



Executive Director's Message

By Alan Matheson, Jr.

To a large degree, the Wasatch Mountains define our region. They adorn our tourism campaigns, postcards, and the logos of businesses, cities and sports teams. Yet our region struggles to define the mountains.

As the facilitator of *Wasatch Canyons Tomorrow* (see related story in this issue), Envision Utah has heard thousands of Utahns share what they value about our mountains. We have spent many hours in the canyons learning the terrain, observing conflicts and challenges, and listening to people describe their hopes and experiences.

Cyclists enjoy the beauty and challenge of riding in the canyons, but find the narrow roads fraught with peril. Others foresee expanding our world-class ski resorts and terrain to rival any in the world, generating substantial economic activity. To water providers, the canyons are a clean, inexpensive source of drinking water for a thirsty population. Threats to the quantity and quality of that water abound. Some private landowners have dreams for developing their land and feel that their property rights are overly constrained. Many people cherish the ability to escape the valley and find solitude in nearby wilderness, but find that solitude ever more elusive. Most are concerned with increasingly overtaxed mountain roads, but differ over the appropriate solution. Add to these a host of other issues:

invasive weeds, dogs, access to backcountry skiing, parking for rock climbing, connections to Summit County and more.

Regardless of background, however, all of us seem to agree on one thing: we love our mountain canyons. Defining the strategies to mold the canyons' future will not be easy. Solutions won't be found in the counterproductive practice of labeling and demonizing those with different views. Rather, they will be found through open communication, respect and civility, sound research, and simple hard work. Envision Utah is committed to fostering these elements and helping community leaders and the public craft a set of strategies that will enhance the Wasatch Canyons and ensure that they remain a majestic symbol of our region for all time.

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More than 5,000 Comments Received

Wasatch Canyons Tomorrow

Moving Forward

The *Wasatch Canyons Tomorrow (WCT)* process will help update Salt Lake County's 1989 Wasatch Canyons Master Plan. This plan guides policy for City Creek, Emigration, Red Butte, Parleys, Millcreek, Big Cottonwood, and Little Cottonwood Canyons. The canyons provide more than 50% of Salt Lake City's water supply, and significantly add to the quality of life for residents of the Salt Lake Valley. With the doubling of the county's population in the next 30 years, *WCT* will strive to ensure the long-term health of these treasured canyons, balancing land-use, recreational, transportation, and environmental concerns.

Salt Lake City, Salt Lake County, and the State of Utah are the principal sponsors of the *WCT* process. Envision Utah is facilitating data collection and public participation. The U.S. Forest Service is a supportive partner and providing technical assistance.

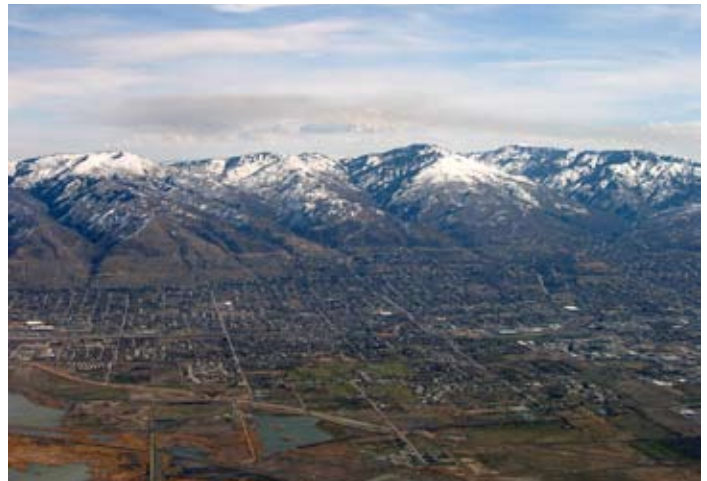
The first round of public involvement for *WCT*, held in May 2009, involved over 2,300 residents and generated over 5,000 comments on issues ranging from transportation and watershed protection to recreation and development. A summary of the survey responses can be found at www.wasatchcanyons.slco.org.

Based on survey results and public comments, challenging themes are emerging that still need to be resolved. Here are some examples:

1. Bike and auto conflicts are serious. Most cyclists think cars should be more careful and that there should be dedicated bike lanes, while some drivers believe cycling should be regulated and cyclists ticketed or separated from the road.
2. Some folks think that we should allow unlimited access for recreation, while others believe we should limit the number of people who recreate in the canyons. What can we do now to prepare for additional growth in what's already the third most visited National Forest in the country?
3. Will transportation improvements reduce the impact of visitors or will they facilitate more use? This is an on-going point of friction. A range of transportation strategies are being considered.
4. Dog access was the subject of the second highest number of comments. Comments were split about 50% for and 50% against dogs in the canyons. While it's a great opportunity for dog owners to get into the mountains, dogs can be a hazard for cyclists and mountain-bikers and a potential threat to wildlife and watersheds.
5. Less than 10% of the area is zoned for residential development, but many believe that any additional development is a threat to the recreational experience and environmental integrity of the canyons. Land owners want to be able to exercise their rights and want recreationists to respect their property.
6. Most people do not want an expansion of ski terrain, but many others see significant economic benefits in a growing ski industry that attracts tourism.
7. When asked "which of the following best describes the highest value you place on the canyons," 35% of respondents picked "recreation," as their top choice, while "environment/ecology" came in second with 29%. "Economic contribution" came in last with only 1.4% of respondents selecting this as their top choice.

Envision Utah is working with the Partnering entities, the Steering Committee (representatives of major canyon stakeholders) and the Technical Advisory Committee (technical experts) this summer to develop scenarios that will illustrate various policy options to be shared with the public in open houses this fall. These scenarios will include over-arching management philosophies, transportation alternatives, environmental protection policies, residential development and recreational management strategies.

For more information, contact Gabe Epperson, planning director (801-303-1453; Gabe@envisionutah.org), or check the project website, www.wasatchcanyons.slco.org. Open houses are scheduled for November 4th and 5th.



Envision Cache Valley:

Residents Desire Walkable Towns, Open Space, and Transportation Options

Since the public kick-off of *Envision Cache Valley* (a visioning process spanning Cache County, Utah, and Franklin County, Idaho), more than 2,400 residents have participated, contributing their ideas and preferences about the valley's future. A survey, first used to obtain feedback on four alternative growth scenarios at 14 town hall meetings earlier this summer, was also posted online through June. Results are now available at www.envision-cachevalley.com. Almost 650 residents took the survey. A Dan Jones poll also obtained the responses of a representative sample of the population.

Residents reviewed the scenarios and identified which best reflects their view of appropriate future growth patterns. The scenario representing the development trends of the last 10 years garnered 11% of the vote, while 89% opted for other scenarios created from public brainstorming workshops. Scenarios that depicted most future growth occurring within existing towns and cities—without those cities growing together—received the most support. These scenarios were also preferred for the transportation and conservation options that become possible as a result of this development pattern. Using less land for residential development makes more transportation choices feasible, and the potential for land conservation is greater.

Overall, most participants envision more compact, market-directed development than has been built in recent years, with only 16% of residents desiring a dispersed pattern of growth in the valley. There is significant interest in growing within existing cities and towns, creating mixed-use neighborhoods and centers (places with a variety of housing options and the ability to walk to schools, shops, restaurants, and, perhaps, workplaces). More than 90% of residents preferred at least some emphasis on mixed-use—69% preferred a significant or very significant emphasis.

Participants appear desirous of a balanced transportation system that includes improved roadway connections, more public transportation options, bike routes and pedestrian access. Conservation is a common goal, with 67% wanting to emphasize water quality, working farms and ranches, and protection of scenic vistas.

Further, residents want local jurisdictions to work together to address growth issues, with 88% finding coordination important or very important.

A community-wide summit to unveil the citizen-inspired vision will be held in October. An implementation forum is also planned for local officials. For more information, contact Christie Oostema, project manager (801-303-1456; Christie@envisionutah.org), or check the project website, www.envision-cachevalley.com.



Envision Missoula Receives National Award

The Association of Metropolitan Planning Associations (AMPO) awarded *Envision Missoula* with its National Award for Outstanding Achievement in Metropolitan Transportation Planning. The *Envision Missoula* process is the first Envision Utah-facilitated effort outside of Utah.



Governor Gary Herbert

New Envision Utah Honorary Co-Chair

Governor Gary Herbert has agreed to be an Honorary Co-Chair of Envision Utah, joining fellow Co-Chair Spencer F. Eccles, President of the George S. and Dolores Doré Eccles Foundation and former Chairman of Wells Fargo Regional Banking. “These two community leaders reflect the great public/private partnership that has driven Envision Utah’s success. We are honored to have their on-going support,” said Alan Matheson, the Executive Director of Envision Utah. “Governor Herbert previously served as a Vice Chair of Envision Utah, and we look forward to partnering with him on future projects.” Former Governors Leavitt, Walker, and Huntsman also served as Honorary Co-Chairs.

Thursday, October 22, 2009

Join Us for the Common Good Awards

The 14th annual Common Good Award Luncheon will be on Thursday, October 22nd, from 11:45 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Little America Hotel in Salt Lake City. We are honoring the Mormon Tabernacle Choir and Leigh von der Esch and the Utah Film Commission. The Right Reverend Carolyn Tanner Irish, tenth bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Utah, will provide the keynote address. Bishop Irish also chairs the Board of Directors of the O.C. Tanner Company and serves on the board of The Nature Conservancy. Lt. Governor Greg Bell will provide opening remarks describing Envision Utah's impact on the state.

For reservations, contact Kevin Fayles (801) 303-1462 or Kevin@envisionutah.org by October 15th. Tickets are \$50 per person or \$500 for a table of ten (\$24 per ticket or \$240 per table is tax deductible). **Attendees who RSVP by October 9th will receive a free copy of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir's CD "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing,"** a collection of American folk hymns and spirituals.



The Right Reverend Carolyn Tanner Irish



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Sharing the Model

Since May, we have presented ideas and resources to a number of groups, with particular emphasis on sharing the Wasatch Choices 2040 Growth Principles with elected officials:

- American Fork City Council
- APTA Sustainability Conference
- Bountiful City Planning Commission
- Centerville City Planning Council
- Clearfield Planning Commission
- Clinton City Council
- Davis County Planning Commission
- Davis Unified Economic Development Coalition
- Farmington Planning Commission
- Herriman Planning Commission
- Murray City Council
- North Ogden City Council
- North Salt Lake City Planning Commission
- Payson Chamber of Commerce
- Payson City Council
- Riverdale Planning Commission
- Riverton Planning Commission
- Roy Planning Commission
- Salt Lake City Planning Commission
- Salt Lake County Council of Governments
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Refining Wasatch Choices 2040

In 2004, Envision Utah partnered with Wasatch Front Regional Council (WFRC) and the Mountainland Association of Governments (MAG) to involve the public in creating a region-wide land use vision to support the long-range transportation plan. More than 1,000 residents in four counties participated in this effort, which resulted in Growth Principles, a Regional Vision Map, and Implementation Strategies for Local Governments. Both WFRC and MAG have supported these products.

WFRC and MAG now want to refine the Vision based on updated modeling analysis and have asked Envision Utah for assistance. Envision Utah staff will contact local municipalities as part of this effort in the fall. For over a year, WFRC and Envision Utah staff have met with local city councils and planning commissions to listen to their ideas and gain their support of the Growth Principles. Most of the region's planners and elected officials favor these principles and have been applying them to their community's circumstances.



Envision Utah's New Website

Envision Utah has recently updated its website (www.envisionutah.org). Please take a look and share any comments with Kevin Fayles at (801) 303-1462 or Kevin@envisionutah.org.

Envision Utah on Facebook

Envision Utah has joined the Facebook crowd. Please go to Facebook and become a friend. We will periodically send messages as well as use Facebook to gather feedback on future activities.

Blueprint Jordan River Gaining Strength

In 2008, Envision Utah and local partners completed *Blueprint Jordan River*, a two-year public planning process to explore the Jordan River corridor's future. With input from thousands of interested residents, we concluded that a coordinated effort among the 15 municipalities that border the Jordan River and various community groups is necessary to complete the parkway trail and other recreational facilities, restore and preserve critical natural areas, create consistent development standards, and maintain the river corridor.

Envision Utah and Salt Lake County formed a working group to address implementation of this public vision. The Implementation Committee, composed of elected and other officials from each municipality, has been meeting regularly this year. They are working to determine the structure, responsibilities and funding of a future governing entity to implement the *Blueprint Jordan River* vision.

For more information, contact Gabe Epperson, planning director (801-303-1453; Gabe@envisionutah.org).



Envision Utah Thanks Its Contributors

Envision Utah appreciates the George S. & Dolores Doré Eccles Foundation as a Major Sponsor. We are grateful for the Foundation's sustained generosity that matches your gifts 2:1.

We thank the following for supporting Envision Utah. Each donation makes an appreciable difference in advancing quality growth principles in Utah.

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