MEMORANDUM

TO: Gunnison County Sage Grouse Strategic Committee
FROM: Steve Westbay
DATE: December 19, 2012
RE: City of Gunnison Non-Motorized Transportation Plan

INTRODUCTION

In 2006 citizens of the City of Gunnison passed a ballot measure approving a 1% sales tax increase to fund a new pool, ice rink and trail system. Passage of this ballot measure spurred greater emphasis by the city on non-motorized transportation planning. In 2007 the City received a $50,000 planning grant from Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) to develop the *City of Gunnison Trails Master Plan*, which was adopted in that same year. In 2008 the City received a GOCO grant for $667,501, which was part of a $1.3 million capital construction project resulting in two pedestrian underpasses on the Gunnison River where it crosses Highway 135 and US Highway 50; two bridges constructed in conjunction with the underpass facilities; and construction of the first segment of the VanTuyl Ranch Trail system.

While the 2007 *City of Gunnison Trails Master Plan* has provided an excellent blue print to follow, it must be updated because of: 1. the Gunnison Rising annexation which will affect where future municipal growth occurs; 2. the increasing need to focus on non-motorized facilities in the urbanized area; and, 3. the need to consider access to federal lands that surround the urban area. The Draft *City of Gunnison Non-Motorized Transportation Plan* (*NMTP*) addresses these dynamic shifts for non-motorized planning.

PLAN CONTENTS

The draft *NMTP* contains six sections, as noted below, and a contextual change from the 2007 plan is the additional emphasis on the urban system functions.

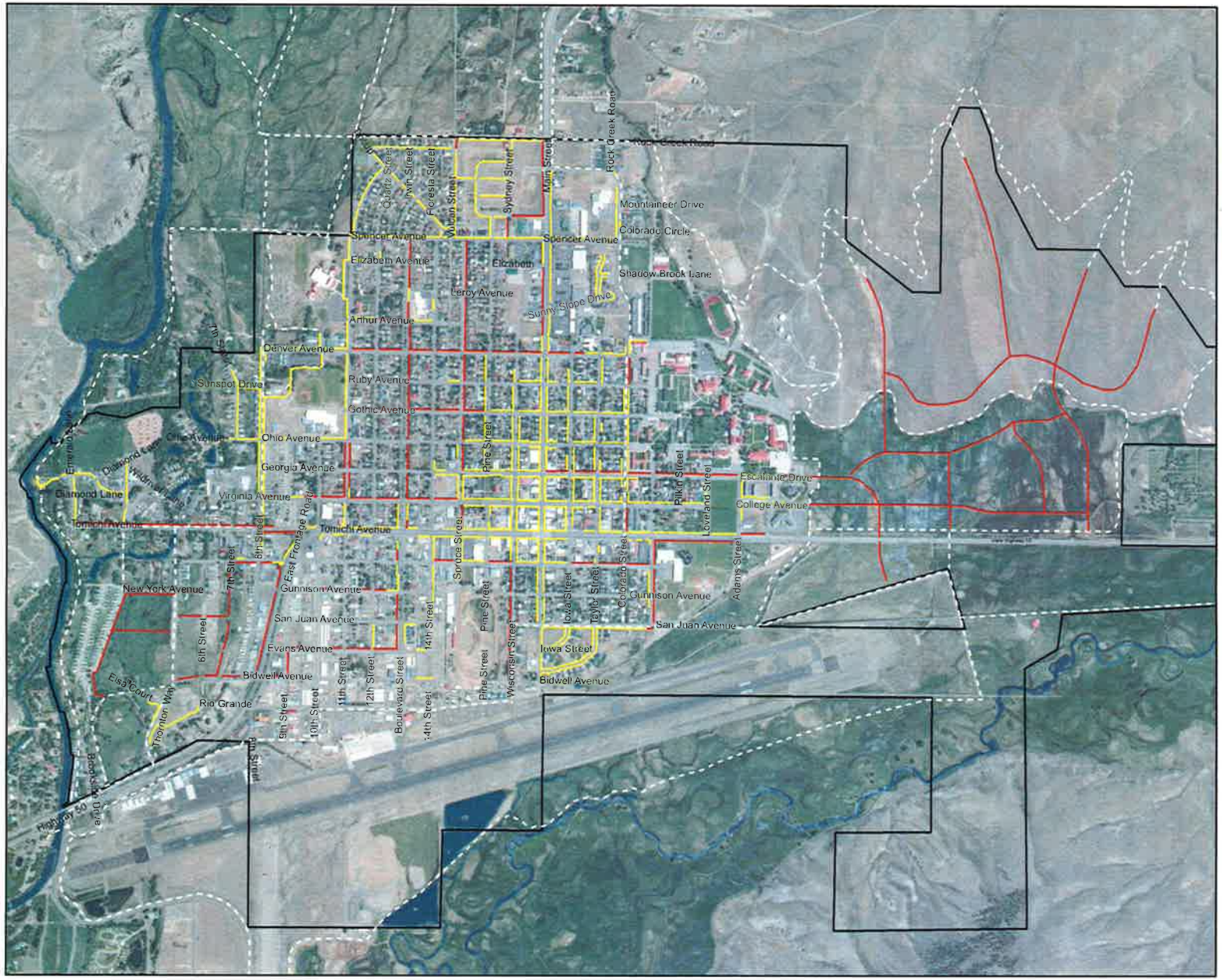
1. Introduction
2. Pedestrian Facilities
3. Shared Road Functions
4. Multi-Use Trail System
5. Strategies for Encouraging Non-Motorized Transportation
6. Conclusion

The Pedestrian Facilities section lays out existing and future priorities for urban sidewalk facilities. The emphasis is to provide sidewalk connectivity between neighborhoods, retail shopping areas and the Western State Colorado University (WSCU) campus. The Shared Road Functions section also emphasizes the urban system and defines development standards for street widths, signage, lane marking standards and other related urban design details.

Section 4, Multi-Use Trail System, has the most direct relevance to the Gunnison Sage-grouse because it defines the connection points for accessing public lands. This section defines access routes to Hartman Rocks, Signal Peak and the Antelope Basin. These three public land areas have been identified as concentrated recreation areas in the Bureau of Land Management, Candidate Conservation Agreement document that was drafted in 2012.

CONCLUSION

The *Non-Motorized Transportation Plan* provides an opportunity to help manage access to public lands. It also provides for greater public recreation opportunities immediately adjacent to the city, which will help to reduce recreational impact in other occupied Gunnison Sage-grouse habitat. Public comments regarding the plan are welcome. Adoption of the plan is scheduled for February 2013.
http://www.cityofgunnison-co.gov/Community%20Development/planning_department/planning_documents/draft_nonmotorized_transportation_plan_2012.pdf



PEDESTRIAN FACILITIES - SIDEWALKS Existing and Future Extensions

Legend

- Proposed
- Existing
- Multi-Use Trails
- City Boundary

0 500 1,000 2,000 Feet

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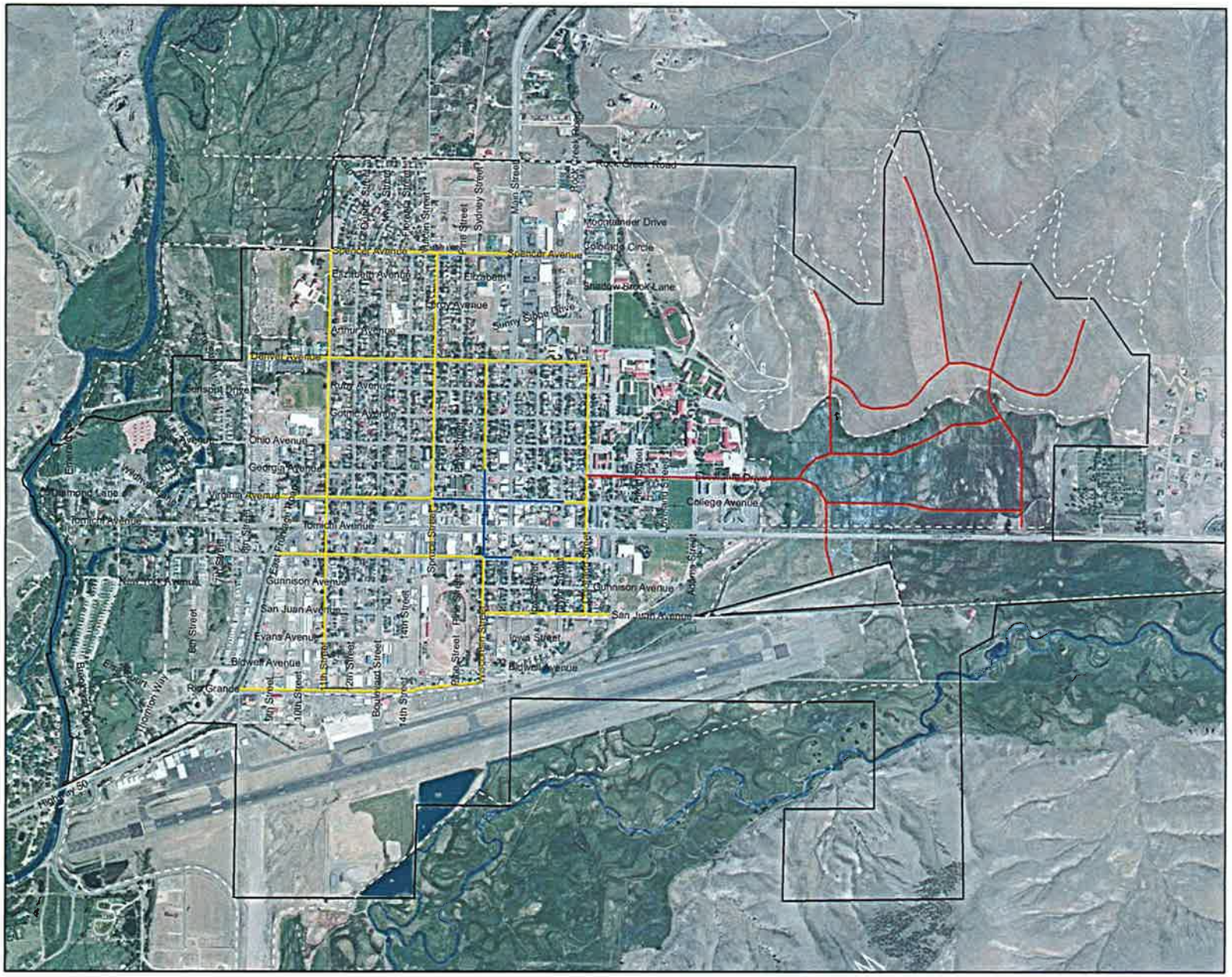
Community Development
201 West Virginia Avenue
PO Box 239
Gunnison, CO 81230
970-641-8090

October 6, 2011



BICYCLE LANES Existing and Future Extensions

Legend

Bicycle Lanes

- Existing Lane
- Shared Lane
- Proposed Lane
- Multi-Use Trails
- City Boundary

0 500 1,000 2,000 Feet

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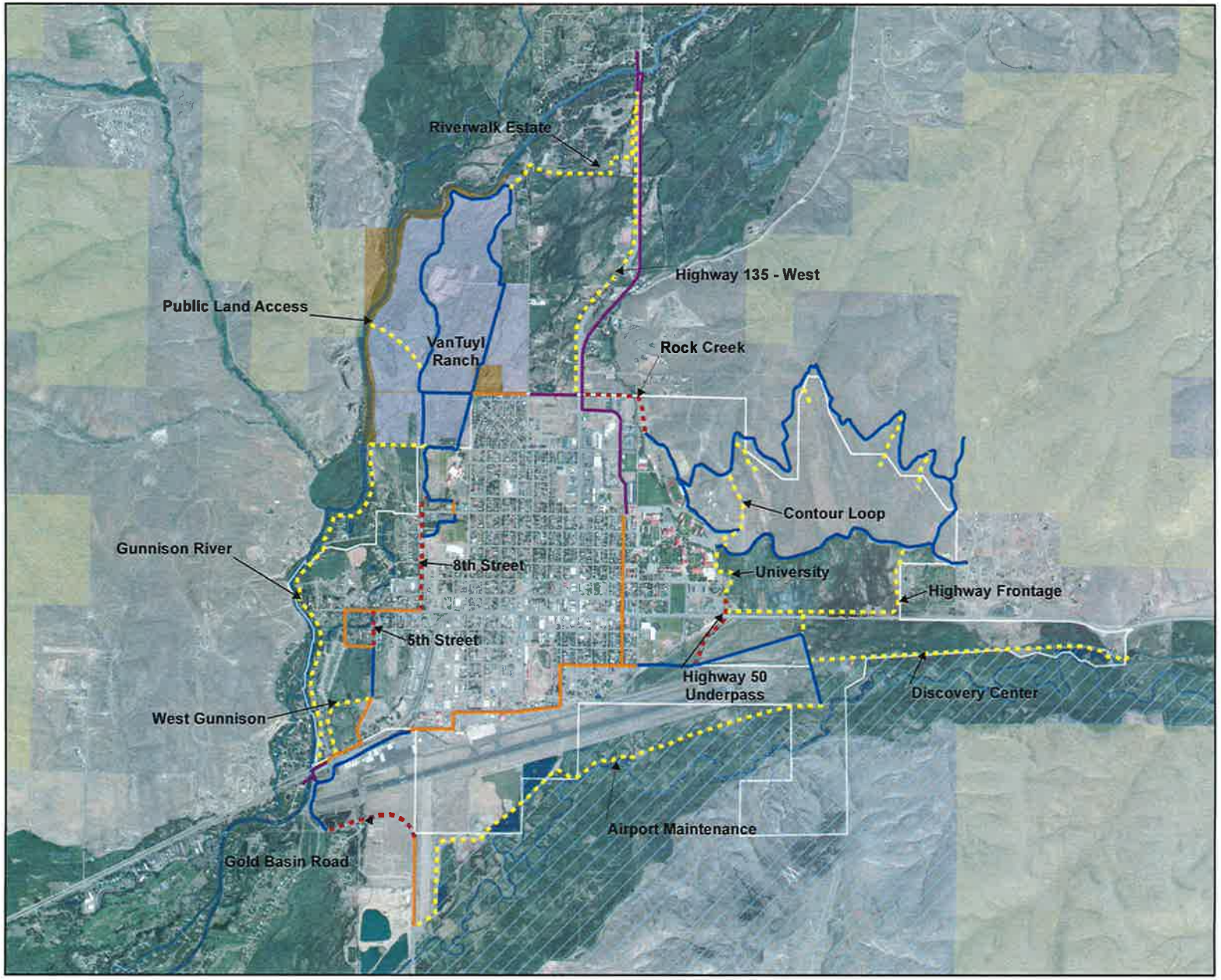

MULT-USE TRAILS Existing and Future Extensions

Legend

Multi-Use Trails

Surface

- Existing Detached Paved
- Existing Road or Bike Lane
- Existing Gravel Base
- Future Paved
- Future Gravel

Property Ownership

- Bureau of Land Mangement
- Division of Parks and Wildlife
- VanTuyl Ranch
- Open Space

0 1,000 2,000 4,000 Feet

N

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April 30, 2012