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For Immediate Release

Press Release

Contact: Contact:

Christie Oostema, Project Manager, Envision Utah, (801) 303-1456 or Christie@envisionutah.org

Kevin Fayles, Community Relations Manager, (801) 303-1462 or Kevin@envisionutah.org

Elected Officials Convene for Historic Visioning Workshop: Everyone Encouraged to Get Involved Next Week

On September 7th, over 40 elected officials from Bear Lake County and Rich County convened in a historic visioning workshop as part of the Bear Lake Valley Blueprint process. Officials from both counties and nearly all of the municipalities participated, as did Utah state senators Scott Jenkins and Peter Knudson. Working together to explore challenges associated with growth, the officials worked in groups to brainstorm options for housing patterns, jobs, transportation.

The meeting was the third of nine scheduled workshops as part of the first round of public involvement. The Blueprint is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to explore growth-related issues and to think together about what residents want the region to be like in the future.

“The Bear Lake Valley Blueprint workshop was surprisingly well attended, said Utah state senator Pete Knudson. “Those in attendance appeared to enjoy the hands on process wherein they could participate in laying out what they would envision the future of Bear Lake Valley to be.”

“For me it was a proud moment to witness the number of elected officials, planning & zoning members, and State Officials at this historic meeting,” said Lori Haddock, co-chair of the Blueprint process. “To have officials from two states and eight cities who are willing to work together for the betterment of our communities is an awesome accomplishment. I am very proud and excited to be a part of this ground breaking process. With each workshop we learn more and I am anxious to see what comes out of our next workshops and the upcoming events.”

“I think it’s extremely valuable to have people with different interests and from different regions come together,” said Garden City mayor John Spuhler. “I was surprised to see how similar the different visioning maps were. We may have different backgrounds, but we have similar hopes for how we’d like to see the region grow.”

The Blueprint process is an opportunity for people to explore ideas and create a shared vision. According to the project’s manager, Christie Oostema, “We see the commitment that people here have to their communities and to creating a great place for future generations. We’ve got five more public workshops to go. I hope that everyone feels welcome and encouraged to participate. The workshops are spread across the two counties, so most people can attend a workshop fairly close to home.”

All are encouraged to participate in a public workshop. Remaining workshops include:

- TUES., SEPT. 14: 7:00 P.M. GEORGETOWN, Georgetown Elementary Gym, 142 Stringtown Road
- WED., SEPT. 15: 7:00 P.M. MONTPELIER, Bear Lake Middle School Gym, 633 Washington Street
- WED., SEPT. 15: 7:00 P.M. PARIS, Paris Elementary Gym, 39 S. Fielding
- THURS., SEPT. 16: 7:00 P.M. RANDOLPH, Senior Center, 5 North Main Street
- THURS., SEPT. 16: 7:00 P.M. GARDEN CITY, Garden City Complex, 145 W Logan Road, North Building, Lakeview Room

Those unable to attend a workshop are asked to complete an important survey at www.bearlakevalleyblueprint.org

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