

TO: CITY COUNCIL
FROM: INTERIM CITY MANAGER
DATE: APRIL 22, 2016
SUBJ: FLAP GRANT – GOLD BASIN (COUNTY ROAD 38) TRAIL PROJECT

The County believes we have a good chance of success for a County/City Federal Land Access Project (FLAP) application to construct this trail connecting our jointly-owned access to BLM's Hartman Rocks Recreation Area.

FLAP grants fund Federal projects that provide public access to Federal lands of recreational significance. The Federal Highway Administration does the engineering and construction. The Bureau of Land Management must support the project. The County has preliminary indication this might be obtained.

This round of grants will require a local match of 17.21%. The project cost is roughly estimated at \$1.3 to \$1.5 million for a concrete trail. The local match would be roughly \$260,000 – \$285,000.

Gunnison County is very interested in the project. It is also on our Trails Master Plan. The matching funds will not be required until 2017 – 2019 and will only be required as construction progresses.

The City has sufficient 1A trails budget available during the expected design and construction period. However, the County is unable to commit matching funds during this timeframe.

The County has experience and is willing to both complete the application and administer the grant. They are willing to take responsibility for all maintenance.

Councilor Swartz and I met with County officials. Both parties agree the project is a priority and see the outstanding value of this grant with such a modest match.

City staff suggest options (see attachment) to make this trail project even more significant by connecting to existing trail routes. The project has been considered to connect to the Highway 50 Underpass.

- An extension roughly 550 feet further from the Underpass, replacing the gravel trail through the approach apron will finish a connection to the Thornton Way trail north.
- A 800 foot extension to the sewer dump site would provide a finished connection to Rio Grande Avenue and it connection to the new dog park and the Gunnison Rising trail now under construction.

These two extensions will add roughly \$60,000 to the overall project cost and increase the needed match approximately \$10,000. However, these small extensions would dramatically increase hard surface access from both sides of the community to Hartman Rocks.

A formal agreement (Intergovernmental Agreement) may be needed to demonstrate the City's financial commitment if the Council chooses to provide the matching funds.