



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

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12, 2025 - 5:30 PM

Call to Order/Announcements

Approval of Minutes

1. Feburary Minutes

Action Items

1. Better Block University - Support & Applicant
2. 4th & 5th Streets Letter

Discussion Items

1. Active Transportation Counts methodology
2. Infrastructure Priorities preparation

Updates

1. Bike Month & Counts
2. Engineering update
3. Bike Clinic
4. Reminder of Special Workshop - 3/26

Other Business/Public Comment

Adjournment

Urban Trails Committee – Minutes – February 26, 2025 – Regular Meeting

Attendees: Athena F., Steve M., Kristen B., Diana R., Brooke C., Brent S., Jason N.

Staff/Ex-Officio: Henry Brown, Carissa Finnerty, Trent Prall, Eric Mocko, Anita Sheetz

Guests: Tara Flaharty (RTPO)

Minutes

Call to Order/Announcements: Athena calls meeting to order at 5:39 after some tech issues.

Meeting Minutes

1. January Minutes

Diana moves to approve January minutes with Brent's name added to attendance. Kristen seconds, unanimous approval.

Action Items

1. Local Walking College

Tara from the RTPO and Ulises from CU/CMU are looking for a UTC member to join the Walking College team. Diana suggested maybe GVSA would good. The Committee suggested having staff join would offer more longevity than a committee member. Staff to follow up with a recommendation for Tara and Ulises.

2. Revitalizing Main Streets Grant

Brooke moved to support the grant with a letter supporting the bid for CDOT funds for broadening the C340/Broadway Bridge Trail, Kristen seconds, unanimous approval. Diana recused herself since she works for SGM, who is working on the design.

3. 4th & 5th Street Letter

The Committee developed a draft letter covering the 4th & 5th Street Workshop from January. Brooke moves to submit a version of this letter to the paper. Diana seconds with a stipulation that Trent and the City Manager align on that approach. There was some discussion about whether it's best to sustain it in the news cycle or not. 6 vote to support with the stipulation; 1 abstention. Staff will follow up on the follow-up with Trent and Mike.

Discussion Items

1. Better Block University

Henry shared the opportunity for a micro-grant/mentorship opportunity with the Committee. Diana recommended that it could be a better fit for staff. Brooke expressed some interest and a specific project in mind, but agreed that it could be better for staff. Trent recommends reaching out to the program leader. Staff will follow up after discussion with the grantor.

2. Winter Walk Audit Discussion

Carissa is seeking administrative feedback on the Walk Audit. Diana suggested holding the next on in August. Steve commented that it was well organized. Brooke agrees that continuing to see more will be good. Trent shared that a mile is tight in 70 minutes, especially for those in a wheelchair. There was some trouble with the app and cold fingers. Steve recommended providing the guidance to save the responses for later until a WiFi connection is possible.

Updates

1. Engineering Update

Trent shared updates on Monument Trail, anticipated to be completed by Q2, with possibility to exceed expectations on the timeline. Utilities are going in on Crosby. Horizon/G Road roundabout construction to start April 7. 29 Road Right of Way is being investigated.

2. Bike Month & Active Transportation Counts

Henry reminded that BTWD will be 5/16, aligned to the national schedule. Subcommittee is scheduled to meet on Friday.

Public Comment

Adjournment

Kristen moves to add 10 minutes to the meeting. Steve seconds, unanimous approval.

Brooke moves to adjourn at 7:12.

DRAFT

26 February 2025

Grand Junction City Council
250 N. 5th Street
Grand Junction, CO 81501



Subject: Urban Trails Committee 4th & 5th Streets Complete Streets Pilot Feedback and Recommendations

City Councilors and Staff,

After just a few months of the pilot demonstration on 4th & 5th Streets, the Urban Trails Committee had the opportunity to hear a report from Engineering & Transportation and Community Development Staff, comprised of the same content and data shared with Council during the January 13, 2025 Workshop. Additionally, the UTC held a special workshop to deliberate and ask further questions of staff regarding the preliminary pilot outcomes on January 29, 2025.

As a Committee, we would like to formally provide some feedback and recommendations for Council to take under consideration when deliberating further changes to the pilot study. First and foremost, it is essential not to rush into reactionary changes on a project such as this. In order to review critical safety, economic, and capacity trends, building a sufficient duration of data is critical. It is our understanding that typically, no less than a year of such data would be used to inform major decisions related to roadway geometry. Thus, any preliminary outcomes discussed to date are just that – preliminary – and should not be construed to be a final or steady-state conclusion resulting from pilot Complete Streets realignments.

What stood out most to the UTC about the data presented by staff is that the 4th & 5th Streets corridors appear safer for all travelers since the Complete Streets Pilot implementation. Nearly as many drivers are traveling through the corridors as before, but at speeds much closer to those posted in the downtown and residential areas. With meaningful 85th-percentile speed reductions, from 24-27% over the posted speed limit on 5th Street before the realignment, to 6-15% over during the pilot, the benefit to all travelers is hard to ignore. Meanwhile, motor vehicle traffic volumes appear to be within typical year-to-year fluctuation. The Committee strongly favors the outcome of serving a similar volume of residents and visitors, while not allowing them to speed through downtown.

On the topic of volumes, the UTC looks forward to May, when we will have the opportunity to formally count Active Transportation users on 5th Street. In the meantime, a community-led count indicated that, for one day in October 2024, as many as four times the bicyclists were using 5th Street when compared to the formal counts in May 2024.

Lastly, the Committee commends Staff for responding to community concerns throughout the pilot, initially by considering the business community's request to study the single-lane configuration to minimize parking impact, then by adjusting lane widths and evaluating sight distances, and, finally, by reducing the visual impact by removing a large number of plastic delineators. The UTC is in support of Staff's recommendation to proceed with some changes in Q2 2025 and recommends Staff and Council continue to weigh the pros and cons of options for addressing areas of potential higher conflict and risk.

Sincerely,

The City of Grand Junction Urban Trails Committee