

**GRAND JUNCTION CITY COUNCIL
WORKSHOP AGENDA**

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2005 7:00 P.M.
CITY HALL AUDITORIUM, 250 N. 5TH STREET**

MAYOR'S INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME

7:00 COUNCILMEMBER REPORTS

7:10 CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

7:15 REVIEW FUTURE WORKSHOP AGENDAS [*Attach W-1*](#)

7:20 REVIEW WEDNESDAY COUNCIL AGENDA

7:30 AVALON THEATRE REPORT: Dr. Jerry Moorman will present the final report on the Avalon Study for 2005. The study is part of a strategic planning process for the Avalon Theatre and includes a plan for the continued success of the Theatre. [*Attach W-2*](#)

8:15 BOTANICAL GARDENS: The Botanical Garden Board has requested a meeting with the City Council to review and update the City on recent events and issues of concern. [*Attach W-3*](#)

9:00 7TH STREET CORRIDOR PLAN: Public Works staff to provide City Council with options for the 7th Street Corridor Plan. [*Attach W-4*](#)

ADJOURN

**Attach W1
Review Future Workshop Agendas**

FUTURE CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP AGENDAS

(14 September 2005)

OCTOBER

↪OCTOBER 3, MONDAY 11:30 AM IN ADMINISTRATION CONFERENCE ROOM

11:30 CUSTOMER SERVICE (ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DEPT.)

↪OCTOBER 3, MONDAY 7:00PM

7:00 COUNCIL REPORTS, REVIEW WEDNESDAY AGENDA AND FUTURE WORKSHOP AGENDAS

7:25 CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

7:30 AVALON THEATRE REPORT BY DR. JERRY MOORMAN

8:15 BOTANICAL GARDENS

9:00 7th STREET IMPROVEMENTS

↪OCTOBER 17, MONDAY 11:30 AM LOCATION TBD

11:30 ANNUAL MEETING WITH THE SCHOOL BOARD

↪OCTOBER 17, MONDAY 7:00PM

7:00 COUNCIL REPORTS, REVIEW WEDNESDAY AGENDA AND FUTURE WORKSHOP AGENDAS

7:25 CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

7:30 APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

7:45 COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE

8:00 POLICE DEPARTMENT UPDATE

↪OCTOBER 31 MONDAY 11:30 AM ADMINISTRATION CONFERENCE ROOM

11:30 EMS RFPs

↳ **OCTOBER 31, MONDAY 7:00PM**

- 7:00 COUNCIL REPORTS, REVIEW WEDNESDAY AGENDA AND FUTURE WORKSHOP AGENDAS
- 7:25 CITY MANAGER'S REPORT
- 7:30 STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE (Including a report from the Goal #17 team: weeds)

NOVEMBER

↳ **NOVEMBER 5, → SATURDAY ← 9:00AM – 4:00PM at City Hall Auditorium**

- 8:30 CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST
- 9:00 BUDGET REVIEW (Lunch will be served)
- 4:00 ADJOURN

↳ **NOVEMBER 14, MONDAY 11:30 AM**

- 11:30 TOUR OF POLICE DEPARTMENT CRIME LAB

↳ **NOVEMBER 14, MONDAY 7:00PM**

- 7:00 COUNCIL REPORTS, REVIEW WEDNESDAY AGENDA AND FUTURE WORKSHOP AGENDAS
- 7:25 CITY MANAGER'S REPORT
- 7:30 APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

DECEMBER

↳ **DECEMBER 5, MONDAY 11:30 AM IN ADMINISTRATION CONFERENCE ROOM**

- 11:30 OPEN

↳ **DECEMBER 5, MONDAY 7:00PM**

- 7:00 COUNCIL REPORTS, REVIEW WEDNESDAY AGENDA AND FUTURE WORKSHOP AGENDAS
- 7:25 CITY MANAGER'S REPORT
- 7:30 STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE

↳ **DECEMBER 19, MONDAY 11:30 AM**

- 11:30 OPEN

↳ **DECEMBER 19, MONDAY 7:00PM**

- 7:00 COUNCIL REPORTS, REVIEW WEDNESDAY AGENDA AND FUTURE WORKSHOP AGENDAS
- 7:25 CITY MANAGER'S REPORT
- 7:30 APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

 **BIN LIST** 

1. Incubator Master Plan (at the Department of Energy site)
2. Billboard Ordinance
3. Minors in Possession
4. Jail Study
5. Code Amendments Codification

2005/6 Department Presentations to City Council

December Fire Department

January Two Rivers Convention Center and the Avalon Theatre

**Attach W2
Avalon Theatre Report**

Material provided to City Council under separate cover

Attach W3 Botanical Gardens

Admission

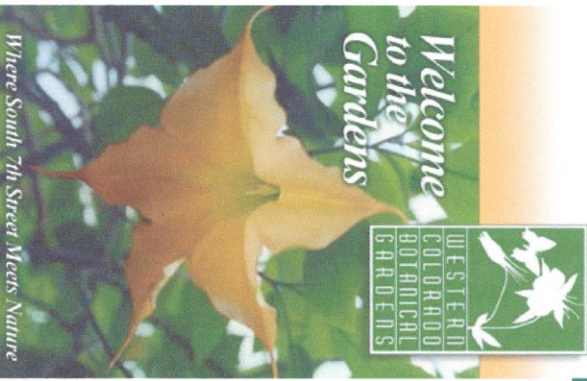
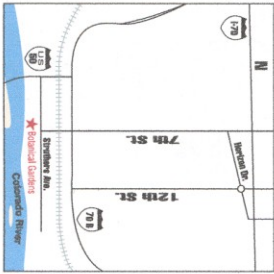
Adults.....	\$3.00
Seniors & Students.....	\$2.00
Children 5-12.....	\$1.50
Under 5.....	Free
Members.....	Free

Hours
 February - October
 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., Tuesday - Sunday
 November - January
 10 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Tuesday - Sunday

Facility Rental
 The Gardens' facilities are available year-round and can be used for weddings, concerts, anniversaries, children's parties, small gatherings, business meetings, and photography/art sessions. The tropical rainforest environment of our Greenhouse and Butterfly House and the splendor of our Grand Mesa set among the majestic views of the Grand Mesa, Colorado National Monument, and Colorado River, make our facility the perfect place to host any special event. For more information, call (970) 245-9030

Tour info
 We welcome tour groups and provide docents (tour guides) for your visit. Please call (970) 245-9030 two weeks in advance to make your reservation.

Map to Site



655 Strubbers Avenue
 Grand Junction, CO 81501
 Office: (970) 245-3288
 Greenhouse: (970) 245-9030
 Fax: (970) 245-9001
 E-Mail: webotanic@rjnet.net
 Web Address: www.webotanic.org

ABOUT THE GARDENS...

The Western Colorado Botanical Gardens (WCBG) is developing its 15-acre site as a place for recreation and education. The Gardens began in 1986 as a non-profit organization of nature lovers, gardeners, and butterfly enthusiasts. This site, previously a salvage yard, took volunteers years of hard work to clear. After your visit, you can picnic, hike, or ride your bicycle on the adjacent Colorado Riverfront Trail.

Greenhouse...
 Feast your eyes on orchid and other blooms, and over 600 exotic tropical plants from around the world. Enjoy a tranquil moment watching the fish looking for our resident toads and green tree frog, and enjoying the sound of the water flowing to the fresh water ponds. There are box turtles as well. The north wall stores solar energy and releases that heat during the night. A motor-operated shading curtain conserves heat in winter and controls heat building in summer. A high pressure fogging system assists with evaporative cooling and supplies moisture to maintain high humidity for the tropical plants.

Butterfly House...
 Explore the mysteries of the butterfly's life cycle as it emerges from the chrysalis in the puparium (a special birthing center for butterfly pupa.) If you are lucky, a butterfly may land on your shoulder in search of nectar from exotic blooming plants. In the Butterfly House you will discover many species of U.S. native butterflies, and... if you listen, the soft chirping of our resident Finch.

Permanent Outdoor Gardens...

The *Butterfly Crossing* was the first garden planted at the site and displays perennials and herbs, as well as compost and turf grass demonstrations.
 The *Cactus Garden* features native and drought-tolerant plants and is cared for by the Chingle Chapter of the Colorado Cactus & Succulent Society.
 The *Elizabeth B. Harris Amphitheater* is beautifully situated among the cottonwoods by the Colorado River and hosts concerts, classes, weddings, and special events.
 The *Roof Hemmerich Memorial Rose Garden* offers a collection of hybrid tea, rugosa, and climbing roses.
Mindy's Sensory Garden is designed to appeal to all of the senses. Here, plants can be experienced through hearing, smelling, touching, and tasting.
 The *Herb Garden*, planted by the Herb Society, is traditionally displayed in four sections: medicinal, culinary, dyes, and fragrance.
 The *Harmony in Color Garden* consists of plants that complement each other through color, contrast, and shape.
 The *Native Garden Environmental Education Center* depicts the ecosystems that surround the Grand Valley, both topographically and botanically. It models the lush meadows of the Grand Mesa, rock formations of Mt. Garfield and the Colorado Plateau region. Each foot of elevation in this garden represents 375 feet of actual elevation.
 The *Children's Secret Garden...* (nearly completed)
 The *Discovery Greenhouse Castle*, which features a real moat, is the centerpiece of this walled, secret garden. The huge giant and dragon sculptures, the amphitheater and tiered gardens invite children to learn, play, and dream. This garden is adjacent to the *Pomrenke Children's Library*. It is used for research, meetings, and classes.
 The *Japanese Garden* (under construction) This garden is one of four gardens designed with water-wise plants and a water-wise delivery system. It is connected to the Native Garden via a scaled-down version of the Colorado River.

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SUPPORTING THE GARDENS

Help the Botanical Gardens Grow
BECOME A MEMBER TODAY

Educational opportunities...

Educating people about horticulture, botany and the area around us is a major goal of the Botanical Gardens. The Gardens make a popular field trip destination for all grade levels. Pre-school and elementary teachers can check out grade-appropriate materials, which meet educational standards, to supplement their curriculum and facilitate the overall learning experience of their visit. The Pomrenke Children's Library is also available to teachers, groups, or individuals interested in doing research. Additionally, we offer classes of all kinds, year-round.



Art at the Gardens...

Two ten-foot butterflies greet arriving visitors while a 60-foot columbine "vine" adorns the greenhouse building. Several other sculptures enhance the gardens.



Botanica Gift Shop...

Gifft Celebrating Nature is the slogan of the gift shop. Here you will find unique items for the pampered gardener, such as bird feeders, wind chimes, and garden accessories. You will also find children's educational games, puzzles and puppets, as well as shirts, music, stationery and much, much more! All proceeds directly benefit the Gardens.

Photographer's paradise...

The color and variety found in the outdoor gardens provide outstanding subjects for photographers and artists. The controlled environment inside the Greenhouse/Butterfly House is perfect for capturing exquisite and exotic details year-round.



- Decents/ Tour Guides
- Office
- Outdoor Gardening
- Gift Shop
- Greenhouse
- Special Events

Tiles...

Honor a special person, event, or occasion with the purchase of a personally inscribed tile for the Gardens. The 6" X 6" tiles can be purchased for \$50.00 without a graphic and \$55.00 with a graphic.



Fence...

Purchase a 10' section of beautiful wrought iron fencing and have your family's name, business name, or special memory engraved on a plaque and placed on your section of fence.

Donations...

Financial gifts and property can be donated via wills, trusts, life insurance, and other methods—often with substantial tax benefits to the donor.



Credits...

Photographs provided by Beth Campbell, Don Campbell, and Peggy Pretti

Basic Membership Benefits:

- Unlimited free admission to the Gardens
- 10% discount in our Botanica Gift Shop
- Subscription to *What's Sprouting?* newsletter
- Discounts to programs and events
- Reciprocal admission to over 100 U.S. gardens
- Free admission to summer concerts sponsored by WCBG

Please check the appropriate category...

Basic Memberships:

Student/Senior	@ \$15
Individual	@ \$25
Senior Couple	@ \$20
Family/Grandparent	@ \$35
Additional Donations\$	

Business Memberships:

Institutional/Non-Profit	@ \$100
Bronze	@ \$100
Gold	@ \$500

Butterfly Circle:

Prillitary	@ \$100-\$249
Monarch	@ \$250-\$749
Swallowtail	@ \$750-\$1000

For further information on Business and Butterfly Circle memberships, please call the office (970) 245-3288, Monday - Friday 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Total Enclosed _____

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Make Check Payable To: WCBG
641 Struthers Avenue
Grand Junction, CO 81501
(970) 245-3288

September President's Letter

Members and Friends of the Botanical Gardens:

Challenges. Challenges. Challenges.

How would we as individuals or organizations develop character, strength and resolve were it not for challenges laid before us? Overcoming challenges and roadblocks in our paths is the means whereby we grow strong and survive. Our country now faces such challenges and on the local level so do many organizations. Your Botanical Gardens is one of these.

I would like to be candid with you. The Botanical Gardens is in a crisis state. On the surface things are vibrant and healthy, even "rosy". I think the Rose Garden is a perfect example of this; the roses flourish as never before and are a beauty to behold. But, beneath the splendor their very sustenance is at peril, namely their supply of water for survival.

As can be readily seen from the beauty and progress of the Gardens these last few years, the Board, volunteers, docents, and staff, have made heroic efforts in obtaining capital construction funding and keeping the gardens in good order. Visitations, media attention, classes and special events have seen big increases during this time. However, costs due to vastly increased utility bills and maintenance costs (with our ever expanding gardens) and not having an executive director (due to budget tightening) to conduct various matters such as public relations and fundraising have often left us short on our monthly operational costs. As alluded to above, we are currently unable to pay our City water bill accrued for the high-demand summer months. An appeal to the City Manager was successful in deferring payment until we address this and other aspects of our situation at a City Council workshop the first part of October.

Our grant sources do not fund operations but rather capital construction, educational programs, etc. We cannot raise enough with our Gift Shop, donations, fundraisers, special events, memberships and admissions to pay for the costs of running a business. We don't have the ability to borrow funds like some organizations could at this stage of their development. Therefore, we are making an earnest appeal to our friends and members of the Gardens to get us "over the hump" with any generous donation you might be able to make at this time. We would use your tax-deductible donations for operating costs and, if possible, hire an executive (at least part time).

Can you purchase a tile, a fence section, or send a donation check? Or, perhaps could you direct us to a friend, associate, or business whom we could contact to discuss becoming a new benefactor of the Gardens with a larger, long term annual contribution? We do have naming rights for larger amounts donated!

We ask you to help get the Gardens through this period so that the magnificent community resource and gateway to Grand Junction it has become remains alive and well.

As I said, challenges help us grow and become strong. The current challenge is shaping up as a formidable one, but one that can be met. We sincerely thank all for your past and future support.

The positive part of this is, don't the Gardens look great?!

Steadfastly,
Carl, your president

**OUTSIDE GROUP FUNDING REQUEST
(2006/7 Budget)
CITY OF GRAND JUNCTION**

APPLICATION FORM

1. APPLICANT

DATE: September 1, 2005

- A. Agency:** Western Colorado Botanical Gardens
- B. Address:** 641 Struthers Avenue, Grand Junction, CO 81501
- C. Contact Person:** Carl Vostatek, President, Board of Directors
Elizabeth Campbell, Vice President, Board of Directors
- D. Telephone:** (970) 245-3288
- E. Email Address:** info@wcbotanic.org
- F. Is this a non-profit agency or organization** **Yes** **No**

2. FUNDING REQUEST

- A. Total amount of City funds being requested:** \$50,000
- B. Period funding is requested: Start date** 1/01/06 **end date** 12/31/06

3. PROJECT

- A. Project Name:** Operating Support
- B. Is this service/project** **New, or** **Ongoing?**
- C. Describe the project in detail, including its history. Please attach a copy of the budget for this project including revenues and expenses. (For more help, please see the attached list of guidelines.)**

The mission of the Western Colorado Botanical Society is to promote responsible conservation of natural resources in western Colorado by providing educational and recreational opportunities for visitors of all ages, while offering an aesthetic setting for cultural and community events.

Achievements and Accomplishments:

In our 8 years of active operation we have made a great deal of progress:

- 1999 recipient of the El Pomar Award for Excellence in Environmental Issues
- Developed a Strategic Plan and a Long Range Plan to ensure continuity in the growth of WCBG for the next 10 years
- Built 5,000 square foot compost and photovoltaic demonstration complex
- Installed innovative irrigation system to use river water
- Publish a newsletter, *What's Sprouting?*, 6 times a year
- Identified and began educational programming, producing science study unit containers for teachers of K-6 grades for the study of invertebrates
- Built a children's library
- Finished approximately 85% of the Children's Secret Garden
- In addition to the above, completed gardens/exhibits include: the Mindy's Sensory Garden, the Herb Garden, the International Garden, the Hemmerich Memorial Rose Garden, the North Channel Nature Trail, the Cactus and Succulent Garden, the Harmony in Color Garden, the Native Garden Environmental Education Center and the Elizabeth Harris Amphitheater
- Began offering concerts in the amphitheater in 2004
- Began renting the amphitheater for weddings/celebrations, lectures, fundraisers, and special events in 2004

Projects in Progress:

- Began the infrastructure of the Japanese Garden with the pond, boulders and pump house in place
- Received a grant from El Pomar Foundation toward the construction of the Celebration Plaza, a collaborative project with the Lynette Jennings Foundation, and the Junior Service League (Walk for Life)
- Received matching grants from the Gates Family Foundation and StEPP Foundation toward completion of the Japanese Garden

Additional Programs:

- The Young Naturalists' Camp - a program presented each summer (collaboratively with the Museum of Western Colorado, Colorado National Monument, Audubon Society and others)

- Free Sunday- the first Sunday of each month
- Environmental responsibility – the significance of efficient water usage, solar energy, organic gardening, wetland ecology, and biological studies drives many of the decisions made as new gardens are planned
- Mindy’s Sensory Garden – an elevated garden featuring plantings which stimulate all of the senses; and includes Braille identification labels
- Initiated a series of classes which will begin fall 2005 to involve a large segment of the community, teaching everything from horticulture to Origami, and more

Statement of Need:

We have been quite successful in raising capital funds. Our challenge, however, remains in raising operational funds. Just three years after we began active operation with the opening of our greenhouse/butterfly house, the stock market began to decline dramatically. This directly affected (negatively) generous contributions from donors. After the 9/11 attack we noticed another dramatic reduction in donations as people were focusing their giving on helping people directly affected by that tragedy. In 2003 the city began installing a storm sewer system in the street directly in front of the gardens which reduced our visitor numbers. Shortly after that the city announced the newly proposed Riverside Parkway would probably go directly through our gardens. Membership dropped significantly and so did donations, as it was not clear if WCBG would continue to exist.

We have also felt the strain of increased energy and insurance costs. Because of ongoing problems we have had using river water, we must use city water for most of our gardens, which costs approximately \$1,250 per month. The cost to keep butterflies flying in the butterfly house (one of our main draws) is approximately \$2,000 per month.

Funding from the city will help provide leverage in seeking funding from grant-makers by giving validity to our programs and projects.

As you know, obtaining operating capital is the hardest money to raise. Funders want to see the tangible product of money granted. We are doing all we can to improve our steady-stream funding by recently establishing two committees (Planned Giving Committee, and Benefactor Committee) which will address those sources of monies.

We have approached major energy companies in order to support our butterfly program.

Goals:

In July 2005 our entire Board of Directors had a Brainstorming Retreat. Among the many great ideas we will be implementing:

- Design a bonus/incentive proposal for potential Executive Director
- Organize a Benefactor Committee to obtain steady-stream funding
- Design a program to involve more local corporations/businesses
- Increase educational programs/classes
- Focus on increased membership
- Institute a program for planned giving
- Increase facility rental – make public aware
- Increase entertainment/recreation programs/projects
- Contact City Council for assistance
- Promote memorial gift sales

Community Benefit:

Western Colorado Botanical Gardens is one of a kind on the western slope, offering educational and recreational opportunities for people from 6 different counties. There are approximately 120,000 people in Grand Junction and the surrounding urban areas. We focus on a broad based outreach by offering not only our wonderful gardens, but also classes, dance groups, musical groups, lectures and demonstrations. We also rent our amphitheater and Children’s Secret Garden for special events, weddings, and parties of all kinds. Situated adjacent to the riverfront trail affords a stopping point for people using that system.

We strive to offer supplemental education to meet the needs of people of all ages and abilities. As we enter yet another year of drought in this semi-arid climate, it is critical that we offer solutions to the public, teaching them how to re-configure their own landscapes using more water-wise choices and demonstrating correct plant placement. We want to demonstrate how to make environment-friendly choices, using less water without being restricted to rocks and cacti.

Contingency Served:

Each garden has a theme, chosen to provide not only education, but also enjoyment and relaxation to people of all ages, interests, and ethnicities. Existing gardens include:

The *Japanese Garden*, will look traditional, but will demonstrate the responsible use of purposefully limited water and xeric plantings.

Mindy’s Sensory Garden was designed, to be enjoyed by people of all ages and abilities. It is a raised garden and is therefore more accessible to people in wheelchairs. The plants were chosen to stimulate all of the five senses, and there are Braille plant identification markers for those who “see” with their fingertips.

The *Native Garden Environmental Education Center* is a very much scaled down re-creation of the entire Grand Valley, including the Grand Mesa, Mt. Garfield, the Colorado River, and the Colorado National Monument.

The *Cactus and Succulent Garden* was designed and planted by the Chinle Cactus and Succulent Society and along with displays of several hundred species; it

encourages visitors to incorporate some of the plants that can be safely over-wintered here into their own landscape.

The *Harmony in Color* decorates the front of the greenhouse and is planted with species which show different colors and textures, depending on the time of year. The *International Garden* was designed, planted, and is maintained entirely by volunteers. The plants represent Mexico, Italy, France, Germany, and the Czech Republic.

The *Children's Secret Garden* (85% complete) is a place for exploration and fun. The castle can be used as a greenhouse or as a castle. It has a working moat, surrounded by theme gardens, a small amphitheater, and concrete giant and dragon for climbing and imagining

The *North Channel Nature Trail*, which leads to Watson Island was entirely constructed by volunteers and is an area where we have worked with the Tamarisk Coalition to rid the site of Tamarisk and Russian Olive trees.

The *Rolf H Hemmerich Memorial Rose Garden* displays a dazzling array of roses which bloom all summer and are maintained in part by the American Rose Society.

The *Herb Garden* – In collaboration with the Colorado Desert Herb Society, this garden provides education in the use and value of the multitude of herb plants which have been used for centuries in medicines, cosmetics, decorations and cooking.

September 6, 2005

City of Grand Junction
Attn: David Varley, Assistant City Manager
250 N. 5th Street
Grand Junction, CO 81501

Dear David:

The Western Colorado Botanical Gardens was established as a 501(c)(3) non-profit in 1986. Our gardens are located on 15 acres leased from the City of Grand Junction. It took the work of 12 local agencies and many volunteers to clear the site which had been a salvage yard in a run-down neighborhood. Aft raising adequate funds, our 4,900 square foot greenhouse/butterfly house was opened in 1997. It is where over 600 tropical plants and approximately 200 North American butterflies thrive. Since then we have welcomed over 20,000 visitors annually; of those, over 1,600 were school children on field trips.

What has emerged is a beautiful spot where an average of 20,000 visitors enjoy the sights, scents, and sounds of our beautiful themed gardens. Though donations are coming in for the Capital Campaign which we kicked off in 2003, there is a great need for operating funds. With a modest admission price of only \$3 for adults, and numerous opportunities for free admission, we must seek additional funds for our day-to-day operations. I hope the City of Grand Junction will deem our project worthy of your support.

Thank you for considering our *Outside Group Funding* application. If you need further information or clarification, please contact me.

Best Regards,

Elizabeth Campbell
Vice President, Board of Directors

Western Colorado Botanical Gardens



Western Colorado Botanical Gardens Site
Pre-Development - 1986



**Attach W4
7th Street Corridor Plan**

CITY OF GRAND JUNCTION

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA							
Subject		7 th Street Corridor Plan					
Meeting Date		October 3, 2005					
Date Prepared		September 30 2005	File # - N/A				
Author		Mike McDill	City Engineer				
Presenter Name		Mark Relph	Public Works and Utilities Director				
Report results back to Council		X	No		Yes	When	
Citizen Presentation			Yes	X	No	Name	
X	Workshop		Formal Agenda			Consent	Individual Consideration

Summary: Consider staff recommendation and direct staff as to which 7th Street Corridor Plan to implement as funding becomes available.

Budget: Project Nos.: 2011-F59600 & F59700

Project Budget:

Phase I (City & Federal Enhancement Funds)	\$ 255,500
Phase II (City & DDA Funding)	\$1,045,000
Design & Bid Document Preparation	62,000
Construction Inspection and Administration (est.)	<u>\$40,000</u>
Total Project Costs	\$1,402,500

Project Funding Sources:

SOURCE	AMOUNT
City of Grand Junction	\$498,073
Downtown Development Authority	\$700,000
CDOT Transportation Enhancement Grant	\$204,427
TOTAL FUNDING	\$1,402,500

Action Requested/Recommendation: Authorize the Public Works staff to proceed with final design for the first two phases of the selected Corridor Plan.

Attachments: Traffic Projection Table
Tabulated results of the Comment Cards from the Open House

Recommendation: Staff recommends the following:

1. One traffic lane in each direction with left turn bays where needed.
2. Reverse angle parking as shown on the three lane option.

3. A properly designed roundabout at the intersection of 7th and Main Streets
4. A properly designed roundabout at the intersection of 7th Street & Grand Avenue.
5. The currently budgeted Phases I & II should consist of the roundabout at 7th & Main and the three blocks immediately north, east and south of it.

The upper limit of how much traffic a 3-lane street section can accommodate varies from 10,000 to as much as 26,000 vehicles per day (vpd)¹. This range is not controlled by the lanes or the vehicles using them, but by the frequency of accesses and intersections and how they are managed. Signalized intersections every block and driveways every thirty feet would tend to drive the capacity down toward the lower limit. Stop controlled through-flow intersections, mid-block medians and very limited driveways accesses are management tools that enable this capacity to rise toward the higher limit. An auxiliary lane and reverse angle parking also improves capacity

The 3-lane option is the only opportunity to eliminate the traffic signals through the corridor. In the 3-lane option traffic travels slower, moves through the corridor in a shorter time and is less of a safety threat to other users of the street. It is safer, more efficient, more aesthetic and less expensive to construct and maintain. The traffic data and projections for traffic growth along this corridor indicate traffic will not reach a point where five lanes are needed to safely accommodate vehicular needs within the design life of any proposed improvements. All of these qualities justify a recommendation of the 3-lane option for this corridor.

Reverse Angle parking provides greater safety when exiting and entering the vehicle. It is also much safer and smoother for drivers pulling into traffic from the parking space. With the proposed auxiliary lane, maneuvering into the space is easier than parallel parking from the main travel lane. This auxiliary lane will also provide extra maneuvering room for emergency response vehicles.

Converting from head-in parking to reverse angle and visa versa is very easy to accomplish, thereby making this a very low risk proposition to test. If it works better than typical head-in parking, we might consider transforming other corridors. If it is too much of a problem, small modifications to the end-caps and some paint will transform it to either head-in or parallel parking. It seems that the opportunity for increased safety is large and the risk of trying it is very small.

¹ In a report entitled "Road Diets - Fixing the Big Roads" written by Dan Burden and Peter Lagerway, 17 examples of successful urban street conversions throughout the country are shown, with traffic volumes ranging from 10,000 to 26,000 vehicles per day. Larimer County street standards for two-lane (with center turn lane) minor arterial streets have a functional

parameter of 7001-16000 vehicles per day. A study by the Iowa DOT, The Conversion of Four-Lane Undivided Urban Roadways to Three-Lane Facilities, concluded there are numerous advantages to reducing the number of traffic lanes. These include a substantial reduction in accident rates, improved sight distance, more user-friendly to elderly drivers, improved pedestrian safety, keeping aggressive driving to a minimum and improved emergency response time when two-way left lanes are installed.

The roundabout proposed at 7th and Main Streets is an excellent application of this traffic control device. The volumes are only projected to be about 8,000 to 9,000 at this location. Speeds will already be slower than they are today. The facility can be designed to accommodate emergency vehicles and even parades. Recent research and experience presented at the International Roundabout conference held in Vail last May demonstrated that pedestrian use at roundabouts is better than any other type of intersection.²

A roundabout application at Grand Avenue is more challenging. In the long term, a roundabout is the better way to address the congestion caused by the high volume of left turns from east bound Grand Avenue to north bound 7th Street. The challenge will be to design a facility that can accommodate the projected traffic, provide safe passage for pedestrians/bicycles and still not be too confusing for motorists. This being done, the reduction accident potential and steadier flow of traffic may justify the expense. However, a properly designed transitional signalized intersection can be an acceptable alternative at this location for some time to come. The high function of the rest of the corridor does not depend on a roundabout at Grand Avenue.

Based on the alternatives recommended, the first two phases should be the construction of the roundabout at 7th & Main and the three adjacent blocks. The main reason for this progression is that the roundabout requires proper approach treatments which will extend about a half block in each direction. This module of construction will be a stand alone improvement that can function independently until funding is available for the rest of the corridor.

Future construction phases can extend either north or south from these initial phases as funds become available. Because 7th Street is already a single through lane south of Colorado, any future construction in that direction will be very easy to blend into the surrounding street system. Any future phases to the north will need to be sensitive to the transition from two to one southbound travel lanes. There are at least a couple of ways to make this transition. Each transition option will need to be evaluated based on the exact location along the corridor.

Background Information: This corridor planning process is the result of a project to provide a “7th Street Streetscaping/Medians enhancement project,” as the original CDOT grant application stated. This corridor already has two separate projects being planned, with more to potentially follow at a later date. These include the original City/DDA project plus a separate CDOT funded project. To build any portion of this corridor it is important to have an overall plan to guide us. The outcome of this process will be an agreed upon arrangement

for how these two projects will compliment any future improvements to 7th Street south of Grand Avenue.

This process started in 1996, when Ciavonne & Associates were commissioned by the DDA to develop some concepts for enhancing 7th Street. Funds were not available at the time, but those sketches established a vision for this portion of the City.

² The Public Works Director for the Town of Vail reported that they had at least one pedestrian accident every year at Mid-Vail until they installed a roundabout ten years ago. They have not experience a single accident since then.

When a funding package came together in 2004, the concept became a real project and the planning process began. This package included a federal Transportation Enhancement Grant for \$204,427 and DDA participation of \$700,000. The Enhancement grant was based on a request for \$350,000 to construct one block of a four block project (from the south side of Grand to Main and one block east along Main). CDOT's actual award of this grant was only for 80% of a \$255,500 project. In 2003, \$350,000 was the historic cost to reconstruct one block of our arterial street section. This unit price was based on the inflation adjusted construction costs for UnawEEP Avenue (1999), 24 Road (2000), 25 Road (2001-2) and 29 Road (2002-3).

With the help of our design consultants, the first public process was an intense three day series of meetings with local stakeholders. The first day was devoted to small focus group meetings with various interest groups including property owners, government & public organization decision makers, restaurateurs, service providers, and the DDA board.

The second day included a publicly advertised "Design Charrette," an intensive, large group, brain-storming session involved in defining a problem and coming up with solutions. In this Charrette, Dan Burden presented the goal of making 7th Street more pedestrian and business friendly. He also presented a list of features that have worked successfully in other locations. The group discussed and then voted with adhesive dots for the features they saw as being most appropriate for this corridor. Finally, after more discussion of the problem and potential solutions, smaller groups gathered around maps of the corridor to create their own visions of what it might look like.

Our design consultant developed used the group vision drawings, the physical limitations of the corridor and standards of practice for traffic and civil engineering to develop a best fit concept. This best fit became the 3-lane concept presented to City Council on May 16.

At the Council workshop, staff received valuable feedback from Council, including a request to hold an open house where the public could compare for themselves at least three options for the corridor. On August 31 an open house was held at Two Rivers Convention Center where three distinct options were presented side by side with equal detail. Dan Burden made presentations about

the potential concepts that could be incorporated into this corridor. Information regarding traffic capacity and travel speeds was also available for viewing. About 200 people attended this open house and 144 returned comment cards.

79 of the people who signed the log book gave addresses south of North Avenue. 52 were north of North Avenue. Another 19 were from the Redlands area with the rest scattered across the Grand Valley from Fruita to Whitewater.

The primary response we received at the open house and Charrette was that the north-south traffic must be accommodated through this important corridor. The next logical question was “Which Plan will best accommodate this traffic while addressing other goals of the corridor. The comment cards asked for opinions on this issue relating to the four Corridor Plan options with the following results:

Total favoring the “Do Nothing” alternative – 10

Total favoring the 5-lane option (Total Estimated Corridor Cost = \$3.0 Million) – 28

Total favoring the 4-lane option (Total Estimated Corridor Cost = \$3.3 Million) – 9

Total favoring the 3-lane option (Total Estimated Corridor Cost = \$3.5 Million) – 97

Many of the people who preferred the 3-lane option indicated they believed that section would best handle the traffic and provide other amenities along this stretch of 7th Street. Of those favoring the 3-lane option, 75 also liked the two roundabouts and the reverse angle parking. Ten preferred three lanes, but without the roundabout at 7th & Grand. Nine were not comfortable with the reverse angle parking. The outcome of the open house seems to support the same concept that was developed in the Charrette.

Most people who favored the 5-lane option also mentioned a concern to preserve traffic flow on 7th Street as a last unrestricted north-south corridor. The 4-lane advocates liked the idea of continuing the look of the Historic District farther south on 7th Street.

All projections from the RTPO traffic model indicate that no more than three lanes will be needed for at least twenty-five years into the future. This is the same model that justified three lanes along 29 Road from Patterson Road to North Avenue and the portions of Riverside Parkway west of 25 Road and east of Highway 50. There is a chance that any one of these streets might require more lanes sometime in the future, but not within the foreseeable economic design horizon.

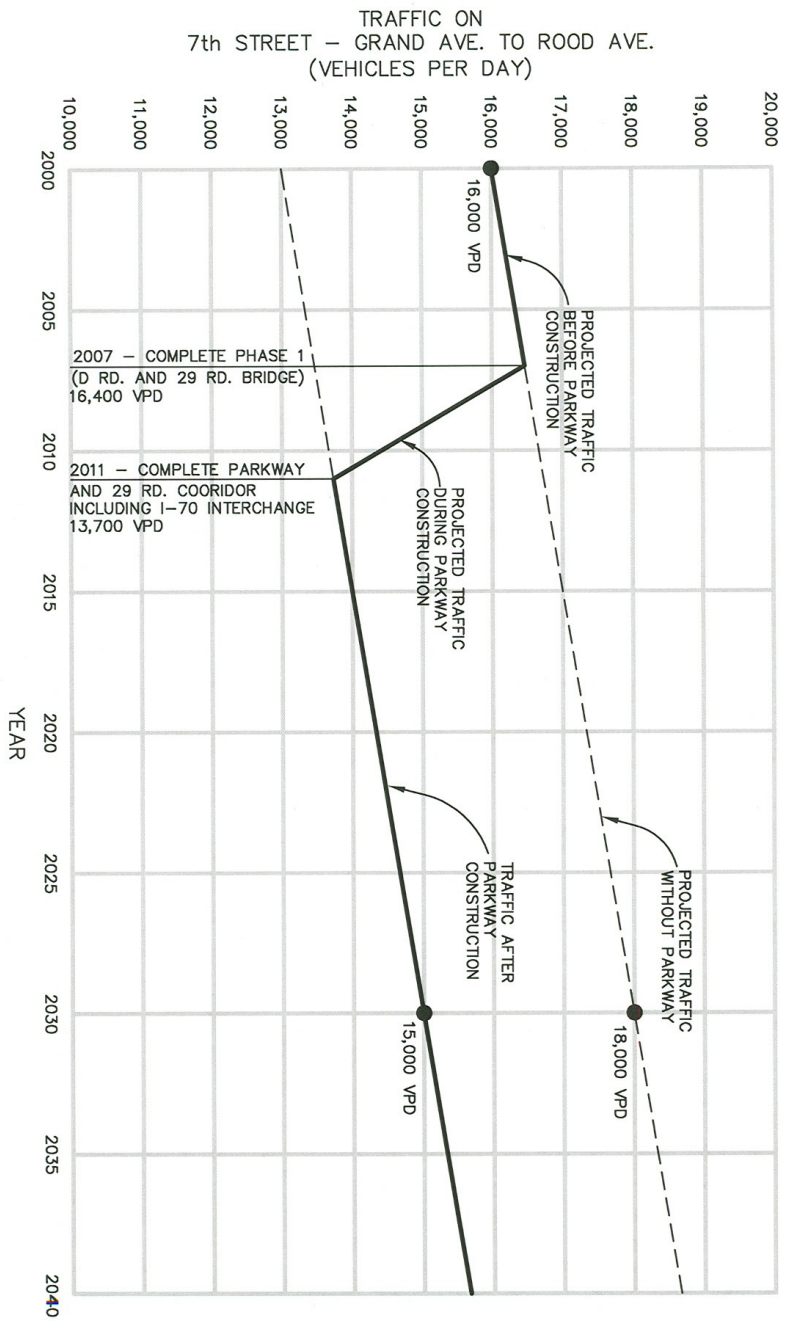
A question that arose during the open house process was how much the design of this corridor depended on completion of the Riverside Parkway and 29 Road corridors. As the attached table illustrates, the Riverside Parkway & 29 Road will have a beneficial effect on 7th Street traffic in the long term. The RTPO model indicates that 7th Street south of Grand carried about 16,000 vehicles per day (vpd) in 2000. The same model predicts about 18,000 vpd in 2030 if the

Parkway is not constructed and only 15,000 vpd if it is completed. The difference between these two projected volumes is mostly pass-through traffic that will choose to use the Parkway if it is available.

If traffic continues to grow at the straight line rate projected by the model, this stretch of 7th Street would not reach 18,000 vpd again until about 2075. Our traffic model does not project beyond twenty-five years because the variability of all of the different inputs creates too large of a margin of error. Projecting out to 2075 is far beyond the accuracy of any model but the figures do tell us that this street section will function well for a long time beyond our design horizon.

There may be sometime in the future when the changing character of the City again requires more than three lanes through this corridor. In that case the right-of-way will still be there to meet those needs. In the meantime our citizens will only have to maintain the three lanes that are needed. The balance of the right-of-way will be available for other uses like parking, pedestrian amenities, and art or café space.

TRAFFIC PROJECTIONS
7th STREET - GRAND AVE. TO ROOD AVE.
BASED UPON THE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION
PLANNING ORGANIZATIONS MODEL



LEGEND
 ● 16,000 VPD
 MODELED TRAFFIC COUNTS BASED UPON THE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATIONS MODEL

**7th Street Corridor Plan
Open House
August 31, 2005
Two Rivers Convention Center**

Total attendance: 200

Total comment sheets received: 144

Geographical breakdown of those who signed in:

- Downtown (North Ave. south to the river) 79
- North (north of North Ave.) 52
- East 10
- Northwest 2
- Redlands 19
- Orchard Mesa 7
- Fruita 3
- Pear Park 1
- Little Park Road 1
- Whitewater 2
- Post Office box listed 8

Total favoring the “Do Nothing” alternative: 10

Comments included:

- 7th Street is OK now. First priority should be parking for downtown
- A new library is needed much more (2 comments)
- I can't see the reason for fixing something that isn't broken
- 7th Street is the only high-volume street that runs all the way through GJ in a north-south direction. The City should do nothing to impede traffic flow on 7th. Traffic moves thru this area very well as is

Total favoring the 3-lane option: 97

- Of the 97 favoring the 3-lane option, 75 like it exactly as shown on the plans at the Open House, including roundabouts and reverse-angle parking
- Of the 97 favoring the 3-lane option, 10 people stated they liked three lanes, but did NOT want a roundabout at 7th and Grand
- Of the 97, another 9 people liked everything EXCEPT the reverse-angle parking
- One favored three lanes with no roundabouts and no reverse-angle parking
- One favored three lanes with no diagonal parking
- One favored three lanes with no parallel parking

Those favoring the 3-lane option cited many reasons for liking this option, including:

- Moving traffic safely and efficiently
- More aesthetically pleasing
- Better traffic flow
- Safer for both traffic and pedestrians
- Cheaper
- Connects historic district with downtown
- We love roundabouts!
- More landscaping and pedestrian spaces
- An opportunity to further enhance the downtown area
- Like the roundabouts
- Pedestrian friendly
- More parking
- Opportunity for more art

Total favoring the 4-lane option: 9

- Comments included adding bike lanes (2 comments)
- Adding turn lanes (2 comments)
- No reverse-angle parking (3 comments)

Those who liked the 4-lane option cited the following reasons:

- Continuity with 7th Street to the north
- Consistent with the Historic District
- Like trees and green areas
- It allows the same capacity for traffic as there is today
- Attractive-continuous with 7th north into the residential area

Total favoring the 5-lane option: 28

- Most of these comments mentioned that 7th Street is a main north/south corridor and should remain that way without slowing traffic down.
- Of the 28, 17 liked the plan as shown at the meeting
- There were two comments against reverse-angle parking

There was one comment each on the following:

- Yes on a roundabout at 7th and Main and reverse-angle parking
- Yes on reverse-angle parking
- Use a slip-lane on a roundabout
- No roundabout at 7th and Grand and no reverse-angle parking
- Build a mix of 5-lane and 3-lane
- Yes on roundabouts, no on reverse-angle parking
- Yes on a roundabout at 7th and Main

Other comments on the 5-lane option:

- Most practical—allows for traffic flow and traffic growth
- Left turn lanes are needed for traffic flow
- 7th Street is a primary southbound commuter route from Horizon Drive to Orchard Mesa
- 7th Street needs to move traffic

- We need turn lanes. People making left turns on 7th now block traffic in the left lane
- Do not cut down on traffic flow, it is already heavy enough
- Never do roundabouts!
- Prefer the additional parking and the turn lane features