

COLORADO RIVERFRONT COMMISSION
683-4333

Urban Trails Committee

Minutes
June 9, 2015

Called to Order

Meeting was called to order at 5:30pm by co-chair, Biz Collins. Those present from the Committee were:

Julie Sabin	David Lehmann	Max Schmidt
Jeff Kuhr, Ph.D	Biz Collins	Dan Fitzgerald

Also present Kathy Portner, Paul Jagim with City of Grand Junction, Vara Kusal with the Horizon Drive Business Improvement District, public, Bennett Boeschstein, City GJ Council Member, Kayla Dodson, public and Michele Rohrbach.

Approval of Minutes – Kathy gave Michele a few changes. Julie/David. Motion passed. Did introductions around the room for new members.

Announcements – Julie said that she is looking for bike marshals for the Ride the Rockies on Monday, June 15th from 5:45am to 9:00am. Biz, David and Vara volunteered.

Old Business –

UTC User Maps – Reviewed the draft map at the last meeting. It currently is housed on Bike to Work Month on Healthy Mesa County in digital format and hope to have a printed map next year.

Bike to Work Month and Day – Biz passed around bike pins and said she has posters, and Rules of the Road cards. The UTC event had 20 people and had a couple of families with kids. Gelu Italian Ice provided the treat; St. Mary's ended up sponsoring. Most stayed for the proclamation. David passed around the proclamation that Bennett read at the City Council meeting. Thanked Kathy for refining the wording on the proclamation over the years. Hope to have activities next year. Biz will be doing bike rides for the Palisade Blue Grass Festival. Thanked Jeff and his staff for all their help.

New Business – Ridges Trail Planning– Kathy spoke about the trail Jeffery Fleming presented to UCT regarding trail development in The Ridges. Kathy showed a map of the area that can be used to see what connections make sense. UTC would work on a plan and then make recommendation to the Parks Board and City Council. Bennett stated he thought Rob Bleiberg with Mesa Land Trust had a plan with a connection to their Monument Trail. Julie will contact Libby Collins with MLT about Rob's plan. Jeff and Terri said they would like to help develop a plan.

The League of American Bicyclists designation – The City received a bronze designation. Kathy showed the sign and the certificate that will be framed and displayed in City Hall. The City will purchase the sign artwork and make more signs to be posted at entrances into the City. Tomorrow will be the official media release and one of the Board members of the League lives in CO and will come in July and do a presentation to the City Council. Kathy is working on a press release with Sam Rainguet. Kathy and Biz will be the contacts in the press release. Reviewed the rating and appears not too far off from Silver rating.

Discussion of 1st Street concept – Paul stated in early design process with possible construction to start next year. Section of 1st Street from Grand to North Avenue. The existing 4 lane section will be reduced to 2 through lanes and turn lanes where needed, utilizing the extra space for wider sidewalks and bike lanes that could be the standard lane or protected lanes, medians and parking.

I-70B through downtown concept – Kathy said the City received a technical assistance grant from New Mobility West. CDOT did a traffic projection in 2008 during the boom time which called for 6 through lanes and a turn lane. The City and DDA felt the design was a barrier to downtown. Completion of Riverside Parkway helped relieve some of the congestion. A 3 day design workshop resulted in a design with four lanes with turn lanes where needed, bike lanes, safe crossings at mid-block.

Letter of Support of the I-70 B downtown design concept – Biz made a motion to draft a letter and send it around to board members for review. Jeff second. Motion passed. Kayla asked if letters for the public would be helpful. Kathy said yes.

Mayor's Challenge – Julie talked about Complete Streets and wondered if now was a good time for UTC to propose a Complete Street Policy. Paul said it means safe travel for all users. Bennett said overlaying and restriping can make current streets a complete street. Paul said D Road to 30 Road will be getting a bike lane with the overlay. Kathy asked Jody what she thought – she thinks having a policy will be helpful and make it easier for staff recommendations to the elected. Julie said she sent info to Biz and Kathy and will send it Michele and she can forward it out to all the UTC members. Kathy suggested reviewing some of the videos listed in Julie's info at a future meeting.

Jeff asked if there is data to determine if a street should be put on a road diet and was supportive of working on a Complete Streets policy. Paul commented that the cost of a Complete Street Policy would need to be considered.

Kathy discussed needing better data percent of trips made by pedestrians and bicyclists as a baseline. Healthy Mesa County is working on a Cost Benefit Analysis of bike/ped facilities, starting with the Riverfront Trail. Biz stated that GVTC will be putting a counter on the busses to track the number bikes.

Public Comment – Dan had a question regarding First Street and asked what would be the most progressive trail design. Paul said protected bike lanes. Kathy suggested that she and Paul research cutting edge protected bike lanes being used in other communities. Paul asked what the group thought about protected bike lane on one side going both directions. Committee members agreed that it would be better to have bike facilities on both sides of a street to ride with traffic.

Talked about doing a demonstration project on 10th. Julie requested more information on intersection design as it relates to bike lanes. UTC was also supportive of redesign of 1st Street from North Avenue to Orchard Avenue.

Max said that since he's been with Orchard Mesa Irrigation he's worked on a number of projects and sees opportunity for cooperative planning of trail connections.. He'd like to see some open discussions on both sides.

Adjournment – Adjourned at 7:00pm.