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PRESS RELEASE

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City recipient of two Garfield County Federal Mineral Lease District Grants

GLENWOOD SPRINGS, CO – Garfield County announced on Wednesday, Oct. 19, that the City of Glenwood Springs was among the recipients for its fall grant cycle. The city's 7th Street Construction project received \$400,000 and the Police Department's Firearms Range Improvements received \$25,000.

"These Federal Mineral Lease District grants will help the City of Glenwood Springs achieve two important projects for the city," Mayor Michael Gamba said. "Our South Canyon Firearms Range project will benefit law enforcement personnel by expediting improvements to allow for higher quality training of Officers, and will also benefit city residents and users of the facility from throughout the County.

"The enhanced 7th Street project will serve as a vibrant regional destination to continue revitalizing our downtown commercial core. We are planning to start Phase 1 of that project in early 2017, and these funds help bring that project to fruition."

7th Street Construction Project

Phase 1 of the project as envisioned includes the reconstruction of 7th Street from the Grand Avenue Bridge to in front of the historic Amtrak Station (Glenwood Springs Train Station), and improvements to Cooper Avenue. The enhanced 7th Street will extend the pedestrian area next to the businesses to provide more room for outdoor dining and enjoyment, and also maintain through traffic on the street. The City project, which is being worked on collaboratively with the Downtown Development Authority, will benefit the community by creating a destination pedestrian environment, providing space for community events, improving connections to the Amtrak Station in front of the depot and a sloped ramp to the train queue, supporting four seasons of commercial activity, and preserving convenient access and circulation. Elements of the project include plans for a water feature, pedestrian plaza, and landscaped area.

"The Downtown Development Authority is excited to work in partnership with the city on this project, and is currently working on final construction documents for 7th Street," DDA Executive Leslie Bethel said. "This grant is crucial to our efforts to build the first phase of the 7th Street vision, starting next year. Our plans are for the reconstruction of 7th Street as a gathering space along our Restaurant Row corridor, entryway to downtown from the historic train station, landing area from the pedestrian bridge once it is completed, and a street that will continue to serve vehicles."

More than 10 public meetings were held during the development of the enhanced 7th Street design, including outreach in June and July of this year.

The draft 2017 Budget for the city includes \$2.4 million for the project, of which \$1.4 million is assumed grant funding. City Council will consider adoption of the 2017 Budget at its meeting on Nov. 1.

Firearms Range Improvements

The funding will help the city improve the existing South Canyon Firearms Range facility, through the construction of a shelter structure. The highest level of training and safety for the law enforcement personnel who use the facility, the training and education of citizens attending Hunter's Safety classes, and the safest facility for people using the facility for recreational purposes are all beneficial outcomes of this funding.

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