

Proposal: Blueprint for Bikes – Salt Lake County

To: Salt Lake County Mayor Peter Corroon, the Salt Lake County Council, and the Member Municipalities of Salt Lake County. November 19, 2008

From:

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Vision: To have a Salt Lake County-wide integrated strategy for bicycle and pedestrian planning, infrastructure, safety, education, and encouragement that would coordinate across the many member municipalities and unincorporated areas of Salt Lake County and result in a safe, healthy environment for cyclists and pedestrians of all ages and types.

Rationale: Cycling, walking, running, and personal transportation modes are healthy, environmentally friendly, non-polluting forms of transportation and recreation. Cycling and pedestrian facilities, planning, safety, and education have long been underserved in Salt Lake County with little coordination or common standards. It is imperative to develop a comprehensive strategy beginning in 2009.

Primary goals:

1. Countywide Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan
 - a. Salt Lake County needs a guiding document for bicycle facilities and strategy for implementation over the long term.
 - b. Funding for the Master Plan should be provided for in the 2009 Salt Lake County Budget.
 - c. Components
 - i. Facilities (bike routes, pathways, bike racks, etc)
 - ii. Ordinances (Complete Streets, traffic code, bicycle parking etc)
 - iii. Vision (A mission statement for Salt Lake County cycling)
 - iv. Encouragement (programs and events)
 - v. Education (motorists and cyclists)
 - vi. Long term planning
 - vii. Best Practice Standards (to provide uniformity through the region)
 - d. Both the WFRC plan (http://wfrc.org/cms/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=36&Itemid=39) and the UDOT Bicycle Corridor Study (<http://udot.utah.gov>) can serve as a starting place for infrastructure planning. However, neither is an adequate long-term solution.
 - e. For a local example, see <http://www.slcgov.com/bike>
 - f. For an example of what Ada County, ID has done, see <http://www.achd.ada.id.us/projects/PublicProject.aspx?ProjectID=77>
 - g. Other excellent examples include Portland, OR, Davis, CA, Boulder, CO, and Madison, WI
 - h. Other regional communities who have recently adopted a bike/ped master/general plan include San Francisco, Boise and San Diego.
 - i. For an older, but useful document on bicycle master plans in Utah, see <http://www.cyclingatoh.com/advocacy/BikePlan.pdf>

2. Complete Streets Ordinance
 - a. All new and rebuilt roads should take into account all users: automobile traffic, bicycles, pedestrians, mass transportation
 - b. See the attached sample executive order for Salt Lake City.
 - c. See also <http://www.completestreets.org>
3. Salt Lake County Transportation Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator. At the very least, one of the traffic engineers should be made a point person for Cycling and Pedestrian planning.
 - a. Funding for this position should be provided for in the 2009 Salt Lake County Budget.
4. Monthly Planners meeting that includes Planners and/or Traffic Engineers from Salt Lake County's Member Municipalities (held in conjunction with SLCBAC, but maybe at a different time)
 - a. See attached Planners List
 - b. SLCBAC Participation (<http://www.slcbac.org>)
 - c. Davis County has a Trails Committee that is also working on on-street bike routes. (Contact Scott Hess shess@daviscountyutah.gov for details)
5. Silver City-like action item list. See attached. This is a list of initiatives to further bikeability in Salt Lake City. Salt Lake County could benefit from a similar list. Much of this could be incorporated into a Master Plan.
6. To make Salt Lake County an integrated well functioning bicycle safe environment and a walkable community that will encourage these forms of transportation.
 - a. See <http://www.bicyclefriendlycommunity.org/> for ideas.
 - b. See <http://www.cyclingutah.com/html/advocacy.html> for many local resources.
7. Regional Bikeways system (Class I, II, and III bike routes)
8. Regional Pathways system (Class I bike routes, off road trails, and multi-use pathways)
9. To encourage member municipalities to start bicycle advisory committees similar to Salt Lake City's.
 - a. Provide the tools and information to the municipalities showing the benefits to inclusive facility design and coordination.
10. Further Development of Salt Lake County's Bicycling Economy (retail and industry).

Key Parties

1. Salt Lake County Mayor
2. Salt Lake County Council/Working Group
3. Bicycle Planners from member municipalities
4. Salt Lake County Bicycle Advisory Committee
5. Salt Lake County Trails Advisory Committee
6. Other bike advocates
7. Bike Community participation
8. City/Town Councils and Mayors of member municipalities
9. Member municipality's Bicycle Advisory Committees

10. WFRC Bike Representative
11. UDOT Bike Representative
12. UTA
13. Salt Lake County Transportation
14. Salt Lake County Parks Dept.
15. Salt Lake County Health Dept.
16. Salt Lake County Sheriff's Dept.

Supporting Material:

1. Complete Streets sample executive order (attached)
2. Salt Lake City Bicycle Master Plan (<http://www.slcgov.com/bike>)
3. Silver City Initiative (attached)
4. Utah Dept of Health Education Material (<http://health.utah.gov/vipp/>)