

The process to develop this ballot issue was flawed and less than transparent. The media announcement of the ballot issue was a surprise to most people. What is this new "Westside Beltway?" There are other pressing needs including: Horizon Drive, North Avenue, 29 Road, storm drainage, Orchard Mesa, Matchett Park, Los Colonias Park, and recreational facilities. There is no public evidence that the City Council weighed the merits of these other projects against this new project.

The proposed project is not well thought-out. New development on the western fringe of the City will only exacerbate cross-town traffic problems. The proposed routes along 25 Road and an extended F1/2 Road run adjacent to high-voltage power lines. The new western extension of F1/2 will not line up with the existing F1/2 Road east of 25 Road. Do we want another intersection like Orchard Avenue and 28 Road?

There was only one perfunctory public hearing where the Council asked for comment on their proposal. The final decision was made at this meeting. Obviously, public comment could have no impact. Citizens do not deserve this shabby treatment.

Vote NO and send the message that taxpayers expect better from their elected representatives.

MESA COUNTY CLERK AND RECORDER  
PO BOX 20000  
GRAND JUNCTION, CO 81502-5009



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PERMIT #134

*This Election will be conducted by mail ballot. Walk-in voting is also available at the Mesa County Elections office at 200 S. Spruce Street, Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. from March 9, 2015 through April 6, 2015, and from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on April 7, 2015.*

**TO: ALL REGISTERED VOTERS**

**NOTICE OF ELECTION ON A REFERRED MEASURE**

CITY OF GRAND JUNCTION  
Mesa County, Colorado

**Election Date:** Tuesday, April 7, 2015  
**Election Hours:** 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

**Local Election Office Address and Telephone Number:**

Stephanie Tuin, City Clerk  
City of Grand Junction  
250 North 5th Street  
Grand Junction, Colorado 81501  
Telephone: (970) 244-1509

**CERTIFICATION**

Pursuant to §1-7-905, C.R.S.,

I hereby certify that the above ballot issue notice is complete as submitted by the political subdivision.



Mesa County Clerk, Sheila Reiner

**Ballot Title and Text:**

**CITY OF GRAND JUNCTION REFERRED MEASURE 2A**

RESTORING AUTHORITY TO THE CITY TO PROVIDE EITHER DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY WITH PUBLIC OR PRIVATE SECTOR PARTNERSHIPS HIGH-SPEED INTERNET AND CABLE TELEVISION SERVICE

SHALL THE CITY OF GRAND JUNCTION, WITHOUT INCREASING TAXES BY THIS MEASURE, BE AUTHORIZED TO PROVIDE, EITHER DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY WITH PUBLIC OR PRIVATE SECTOR PARTNER(S), HIGH-SPEED INTERNET SERVICES (ADVANCED SERVICE), TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES AND/OR CABLE TELEVISION SERVICES AS DEFINED BY §§29-27-101 TO 304 OF THE COLORADO REVISED STATUTES, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO ANY NEW AND IMPROVED HIGH BANDWIDTH SERVICE(S) BASED ON FUTURE TECHNOLOGIES, TO RESIDENTS, BUSINESSES, SCHOOLS, LIBRARIES, NONPROFIT ENTITIES AND OTHER USERS OF SUCH SERVICES, WITHOUT LIMITING ITS HOME RULE AUTHORITY?

**Summary of Written Comments FOR Referred Measure 2A:**

No comments were filed by the constitutional deadline.

**Summary of Written Comments AGAINST Referred Measure 2A:**

No comments were filed by the constitutional deadline.

**CITY OF GRAND JUNCTION REFERRED MEASURE 2B**

AUTHORIZING THE CITY TO INCUR ADDITIONAL DEBT FOR TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS (WESTSIDE BELTWAY) AND TO KEEP AMOUNTS IN EXCESS OF AMOUNTS WHICH THE CITY IS PERMITTED TO SPEND UNDER TABOR IN ORDER TO PAY DEBT SERVICE AND FINANCING AND CONSTRUCTION COSTS OF WESTSIDE BELTWAY PROJECTS

WITHOUT ANY INCREASE OF ANY EXISTING TAX RATE AND WITHOUT IMPOSING ANY NEW TAXES SHALL CITY OF GRAND JUNCTION, COLORADO (CITY) DEBT BE INCREASED \$14,500,000 WITH A REPAYMENT COST OF \$16,500,000 TO PROVIDE FINANCING FOR THE PURPOSE OF PAYING FOR ALL OR ANY PORTION OF THE COSTS OF THE DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION OF TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENTS KNOWN AND REFERRED TO AS THE WESTSIDE BELTWAY WHICH INCLUDES 25 ROAD FROM I-70 B/HIGHWAY 6&50 TO F 1/2 ROAD, F 1/2 ROAD TO 24 ROAD AND 24 ROAD FROM PATTERSON ROAD TO THE INTERCHANGE AT I-70; SHALL SUCH DEBT BE PAYABLE FROM SUCH CITY REVENUES AS THE CITY COUNCIL MAY DETERMINE AND BE ISSUED WITH SUCH TERMS AS THE CITY COUNCIL DETERMINES TO BE NECESSARY AND IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE CITY; AND SHALL THE CITY, WITHOUT ANY INCREASE OF ANY EXISTING TAX RATE AND WITHOUT IMPOSING ANY NEW TAXES, BE AUTHORIZED TO CONTINUE TO RETAIN ALL REVENUES IN EXCESS OF AMOUNTS WHICH THE CITY IS PERMITTED TO SPEND UNDER ARTICLE X, SECTION 20 OF THE COLORADO CONSTITUTION (TABOR), INCLUDING THE CURRENT RIVERSIDE PARKWAY DEBT RETIREMENT FUND, FOR 2015 AND SUBSEQUENT YEARS UNTIL 2024, FOR THE PAYMENT OF ALL CITY DEBT ISSUED FOR RIVERSIDE PARKWAY AND THE WESTSIDE BELTWAY UNTIL ALL DEBT IS PAID IN FULL, WITH ALL AMOUNTS RETAINED TO BE USED FOR PAYMENT OF THE COSTS OF THE FINANCING, DEBT, INTEREST AND COSTS OF ISSUANCE AND CONSTRUCTION INCURRED FOR THESE PROJECTS?

**Total City Fiscal Year Spending**

FISCAL YEAR

2015 (estimated)	\$60,527,310
2014 (estimated)	\$56,742,271
2013 (actual)	\$56,700,493
2012 (actual)	\$54,114,400
2011 (actual)	\$54,118,651

Overall percentage change from 2011 - 2015 11.8%

Overall dollar change from 2011 - 2015 \$6,408,659

**Information on Proposed Debt**

Principal Amount of Proposed Bonds:	Not to exceed \$14,500,000
Maximum Annual Repayment Cost:	Not to exceed \$ 2,500,000
Total Repayment Cost:	Not to exceed \$16,500,000

**Information on Current City Debt<sup>1</sup>**

Principal Amount Outstanding Debt:	\$ 69,300,000
Maximum Annual Repayment Cost:	\$ 7,421,660
Remaining Total Repayment Cost:	\$121,987,949

**Summary of Written Comments FOR Referred Measure 2B:**

No comments were filed by the constitutional deadline.

**Summary of Written Comments AGAINST Referred Measure 2B:**

Measure 2B is wordy but the words only serve to disguise what is actually being proposed. What the City Council is asking for is approval to spend \$27.5 million on a road project that may not be needed for many years. Note that the ballot issue only mentions \$16.5 million of the proposed expenditure.

In 2004, voters approved a large debt to construct the Riverside Parkway. Because the economy did well, a 2007 election asked voters for permission to retain excess TABOR revenue to pay off the debt early, thus reducing the number of years that large debt payments would be required. The voters wisely agreed to use the excess as suggested. TABOR excess revenue since 2007 has been saved for early debt retirement and by 2016 approximately \$11 million will be available. We are well on our way to being debt free in a few years.

Now the current City Council wants to renege on the early debt retirement promise. Instead, they are asking to take the accumulated \$11 million plus future TABOR excesses for the next eight years, and then borrow an additional \$14.5 million of new debt to pay for this project. Meanwhile, city taxpayers will be saddled with principal and interest for two debt issuances until 2024, and TABOR refunds will not be available until 2025 at the earliest.

If Ballot question 2B passes, the current City Council will effectively De-Bruce the City from all revenue sources until 2025; additionally, they will void the prior commitment to retire the Riverside Parkway debt early.

<sup>1</sup> Excluded from debt are enterprise and annual appropriation obligations.