

CITY OF GRAND JUNCTION

Urban Trails Committee (UTC)

Minutes December 12, 2017

Called to Order

Meeting was called to order at 5:30pm by Chair, Kristin Heumann. Those present from the Committee were:

Dr. Kristin Heumann, Chair	David Lehman, Vice-Chair	Shana Wade
Biz Collins	Gary Stubler	Sarah Johnson

Also present Kathy Portner, Paul Jagim with City of Grand Junction, Vara Kuzal, Horizon Drive BID, Mathew Lucero, Jody Kliska, public, Bennett Boeschstein, Mayor Pro-Tem for the City of Grand Junction and Michele Rohrbach.

Announcement – RFC office will be closed the week between Christmas and New Years.

Bennett mentioned that the City Manager sent out a memo to City Council with UTC's priority list. Kristen suggested UTC review the priority list in January.

Biz gave an update on Bike Month activities planned for May. Bike to Work Day will be on Wednesday, May 2nd and there will be an event each week of May. It was suggested that UTC host an event on May 23rd, which will be discussed at the January meeting. Shana said that the library is considering doing something in April (helping people find routes to get around the community and to schools).

Approval of Minutes – Biz/Shana. Motion passed.

2017 Accomplishments and 2018 Action Items – Kristin distributed copies of the strategic plan and proposed action items (attached). She stated that the accomplishments are listed in the November meeting minutes. The following comments were made on the action items:

- David asked to include sharrows and bicycle boulevards under Action Items/Projects on “Provide recommendations for bicycle/pedestrian improvements along 10th Streets and S. 7th Street and other innovative projects. Kathy recommended that sharrows and boulevards should be researched and added as a separate action item and then could work their way up to a specific project.
- It was suggested that a list of resources on bicycle and pedestrian topic be developed. Shana said the library could create a bibliography. Kristin suggested adding this as an action item under Goal 2 or 3.

- Sarah suggested considering equity for underserved areas with projects and programs. Kristin recommended including it in the strategic plan and incorporating it into establishing priorities.
- There was some discussion on how projects are prioritized. UTC needs to keep an updated list of needs that have been identified by UTC, the City and by citizen comment.
- The UTC webpage should include the resource bibliography and have a link to the City's "Fix It" page as well as a way for public comment.
- Gary suggested having a UTC calendar of events.
- Kristin suggested having monthly speakers in 2018.
- Biz suggested requesting that PE teachers gather baseline data of students walking and biking to school. Gary added this would be great to get the PE teachers to promote the Community Streets event rather than using Peachjar.
- Gary suggested creating subcommittees to be responsible for specific action items in each of the goals. There will be further discussion on the subcommittees at the January meeting.

Updates – Grand Valley Circulation Plan – City staff has started meeting with stakeholders. Public meeting will likely be scheduled in February.

Community Streets Update report – David did a great job of putting together a final report on the Community Streets Event.

America Walks grant – David submitted a grant application to get the walking and bicycling maps printed. A decision should be made by December 15th.

2018 Street Maintenance Projects – Paul distributed a list of 2018 maintenance projects that will be discussed at the January meeting.

Kristin inquired about the east end of North Avenue and whether there were any plans for upgrades.

Other Business/Innovative Ideas/Public Comment – Mathew commented that he felt there were too many other events competing with the Community Streets Event.

Adjournment – Adjourned at 6:45pm.

Next agenda –
2018 Priorities Review

2018 Street Maintenance
Bike Share Program (Shana)
Bike Month Item
Grand Junction Urban Trails Committee
Strategic Plan
Adopted November, 2015

Introduction

Resolution No. 48-94 created the Grand Junction Trails Board in 1994 to serve as the principal coordinating body for the development of a trails and pathway system throughout Grand Junction and connecting to trail systems outside the City; to plan, develop and promote such a path system and help coordinate the implementation of the Multi-Modal Plan; and to actively pursue the development of new trails both in the City and in areas which may be annexed.

Since 1994, the Urban Trails Committee (UTC) has participated in transportation planning through the RTPO, including all modes, and review of development projects, as well as promoting safe and efficient active transportation through a number of programs and projects. With the City's recent focus on Safe Routes to School projects and other bicycle/pedestrian planning efforts, the Council requested that UTC be a committee of the City rather than a subcommittee of the Riverfront Commission. Resolution No. 48-14 was adopted by the Grand Junction City Council on December 17, 2014, re-establishing the Urban Trails Committee and adopting Bylaws.

Our Vision

The UTC envisions Grand Junction as a vibrant walkable and bikeable community for all ages and abilities. The convenience, efficiency and safety of our active transportation network will be an attraction to everyone who lives here or comes to visit.

Our Mission

The purpose of the Urban Trails Committee is to plan and promote the City Council's goals for an interconnected network of sidewalks, paths and routes for active transportation and recreation throughout the Grand Junction urbanized area. The Urban Trails Committee will act in an advisory capacity to the Grand Junction City Council on matters pertaining to the safe, convenient and efficient movement of pedestrians and bicyclists of all ages and abilities throughout the community, as well as other forms of transit.

Goal 1: Improve the built environment by providing safe and efficient active transportation options for people of all ages and abilities by increasing the number of miles of connected sidewalks, bike lanes and pathways within the City.

Strategies:

- Review and comment on land development applications to ensure compliance with the Urban Trails Master Plan
- Maintain a prioritized list of on and off street trail improvements, emphasizing Safe Routes to School
- Identify and assess conditions of major active transportation corridors and connections throughout Grand Junction
- Act in an advisory capacity to the Grand Junction City Council on policy, priorities and funding issues pertaining to active transportation
- Identify safe routes and look for opportunities to provide connectivity and access to the Riverfront Trail
- Identify safe routes and look for opportunities to provide connectivity to public lands trailheads, including Tabaguache trails, Old Spanish Trail and the Bookcliffs/North Desert area
- Maintain and update, as needed, the Urban Trails Master Plan
- Develop and implement a Complete Streets Policy

Goal 2: Increase Programming to promote Safe Walking and Biking Opportunities

Strategies:

- Promote Bike Month and Bike to Work Day activities
- Participate in Share the Road activities
- Support Safe Routes to School activities, including audits, Walking and Wheeling events, bike rodeos, education and safety campaigns, Walk and Bike to School activities
- Support the development of a sustainable Safe Routes to School program to be implemented district-wide
- Develop a standardized bike/pedestrian wayfinding program using signage, maps and GIS applications
- Develop a community Bicycle/Pedestrian Plan

Goal 3: Increase the number of citizens utilizing active modes of transportation and promote the health, livability and economic benefits of a Walkable/Bikeable Community

Strategies:

- Organize and participate in the Walking and Biking Summit and other community forums
- Participate in Healthy Mesa County's Active Communities initiative to promote the health benefits of active transportation choices
- Pursue a Bicycle Friendly Community Designation and continue to work toward improving the rating
- Promote the economic benefits of a walkable/bikeable community by participating in local studies and assessments

- Participate in the Mayors' Challenge activitie

Goal 2: Increase Programming to promote Safe Walking and Biking Opportunities		
Actively participate in Bike Month Activities—proclamation/speaker series		
Community Streets Event		
Update and publish bicycle/pedestrian map		
Provide recommendations for wayfinding signage		
Goal 3: Increase the number of citizens utilizing active modes of transportation and promote the health, livability and economic benefits of a Walkable/Bikeable Community		
Pursue Walk Friendly Community Designation		
Apply for Bicycle Friendly Community designation upgrade in rating		

