

**GUNNISON SUSTAINABLE TOURISM AND OUTDOOR TOURISM COMMITTEE  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
December 21, 2023**

The December 21, 2023, Gunnison Sustainable Tourism and Outdoor Tourism Committee (STORC) meeting was conducted in person and by Zoom virtual online meeting, Gunnison, CO, 81230.

**Committee Members Present:**

Jake Jones, Chair, Crested Butte Land Trust  
Kimberly Schappert, Vice Chair, At-Large  
Celeste Helminski, At-Large Member  
Derrick Nehrenberg, MetRec  
Chris Parmeter, At-Large Member  
Roman Kolodziej, Town of Mount Crested Butte  
Laura Puckett-Daniels, BOCC  
LB Mullin Jr., At-Large Member  
Jeremy Johndrow, At-Large Member  
Beverly Richards, UGRWCD (zoom)

Steve Guerrieri, Stockgrowers'  
David Ochs, At-Large  
Dayle Funka USFS  
Jennifer DeBoer, WCU  
  
Ian Billick, Town of Crested Butte  
Mark Voegeli, CBMR

**Others in Audience:**

Hedda Peterson, CB Nordic  
Bella Biondini  
Andrew Sandstrom  
MR Fuller

**Staff:**

Nick Catmur, National Forrest Foundation  
Cathie Pagano, Community and Economic Development Director  
Jena Greene, Community and Economic Development Planning Technician

**CALL TO ORDER:** Jake Jones called the December 21, 2023, meeting to order at 2:02 PM.

**Minute Approval:** Minutes from November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Moved to approve by Ian Billick and seconded by Dave Ochs. Passed unanimously.

**Presentation from Design Workshop of the Draft CB to CB South Multimodal Trail Plan: *Design Workshop Team – Leah Stoltz, Jessica Garrow, & Rosalie Starenko.***

- The members of the Design workshop team introduced themselves and gave an overview of the project timeline, which started with an April project kick off, getting feedback from the community, and led to the draft for the trail being presented.
- Community engagement: setting the stage, evaluating options, final plan sharing and final alignment.
  - Survey – majority of participants chose highway alignment, with some interest in other alignments.

- The majority wanted the trail to be easy to travel (passive) and act as a connector between Crested Butte and CB South.
- Wanted to see the trail connected to the existing bus stops.
- Should be able to be used mainly for biking and walking, possibly for Nordic skiing.
- Educational: need for trail markers and interpretive signage
- Stewardship: trail should be maintained, safe, and shouldn't hinder present adjacent agricultural use.
- Engineering Preferred alignment: Design team looked at the right of way on both sides of the road, and looked at which side had which easements, and could best accommodate a 17 foot or greater distance from the trail to the edge of the highway (to allow for snow storage/removal in the wintertime) on the North side of the highway.
  - About 2.6 miles of the trail, about 55% was able to be 17 feet or greater from the highway.
  - Proposed trail width: 10-12 feet
  - Majority of the trail would be at 2% grade, up to a max of 8% near slate river
  - Driveway crossings: suggested signage and striping
  - Highway alignment would have less of an impact on wildlife migration patterns than a private alignment
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- Cost: estimated using current real data from CODT
  - About \$4.2-\$8.6 million depending on surface
  - \$200 k for cement creek portion
- Action plan for implementation:
- Next steps:
  - Identification of funding sources:
    - Include trail in county's capital improvement plan.
    - Grants
  - Project phasing plan: Complete brush creek capital improvement project, organize trail development to be completed in one season, explore future trail connections.
  - Design refinement and complete more detailed survey work: more info for slate river crossings, steep slope considerations, highway striping considerations, Determine seasonal or year round usage.
  - Continue work with STOR Committee
  - Implement Wildlife Considerations
- Comments:
  - Schmidt: spoke with other Public Works with similar trails. None reported PW in Telluride (similar trail alignment), noted that Telluride's trail is heavily used and is critical access for housing. Maintenance is key. Paved – more money upfront, not paved – more maintenance.
    - Rising use year over year in Jackson, thought that e-bikes were driving additional use.

- Comparison from CB to Mt. CB trail concerning maintenance. No repaving since construction (about 25 years)
- Hardscaping into Crested Butte or just to Brush Creek? Just to Brush Creek. No permanent easements on the Deli Trail (Brush Creek into Crested Butte)
- Could the Cement Creek portion be constructed early? Concerned that that trail wouldn't go anywhere and wouldn't get more use.
- Cost for new bridge crossing Slate River included? Yes, estimated to be about \$250,000 for a 100ft ped. Bridge.
- Did the estimated budget include cost for drainage? Yes. Were water rights access for the ranchers included in the cost? Yes, as best as possible. More detailed information was definitely needed.
- Brush Creek intersection/connection to Deli trail: TBD, intersection was planned to be redesigned with a roundabout, new Whetstone housing, and pedestrian underpass.
- Possible use of Nordic? TBD.
- Driveway Crossings: Signage and stripping would be added, and set back as far as possible. Pedestrian/bicyclist would yield to vehicle traffic
- Was the trail designed to accommodate e-bike use? No guidance from CDOT, but the bikes would definitely travel at faster speeds. Concern for peds and e-bikes using the trail the same time.
- Map error: CB Land trust/Hidden River subdivision easement classification, additional category needed to clarify agricultural uses.
- Wildlife migration: Elk and Mule Deer in the area, more detailed maps in the full wildlife report.
- Water piping, just when the water crossed the path. Design team planned to extend existing pipes under the highways. Estimated existing sizes.
- Final width of the trail: 12 feet.
- Discussion point: Intention of commuter trail. Winter vs. summer experience for user. Is the path maintained in the winter for biking/walking, skiing, or not at all? Plan to accommodate E-Bikes.
- Nordic-Hedda added that CB Nordic was not advocating for this to be a groomed Nordic trail in the winter.
- Next steps for STOR committee: Reconvene the CB to CB south Trail sub-committee. Members:
  - Dave Ochs
  - Derrick Nierenberg
  - Mark Voegeli
  - Derek Harwell
  - Andrew Sandstrom
  - Hedda Peterson
  - Kim Shappert
  - Martin Schmidt
- Get more information/feedback from CB South residents, and ranchers.

Miscellaneous:

-STOR Members whose terms were up needed to reapply.

-NFF Grant Letters of intent were due January 18<sup>th</sup>. The portal was now up and running. STOR members could apply, recommend or recruit people to apply for the grant. About \$150,000 available

Next meeting scheduled for January 25<sup>th</sup>. Jones adjourned the meeting at 3:36 pm

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