Charlier Associates guided the City and County of Broomfield through a multi-year transportation planning process that began with a subarea plan and continued with planning and implementation of a comprehensive set of transportation projects and solutions, including the Zip shuttle system. Other firms playing important roles in this process included Downing Thorpe and James of Boulder, Szymanski/Ray of Denver, and Felzburg, Holt and Ullevig of Denver.

This project features a first-of-its-kind 2.6-mile right-of-way (recommended by CAI) that circulates Zip vehicles, pedestrians and bicyclists between three major developments, including FlatIron Crossing, and a Regional Transportation District (RTD) transfer facility at US 36. Implemented on August 28, 2001, the Zip is a high-frequency, bi-directional shuttle service using state-of-the-art trams manufactured in Italy.

The Zip, combined with the RTD facility, mitigates the adverse effects of development in the US 36 Corridor by enabling "internal capture" trip reduction, reducing congestion on adjacent roadways and providing access to suburban job opportunities.

In addition to planning the Zip system and managing its startup, CAI created design guidelines for the Zip infrastructure. CAI also identified and secured dedicated revenue sources, managed the vehicle procurement process and played a key role in the development of marketing strategies for the system. Finally, CAI helped get legislation passed in the 2000 session of the Colorado legislature, creating authority for a special district to operate and fund the Zip shuttle system.

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