



## **Salt Lake County Council Mulls Advisory Commission for Jordan River**

04.26.2010 by [Elizabeth Ziegler](#)

(KCPW News) The Salt Lake County Council will discuss tomorrow whether to create a multi-jurisdictional advisory commission to oversee development and open space preservation along the Jordan River. Councilwoman Jenny Wilson says after months of meetings with a stakeholders group on how to implement the Blueprint Jordan River master plan, a commission structure emerged as the most viable governance model. It would not have taxing authority.

“The commission model ended up being the compromise, really,” Wilson says. “I think there were those of us, myself included, that wanted to see the opportunity to go to the public and say, ‘Would you like to have a minimal tax increase, just as we did with open space in Salt Lake County, to support funding for property acquisition?’”

Wilson says creating a governing body with the ability to levy taxes was unpopular among some of the cities along the river, especially during the economic downturn. She says a nonprofit model was also tossed aside, because it wouldn’t include elected officials, who are accountable to voters.

At least one city is resisting joining the commission unless the Blueprint Jordan River plan is revised. Draper City Councilman Bill Colbert says it doesn’t take into consideration Draper’s own plans for riverside transit-oriented developments, which incorporate housing and retail space with light-rail stops.

“We’re looking at a 50, 100-year horizon and we see that this area is critical, all along that river, is critical to the future of our community, and especially that transit-oriented development, that commuter rail stop,” Colbert says. “So it needs to acknowledge that formally before I think I’d recommend that we participate.”

However, Colbert says the city council has not taken a position on the plan. Councilwoman Wilson says the county plans to work with Draper to alleviate its concerns, but the commission could move forward without the city’s participation.