

Yes to 1A and better traffic without raising taxes

Kathy Hall
Letters to the Editor
Grand Junction Daily Sentinel
October 18, 2024

As a recently retired member of the Colorado Transportation Commission and a former Mesa County commissioner, I have read with interest the plans for finally finishing the loop around Grand Junction that was planned so very many years ago.

I believe that a primary role of government is to provide major infrastructure for growing communities. That includes public safety, utilities and roads. Being fiscally conservative is an expectation of people who elect individuals to office. Mesa County and the City of Grand Junction are doing that by asking for the authority to bond for the 29 Road interchange project without raising taxes.

When that same question was put to voters 25 years ago regarding construction of the Riverside Parkway they said “yes” and I hope they will do so again.

We didn’t rely on the state or the federal government for funding then and we shouldn’t expect any assistance from them now even though we are connecting to Interstate 70. If we are able to secure some grants from either it will be great, but as we have done so many times in the past we have to rely on our “git ’er done” attitude now if we want to move forward with addressing our critical road and street needs.

Traffic congestion is only going to increase as we grow and grow older. Connecting to the interstate and using this vital resource more for local trips is one of the things that motivated our local governments to invest in \$140 million

of 29 Road improvements over the past 25 years. Front Range communities have taken advantage of the interstate system for their daily commuting for decades and there is no reason we should not do the same. It works.

I travel Patterson and other local streets regularly and I experience the ever-increasing congestion firsthand. I shudder thinking about how traffic will only get worse when we all drive to the new recreation center for water aerobics and pickup basketball games if we don’t do something soon.

Is it a big lift? Of course. Are there any viable alternatives other than all of us driving less? If so, I haven’t heard them. Will other capital projects be delayed as we pay down the bonds? Yes. But what will be added to that list of projects if we don’t take pressure off our existing street system? I don’t know but I can guess a lot based on how many potholes I hit now when I drive.

It is time to “Finish the Loop.” Join me in voting YES on ballot issue 1A.

KATHY HALL

Grand Junction

