typical cross-sections to accommodate a 10-foot wide multi-use trail through the difficult terrain.



CLIENT: Wenk Associates
CONTACT: Jane Kulik (303) 628-0003

