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**URBAN TRAILS COMMITTEE AGENDA
CITY HALL AUDITORIUM, 250 N 5th STREET**

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 14, 2024 - 5:30 PM

Call to Order/Announcements

1. Thank You card for participation in Know Your City event

Approval of Minutes

1. July minutes

Action Items

1. Request for letter of support - Salt Flats infrastructure
2. Request for letter of support - SS4A
3. Scheduling and planning a walk audit

Discussion Items

1. RTP - 2050 Regional Transportation Plan and Safety Action Program
2. Core Arterial Network - Feedback

Updates

1. Western Colorado Transportation Safety Symposium - <https://www.mesacounty.us/wctss>
2. Living Streets Subcommittee
3. Palisade RFT connection
4. Impact Fees update

Other Business/Public Comment

Adjournment

Urban Trails Committee – Minutes – July 10, 2024 – Regular Meeting

Attendees: Athena F., Julia W., Steve M., Kristen B., Josh M., Brent S.

Staff/Ex-Officio: Henry Brown, Owen Melott, Eric Mocko, Trent Prall

Guests:

Minutes

Call to Order/Announcements: Meeting called to order at 5:31 Henry introduced Owen to the Committee.

Meeting Minutes

1. June Minutes

Julia moves to approve June minutes. Kristen seconds, unanimous approval.

Action Items

1. Appointment to Impact Fees stakeholder meeting

Henry and Trent presented on Impact Fees and the request, which are up for their 5-year renewal. Steve expressed interest in serving on the stakeholder meeting. Other committee members are interested but struggle with the timing during the workday.

Brent moves to nominate Steve as UTC representative. Julia seconds, unanimous approval.

2. EECBG Grant support

Henry shared background on EECBG grant opportunity and proposed application. Kristen moves for UTC to support with a letter. Josh seconds, unanimous approval.

Discussion Items

1. Core Arterial Network

Henry presented the different existing maps & networks and their respective purposes and Owen presented on the recommendation for Core Arterial Networks, including impact to Active Transportation Corridors. Henry shared that staff is working on Circulation Plan update for November Council consideration and proposed January adoption. The Committee discussed and took home packets to review and comment.

2. Get to Know your City

Henry and Athena shared the outcomes from the Know your City event.

3. Shared Micromobility Discussion

Henry gave an update on the timeline for and some details from the Pilot. Committee discussed value of Shared Micromobility Pilot, including cost, Community Access options, where the scooters are located, City fees, and conflict with pedestrians.

Updates

1. Living Streets Subcommittee

Brent presented updates from the July meeting about 14 amenity spaces and what features we would like to see, planned for initial launch during Downtown Art Festival, early October. Calls for artists to be prepared by the Commission on Arts and Culture.

2. RFT Open House

The County will be hosting an RFT open house on July 31, 5-7PM at Clifton Library about the trail gap to Palisade.

3. Forestry Grant

Henry passed along information from the Forestry team about a grant they are applying for. They hope to enhance the urban tree canopy on Main Street east of Downtown, where it has suffered particularly in recent years. They were interested in hearing if UTC would support the grant application with a letter.

4. Unhoused Needs Strategies

Per invite in the Agenda Packet, UTC is invited to participate this upcoming Friday, 7/12

5. CDOT survey

Per info in the Agenda Packet, UTC is invited to take and share the CDOT Active Transportation survey.

Public Comment

Adjournment

Steve moves to adjourn at 7:06.

DRAFT

Colorado Department of Local Affairs
1313 Sherman Street, Suite #518
Denver, CO 80203



Subject: Letter of Support – More Housing Now and Land Use Initiative

14 August 2024

On behalf of Grand Junction’s Urban Trails Committee, we are pleased to express our support for the City in their application to the Colorado Department of Local Affairs for funding to support the development of Complete Streets infrastructure at the Salt Flats site. As an advisory committee to City Council, the Urban Trails Committee is tasked with providing guidance to elected officials and City Staff on programming, policy, and physical infrastructure to ensure our entire community has access to safe, comfortable, and right-sized transportation options to meet their daily needs.

In some households in Grand Junction, transportation costs can approach or even exceed housing costs. Walking, bicycling, and transit are significantly more affordable than owning and operating a private motor vehicle, so it is critical for projects like the Salt Flats to create opportunities to safe conveyance for future residents of 350-550 affordable and attainable housing units. Proposed designs for sidewalks and cycle facilities which exceed the minimum standards, appropriate for those of all ages, abilities, and incomes to travel with dignity will demonstrate Grand Junction’s commitment to meaningfully addressing the housing shortage.

Grand Junction is a vibrant, small, but quickly growing community. The Urban Trails Committee supports managing the impact of that growth by creating options for all residents and visitors to right-size their travel modes. With continued support from the Colorado Department of Local Affairs and the More Housing Now and Land Use Initiative, the City will maximize the development of safe and connected infrastructure, creating a welcoming environment and helping reduce cost burdens for our most vulnerable residents.

Thank you for considering The City of Grand Junction as a recipient of your funding.

Sincerely,
The City of Grand Junction Urban Trails Committee

Athena Fouts
Chair, Urban Trails
Committee

Dr. Stephen Meyer
Vice Chair, Urban Trails Committee

U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590
(855) 368-4200



Subject: Letter of Support – Safe Streets and Roads for All Grant Program

14 August 2024

On behalf of Grand Junction’s Urban Trails Committee, we are pleased to express our support for the Grand Valley Regional Transportation Planning Office (RTPO) in their application to the U.S. Department of Transportation for funding for demonstration of Safe Streets and Roads for All projects.

As an advisory committee to City Council, the Urban Trails Committee is tasked with providing guidance to elected officials and City Staff on programming, policy, and physical infrastructure to ensure our entire community has access to safe, comfortable, and right-sized transportation options to meet their daily needs. The work Mesa County, the City of Grand Junction, and the RTPO have already put into compiling and analyzing data to support the development of a Safety Action Plan has been inspiring, but many of the proposed mitigation strategies will be new to our remote community. The safety issues we face daily while traveling on public roadways are serious, and it is important to have begun to quantify and classify crashes, especially those which result in serious injury or fatality. This is the critical first step to creating systematic safety improvements to reduce the likelihood of crashes or their severity, when they do happen.

As a City with fairly compact geography, predominantly sunny weather, and flat topography, Grand Junction and the surrounding valley lend themselves well to walking, bicycling, and other active transportation modes. However, the risks of sharing space with speeding motor vehicles, especially those operated by impaired drivers create a high level of concern, and rightfully so. By evaluating the efficacy of treatments like speed-feedback signage, intersection hardening, and education campaigns, Mesa County and the RTPO will demonstrate that we can and will make a difference in the safety of our public infrastructure.

Grand Junction is a vibrant, small, but quickly growing community. As the community grows, new infrastructure is developed and existing infrastructure is updated, it will be critically important to know which safety strategies have the highest potential to reduce the likelihood and severity of crashes. The Urban Trails Committee supports managing the impact of that growth by ensuring all residents and visitors can travel safely to their destinations. With continued support from the U.S. Department of Transportation and the Safe Streets and Roads for All Grant Program, Mesa County and the RTPO will be more effective in maintaining a safe network of roadways.

Thank you for considering The City of Grand Junction as a recipient of your funding.

Sincerely,
The City of Grand Junction Urban Trails Committee

Athena Fouts
Chair, Urban Trails Committee

Dr. Stephen Meyer
Vice Chair, Urban Trails Committee