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**GRAND JUNCTION CITY COUNCIL
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2025
WORKSHOP, 5:30 PM
FIRE DEPARTMENT TRAINING ROOM
625 UTE AVENUE**

1. Discussion Topics

- a. Town Hall Update
- b. Judicial Review Commission
- c. I-70/29 Road Interchange
- d. Depot Federal Grant Discussion

2. City Council Communication

An unstructured time for Councilmembers to discuss current matters, share ideas for possible future consideration by Council, and provide information from board & commission participation.

3. Next Workshop Topics

4. Other Business

What is the purpose of a Workshop?

The purpose of the Workshop is to facilitate City Council discussion through analyzing information, studying issues, and clarifying problems. The less formal setting of the Workshop promotes conversation regarding items and topics that may be considered at a future City Council meeting.

How can I provide my input about a topic on tonight's Workshop agenda?

Individuals wishing to provide input about Workshop topics can:

- 1. Send input by emailing a City Council member ([Council email addresses](#)) or call one or more

members of City Council (970-244-1504)

2. Provide information to the City Manager (citymanager@gjcity.org) for dissemination to the City Council. If your information is submitted prior to 3 p.m. on the date of the Workshop, copies will be provided to Council that evening. Information provided after 3 p.m. will be disseminated the next business day.

3. Attend a Regular Council Meeting (generally held the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall) and provide comments during "Public Comments."



Grand Junction City Council

Workshop Session

Item #1.a.

Meeting Date: November 17, 2025
Presented By: Kelsey Coleman
Department: City Manager's Office
Submitted By: Kelsey Coleman

Information

SUBJECT:

Town Hall Update

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

As part of the *Meet You There* community engagement initiative, City staff hosted a City Council Town Hall to foster more two-way dialogue between residents and their elected officials. This workshop serves as a debrief of the October 28 event, providing City Council with a summary of outcomes, community feedback, and recommendations to strengthen future Town Hall formats and continue advancing the initiative's goals of transparency, connection, and community-centered engagement.

BACKGROUND OR DETAILED INFORMATION:

The City's first Town Hall in recent history marked an important milestone in strengthening community connection and transparency. The event offered residents meaningful updates on the City's Strategic Plan and the 2026 Recommended Budget, followed by an extended question-and-answer session. Its design emphasized open dialogue, opportunities for resident feedback, and a welcoming space for City Council to engage with the community outside the formality of a typical meeting.

More than 80 residents attended in person and over 30 participated virtually, with 141 RSVPs received for a 120-person room capacity. Staff collected over 50 questions and comments for Council, while the Communications and Engagement Office implemented more than a dozen targeted outreach strategies to raise awareness and encourage broad participation across City neighborhoods and demographic groups.

Participant feedback reflected strong appreciation for the opportunity to hear directly from City Council and engage in a relaxed, approachable setting. Many residents noted that the format felt more accessible and that the moderated discussion supported focused, productive dialogue. The majority of attendees expressed interest in

participating in future Town Halls, underscoring the event's success in fostering trust and connection.

City staff also identified opportunities to refine future Meet You There Town Halls, including enhancing livestream technology, streamlining question submission, and exploring alternative venues. Continuing to offer both in-person and virtual participation remains a key priority to ensure accessibility for all residents.

FISCAL IMPACT:

For discussion purposes only.

SUGGESTED ACTION:

Informational only.

Attachments

None



Grand Junction City Council

Workshop Session

Item #1.b.

Meeting Date: November 17, 2025
Presented By: Mike Bennett, City Manager, John Shaver, City Attorney
Department: City Council
Submitted By: Jay Valentine

Information

SUBJECT:

Judicial Review Commission

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

This report provides the City Council with an overview of the Judicial Performance Commission (JPC) and seeks Council direction regarding its structure, membership composition, and reporting relationship. The discussion will focus on clarifying who should serve on the JPC, the role of the Commission in evaluating the Municipal Judge, and how its findings should be presented to the City Council.

BACKGROUND OR DETAILED INFORMATION:

The Grand Junction Municipal Code (GJMC) establishes the administrative structure of the Municipal Court and the authority under which court-related business is conducted. Under GJMC §2.28.090, the City Manager appoints the Court Administrator and oversees the administrative operations of the Court. As part of this administrative framework, the Judicial Performance Commission (JPC) is considered an element of the “business of the Court” and was created to provide a structured method for evaluating the performance of the Municipal Judge.

The JPC’s purpose is to offer an independent, objective review of judicial performance to support City Council in fulfilling its responsibility for judge appointment and reappointment. While the Commission exists to ensure accountability and maintain public confidence in the Municipal Court, questions have arisen regarding the appropriate composition of the Commission, including whether council members should serve on it, how many members it should include, and what qualifications or perspectives the Commission should represent.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact regarding this discussion.

SUGGESTED ACTION:

Discussion only

Attachments

None



Grand Junction City Council

Workshop Session

Item #1.c.

Meeting Date: November 17, 2025
Presented By: Trenton Prall, Engineering & Transportation Director
Department: Engineering & Transportation
Submitted By: Trent Prall, Engineering and Transportation Director

Information

SUBJECT:

I-70/29 Road Interchange

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

In the Spring of 2024, City Council and the Board of County Commissioners authorized staff to continue working with the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) to complete necessary project approvals with the understanding that staff would provide an update prior to issuing the final design Request for Proposals (RFP) which would be primarily funded by Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) funding.

At this time, staff is requesting confirmation of the prior direction/support from both governing bodies to proceed with issuance of the RFP and initiate final design.

BACKGROUND OR DETAILED INFORMATION:

Overview

Since the 1990s, a potential interchange at 29 Road has been identified in local and regional transportation plans as a critical improvement to support mobility and connectivity in and around Grand Junction. This project remains a key component of long-range efforts to enhance regional access, support economic development, and improve multimodal infrastructure.

Once final design for associated arterial improvements is completed, the initial phase of construction could focus on improvements needed to support current neighborhood traffic and school operations at Independence Academy. The design will also preserve the ability to expand capacity in the future. A phased approach allows the City and County to invest in critical infrastructure and address existing maintenance needs along the 29 Road corridor without waiting for full project funding or bond approval. Advancing the final design also moves the project closer to "shovel ready" status, improving its

competitiveness for state and federal grant opportunities.

Project Purpose and Benefits

The proposed I-70/29 Road interchange would provide a vital new connection to the growing area southeast of the Grand Junction Regional Airport. It is also designed to accommodate anticipated population and employment growth, both locally and regionally. Benefits of the project include:

- Reduced congestion at adjacent interchanges (Horizon Drive and I-70B/Clifton)
- Improved connectivity and access for residents south of I-70
- Enhanced multimodal mobility and safety through inclusion of bike lanes and sidewalks
- Reduced congestion on Patterson Road
- Support for job creation by connecting local workforce to employment centers
- Reduced Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) and greenhouse gas emissions through more direct routing
- Potential to add an access to Matchett Park and the new recreation center with the construction of F ½ Road west of 29 Road

Project Background and Recent Progress

Mesa County and the City of Grand Junction have collaborated and invested substantial funds for over 25 years on the 29 Road corridor, developing it as a major north-south arterial. In recent years, project partners have engaged the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) to address environmental, planning, and permitting requirements for a potential interchange at I-70.

Although the 2024 bond initiative to fund construction was unsuccessful, a concern voiced during the campaign was uncertainty around FHWA and CDOT approvals. That concern has now been addressed:

- The project scope has been finalized with both CDOT and FHWA.
- Colorado State Transportation Commission approval is anticipated in spring 2026.
- Formal FHWA review and approval of the Interstate Access Request (IAR) is expected in summer 2026.

These approvals will finalize this critical phase and prevent the need to redo environmental or planning documentation, as long as construction begins within the established time frame.

Next Steps: Final Design and Phased Implementation

The City is prepared to issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) for engineering

consultants to begin preliminary design of the interchange and final design for associated arterial improvements. The proposed design scope includes:

- Interchange on I-70 at 29 Road
- Five-lane roadway section along 29 Road
- Bike lanes and detached sidewalks for multimodal access
- Phasing to accommodate near-term and long-term needs on 29 Road

Assuming the project will start in January, the final design would be complete by the 2nd quarter of 2027.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The City has secured \$2.0 million in Congressional Directed Spending (CDS) to support advancing design efforts. A \$1.0 million grant application is also pending through the Rural and Tribal Assistance Program.

To match the CDS funds, the City and Mesa County will each contribute \$220,000, for a combined local match of \$440,000.

SUGGESTED ACTION:

In the Spring of 2024, City Council and the Board of County Commissioners authorized staff to continue working with CDOT and FHWA toward necessary project approvals, with the understanding that staff would return for a progress update prior to issuing the final design RFP.

At this time, staff is requesting confirmation of continued support from both governing bodies to proceed with issuance of the RFP and initiate final design.

Attachments

None



Grand Junction City Council

Workshop Session

Item #1.d.

Meeting Date: November 17, 2025
Presented By: Jay Valentine, General Services Director
Department: City Manager's Office
Submitted By: Kimberly Bullen

Information

SUBJECT:

Depot Federal Grant Discussion

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

GJ Union Depot through Dustin Anzures and Veronica Sanchez have engaged with the City regarding a grant funding opportunity to complete the rehabilitation of the Grand Junction Union Depot. The grant will require the City to act as the eligible applicant, with the GJ Union Depot (Depot) as a subrecipient of the funds if awarded. The grant is offered through the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA).

BACKGROUND OR DETAILED INFORMATION:

The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) grant request is estimated to be \$4.7 million dollars. The DDA has pledged \$500,000 to the Depot project contingent upon matching funds from two separate History Colorado grants. GJ Union Depot is also seeking a line of credit from a local bank to support its request and meet the match requirement.

There are several steps required for the successful submission of the application and, if awarded, acceptance of the FRA grant, which include two agreements with the Depot:

1. Prior to Application: Council Resolution authorizing the City to submit the federal grant application to the FRA.
2. Prior to Application: Depot line of credit for match confirmed.
3. With Council authorization, the FRA grant application for an estimated \$4.7 million will be submitted on or before 1/7/2026.
4. Memo of Understanding (MOU) between City and Depot clearly delineates the respective responsibilities and risk for the City and Depot regarding project and grant management. It is preferable that the MOU be executed before application, but will be required prior to execution of FRA grant contract (if awarded).

5. Prior to execution of the grant contract with FRA: Grantee Sub-recipient Agreement between City and Depot.

The Depot is requesting City staff collaboration on the preparation of the grant application. Federal grants require extensive management for compliance and reporting and will require concentrated resources from City staff.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This topic is for discussion purposes only.

SUGGESTED ACTION:

Council direction to proceed with a resolution authorizing the City Manager to apply for the Federal Railroad Administration Grant on behalf of the GJ Union Depot.

Attachments

None