

## **Press Release**

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### ***Vision Dixie Unveils Possible Future of Washington County***

Envision Utah facilitated a historic process in Washington County to build a vision for its future, and the results of this sixteen month effort were released this week at the Washington County Economic Summit in St. George. The Washington County Commission has agreed to pass a resolution adopting the Vision Dixie principles and implementation strategies at its next meeting.

More than 3000 residents participated in the Vision Dixie process through workshops, on-line surveys, and independent polling.

Vision Dixie recommends the following ten principles to guide future growth pressures:

- Plan Regionally, Implement Locally
- Conserve Water and Maintain Air and Water Quality
- Guard Our “Signature” Scenic Landscapes
- Provide Rich, Connected Natural Recreation and Open Space
- Build Balanced Transportation
- Get “Centered” by Focusing Growth on Walkable, Mixed-Use Centers
- Direct Growth Inward
- Provide a Broad Range of Housing Types
- Reserve Key Areas for Industry to Grow the Economic Pie
- Focused Public Land Conversion

As part of the grassroots-driven process, four potential snapshots of how the County could grow were created and then evaluated for their merits. Some interesting lessons emerged:

- The more that jobs and homes are within walking distance to transit, the more transit use grew. This in turn results in better air quality and less regional congestions.
- Focusing job growth in mixed-use centers in each part of the region was effective in reducing driving distances.

- Relatively modest shifts in housing from large lot to multi-family, reflecting projected market trends, can dramatically reduce the footprint of development. This enables less water to be used for non-agricultural use and reduces growth pressures on public lands.
- Growth through redevelopment, like building on today's parking lots, puts new employment in convenient places and locates workers nearer service and jobs. Redevelopment results in reduced regional congestion, improved air quality, better transit use, and a smaller footprint of development.

Building on this research, a Vision Scenario – representing one of many plausible ways growth might unfold in the county if the Vision Dixie Principles are implemented – was also unveiled. The Vision Scenario isn't a prediction, but tells a story, based on the best information available, to help illustrate the Principles. The Vision represents a contiguous pattern of growth, focused in centers.

Vision Dixie has been about choices, keeping the “big picture” in mind, and understanding the consequences of today's actions. Vision Dixie will help Washington County residents be wise stewards of their limited resources and preserve the best of the county.

A full copy of the Vision Dixie report and its recommendations can be found at [www.visiondixie.org](http://www.visiondixie.org).

Envision Utah is a private, non-profit, non-partisan organization. Governor Jon Huntsman, Jr., and Spencer F. Eccles serve as honorary co-chairs of Envision Utah. Since 1997, Envision Utah has encouraged communities to make informed decisions now with an eye toward maintaining over the long-term what citizens value most about living in Utah - because how we grow matters.