

CITY OF GRAND JUNCTION

Urban Trails Committee (UTC)

Minutes March 8, 2016

Called to Order

Meeting was called to order at 5:35pm by Chair, Dr. Kristin Heumann. Those present from the Committee were:

Dr. Kristin Heumann
Biz Collins

David Lehmann, Vice Chair
Max Schmidt

Julie Sabin

Also present Kathy Portner, Trent Prall, and Paul Jagim with City of Grand Junction, Vara Kusal with the Horizon Drive Business Improvement District (BID), John Hodge, Terri Wenzlaff, Kayla Dodson, Kent Lienbach, public, Bennett Boeschstein, City of Grand Junction City Council member and Michele Rohrbach.

Approval of Minutes – Biz/Julie to approve minutes of February 9, 2016. Motion passed.

Announcements – Michele stated the Riverfront Commission (RFC) will be doing a touring retreat and social on April 23rd. More info to follow.

New Business –

Monument Road Connector Trail – Trent talked about the Federal Land Access Program (FLAP) and how the City is considering applying for a grant to connect the Lower No Thoroughfare Wash Trail to the Lunch Loop parking lot. Estimated total cost is \$1.7 million and the grant will require \$300,000 cash match. This is a three year program. Additional right-of-way is needed from three owners along Monument Road. Mesa County is considering the FLAP grant for 18 Road accessing BLM land north of Fruita.

Safe Routes to School (SRTS) projects for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) – Last year, two SRTS projects were funded through CDBG. The Orchard Avenue Elementary improvements are complete and include rerouting the student drop-off/pick-up to include sidewalk connection along 19th Street. The West Orchard sidewalk improvement will provide safe access for students attending Pomona Elementary and West Middle School and is currently under construction.

UTC prioritized the proposed SRTS projects for 2016 CDBG funding as follows:

1. Nisley Elementary – 28 ³/₄ Road sidewalk on east side: \$90,000
2. El Poso Neighborhood/West Middle School/GJHS--Mulberry Street sidewalk on west side from Broadway to W. Ouray: \$45,000
3. Orchard Avenue Elementary—17th Street sidewalk on east side from Walnut Avenue to the entrance to Walnut Park Apartments: \$25,000
4. Tope Elementary—Bookcliff Avenue crosswalk improvements at 9th Street: \$20,000

5. Orchard Avenue Elementary--Pinyon Avenue sidewalk on one side from 13th to 15th Street: \$ 55,000.
6. Bookcliff Middle School – 29 ½ Road sidewalk on west side: \$65,000 (it's been determined that this project is not eligible for CDBG funds since the surrounding neighborhood is not within the city limits)

Old Business –

North Avenue update – A contract has been awarded for the North Avenue Complete Streets project from 12th Street to 23rd Street. Work will begin in April and should be completed by the fall. Improvements will include 8' wide, detached sidewalk, landscaping, pedestrian street lights and median improvements. CDOT wouldn't allow any additional crosswalks, but the design will not preclude adding them in the future. The narrowed travel lanes and the landscaping should decrease speeds on the corridor.

Urban Trails Master Plan – The update of the Urban Trails Master Plan will be incorporated into the Grand Valley Circulation Plan. UTC reviewed the Network Map that's been developed to show major connections needed for employment, commercial and attraction nodes that are a part of the Comprehensive Plan. The Network Map will be used to develop the more detailed street plan and active transportation plan. The only comment on the Network Map was whether the Rimrock Shopping Center should be shown as a node. Even if it's not shown as a node, it will be connected with the more detailed plans. The Active Transportation Plan will be reviewed at the next meeting.

Complete Streets Policy – Kristin distributed a draft of the initial sections of a Complete Streets Policy the subcommittee has been working on, as well as the policy from the City of Austin and City of Phoenix, for discussion. In reviewing Austin's and Phoenix' policy, UTC had the following comments for additional sections:

Complete Streets Principals listed in Austin's Policy

--clearly state "all modes of transportation"

-- #2 Complete Streets require connected travel networks

-- #3 Complete Streets are beautiful, interesting and comfortable places for people (suggested using "attractive" rather than "beautiful")

-- #4 Complete Streets require best-practice design criteria and context-sensitive approaches.

-- #5 Complete Streets protect Austin's sustainability and environment (suggested using "modal options" rather than "environment")

-- #6 Complete Streets are the work of all City Departments (suggested stating "working with all City departments")

-- #7 (merge with #6) Complete Streets include all roadways and all projects and phases (need to address having flexibility in projects)

-- #8 Complete Streets require appropriate performance measures

Applicability and Jurisdiction/Exceptions –will need to tailor these sections to GJ.

Performance measures (Phoenix's policy) – Kristin said this section would help with the Bicycle Friendly ranking. Biz supports including: E. Percentage of bus stops that provide shade from 7:00am to 7:00pm from May through October; and D. Percentage of bus stops that have ADA-compliant sidewalk access from adjacent neighborhoods.

Action Plan – Preferred Phoenix’ title of Action Plan/Implementation for the section. Kristin supports including, I. Staff Training, from the Phoenix plan. Biz suggested including something specific to encouragement for modal shifts.

Julie, Kathy and Kristin will continue to work on the document and asked that any edits and comments be sent to them.

Both David and Max commented that they like the short policy drafted and understand not everyone will want to read a five page documents. Perhaps there can be an executive summary for the public.

There was no further old business.

Public Comment – Mesa County Bicycle Alliance has a meeting on Thursday this week with guest speaker, Richard Bacher, formerly with GJDP. John is working on getting a bicycle attorney to come and talk to the group. The group has also compiled a list of traffic signals that don’t change for bicyclists and emailed the list to the City. 5th and North came up as a top priority. Paul said that he and Sandy Mallory have reviewed the list and will be talking with John’s group in May.

Max stated he’s sorry to have missed so many meetings and will now to be able to attend more regularly. He would like to invite UTC members to tour the Orchard Mesa Irrigation facilities.

Adjournment – Adjourned at 7:05pm.

Next agenda – Bike to Work Month/Day