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**MINUTES OF THE CENTRAL WASATCH COMMISSION (“CWC”) TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEETING HELD FRIDAY, JANUARY 24, 2025, AT 9:30 A.M. THE MEETING WAS CONDUCTED BOTH IN-PERSON AND VIRTUALLY VIA ZOOM. THE ANCHOR LOCATION WAS THE CWC OFFICES LOCATED IN THE BRIGHTON BANK BUILDING, 311 SOUTH STATE STREET, SUITE 330, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH.**

- Present:** Dan Knopp, Chair  
Monica Zoltanski  
Spencer Shaver  
Tom Diegel, Stakeholders Council Co-Chair
- Staff:** Lindsey Nielsen, Executive Director  
Samantha Kilpack, Director of Operations

**OPENING**

**1. Chair Dan Knopp will Open the Public Meeting as Chair of the Transportation Committee of the Central Wasatch Commission.**

Chair Dan Knopp called the Central Wasatch Commission (“CWC”) Transportation Committee Meeting to order at 9:35 a.m. and welcomed those present.

**SOLITUDE RESORT PARKING LOT**

**1. The Committee will Discuss Solitude Resort’s Plan to Build a Parking Lot in Mill F.**

Chair Knopp reported that Solitude Mountain Resort has submitted an application with MSD to build a 720-stall parking lot across the street from Solitude. The proposed location is across from Entry 2 in Mill F on a 12.5-acre parcel. As far as he knows, the initial application was not accepted, because it was incomplete. He met with the resort last fall about this and saw the initial plans. Based on what he knows, there are access issues. The road that would be used to access the property is controlled and owned by Salt Lake City Public Utilities, who has stated that they will not allow access. A Conditional Use Permit has been requested, which could eventually be considered by the Planning Commission in Brighton. He offered to answer any questions.

Spencer Shaver explained that Save Our Canyons is watching the application closely, as a number of concerned homeowners in Big Cottonwood Canyon reached out with some concerns. In

1 addition to the 720 stalls, the plan includes bulldozing over 10 acres of forest. He pointed out that  
2 there are environmental and watershed implications whenever a parking lot is added to an area.

3  
4 Mayor Monica Zoltanski asked what kind of surface is proposed. Chair Knopp reported that this  
5 is still unknown because the submitted application was incomplete. His assumption is that it would  
6 be a paved surface parking lot. It looks like it would be three tiers with rock walls. However,  
7 there are a lot of storm drain issues that need to be addressed. Mr. Shaver stated that it is currently  
8 zoned Forestry and Recreation, but it would need to be zoned Canyon Commercial in order to  
9 proceed. Mayor Zoltanski asked when it will be heard by the Planning Commission. Chair Knopp  
10 explained that it will be heard when a formal application is submitted.

11  
12 Mr. Shaver noted that the CWC had done some great work as far as addressing transportation  
13 issues in Big Cottonwood Canyon. He referenced the Big Cottonwood Canyon Mobility Action  
14 Plan (“BCC MAP”) and the ongoing discussions with the Utah Department of Transportation  
15 (“UDOT”). There is a desire to add more buses and look into tolling in order to address some of  
16 the congestion issues that currently impact Big Cottonwood Canyon. Adding 720 additional  
17 vehicles to the canyon is a concern, as it is in opposition to a lot of the goals outlined in the BCC  
18 MAP. Chair Knopp reported that the resort plans to eliminate the roadside parking if this project  
19 moves forward, which is approximately 220 parking stalls. Executive Director, Lindsey Nielsen,  
20 asked about the possible timeline. Chair Knopp does not believe anything will happen this year.

21  
22 Tom Diegel asked who owns the land. Chair Knopp reported that it is currently under contract  
23 with Solitude Mountain Resort, but it is owned by the Dunyon Family. The Town of Brighton  
24 previously spoke to the agent to see if it was possible to purchase the land but then found out it  
25 was under contract. The town has voiced interest in a purchase in order to protect the land.

## 26 27 MILLCREEK CANYON SHUTTLE

### 28 29 **1. The Committee will Discuss the Viability of Electric Shuttles in the Tri-Canyons,** 30 **Including a Potential Millcreek Canyon Shuttle.**

31  
32 Mr. Shaver reported that Save Our Canyons was invited to participate in an event related to the  
33 Running Up For Air (“RUFA”) race that happens in Millcreek. This is where participants run to  
34 raise money to address air quality issues in the Salt Lake Valley. As part of that, there is a shuttle  
35 that will take racers and support crews to the canyon. The company running the shuttle is an  
36 electric shuttle company called Optimal EV. Save Our Canyons has been invited to test the shuttle  
37 that will run throughout the race on February 5, 2025, at 2:00 p.m. He invited Committee Members  
38 to join him on that test run. It could explore what a potential Millcreek Canyon shuttle could look  
39 like. There could be a post written about the need for transit and the different options available.

## 40 41 CENTRAL WASATCH SYMPOSIUM DEBRIEF

### 42 43 **1. The Committee will Discuss the Recent Central Wasatch Symposium.**

44  
45 Ms. Nielsen shared information about the first Central Wasatch Symposium. It took place on  
46 January 9 and 10, 2025. The symposium was a success and was held at Millcreek City Hall. The

1 keynote address was shared by Terry Tempest Williams and there were a lot of meaningful  
2 presentations. The feedback received so far was that attendees wanted more time for question-  
3 and-answer sessions. That will be taken into account when the next symposium is planned.  
4

5 Mayor Zoltanski reported that she read an article about the ski resort manager's presentation.  
6 Ms. Nielsen confirmed this and noted that there were a few media mentions before and after the  
7 Central Wasatch Symposium. Mayor Zoltanski noted that Terry Tempest Williams was a draw  
8 and elevated the experience. She set the tone for the symposium and stressed the importance of  
9 appreciating what exists. Ms. Nielsen agreed that the keynote address was powerful. She  
10 explained that all of the presentations were recorded and are available on the CWC website. The  
11 keynote address from Terry Tempest Williams was not recorded due to her explicit request.  
12

13 Mr. Shaver thanked CWC Staff for all of their efforts. The Central Wasatch Symposium made it  
14 possible to talk to a lot of different people. Chair Knopp expressed his appreciation for the event.  
15

## 16 **CHAIR UPDATES**

### 17

#### 18 **1. Sale of Catherine Pass Highway by Great Western Mining Company.**

19  
20 Chair Knopp reported that an email was received from a group that owns land through perfected  
21 mining claims between Brighton and Little Cottonwood. The proposal is for a highway. However,  
22 when he looked into it, this group does not own all of the land in between there. He spoke to Laura  
23 Briefer about this matter and based on the data, it does not appear it will be able to move forward.  
24

## 25 **STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### 26

#### 27 **1. The Ski Bus Priority Access Program is Underway.**

28  
29 Ms. Nielsen reported that the Ski Bus Priority Access Program is currently underway. There have  
30 been a few closures on SR-210 so far this season. The program is operating well and continues to  
31 increase safety, reduce travel time on the bus, and incentivize transit use. She explained that the  
32 program is done in partnership with Sandy City, Utah Transit Authority (“UTA”), and UDOT.  
33

34 Chair Knopp reported that tire checks have been taking place. The checks are beneficial within  
35 the canyon itself, but it can be a difficult process for people trying to enter the canyon in the  
36 morning. Work is still being done to determine the most effective method. Chair Knopp informed  
37 the Transportation Committee that there is a project that will start in 2026. It will help with the  
38 tire checks. Additionally, he spoke to Devin Weder earlier that morning and UDOT is well  
39 underway with the negotiations to purchase the land from the Walker Family for the gravel pit  
40 parking structure. He shared information about the gravel pit operations and the future of the area.  
41

42 Ms. Nielsen noted that a question was left in the Zoom chat box about whether the 2026 work at  
43 the mouth of the canyon is part of the BCC MAP. Chair Knopp denied this and explained that it  
44 is separate. The 2026 project work is a regular UDOT project rather than a BCC MAP project.  
45

1 Mr. Spencer had a question about the online poll that UDOT put out about traction control. He  
2 asked if that data would be publicly available in the future. Chair Knopp offered to find out for  
3 sure. He reported that Representative Gay Lynn Bennion is pushing a bill that would make traction  
4 devices necessary all winter. There is a desire to separate out Big Cottonwood Canyon and Little  
5 Cottonwood Canyon and then require traction controls to be in place throughout the winter season.  
6

7 Mr. Diegel reported that the Wasatch Backcountry Alliance shuttle program, which is part of the  
8 CWC Short-Term Projects Grant Program, started last week and has been very popular. Shuttle  
9 vans are being run in Big Cottonwood Canyon and Little Cottonwood Canyon to backcountry  
10 trailheads. He expressed appreciation for the support from the CWC and the grant program.  
11

12 **2. Minutes Approval Process.**  
13

14 Director of Operations, Samantha Kilpack, reported that the Meeting Minutes will be sent out  
15 shortly. Any corrections can be submitted via email within three business days. After three  
16 business days without any corrections, the Meeting Minutes will be considered approved. This  
17 process can change if the Transportation Committee wants to set more regular meeting dates.  
18

19 **3. Scheduling Next Meeting.**  
20

21 It was determined that the next Transportation Committee Meeting will take place after the CWC  
22 Board Meeting in March. Mayor Zoltanski suggested it take place after the Legislative Session.  
23

24 **OTHER ITEMS**  
25

26 Ms. Nielsen reported that the Short-Term Projects Grant Program is open and applications can be  
27 submitted until February 9, 2025. She asked those present to share that information.  
28

29 **CLOSING**  
30

31 **1. Chair Knopp will Call for a Motion to Adjourn the Transportation Committee**  
32 **Meeting.**  
33

34 **MOTION: Monica Zoltanski** moved to ADJOURN. There was no second. The motion passed  
35 with the unanimous consent of the Committee.  
36

37 The Central Wasatch Commission Transportation Committee Meeting adjourned at 9:57 a.m.

1 *I hereby certify that the foregoing represents a true, accurate, and complete record of the Central*  
2 *Wasatch Commission Transportation Committee Meeting held Friday, January 24, 2025.*

3

4 Teri Forbes

5 Teri Forbes

6 T Forbes Group

7 Minutes Secretary

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9 Minutes Approved: \_\_\_\_\_