

**GRAND JUNCTION CITY COUNCIL
READINESS SESSION**

**MONDAY, APRIL 15, 2013, 5:00 P.M.
CITY HALL AUDITORIUM
250 N. 5TH STREET**

To become the most livable community west of the Rockies by 2025

1. **CDOT's Responsible Acceleration of Maintenance and Partnerships Program Pre-Applications for I-70/29 Road Interchange and I-70/Horizon Drive Interchange Improvements:** CDOT has developed a one-time program called the Responsible Acceleration of Maintenance and Partnerships (RAMP). The program looks to provide \$300 million per year over the next 5 years for a total of \$1.5 billion. They are seeking applications by May 1st for potential projects over the next 5 years. [Attach R-1](#)
2. **Post Incident Update**
3. **Other Business**



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Proposed Meeting Date:
4/15/2013

COUNCIL STAFF REPORT READINESS

Topic: CDOT's Responsible Acceleration of Maintenance and Partnerships Program Pre-applications for I-70/29 Road Interchange and I-70/Horizon Drive Interchange Improvements

Staff: Trent Prall, Engineering Manager

Summary:

CDOT has developed a one-time program called the Responsible Acceleration of Maintenance and Partnerships (RAMP). The program looks to provide \$300 million per year over the next 5 years for a total of \$1.5 billion. They are seeking applications by May 1st for potential projects over the next 5 years. Funds have to be spent by end of 2017 and the program requires a minimum of 20% match. The City has been requested to partner on two projects: Mesa County with the 29 Road/I-70 Interchange and the Horizon Drive Business Improvement District on the Horizon Drive/I-70 Interchange Improvements.

Background, Analysis and Options:

CDOT's RAMP program is the result of a change in how CDOT accounts for projects. With over \$1.5 billion in reserves, CDOT has been directed by the governor's office to work on getting that money invested in various regions throughout the State. The one-time program will distribute \$300 million per year over the next 5 years for a total of \$1.5 billion. Out of the \$300 million each year, \$175 million is to be distributed to operations and maintenance while \$125 million will go to Transportation Partnerships on corridors.

The City and its partners must let the Regional Transportation Planning Office know by April 18 of its intent to apply. The Grand Valley Regional Transportation Committee (GVRTC) will decide what applications will be supported at their April 22 meeting. Pre-applications for potential projects over the next 5 years are due May 1st into CDOT Region 3 office. If selected for a more detailed application, those would be due in early July.

The program requires a minimum of 20% match. Money has to be spent by end of 2017.

The two projects being considered include the 29 Road/I-70 Interchange and the Horizon Drive/I-70 Interchange Improvements.

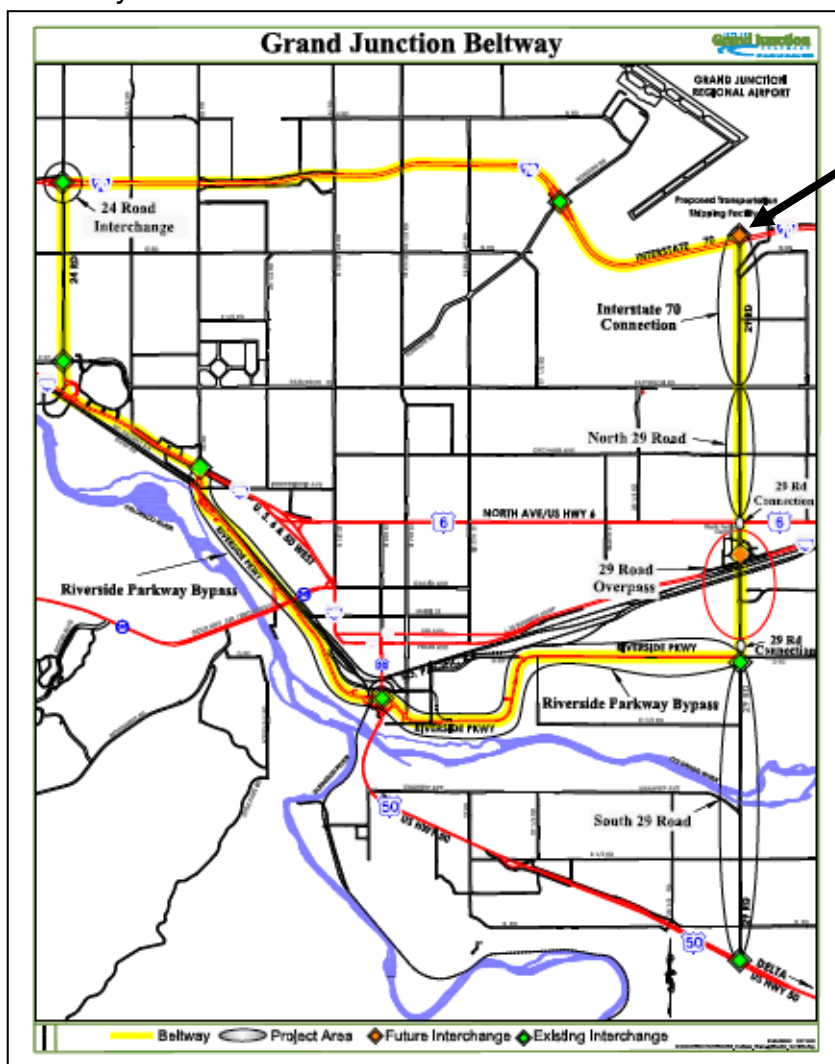
29 Road/I-70 Interchange

This interchange has been proposed since the late 1970's and is highly ranked in the Mesa County 2035 Regional Transportation Plan in regards. The Comprehensive Plan calls for Business Park along with Commercial Industrial (CI) development near the 29 Road intersection with I-70. This interchange will contribute to future development of the area as well as improve effectiveness and efficiency of the transportation network.

The 29 Road interchange would provide access to the east end of Grand Junction Regional Airport for air-freight businesses, increasing the value of the airport as a hub for regional freight transportation and industry.

Mesa County has hired the consulting firm of HDR to complete a Purpose and Need Statement for the 29 Road and I-70 Interchange. This is the first step in development of an Environmental Assessment and subsequent Interchange Access Request (IAR) to FHWA/CDOT. The development of the Purpose and Need Statement will help substantiate the pre-application for the interchange. HDR is expected to have the information back in time for the April 22 GVRTC meeting.

Mesa County will be the lead applicant on this application and has requested a letter of support from the City of Grand Junction.



29 Road / I-70 Interchange

Horizon Drive / I-70 Interchange Improvements

The Horizon Drive Business Improvement District (HDBID) has been working on developing concepts for modernization and safety improvements for the Horizon Drive corridor for since 2007.

Over the last 15 months, the HDBID has been moving forward toward solidifying the concepts into more definite plans. All of the corridor improvements have been estimated at \$7.5 million. The reconstruction near the interchange proposes to construct two roundabouts at the ramp termini replacing the three signals that exist today. Ourston and Associates, an internationally renown roundabout engineering firm has been under contract with HDBID to get the proposed improvements designed and through the rigorous review of the Federal Highway Administration and CDOT. A Minor Interchange Modification Request (MIMR) is being prepared to be formally submitted to FHWA/CDOT for approval. The improvements adjacent to the interstate that are proposed for RAMP funding are estimated at \$3.0 million.

Proposed schedule would be for funding in 2014-2015.

The City would be the lead applicant for this application.



Board or Committee Recommendation:

N/A

Financial Impact/Budget:

29 Road and I-70 Interchange

The estimated \$50 million interchange improvements would require a 20% match from local sources. Mesa County suggests a stronger match of closer to 40% to increase the likelihood of securing funds. The \$20 million match would be split evenly between the City and the County.

Horizon Drive and I-70 Interchange Improvements

The estimated \$3.0 million interchange improvements would require a 20% match from local sources. Horizon Drive Improvement District proposes to split the project evenly with the City of Grand Junction. Therefore, the City's portion would be approximately \$300,000.

Legal issues:

N/A

Other issues:

N/A

Previously presented or discussed:

N/A

Attachments:

N/A