

TOWN OF ALTA

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-R-5

A RESOLUTION BY THE ALTA TOWN COUNCIL IN RESPONSE TO THE UTAH DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION’S LITTLE COTTONWOOD CANYON ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

WHEREAS, the Town of Alta (“Town”) is located at the end of State Route (“S.R.”) 210 within Little Cottonwood Canyon (“LCC”);

WHEREAS, because State Route 210 ends within the Town, vehicular traffic and associated peak travel times and congestion significantly affects residents, businesses, and visitors in the Town;

WHEREAS, to address traffic issues in LCC, the Utah Department of Transportation (“UDOT”) conducted an Environmental Impact Statement to evaluate proposals to improve safety, mobility, and reliability on S.R. 210 in and near LCC (the “LCC EIS”);

WHEREAS, UDOT issued a Record of Decision in the summer of 2023 (the “Final EIS”), in which it identified Gondola Alternative B (the “Gondola Alternative”), with proposed phasing (“Phase 1, Phase 2, and Phase 3”), as the preferred alternative to improve transportation in LCC;

WHEREAS, UDOT’s implementation of the LCC EIS will affect the Town in ways dissimilar from any other entity; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council (“Council”) wishes to express its position on the UDOT LCC EIS.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1.

The Council expressly supports and appreciates all UDOT employees and personnel, including but not limited to road maintenance workers, avalanche forecasters, engineers, project managers, and executives, for their commitment to safety, mobility, and reliability in Little Cottonwood Canyon and Alta. The Council wishes to maintain a constructive and collaborative relationship between the Town and UDOT, and each agency’s respective personnel, in perpetuity. The Council appreciates UDOT’s continued financial investment in solving problems that are unique to Little Cottonwood Canyon.

Section 2.

The Council supports UDOT's "phased approach" to implementing alternatives identified in the Final EIS and looks forward to collaborating with UDOT in phases 1 and 2 to improve safety, mobility, and reliability on SR 210. The Council believes implementation of phases 1 and 2 must include collecting, and sharing with the public, data about the efficacy of phased improvements such as the proposed enhanced bus service and tolling. The Council also supports conducting more rigorous and transparent evaluation of the capacity of the natural and social environment in LCC to withstand the additional visitation long-term transportation improvements would facilitate. The Council believes analysis of such data will be essential to understanding the need for, and justifying, large and expensive transportation infrastructure projects that would have permanent negative impacts on the environment in LCC. The Council urges UDOT to engage a third party to conduct such an analysis to ensure public trust in the outcome.

Section 3.

The council urges UDOT to suspend consideration of a gondola in Little Cottonwood Canyon.

Section 4.

We request that UDOT utilize remaining Recreation Hotspots funding allocated to Little Cottonwood Canyon to study and implement various measures to mitigate congestion on SR-210 and especially afternoon peak travel period "red snake conditions," including but not limited to:

- Various strategies to manage and control vehicle entry into LCC such as:
 - Implementing traction device requirements for all vehicles in LCC from November 1 to May 1
 - Expanding and improving traction device requirement enforcement
 - Expanding and improving the "sticker program" to pre-authorize vehicles with appropriate traction devices
 - Tolling during peak travel periods, with tolling infrastructure at the mouth of the canyon, and with flexibility to accommodate residents and delivery vehicles
- Study and implement measures to maintain roadway operations on the S.R. 210 "Main Line" under Mt. Superior during periods of increased avalanche hazard
- Improve traffic flow from Alta during peak departure times by reducing or eliminating merge points along the Alta-Snowbird Bypass Road and between Snowbird Entries 4 and 1
- Continued evaluation of selective lane closures for private vehicles during peak traffic hours to reduce travel times for buses and other shared-ride vehicles and services

- Restoring UTA Ski Bus service to levels provided prior to recent cuts in service
- Measures to mitigate impacts to roadway operations from roadside parking throughout the canyon. We request prioritization be placed on SR 210 between Snowbird entries 1 through 4 as well as the Alta-Snowbird Bypass Road.

Section 4. This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon passage and shall be forwarded to UDOT, EIS cooperating agencies, nearby municipalities including Salt Lake County, and the Town’s legislative representatives.

APPROVED by the Town Council on the 13th day of March 2024.

By:

MAYOR ROGER BOURKE

ATTEST:

JEN CLANCY, TOWN CLERK

DRAFT