

What are the roles and responsibilities of the Gunnison County Roads & Bridges Department?

- Gunnison County is responsible for maintenance of roads within the County jurisdiction, not including roadways within city/town limits or state roadways.
- Gunnison County is responsible for road improvements to existing roads and new surface transportation infrastructure.

How many miles of roadway is Gunnison County responsible for?

- Gunnison County oversees maintenance for 419 miles of road within their jurisdiction.
- Gunnison County maintains 48 bridges and major culverts along County owned roads.
- Gunnison County is responsible for snow plowing approximately 215 miles of road within the county.
- Through intergovernmental agreements the County gets some federal funds to maintain some US Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) roads.

What does it cost to maintain existing Gunnison County roads?

- On average, the County invests \$126,568 on pothole repair annually.
- The county spent \$520,000 on bridge work in 2025.
- Snow plowing costs between \$1–1.5 million per year.
- It costs \$3 million to fully reconstruct one mile of roadway.

How is surface transportation currently funded in Gunnison County?

- Road & Bridge is NOT funded by property taxes. County governments are not legally allowed to fund road maintenance through property tax.
- ~50 percent of the funds come from the Highway user tax fund (HUTF), this tax base has not increased since 1993.
- ~25 percent of the funds come from the Federal program "Payment in Lieu of Taxes" (PILT). Federal payments to local governments that help offset losses in property taxes due to nontaxable federal lands within their boundaries.
- ~25 percent of funds are made up from a combination of Severance Tax on oil and gas extraction and Specific Ownership Tax (Vehicle Registration Fees).

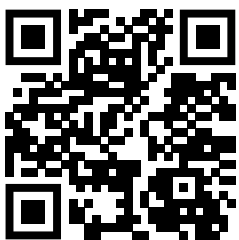
What is the biggest challenge that Gunnison County faces in the next 20 years?

- There are currently 5 bridges rated in poor condition and 21 bridges that are rated in fair condition, and these bridges will either need to be repaired or replaced.
- Since the late 1990's, Gunnison County Road and Bridge department has had a constrained budget, resulting in over \$38 Million in deferred maintenance costs for roads and bridges; these costs do not consider year-over-year inflation.
- To meet these demands and provide high quality roads and maintenance services to the community, it is estimated that Gunnison County will need to budget an additional \$1.9 million towards surface transportation each year.

What is the proposed Roads & Bridges Initiative?

- Gunnison County is exploring a .05 (half-penny) sales tax that will be collected and spent in whole by the County.
- All funding from this sales tax would be dedicated solely to Roads & Bridges.

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**Learn more
about the
initiative online:**

inputcentral.com/gunnison-county-roads-initiative

Why is Gunnison County exploring a sales tax?

- Gunnison County currently has \$38 million in deferred road and bridge maintenance costs.
- The proposed half-penny sales tax would allow the County to develop a dedicated funding source for surface transportation.
- A sales tax is being considered because it is the largest net we can cast, and it allows the cost to be spread between both locals and tourists.

How often does Gunnison County increase sales taxes?

- Gunnison County has not asked voters to approve a sales tax increase since the 1 percent sales tax that passed in 1978, almost 50 years ago.

What are the impacts of a half-penny sales tax increase?

- The proposed half-penny sales tax will be collected by the County and 100% of the revenue will be spent on Roads & Bridges.
- By imposing a sales tax, Gunnison County can generate revenue from all roadway users, including tourists.
- These funds would be solely dedicated to Roads & Bridges and would not be used for any other purpose.

How much sales tax does Gunnison County currently collect?

- Gunnison County receives just 1% of the current sales tax that residents pay.
- However, 50% of that 1% must be returned to the municipality where an item is purchased, which results in the County receiving significantly less in sales taxes.

Can the current sales tax be used for Roads & Bridges?

- No, by law, the 1978 sales tax of 1% can only be used for capital improvements, not for Roads & Bridges maintenance.

How much additional revenue would be raised through a half-cent sales tax?

- Approximately \$3.3 million per year.

If the County receives additional funding, how will it prioritize which projects to tackle first?

- The goal is not to pave all roads. The goal is to achieve a high-quality network of gravel, paved, and native-surface roads in the County to meet comfort and safety standards.
- An independent assessment was conducted that prioritized roads and bridge projects from worst condition to best condition.
- Over 300 projects were identified.
- The first year, we will focus on low-hanging fruit, such as latent safety issues; gravel; mag chloride; lithification; and paint.
- We will then produce major projects as identified by professional assessment including larger safety projects; comfort improvements; major rebuilding; and focus on maintaining what we have currently.

How might Prop 175 (state legislation to fund roads) impact us in Gunnison County? Can't you use that money to fund our roads?

- This is an "amendment to the Colorado constitution... dedicating an increasing amount of state revenues to road transportation purposes"
- While it is true that some additional funding may be realized if this measure passes, these funds will be allocated according to formulas related to population and other metrics, which likely means that Gunnison County's share will be lower than those of other counties.
- Ultimately these additional funds would not be able to close the gap between the current needs and the funding available.

Why are you spending money on other priorities? Can't you just move money from one "pot" to another to fund roads? Are you being responsible with taxpayer dollars?

- Legally, maintenance on roads and bridges can only be funded through state-appropriated funds; therefore we cannot "move money" from one County project to a road project.
- For example, the housing the County is building is being built through other state, county, and federal funds that cannot legally be used on roads.
- We cannot "thrift" our way out of a \$38 million backlog – the reality is that state revenues for roads have remained relatively flat while costs have gone up significantly.
- Gunnison County consistently receives awards for being good stewards of tax dollars.



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