

Urban Trails Committee – Minutes – October 8, 2025 – Regular Meeting

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

Staff/Ex-Officio: Henry Brown, Trent Prall, Anita Sheetz, Andy Gingerich, Tamra Allen, Eric Mocko

Guests: David, Dan, Abe, Ian, Harrison, Leo, Rick

Minutes

Call to Order/Announcements:

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

Henry announced Staffing update that the Mobility Division is being closed in 2026. Tamra (Community Development Director) shared that staffing for UTC Liaison is To Be Determined.

Brent asked at what level the cut was made, Tamra shared that while the process is collaborative, the decision was made at the City Manager level.

Steve asked if the City is in a period of economic hardship that would warrant this decision.

Brooke asked if other jobs are being eliminated. Councilmember Nguyen shared that some are being reclassified and that there is a hiring freeze, but that there is not a broad swath of layoffs.

Mayor Cody Kennedy was not present at the meeting. Councilmember Nguyen shared that a letter was drafted in response to concerns from members of the community to help recalibrate UTC to its bylaws; there was some dissent on Council regarding the content of the letter, so Mayor Kennedy had likely planned to come to share his point of view. Councilmember Nguyen shared that there is broad support of Trails and Active Transportation, but there is disagreement about the nature of grant recommendations.

Benaiah and Andy asked for more specifics on the concerns of City Council. Councilmember Nguyen offered to read the publicly available letter from 9/29, which did not have broad alignment from Council.

Brent responded with a differing view that the letter is in conflict with the first sentence of the bylaws. Andy affirmed that raising awareness falls squarely under “promoting” the use of those facilities. Steve agreed that, in his opinion, he had not experienced anything on the committee that falls outside of the bylaws. Diana called back to the Week Without Driving example, since this was led by County staff and the City was invited to participate. Benaiah shared the perception that education and informing falls under promotion. Steve asked for examples of “inappropriate advocacy.” Diana made the comparison, wondering if comparable standards would apply to potential conflicts between Planning Commissioners being involved in other economic activities in the community.

Benaiah asked about the guidance surrounding grants. Trent shared that grants may be more infrastructure-focused in the future. Henry shared some history that the Committee is in common practice of supporting grants on matters pertaining to active transportation even when not immediately focused on physical transportation infrastructure.

Meeting Minutes

1. September Minutes

The Committee reviewed the minutes. Diana moves to adopt the September minutes with correcting the action item numbering. Brent seconds, unanimous approval.

Action Items

1. UTC Elections

Athena led elections, starting with Vice Chair. Steve shared that there is a minimal commitment for servicing as vice chair.

Brent nominated Maureen for Vice Chair. Athena self-nominated as Vice Chair.

Brooke moved to close nominations, Steve seconded, unanimous approval.

Maureen received 7 votes and Athena received 1 vote.

For Chair elections, Athena shared that involvement is helpful and that being chair is a great way to get involved to a deeper extent. The more you give the more you get.

Based on a question from the committee about non-consecutive terms, Henry referenced the bylaws, clarifying that they do not exclude a member from serving more than two terms in a given office, as long as those terms are non-consecutive.

Jason nominated Brent to serve as Chair.

Maureen moves to close nominations, seconded by Brooke. Unanimous approval.

The Committee unanimously accepted Brent as Chair.

Discussion Items

1. Walk Audit Report

The Committee discussed an additional recommendation of memorializing the quantitative data in the GIS maps.

The Committee discussed an additional recommendation to continue to engage members of the community who use mobility devices or who have impairments, including and beyond the Center for Independence.

2. Bike Anywhere Day

Henry shared that about 60 community members participated in the Bike Anywhere Day program, similar to previous Bike to Work Day celebrations. Athena shared interest in continuing the practice of offering different times.

Updates

1. Engineering

Trent shared that:

- Four Canyons Phase II is under construction
- Horizon & G is nearing completion
- D ½ Road is forthcoming
- B ½ Road ROW acquisition is under way
- Leach Creek bridge at 24 Road is proposed
- Staging 29 Road to get some upkeep even if the interchange project does not proceed
- New signalized construction at 28 ¼ Road and Patterson Road under design
- Crosby Avenue is still on the books, ready for advertising in next ~6 weeks
- Patterson Road sidewalk (Independent Ranchman's Ditch) is still being pursued in the budget
- Broadway bridge trail widening is off the near-term plan and is expected in "year 3" i.e., beyond 2027
- Salt Flats – Grand Avenue under construction between 28 and 28 ¼ Roads.
- Redlands 360 roundabout at 23 Road under construction
- Palmer Street SRTS signal at US-50
- Partnering with CMU for improved crossings at 12th Street

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- CDOT I-70B Phase 7 4th & 5th Streets reconstruction anticipated in 2026
- Mobility Hub: Expected to open in 2027
- Ella Street and Hermosa Avenue SRTS projects as recommended by UTC
- Asphalt replacement – just completed Connected Lakes up to neighborhood, to be continued next year
- General sidewalk safety repairs are underway
- 22 ½ Road reconstruction planned at Broadway Elementary in partnership with Mesa County and D51

2. United Way Clinic

Staff have been supporting United Way with the Bicycle Clinic. Henry shared that over 100 bicycles have been serviced to-date. United Way has issued a call for kids' bikes to be donated in time to be fixed up for the holidays.

3. Bike Maps

Henry distributed 2025 foldable bicycling maps to committee members.

Other Business

Henry shared that GVT Route 12 is up and running and free to ride through the end of 2025.

Public Comment

David thanked staff for serving the committee and other efforts.

Rick asked if the \$421,000 was the projected budget for 2026 and suggested that it wasn't enough. Rick shared that more public involvement is needed to alert staff to when conditions are unsafe.

Adjournment

Diana moves to extend meeting. Steve seconds, unanimous approval. Diana moves to adjourn at 7:10 PM. Brent seconds, unanimous approval.