

GRAND JUNCTION CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP SUMMARY

August 4, 2025

Meeting Convened: 5:30 p.m. The meeting was in-person at the Fire Department Training Room, 625 Ute Avenue, and live-streamed via GoTo Webinar.

City Councilmembers Present: Councilmembers Robert Ballard, Scott Beilfuss (virtual), Laurel Cole, Jason Nguyen, Ben Van Dyke, and Mayor Cody Kennedy. Councilmember Anna Stout was absent.

Staff present: City Manager Mike Bennett, City Attorney John Shaver, Assistant to the City Manager Johnny McFarland, Engineering and Transportation Director Trent Prall, Deputy City Clerk Misty Williams, and City Clerk Selestina Sandoval.

1. Discussion Topics

a. 4th and 5th Streets

On May 29, 2025, Council voted 7-0 to move forward with a two-lane plus bike-lane option for the continuation of the 4th-5th Street Pilot project. In order to provide the additional asphalt width required for improvements into the existing infrastructure, concrete/landscape revisions are necessary at 4th Street & Main Street as well as at 5th Street & Main Street. The design is complete and staff is ready to issue a contract amendment to an existing concrete replacement contract to complete the work. Work could commence as soon as late August and be completed within a few weeks. City traffic staff will complete the striping revisions along the rest of both corridors between Grand Ave and Ute Ave in October. Parking meters would be restored as well as soon as the parking spaces are available.

This updated City Council on the extent of the necessary concrete/landscaping revisions, project costs, and schedule.

Key points included:

- **Project Update:**
Staff presented final design and cost details for the 4th and 5th Street pilot reconfiguration, focusing on lane adjustments, bike lanes, and pinch-point modifications at Main Street. Estimated total cost: \$250,000 (approx. \$160K for concrete and traffic control, \$70K for striping/landscaping, \$20K for contingency).
- **Key Design Features:**
 - Two driving lanes and one buffered bike lane south of Grand; one lane north of Grand.
 - Adjustments at pinch points to minimize concrete and landscape work.

- Completion goal: mid-September for concrete work, followed by restriping; parking meters to be installed in October.
- **Council Concerns & Alternatives Discussed:**
 - Some councilmembers opposed spending on curb cuts, citing budget constraints, tree removal, and pedestrian safety.
 - Alternatives considered included reverting to the pre-pilot configuration south of Grand, using “sharrows” instead of full bike lanes, and restoring parking lot entrances on 4th/5th off Colorado.
 - Concerns raised about business impacts, traffic flow at key intersections, parking visibility hazards, and project timing.
 - Some councilmembers were in support of a full reversion south of Grand, keep compromise north of Grand, avoid costly curb cuts; decision to be finalized at a future regular council meeting for transparency.
- **Next Steps:**
Staff to pre-order needed materials to avoid delays; public vote planned for August 20, 2025.

2. Council Communication

- **Homelessness Strategy:**
Proposal to revise the Grand Junction unhoused strategy to focus on “treatment-first” approaches, clarify definitions, emphasize public safety, and align with new federal guidance to maintain funding eligibility. Workshop discussion to be scheduled.
- **Municipal Court Practices:**
Councilmember stated someone had raised concerns about potential lack of legal representation at initial court appearances and courtroom accessibility. Proposal to form a small council subcommittee to meet with the municipal judge and city attorney before any formal agenda item.
- **Downtown Employee Parking:**
Idea for a low-cost parking pass program for retail employees to encourage use of paid parking closer to workplaces and improve downtown parking turnover.
- **Urban Trails Committee Scope:**
Discussion on keeping committee activities aligned with its bylaws and avoiding overreach into broader environmental policy without council direction.
- **Comprehensive Plan Review:**
Five-year review due; short-term change needed to ensure federal grant eligibility for airport projects. Discussion to include whether the review is done in-house or with a consultant.

3. Next Workshop Topics

- Scheduling adjustments needed due to conflicts; topics to include parks and recreation updates, outdoor facility progress, and follow-ups from this meeting's discussions.
- Strategic Plan presentation scheduled for August 12, 2025.

4. Other Business

- September 1 workshop falls on a holiday; alternate dates to be identified.
- Watershed tour scheduled for August 5, 8 a.m., departing from City Hall.

5. Adjournment

There being no further business, the workshop adjourned at 6:59 p.m.