

**GRAND JUNCTION CITY COUNCIL
WORKSHOP SUMMARY
May 16, 2005**

The City Council of the City of Grand Junction, Colorado met on Monday, May 16, 2005 at 7:03 p.m. in the City Hall Auditorium to discuss workshop items. Those present were Councilmembers Bonnie Beckstein, Teresa Coons, Jim Doody, Gregg Palmer, Jim Spehar, Doug Thomason and President of the Council Bruce Hill.

Summaries and action on the following topics:

1. **INTRODUCE NEW CITY EMPLOYEES & VIEW NEW EMPLOYEE VIDEO:** City Council viewed the employee video. City Manager Kelly Arnold gave a brief overview of the employee orientation program. Then Department Directors introduced their new employees.

2. **PROJECT CITIZEN PRESENTATIONS:** Two groups of students from Bookcliff Middle School presented their projects to the City Council. The projects were about traffic safety on Orchard Avenue in front of the school and Teen Curfew. Daren Cook, their teacher, introduced the presentation and gave Council an overview of the Project Citizen Program.

3. **REVIEW WEDNESDAY COUNCIL AGENDA**
Code Project Contract: Discussion of this project and the direction on scheduling this item for Wednesday or for more discussion at another workshop. City Manager Kelly Arnold explained the reason for bringing this project forward. The action would also authorize the City Manager to sign a contract. He explained the benefit is to have an accurate Code Book.

Action summary: The Council agreed to keep the item on the Wednesday agenda.

4. **GRAND MESA AVENUE TRAFFIC CALMING:** Residents of the Grand Mesa Avenue area have completed the traffic calming policy steps necessary to request the installation of speed humps on Grand Mesa Avenue. Transportation Engineer Jody Kliska introduced this request noting this will be the last neighborhood allowed to come through the process. The installation will be performed by City crews. She said the Santa Clara traffic calming last year moved traffic over to Grand Mesa Avenue. The Police Department has participated in additional enforcement. Ms. Kliska said the neighborhood's first choice was to close the street but there was not enough right-of-way to construct a turn around so the second choice was to install traffic calming humps.

Councilmember Coons asked if this project would then move the traffic to another street. Ms. Kliska said the only other option is Unawep which is the collector street and where it was hoped that the Santa Clara traffic would go initially.

Angie Ashley, 545 Grand Mesa Avenue, said that she lived on Grand Mesa Avenue for 18 years and said that it used to be a quiet neighborhood but now there can be ten cars piled up waiting for the school bus.

Dorothy Green, 655 Grand Mesa Avenue, said that she tried several measures to slow traffic but said that the street is still being used as a speedway.

John Anderson, 1675 Aspen Street, a resident on the curve of where Grand Mesa Avenue ends, said Santa Clara which is 3/10 of a mile, has six speed bumps that were installed. He said the traffic increased substantially on Grand Mesa Avenue after the speed bumps were installed and it has created problems with high speed and reckless driving, loud stereos and mufflers, trash and debris, personal property damage and mail box damage. He said going to his irrigation pumps is now an adventure and backing out of the driveway is dangerous. He said the Terrel's have lived there for 48 years and backing out of their driveway is very dangerous for them. Mr. Anderson said that he put in a circular driveway and if no traffic calming is completed then he will let the Terrel's cut a right-of-way to his driveway so that they can get out of their driveway safely.

Councilmember Coons asked about the aggressiveness of the speed bumps and wondered if it would be the same for Grand Mesa Avenue. Ms. Kliska said a template for speed humps was created and that it would be the same on Grand Mesa Avenue. Ms. Kliska said that she has not heard that Santa Clara is against their speed bumps. Councilmember Palmer and Councilmember Thomason said they have both been contacted regarding the Santa Clara speed bumps.

Councilmember Spehar said this is an example of why this program needs reviewed. He said the City can either install new speed bumps on Grand Mesa or take out the speed bumps from Santa Clara to resolve the issue.

Councilmember Palmer thought the Santa Clara fix would still affect Grand Mesa.

Councilmember Coons asked if it is an option without informing the Santa Clara residents. City Attorney John Shaver responded that Council has the authority to do that.

Councilmember Doody said that he supports speed bumps on Grand Mesa.

Councilmember Thomason said that he has received a number of complaints regarding Santa Clara. He felt that it would be worth revisiting and to take the opportunity to address the problem.

Councilmember Spehar said, with installing speed bumps on Grand Mesa Avenue, the traffic will have no other alternative but to use Unaweep.

Council President Hill said that staff would need to revisit the Santa Clara residents before pulling their speed bumps and perhaps may need to revisit both Santa Clara and Grand Mesa Avenue before the installation of more speed bumps.

Councilmember Palmer said that is a great idea, to look at the entire area and look at all of the options.

Council President Hill asked about temporary speed bumps.

Councilmember Spehar said that he agrees with putting temporary speed bumps on Grand Mesa Avenue. He said this will give these people some relief, while Council sorts this out.

Councilmember Doody asked if there will be some kind of data back on the temporary relief of the speed bumps. Ms. Kliska said yes, she can bring back a report.

Council President Hill asked for a review in six months with the data received back on the temporary relief due to the speed bumps.

Action summary: Council directed Ms. Kliska to have temporary speed bumps installed on Grand Mesa Avenue and to schedule a review in six months. Meanwhile, the Council will begin further discussions of this and alternative programs for traffic calming.

The Council President called a recess at 9:03 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 9:15 p.m.

5. **UPDATE ON STREET BEAUTIFICATION PROJECT FOR DOWNTOWN (SEVENTH STREET AND MAIN STREET):** Review the conceptual plan prepared for 7th Street and Main Street and provide feedback for completing the preliminary design of this corridor. City Engineer Mike McDill introduced this topic. He said staff is looking for feedback and

wants to make sure the City is heading in the right direction for the downtown area.

Ted Ciavonne, Ciavonne, Roberts & Associates, addressed the Council. He said that Dan Burden, who is nationally recognized in walkable communities, was invited to join the team. The team led the charette and sent out 450 brochures to folks, two blocks on either side of the study area. He said there were six focus groups; on Friday the groups had a presentation and interactive activities and on Saturday they had walking tours and educational sessions. He next reviewed how the stop lights decrease capacity but by having no stop lights it will increase capacity and slow down the traffic. He said he has a list of items that are desired on 7th Street which are: trees, roundabout, no stop lights, medians, streetscapes like fountains, benches, public art, and more off-street parking. Mr. Ciavonne said Saturday afternoon, the design workshop formed into 3 groups and came up with different ideas, and he said there were three excellent concepts that were designed. The team then combined the three concepts. Mr. Ciavonne said they presented the combined concept to DDA, City staff and the Steering Committee. He said going from five lanes to only three can still carry the same amount of traffic. He explained the concept of reverse angle parking. He said that it makes sense reversing the parking because it would increase parking by 60% and it is a single movement.

Councilmember Thomason asked about the speed limit.

Mr. Ciavonne said the speed limit would be in the 20 mph to 25 mph range and 15 mph in the roundabouts.

Councilmember Palmer questioned how traffic lights decrease the capacity and how roundabouts will increase the capacity. It was explained that roundabouts allow the traffic to flow; signals stop half the traffic.

Council President Hill asked if the traffic signals will stay at Rood and Colorado.

Ms. Kliska said there are currently four lights and only one that is necessary under federal standards at 7th and Grand, however, the only one that she feels comfortable taking out today is 7th and Colorado but the new proposal is to take them all out.

Councilmember Palmer questioned the safety and said this is the primary corridor for the fire department. He asked if the roundabouts will accommodate the larger fire trucks. Ms. Kliska said there is no final design yet but they will work with the fire department to resolve their issues and insure emergency access.

Councilmember Palmer said the City can not compromise on that situation.

Ms. Kliska said there are three maps included in the packet. She said they have asked RTPPO for a modeling of the downtown area.

Councilmember Palmer questioned why the model showed no increase in parking in 30 years.

Ms. Kliska said that the downtown has been built out, so the City will not see a huge increase in traffic and also the 29 Road and Riverside Parkway interchange will take care of a lot of the current cut through traffic.

Ms. Kliska said when you take out signals it will help with capacity of traffic. She said this is successful for traffic volumes in this range. Ms. Kliska said that there are other benefits with having roundabouts which would benefit the pedestrians, it would create less aggressive driving, and would reduce the amount of traffic going south at Grand.

Councilmember Beckstein asked about the time frame for the proposal.

Mr. McDill said the finalized plan would be completed between now and early spring, and the construction would start in the summer of 2006.

Councilmember Beckstein questioned if the Riverside Parkway will compensate the flow of traffic when 5th Street and the 29 Road portion of Riverside Parkway is completed.

Mr. McDill reviewed some of the concerns that he has heard which are preserving capacity, response time, and hard to believe traffic remains the same. He said the beltway will change the way people drive. Mr. McDill did express how much more comfortable he is knowing that the auxiliary lane will make each lane 17 feet.

Councilmember Spehar questioned why the proposal is double the budget for the project.

Mr. McDill stated the project costs have not changed and feels that they can still complete the project.

Councilmember Spehar said that he feels this is the wrong time to ask for more money. He feels they can still do the improvements for \$1,400,000.

Mr. McDill said this is one of the crux of the issue but it is hard pressed to short cut this, which is the communities vision.

Councilmember Spehar said the budget, aesthetics, efficiency, and amenities are four issues and he feels Council is not ready tonight to make a decision.

Mr. McDill said that staff had to have a concept to bring to the public and have other open houses which will give the community the opportunity to see what they have to choose from.

Council President Hill stated that he doesn't feel that the roundabout will help but maybe a roundabout located at Grand could help and feels that if 7th Street could run smoother that it might be used more, but then again will the City want to increase the traffic on 7th Street.

Councilmember Coons said that she would love to see a roundabout at Grand.

Councilmember Doody asked for more clarification on roundabouts and pedestrians.

Mr. McDill explained and then said it might encourage mid block crossing.

Councilmember Thomason said that two roundabouts might dilute the aesthetics of the corridor, but supports one at Main and 7th Streets.

Councilmember Thomason asked when this project was initiated.

Mark Relph, Public Works Director, said ten years ago.

Councilmember Palmer said this is not a question of if, it's a question of how and with feedback from all us, Council is not trying to dis on the current proposal but to give ideas to provide for the community.

Councilmember Beckstein asked about the roundabout at Grand & 7th and asked how it would affect the historical area.

Mr. McDill said that it is not designed so he doesn't know but the sketches so far are operating within the existing right-of-way and the goal is to connect the two areas.

Councilmember Beckstein said this looks really attractive but has concerns for pedestrians in those corridors.

Councilmember Spehar said the goal is to add more parking and that he has not heard such on that.

Action summary: Staff had received sufficient feedback that other alternatives need to be presented and the budget needs to be an important consideration.

The Council President called a recess at 10:20 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 10:29 p.m.

6. **UPDATE FROM THE GATEWAY/BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE REGARDING IMPROVEMENTS AT I-70 AND HORIZON DRIVE AND I-70 AND 24 ROAD:** Staff provided an update on the landscaping projects at Horizon Drive and I-70 and at 24 Road and I-70, including information related to the CDOT project to replace the bridge at 24 Road and I-70. Assistant City Manager David Varley reviewed this item. He explained how they came up with the proposals. He deferred to Tim Moore, Public Works Manager, for more explanation. Mr. Moore said the idea is to come up with a design for entryways that would be common through out Grand Junction, so visitors will know they are in Grand Junction.

Council President Hill gave a brief history of the gateway committee. He said the City needs to take elements from other existing areas and blend them together. He said the County wanted the City to look at the design at 30 Road and try to blend with that element.

Mr. Moore explained some of the concepts and some costs estimates that are very preliminary. He said there is no plan for structures, for a number of years so the gateway committee looked at treatments for underneath the structures. He said the irrigation will be needed even though the landscaping will be zeroscape.

Councilmember Spehar asked if everything meets federal standards.

Mr. Moore said yes.

Council President Hill said that a member of CDOT sits on the gateway committee.

Mr. Moore said CDOT is ready to bid the 24 Road bridge in June.

Councilmember Thomason asked will there be traffic disruption at 24 Road. Mr. Moore said the old bridge will stay until the new bridge is in place.

Craig Snyder, with CDOT said the old bridge will keep the traffic going. He said there will be better flow with two roundabouts with enough room on the shoulders to increase traffic lanes if needed.

Kelly Arnold, City Manager, asked about the lane width.

Mr. Snyder said the lanes would be 18 feet wide.

Councilmember Doody asked if the maintenance would be provided by CDOT.

Mr. Snyder said yes, but the landscaping will be maintained by the City.

Council President Hill said it has been good working with CDOT.

Mr. Moore said staff will be back in June or July to talk about the budget.

Action summary: Council reviewed the update and staff will return in June or July to review the proposed budget for the gateway improvement..

7. **APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS & COMMISSIONS:** Applications have closed on Walker Field Airport Authority, Downtown Development Authority, and Parks & Recreation Advisory Board. City Council can now pare the lists of candidates and schedule interviews.

City Clerk, Stephanie Tuin, reviewed the process and the number of applicants that had applied. She advised that there has been a recent resignation on the Visitor and Convention Bureau Board. City Clerk Tuin solicited volunteers for each interviewed team.

Action summary: City Clerk Tuin will suggest dates for interviews to the various interview teams, she will send out the list of Parks and Recreation Advisory Board candidates for Council to select interview candidates and she will begin advertising for the Visitors and Convention Bureau Board.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 11:01 p.m.