CITIZENS FOR A SAFE HIGHWAY 9
CITIZENS FOR A SAFE HIGHWAY 9 COMMITTEE
CAMPAIGN PLEDGE FORM

The Citizens for a Safe Highway 9 Committee (the “Committee”) is assisting Grand County in raising matching funds from local businesses, individuals, municipalities and other government bodies to support the application of Grand County to the Colorado Department of Transportation (“CDOT”) for a project to construct safety improvements along an 10.6-mile stretch of Highway 9 through the Lower Blue Valley to address the numerous motorist/wildlife accidents that regularly occur (the “Project”).

The Grand County Board of Commissioners has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Grand Foundation (the “Foundation”), a non-profit corporation qualified under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, to hold all pledged funds in escrow until the Project is approved and fully funded by CDOT, which is expected to occur before year-end 2013. Your gift will be tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Your pledge will be called upon and collected by the Foundation at such time as Grand County’s application to CDOT for approval of the Project is accepted, approved and funded. The Foundation will then pay over your pledged amount to Grand County to be administered and used to construct the Project.

In the event that the Project is not approved and funded by CDOT, your pledge will be deemed void. In the event that your pledge is paid to the Foundation, but the Project does not go forward, your funds will be refunded to you.

By signing your name or that of your business below, you agree to honor your pledge and be bound to it.

DONOR: ____________________________________________ DATE:_______________
ADDRESS:___________________________________________ _______________________
CITY, STATE, ZIP:      _________________________________________________________
BUSINESS OR HOME
PHONE:__________________________________________________
EMAIL:_____________________________________________ ________________________
AMOUNT OF PLEDGE: $___________

(I), (WE), (OUR COMPANY) agree(s) to pledge the amount provided above.

PLEASE MAIL THIS FORM TO:
Citizens for a Safe Hwy 9
c/o Grand Foundation
P.O. Box 1342
Winter Park, CO 80482

E-MAIL TO:
megan@grandfoundation.com

DONOR’S SIGNATURE:
____________________________________________________________
Individual(s)
____________________________________________________________
Individual(s)

COMPANY:__________________________________________________________
By:________________________________________
Title:________________________________________

See Grand Foundation’s website: www.grandfoundation.com
WHY IS THIS PROJECT IMPORTANT?
Colorado State Highway 9 between Green Mountain Reservoir and the Colorado River provides a major transportation corridor that serves Summit, Grand, Jackson and Routt counties. Increasing traffic, including domestic, business and recreational uses, has contributed to nearly 600 vehicular accidents in almost 20 years, including 16 people killed and almost 200 injured. Many of those accidents were wildlife related, and, in fact, over 450 animals have been killed on this stretch of highway in the last 8 years.

The Highway 9 Safety Project was initiated in 2011, and will include wildlife crossings and fencing, the addition of 8-ft shoulders, and re-alignment to improve site distances. The design of the project by CDOT is nearing completion, but the price tag of $46 million still needs a funding source. Recently, a new CDOT program called Responsible Acceleration of Maintenance and Partnerships (RAMP) has provided an exciting opportunity to fund the project, but requires that local governments provide 20% of the total project cost. Grand County must secure $9.2 million to qualify the Highway 9 safety improvements for RAMP consideration.

GOALS AND OUTCOME:
CDOT’s RAMP Program provides an opportunity for grassroots action to support Grand County in its effort to fund and complete the construction of the Highway 9 Safety Project. The “Citizens for a Safe Hwy 9” Committee was formed to focus community support toward the end goal of project construction. The committee will raise awareness and inform stakeholders and citizens of the need to fund this badly needed project.

In response to the formation of the Committee, Blue Valley Ranch offered a matching grant of $4 million, leaving $4.3 million to be raised. Our goal will be to provide the 20% match as specified by the RAMP Program, but we only have until July 1st, 2013 to secure this funding. The time to take action is now, we can’t afford to pass up this opportunity.

CO STATE HWY 9 & SAFETY ISSUES:
- Mile marker 127 North of Green Mountain Dam Road to Colorado River Crossing approx. 10.6 miles
- Major route through Grand County, serving Summit, Grand, Jackson & Routt Counties
- Access to I-70 and Denver/Front Range
- 590 vehicular accidents in last 19 years, including 191 people injured, 16 killed
- At least 455 wildlife deaths in the last 8 years, mostly mule deer. If the average collision results in $6,600 (Huijser, 2009), over $3 million in damages.
- Annual Average Daily Traffic count is 3,600 vehicles, including 290 trucks
- CDOT forecasts steadily increasing traffic on Highway 9
PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS:

- 2 wildlife overpasses (the first of their kind in Colorado) and 5 underpasses
- Wildlife fencing to guide wildlife to the crossings
- Road widening: safer 8-ft paved shoulders with room for bike paths
- Vertical and Horizontal re-alignment to improve site distances

PROJECT HISTORY:

- Early 2011 - Design began with $945,000 contribution from Blue Valley Ranch (Private-public partnership between Grand County and Blue Valley Ranch), including money for design and a donation of land for right-of-way acquisition
- 2011 to present - Design by CDOT through contribution of in-kind services (Public-public partnership between Grand County and CDOT) – Nearly complete
- 2012 - Planning Collaboration – CDOT, Grand County, CO Parks & Wildlife, BLM, Landowners
- April, 2012 – CDOT held public meeting to gather input on conceptual design
- Early 2013 – Responsible Acceleration of Maintenance and Partnerships (RAMP) program provided an opportunity to fund the project
- April 9, 2013 – Grand County Commissioners decided to submit a pre-application to the RAMP program (due by May 1, 2013)
- April 18, 2013 – Citizens for a Safe Highway 9 first meeting; goal is to secure the 20% match for the RAMP application
- Late April, 2013 – Blue Valley Ranch agrees to a $4 million matching grant toward the 20%

NEXT STEPS:

- May & June, 2013 – Citizens for a Safe Hwy 9 must raise remaining $4.3 million
- July 1, 2013 – Final, detailed application and 20% of total project cost secured
- September 19, 2013 – Project recommendations (approval) by Transportation Commission

FUNDING:

Total Cost of Highway 9 Safety Project: $46.0 million

20% of Total Costs: $ 9.2 million

  Previous Blue Valley Ranch Contributions: $ 0.9 million
  Blue Valley Ranch Matching Contribution: $ 4.0 million

Total Remaining Funds Needed: $ 4.3 million
CITIZENS FOR A SAFE HIGHWAY 9
Colorado State Highway 9 Safety Project

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

The “Citizens for a Safe Hwy 9” committee is a citizens’ committee, this is truly a community effort. As such, everyone can help in two ways:

1) **Your letter of support**: Letters of support for the Highway 9 Project demonstrate that the community is behind the effort and believes the project is important. Your letter will go a long way in proving that this project is worth the funding required to complete it.

2) **Your financial pledge**: The goal of the Committee is raise the 20% match in order to apply for RAMP funding, and every dollar counts. Your tax-deductible pledge will go straight toward the matching grant. (Please use the attached Pledge Form)

**Letters of support and Pledge Forms must be received by June 17, 2013**

Please show your support by sending your letter of support and Pledge Form to:

Citizens for a Safe Hwy 9  
C/O Grand Foundation  
P.O. Box 1342  
Winter Park, CO  80482

Or E-MAILED TO:  
megan@grandfoundation.com

CITIZENS FOR A SAFE HIGHWAY 9 COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Mike Ritschard, Chairman; mdritschard@gmail.com  (970) 531-1634 (Grand County)  
Perry Handyside; perryh@jnsgrp.com  (970) 485-1580 (Grand County)  
Larry Banman; ldbanman@gmail.com  (970) 217-6298 (Grand County)  
Larry Lunceford; larrylunceford@neilslunceford.com  (970) 418-4973 (Summit County)  
Megan Ledin; megan@grandfoundation.com  (970) 531-0519 (Grand County)  
Kay Meyring; kaymeyring@gmail.com  (970) 515-2565 (Jackson County)  
Frank Alfone; frankalfone@neilslunceford.com  (970) 819-5705 (Routt County)

Thank you for your support in making Highway 9 safer for the community and for wildlife!
CITIZENS FOR A SAFE HIGHWAY 9
Frequently Asked Questions

1. Q. Why should Colorado State Highway 9 be a priority for improvement? Why should Colorado State Highway 9 receive RAMP consideration?
   A. Every day, members of our community travel to work along Highway 9, and every day, they face the risk of a collision with deer or elk. It is an important route for school buses carrying children from one school district to another for athletic and other events. Highway 9 is a major regional transportation corridor serving Summit, Grand, Routt and Jackson counties, and thousands of travelers are at risk everyday on Highway 9.

2. Q. There is a risk of vehicle and wildlife collisions on many Colorado roads. Why is driving on Highway 9 a greater risk?
   A. The numbers make clear why Highway 9 is such a risk. Since 1993, there have been nearly 6-hundred accidents on this one 10-mile stretch of highway. There have been more than 190 people seriously injured and 16 people have been killed. A significant portion of them because of a collision with wildlife and all of them on this one 10-mile stretch of road. In the last 8 years, over 450 wildlife mortalities have been documented, and every one of those was a car accident.

3. Q. Four million dollars is a lot of money. Do you really think you can raise that much money in a couple of months?
   A. Almost everyone in this community knows someone who has been in a collision with wildlife on Highway 9. Many of us have had loved ones killed or injured in those collisions. It won’t be easy, but we believe we will raise the money because it is so clearly important that we make Highway 9 safer.

4. Q. You are asking the Grand County Commissioners to approve some funding for this effort. How much do you want?
   A. Funding is a decision that is made by the commissioners. We know they understand the importance of improving safety on Highway 9 and we believe they will do what they can.

5. Q. How about support from other counties?
   A. This isn’t just a Grand County issue. Hwy 9 is an important link between northwest Colorado and the rest of the state. It is an important link for schools, tourists and sportsmen. We believe we will receive support from other regional stakeholders.

6. Q. What happens if the money isn’t raised in time?
   A. We believe that this is a one-time opportunity. We are committed to raising the money on time and completing this project so that we do not miss this once in a lifetime opportunity.

7. Q. Who designed this project and do you have support from other stakeholders? How about Parks and Wildlife? Or the people who live along that highway?
   A. Yes; in the last two years, conceptual planning meetings coordinated by CDOT have drawn and incorporated input into the design process from all stakeholders in the Highway 9 Safety Project. Those meetings included representatives from CDOT, Grand County, Summit County, CO Parks and Wildlife, BLM, and all of the landowners along Highway 9. In April of 2012, CDOT held a public meeting, attended by over 100 people, to gather input on the conceptual design of the project. Stakeholders have been a major part of the process from the beginning.
8. Q. When could construction begin and how long will it take?  
   A. If funding is approved, construction could potentially begin in 2014. It would likely continue through two construction seasons, ending in 2015.

9. Q. You are asking for a lot of money for a big project. Could the project be done in phases?  
   A. Possibly. However, a specific condition of the RAMP program is that all projects are to be completed by December, 2017, which does not give us much time. Additionally, the wildlife components of the project would make phasing difficult. If only half of the crossings and fencing are completed, that would force more wildlife to cross at the unfinished portion of the project, increasing the number of accidents. The number, locations and design of the crossings were determined after extensive consultation with CDPW and other wildlife biologists.

10. Q. Do the wildlife crossings actually work?  
    A. Yes. Pre and post monitoring on a highway improvement project in Nugget Canyon, Wyoming, showed an 80% decrease in wildlife mortalities. Every one of those wildlife mortalities that was avoided was also an accident that was avoided.

11. Q. What guarantee do we have that the project would be completed on budget? If it isn’t, would the 20% apply to any over-runs?  
    A. At this level of the RAMP process, CDOT has not specifically determined how cost “over-runs” would be apportioned between CDOT and the local government partnership sponsor. However, it is noted that the cost estimates for the Highway 9 Improvement Project were prepared by CDOT’s Region 3 engineering staff, based on a detailed design and the estimate includes a conservative contingency. Since the estimate was prepared by CDOT (as opposed to an estimate prepared by the local government partner), we believe that would favor cost over-runs being absorbed primarily by CDOT rather than the partner.

12. Q. Why should local governments work to fund a State project? Isn’t that the State’s responsibility?  
    A. Simply put, CDOT does not have an inexhaustible supply of money. There is considerable competition for construction funds as they become available, particularly from the urban transportation corridors on Colorado’s Front Range. The RAMP program provides Grand County with a rare opportunity to compete with other projects in the state and is based on the underlying principal of a public/public “partnership”. This kind of partnership is the “wave of the future”- a way of leveraging federal and local funds to actually get a project completed. Local governments need to plan on partnering with State agencies in the future.

13. Q. What does this project do for Grand County?  
    A. In addition to the safety benefits, transportation infrastructure is necessary for improving regional conduits and connecting communities, which encourages economic growth. This project will serve Grand County both locally and regionally. The project will require a sizable construction labor force, some of which could reside in Grand County. The labor force will also stimulate the local economy for a two-year period (local services such as motel lodging, restaurants, gas/fuel needs, etc.).

14. Q. Why should Summit County support this project?  
    A. The southern 1.5 miles of the Highway 9 Safety Project is in Summit County. Additionally, many residents of Grand County work in Summit County, and vice versa. Many businesses in Summit County serve residents of Grand County, and vice versa. Connecting these two communities supports their respective economies.