



MINUTES – City Council Joint Workshop with Neighboring Cities - Special Session

JOINT WORKSESSION MEETING WITH THE CITIES OF SARATOGA SPRINGS, AMERICAN FORK, CEDAR FORT, EAGLE MOUNTAIN, FAIRFIELD, AND LEHI

Tuesday, January 8, 2025, 6:00 p.m.

Fox Hollow Golf Course clubhouse, 1400 North 200 East, American Fork, UT 84003

Present:

Saratoga Springs: Mayor Jim Miller; Council Members Aubrey Barton, Christopher Carn, Lance Wadman, and Stephen Wilden; City Manager Mark Christensen; and Public Works Director/City Engineer Jeremy Lapin

American Fork City: Mayor Brad Frost; Council Members Ryan Hunter and Ernie John; City Administrator David Bunker; Assistant City Administrator Camden Bird; Public Works Director Sam Kelly; Police Lieutenant Stuart Fore; and City Recorder Terilyn Lurker

Cedar Fort: Mayor Wyatt Cook

Eagle Mountain: Council Members Donna Burnham, Melissa Clark, Brett Wright, and Rich Wood; City Manager Ben Reeves; Steve Mumford; Vince Hogge; City Recorder Gina Olsen; and Brandon Larsen

Fairfield: Mayor Hollie McKinney; and Council Members Richard Cameron and Michael Weber

Lehi: Mayor Mark Johnson; Council Members Paige Albrecht, Paul Hancock, Heather Newall, and Michelle Stallings; City Engineer Lorin Powell; and Assistant City Engineer Brad Kenison

Others: Jeff Acerson (UTA), Eric Rasband (UDOT), Josh Gibbons (Hales Engineering), and Rob Shelton (AF Citizen)

JOINT WORK SESSION

1. **Welcome - Introductions – 6:05 p.m.**
Mayor Frost, welcomed all to the meeting.
2. **Discussion on Transportation**
Mayor Frost noted the need to work on transportation.

Eric Rasband, UDOT, explained that Lehi City approached them with transportation proposals near Camp Williams. They started with a population estimate 200,000 lower than today's projection, though the findings remain relevant. They analyzed a freeway connection to reduce congestion on 2100 North, which currently has 60,000-70,000 trips daily onto I-15 and Mountain View Corridor. They proposed a frontage road system with exits and entrances along it. Implementing this would require adding 3-4 lanes on I-15 at the point of the mountain. Rasband noted this is part of MAG's vision plan.

Josh Gibbons, Hales Engineering, reviewed the Lehi city plans on various transportation connections from I-15 west. He reviewed growth predictions. Future population showed around 400,000 by 2050 in the northwest area.

City Manager Mark J. Christensen noted that the numbers on their chart were not reflecting the actual numbers for 2024. This was a problem, and contributed to why they were behind in funding and things. He will advocate for looking at occupancy in the growth projections.

Josh Gibbons noted two areas of focus, Point of the Mountain and the North Lake area. He reviewed the conditions for each of the scenarios. They felt for the Point of the Mountain plan the benefits were shorter travel distances and would help Porter Rockwell. UDOT will be doing additional studies there. On the three alignments on the North Lake connections; he noted the information given was for one freeway scenarios, not multiple freeways.

Gibbons noted Higher capacities and redundant east-west routes protects the system in case of closures on a facility to carry east-west demand of 160k-180k vehicles. He noted the need to talk about other options such as high-capacity routes and transit.

Some council members mentioned the improbability of residents using some of the scenarios presented, such as those coming from Eagle Mountain north areas. This didn't represent what they felt was actually happening.

Sam Kelly, American Fork Public Works Director, advised that the City Engineers and Public Works directors have been looking at the data and complied it.

Eagle Mountain Council members noted the information presented this night was not given to their City Council and did not reflect their vision. They felt the majority of the information given so far was flawed, their city and others were not contacted to get the correct information to base the studies on. When they bring studies with inaccurate information, it brings the whole thing backward and doesn't help them make good decisions. It seems to have ignored all the progress that was made in the last year.

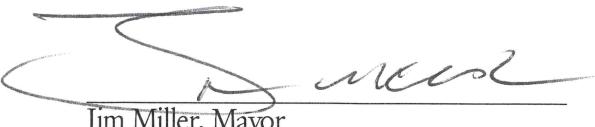
Councilmembers from other west cities concurred and shared their concerns. Correct numbers need to be used in any study. A southern route from Pelican Point across the lake was mentioned.

The remainder of the meeting discussion focused on addressing traffic and development challenges in the region. Key points included the need for accurate data sharing among cities and with engineers to improve traffic models. Specific issues were highlighted, such as the discrepancy in traffic projections for cities like Saratoga Springs and Eagle Mountain, indicating a flawed model. The conversation also emphasized the importance of long-term planning, particularly the need for an east-west route north of the lake, and the urgency of solving current traffic problems. Funding for environmental impact studies and securing funds for critical projects like the Mountain Express were also discussed, with a call for continuous pursuit of funding to address immediate and future needs.

It was noted that there was a need to balance long-term vision with more immediate needs for current citizens. There was agreement that preserving transportation corridors for the future is crucial, but also a recognition that short-term relief and improvements are necessary to address current congestion and quality of life issues. The group discussed prioritizing action items such as submitting applications for funding and studies, and preserving corridors and right-of-way acquisition.

Next meeting would be in Eagle Mountain, April 29th, 2025, 6pm.

3. Adjournment – 7:55 p.m.


Jim Miller, Mayor


Nicolette Fike, City Recorder


January 21, 2025
Date Approved

