

Urban Trails Committee – Minutes – August 13, 2025 – Regular Meeting

Attendees: Athena F., Steve M., Maureen G., Brent S., Brooke C., Benaiah A., Kristen B., Jason N.

Staff/Ex-Officio: Henry Brown, Carissa Finnerty, Eric Mocko, Andy Gingerich

Guests: Tara Flaharty (RTPO), Lori, Donald

Minutes

Call to Order/Announcements:

Athena called the meeting to order at 5:32 PM.

Meeting Minutes

1. July Minutes

Kristen moves to adopt the July minutes. Brooke seconds, unanimous approval.

Action Items

Discussion Items

1. August Walk Audit

Carissa shared details of the Walk Audit. We will meet at the bus stop on 5th Street in front of the library for Route 7. Then folks will meet at 750 Wellington Avenue at 5:30 PM.

2. Walking College discussion

Tara introduced herself as the Mobility Manager from the Regional Transportation Planning Department. Carissa and Tara shared about their experience in the Walking College. Tara focused on Orchard Avenue near all of the D51 schools. Carissa shared the modules from the Walking College.

29% of Mesa County working population does not drive, per 2020 census. Mesa County Safety Action Plan identifies 4 intersections and 4 segments within ¾-mile of Orchard Avenue.

Updates

1. Grants Update

SS4A – Henry and Eric shared about forthcoming Demonstration projects, while the Implementation grant is still pending.

Impact Accelerator – Henry clarified the staff decision to not pursue the first funding round.

2. Engineering Update

Eric – no major new updates – everything is on pace.

Horizon and G roundabout should be completed in October, project is in “opening” phase. RRFBs are included in each multi-lane leg.

Four Canyons Parkway – Awarded for construction down to Patterson Road, to be completed Q3 '26.

Crosby Avenue – Out for bid for contractors next month, expecting to be wrapped up next summer.

4th & 5th goes to Council next week on Wednesday – expecting reversion south of Grand Avenue.

North Avenue/US-6 sidewalk project 29 Road to 32 Road + 28 ½ to 29 Road on the north side. Anticipated to go out to bid in June 2026.

Broadway Bridge/C-340 – Funding gap may interrupt original plan of going out to bid next month.

3. Bike Month / Week Without Driving

Henry shared that the City is following the County’s lead and pivoting away from programming for Fall Bike month. Instead, the Week without Driving is a thought experiment or challenge to anyone to engage to empathize with the experience of folks who do not have the option to use a car. Nobody is obligated to do anything, but the challenge is consider what it may be like for the large segment of Mesa County that does not

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have car access. GVT will be fare-free for the week. All buses have two bike racks, and carry-able devices are allowed on the bus.

September 29 – October 5 (Monday-Sunday).

4. Bike Clinic update

Carissa shared statistics from the 6 clinics, 4 at the United Way Resource Center and 2 at First Christian Church. Over 75 bikes serviced, over 30 bikes donated by United Way, and over 60 bike lights given to the community. Also support for bicycle registration.

On average, 4 volunteer bike technicians. They help find supplies and bring their own tools. Approximately (at least) 130 volunteer hours.

Carissa recommended:

- Consistency is important, both from location and from supplies,
- A more robust/formal volunteer system,
- A way to show gratitude/give back to volunteers,
- A venue, ideally with shelter and supplies.

The Committee asked about parks, the library, and parking garages as potential location options.

Other Business

- Henry shared that Diana had expressed interest in discussion about 4th & 5th Street.
- The Committee asked why the direction is changing again.
- Councilmember Nguyen shared that costs for the previous 7-0 decision were higher than anticipated, would have widened crossing distances, and potentially led to a tree being removed.
- Councilmember Nguyen shared that the “original” 2.0 configuration is likely still the cheapest option, another option to be considered on Wednesday would be the two-lane + bike lane option with curb touches, another option could be omitting Main Street from the bike lanes to avoid curb cuts, or an option to partially revert south of Grand.
- Andy shared some historical perspective on the project.

Public Comment

Adjournment

Maureen moves to adjourn at 6:47. Kristen seconds, unanimous approval.