



GRAND COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBERS
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March 19, 2014

Mike McKee, Chair
Uintah County Commission
152 East 100 North
Vernal, Utah 84078

Dear Commissioner McKee:

In the spirit of cooperation envisioned by the newly formed Seven County Eastern Utah Economic Development Coalition, and a desire for closer coordination with our adjacent county neighbors, Grand County would like to advise you of a concept we are considering in regard to enhancing access and transportation systems in northern Grand County. We suggest such potential access enhancements could also be of interest to Uintah County.

In 2013, the State Institutional Trust Lands Administration (SITLA) entered into a development agreement with Anadarko on 100,000 + acre state land block in the Book Cliffs area of northern Grand County. Our primary county population center of Moab has limited access to this remote SITLA land due to terrain and a poorly developed and maintained transportation system. Currently the only direct route from Moab is an un-surfaced 15 mile long Grand County Class B road which extends north from I-70 at Thompson, Utah through Segoe Canyon to the southern end of the SITLA land block. The road now stops where it enters onto a one mile section of Native American lands at the top of Segoe Canyon. In the mid-1980's the Northern Ute Tribe placed a gate across the route on their boundary to guard against trespass onto their lands by unauthorized hunters and fishermen. Prior to closure this road continued for another 7-8 miles on SITLA lands to an old gas well location.

Grand County would like to investigate the feasibility of improving transportation in this area between the SITLA block and the I-70/railway corridor, and perhaps additional routes between our counties. We are hopeful SITLA would participate in both these analyses, due to potential for enhanced economic return from any development on their large state block.

We believe two studies could provide information, analysis and projections regarding a potential transportation corridor associated with the Segoe Canyon access. One study would focus on potential economic factors that could be attributable to various transportation systems in this corridor. The second study would provide a reconnaissance level analysis of potential routes and costs for this type of