

CITY OF GRAND JUNCTION, COLORADO

RESOLUTION NO. 23-23

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING A REQUEST FOR CONGRESSIONALLY DIRECTED SPENDING FOR 29 ROAD AND I-70 INTERCHANGE PROJECT

Recitals:

The 29 Road and I-70 Interchange project (Project) will, when constructed, deliver a new connection to Interstate 70 (Interchange). The Interchange will add needed transportation network connectivity and enhance access to Interstate 70 and the local transportation corridors, including but not limited to 29 Road. The Interchange will support growth and development of adjacent land and serve existing and planned population and employment growth.

Local and regional plans have long identified the need for and benefits from an Interchange at 29 Road. The Interchange will, as part of a component of near term and long-range transportation plans provide connections in and around Grand Junction, Mesa County, and the region. For decades Mesa County and the City of Grand Junction partnered on transportation improvements to support connectivity. Those projects include, but are not limited to, completion of the Riverside Parkway and the 29 Road.

I-70B Union Pacific Railroad overpass. The City and County continued their partnership through a *Planning and Environmental Linkages* (PEL) study to determine the best way to provide enhanced access to I-70 northeast of Downtown Grand Junction and the Interchange is the alternative the PEL study recommends.

The Project will improve quality of life by modernizing the Grand Valley regional transportation network with local and regional multi-modal connectivity and afford more efficient access to and from I-70 to existing neighborhoods, community resources, planned land use and economic development adjacent to the Grand Junction Regional Airport. The Project also provides an opportunity for transit services to connect to I-70 and anticipates development and new employment centers. The Project will serve planned population and employment growth in the region and the associated economic development will better connect local residents to job opportunities.

The Interchange is important for local and regional connectivity and establishes 29 Road as a key arterial, reducing out-of-direction travel for area residents, reducing congestion at adjacent interchanges and will improve multimodal mobility and safety for the community south of I-70.

Colorado Senators John Hickenlooper and Michael Bennet and their staff work tirelessly to secure important federal funding for Colorado, and accordingly the Senators are considering Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) requests for the 2024 fiscal year.

It is the City's desire that Senator Hickenlooper and Senator Bennet utilize Congressionally Directed Spending to secure funding for the Interchange in support of the City, Mesa County and the region. With CDS for the Project, the State, the region and especially the greater Grand Junction community will be benefitted, by state and local government entities and nonprofits. Funding for projects, if approved, would be distributed as part of the federal appropriations process during FY24 (October 2023 – September 2024). Requests for 2023 funding are due March 10, 2023.

After due consideration, the City Council of the City of Grand Junction supports the Project and authorized the President of the City Council and staff to submit a request for Congressionally Directed Spending to obtain the necessary funding for the Project, and if awarded, to enter into such further agreements as are necessary and proper to complete the Project.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GRAND JUNCTION THAT:

- 1: The City Council of the City of Grand Junction strongly supports a request to Senator Hickenlooper and Senator Bennet for Congressionally Directed Spending for the I-70 Interchange at 29 Road project. The requested \$5.0 million would cover the \$1.5 million in preliminary engineering and \$3.5 million of right of way acquisition for the project. The City Manager is authorized and directed to work to finalize the City's portion of the request.
- 2: If the funding is awarded, the City Council of the City of Grand Junction strongly supports the completion of the Project and authorizes the City Manager to sign appropriate agreements on behalf of the City as a sub-grantee of the Congressionally Directed Spending.


This Resolution shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and adoption.

Passed and adopted this 1st day of March 2023.



Anna Stout
City Council President

ATTEST:



Amy Phillips
City Clerk

