

GRAND JUNCTION CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP SUMMARY
January 14, 2019

Meeting Convened: 5:33 p.m. in the City Hall Auditorium

Meeting Adjourned: 6:14 p.m.

City Councilmembers present: Councilmembers Bennett Boeschstein, Chris Kennedy, Duncan McArthur, Phyllis Norris, Rick Taggart, Duke Wortmann, and Mayor Barbara Traylor Smith.

Staff present: City Manager Greg Caton, City Attorney John Shaver, Public Works Director Trent Prall, Assistant to the City Manager Greg LeBlanc, and City Clerk Wanda Winkelmann.

Mayor Traylor Smith called the meeting to order.

Agenda Topic 1. Discussion Topics: I-70 / 29 Road Interchange Program Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study

Public Works Director Trent Prall introduced consultant Stacy Tschuor with David Evans and Associates, Inc., who provided an overview of the PEL study.

The study focuses on a new interchange at 29 Road and I-70 and the key elements of the study include:

- Identify the long-term vision
- Identify location and general concept for interchange configuration
- Complete stakeholder involvement
- Conduct public outreach
- Complete documentation

Ms. Tschuor also reviewed the PEL process, which considers the environmental, community, and economic goals early in the planning stage. This is done to bring the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) into the project decision-making process, minimize duplication of efforts, promote efficient and cost-effective solutions, and reduce delay in project implementation when funding is identified.

The organizations included on the Technical Team are the City of Grand Junction, Mesa County, CDOT, FHWA, Grand Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (GVMPO), Regional Airport, and Grand Valley Transit.

Public meetings will be held in an open house format and a website is being developed.

Ms. Tschuor described the interchange goals and needs: improve connectivity, upgrades, support planning efforts, and reduce regional traffic on local streets.

The next steps include an evaluation of the existing conditions, stakeholder involvement, detailed purpose and need, and development of alternatives.

Discussion ensued regarding the distance between interchanges on I-70, alternative access to the airport, trail connections, agency coordination letters, driveway cuts on 29 Road, and traffic volume at interchange.

Agenda Topic 2. Next Workshop Topics

The agenda for the February 4 workshop has not been set.

3. Other Business

Discussion ensued about the resolutions being considered at Wednesday's Council meeting regarding ballot issues, specifically the two sales tax questions. It was noted this is the community's opportunity to weigh in on the types of services they want in Grand Junction as it relates to first responder needs, transportation, and a community center. A study was conducted after the 2008 ballot question failed – what can be learned from that study?

City Manager Caton requested that Council send to him their feedback and suggested options or alternatives in advance of Wednesday's meeting.

Adjournment

The Workshop adjourned at 7:24 p.m.