



9 **MINUTES OF THE CENTRAL WASATCH COMMISSION (“CWC”) STAKEHOLDERS**
10 **COUNCIL MILLCREEK CANYON COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY,**
11 **NOVEMBER 18, 2024, AT 1:30 P.M. THE MEETING WAS CONDUCTED BOTH IN-**
12 **PERSON AND VIRTUALLY VIA ZOOM. THE ANCHOR LOCATION WAS THE CWC**
13 **OFFICES LOCATED IN THE BRIGHTON BANK BUILDING, 311 SOUTH STATE**
14 **STREET, SUITE 330, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH.**

15
16 **Present:** Del Draper, Chair
17 Sally Kaiser
18 Dan Zalles
19 Adam Lenkowski
20 John Knoblock
21 Ed Marshall
22 Maura Hahnenberger

23
24 **Staff:** Lindsey Nielsen, Executive Director
25 Samantha Kilpack, Director of Operations
26

27 **Opening**
28

29 **1. Chair Del Draper will Open the Public Meeting as Chair of the Millcreek Canyon**
30 **Committee of the Central Wasatch Commission Stakeholders Council.**

31
32 Chair Del Draper called the Millcreek Canyon Committee Meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.
33

34 **2. Review and Approval of the Minutes from the September 16, 2024, Meeting.**
35

36 **MOTION:** Ed Marshall moved to APPROVE the Meeting Minutes from September 16, 2024.
37 Adam Lenkowski seconded the motion. The motion passed with the unanimous consent of the
38 Committee.
39

40 **FLAP Grant Discussion**
41

42 **1. The Committee will Discuss Phases 1 and 2 of the Millcreek Canyon FLAP Grant.**
43

44 Chair Draper reported that the Millcreek Canyon Committee will discuss the Federal Lands Access
45 Program (“FLAP”) grant. Salt Lake County, the U.S. Forest Service, and the City of Millcreek
46 held an informational meeting on November 6, 2024, about their proposal to apply for another

1 FLAP grant to address the lower portion of Millcreek Canyon. It would be from the winter gate
2 down to the fee booth. Those entities are in the process of applying for the grant and will find out
3 whether or not it has been awarded in September 2025. If it is awarded, the planning and
4 environmental work will start and the goal is for there to be construction in 2030 or 2031. There
5 is optimism that they will receive that grant based on the fact that the original FLAP grant
6 application was for the whole canyon. It was the Federal Highway Administration (“FHWA”) that
7 stated it should be broken into two parts instead: the upper portion and lower portion of the canyon.
8

9 Though there is optimism about receiving the grant for the lower portion of Millcreek Canyon, the
10 procedure has changed somewhat. Chair Draper explained that the applicant previously needed to
11 have 6% of the funds for the project, but that has been eliminated. As a result, there will likely be
12 a lot more applications received moving forward. The estimated cost of Phase 2 is just under \$13
13 million. The roadway in the lower portion is in much better shape and does not require as much
14 rebuilding as the upper portion of the canyon does. The hope is to have a bicycle lane up, though
15 words like “where possible,” were used during the presentation. There was talk about replacing
16 some of the on-road parking with off-road parking, similar to what was done at Rattlesnake. It is
17 unclear whether the FLAP grant will cover those new lots. However, some other amenities will
18 not be covered by the FLAP grant, such as new restrooms. Salt Lake County had someone at the
19 informational meeting who stated that the idea is to apply for additional grants to cover some of
20 the facilities that will not be included in the FLAP grant.
21

22 Chair Draper shared additional details from the informational meeting. It was stated that every
23 effort would be made to keep the road open during construction. That is in contrast with the FLAP
24 grant for the upper portion of the canyon, where that portion of the canyon will be largely closed
25 for a few summers. Phase 2 also involves rebuilding the fee booth at the bottom of the canyon.
26

27 John Knoblock believed some of the grant money will be used to widen the road slightly where
28 there is no room for the bicycle lane. Additionally, there will be conduit put in for future
29 communications. Chair Draper explained that the Forest Service has stated that if someone applies
30 to put cell service in the canyon, then that application will be considered. The reality is that if any
31 company thought it would be profitable to do that, it would have been done already. What will
32 need to happen is for a third party to come up with enough money to put fiber optic cable in the
33 conduit so that can be used for cell towers in the canyon as well as some sort of communication
34 system to state when the parking lots in the canyon are full. In Big Cottonwood Canyon and Little
35 Cottonwood Canyon, it was the Utah Department of Transportation (“UDOT”) that paid for the
36 conduit and fiber. There is a lot that still needs to be worked out for Millcreek Canyon.
37

38 Dan Zalles asked about Porter Fork Road and whether that will be part of the FLAP grant work.
39 Chair Draper reported that it will not be part of the project. Mr. Zalles asked about the timeline
40 for the FLAP grant work. Chair Draper reported that they will find out in September 2025 whether
41 or not the FLAP grant has been received for the lower portion of the canyon. From there, the
42 planning and environmental process will take place. Based on what happened with the upper
43 portion of the canyon, that will likely be a three-year process, and then there is the construction
44 period. As a result, it will probably be 2030 or 2031 before the Phase 2 project work is complete.
45

1 Chair Draper noted that there was an interesting comment made about the Phase 1 work. The
2 expectation is that several contractors will bid on the work. The idea is that a contractor will be
3 selected shortly. It was stated that the cost of the road improvements for Phase 1 are now estimated
4 to be approximately \$25 million, which is much higher than the \$19 million that was discussed
5 when the project first started. He is not certain who will cover the additional costs.
6

7 Chair Draper does not believe there will be any additional information about the FLAP grant
8 application for Phase 2 until September 2025. If the grant is ultimately awarded, there will be
9 public open houses after that point. It will then be possible to share comments on the project.
10

11 **Millcreek Canyon Shuttle Grant**

13 **1. The Committee will Discuss the Status of the Millcreek Canyon Shuttle, Including** 14 **Potential Grant Funding.**

16 Executive Director, Lindsey Nielsen, shared information about a possible Millcreek Canyon
17 shuttle. There was an application submitted to the Outdoor Recreation Initiative through the Utah
18 Division of Outdoor Recreation for an update to a Feasibility Study from Fehr & Peers. There
19 should be clarity this week about whether that grant request was successful. Mr. Knoblock noted
20 that the first Fehr & Peers study was done in 2012 and stated that the Salt Lake County Regional
21 Planning Department might be able to assist with funding for the update if the grant is not awarded.
22

23 Chair Draper noted that during the last Millcreek Canyon Committee Meeting there were also
24 discussions about a possible Millcreek Canyon shuttle. The Forest Service has concerns about
25 funding for a shuttle and wants there to be a funding mechanism in place before an Environmental
26 Impact Statement (“EIS”) or Environmental Assessment (“EA”) is done. Additionally, the Forest
27 Service does not believe there is adequate parking despite the efforts made to address that issue.
28

29 Ms. Nielsen reported that the parking and staging options for a Millcreek Canyon shuttle are
30 currently on the west side of I-215 and the east side of I-215. Both require some work, such as
31 permits, agreements, and potentially some construction. CWC Staff will continue to look into the
32 west side of the frontage road as a possible option for Millcreek Canyon shuttle parking.
33

34 Ed Marshall noted that during the last Meeting Minutes, it was stated that the shuttle would be
35 discussed at the next CWC Transportation Committee Meeting. He wondered whether that
36 happened and what the Committee Members said about the matter. Ms. Nielsen reported that there
37 will be a CWC Transportation Committee Meeting on November 20, 2024. It will be discussed at
38 that time. Chair Draper noted that there is a CWC Transportation Committee as well as a
39 Transportation Systems Committee. The latter is a subcommittee of the Stakeholders Council.
40 Ms. Nielsen reported that the Chair of the CWC Transportation Committee is Mayor Dan Knopp,
41 the Mayor of Brighton.
42

43 Chair Draper pointed out that Big Cottonwood Canyon, Little Cottonwood Canyon, and Millcreek
44 Canyon are all grappling with transportation issues. There might be solutions that benefit all three
45 canyons at one time. Mr. Knoblock suggested speaking to Ex Officio Member, Carlton
46 Christensen about how the Utah Transit Authority (“UTA”) might be able to assist. For instance,

1 the possibility of expanding UTA service into Millcreek Canyon or asking for feedback. Ms.
2 Nielsen reported that she has had that conversation with UTA in the past and it is not on their radar.

3
4 Discussions were had about transportation issues in Big Cottonwood Canyon and Little
5 Cottonwood Canyon. Mr. Knoblock noted that he has heard comments about the lawsuits
6 associated with the UDOT Little Cottonwood Canyon EIS. He read through the lawsuits and in
7 the Salt Lake City lawsuit with the Metropolitan Water District of Salt Lake and Sandy, enhanced
8 busing is one of the items that is being contested. Mr. Knoblock explained that a lot of potential
9 transportation solutions in Little Cottonwood Canyon are on hold as a result of the lawsuits.

10
11 Mr. Knoblock suggested that the Millcreek Canyon Committee start to brainstorm a list of potential
12 funding sources for a Millcreek Canyon shuttle. It might be possible to obtain an estimate on the
13 parking lot improvement costs, look into possible funding sources for that work and the shuttle
14 itself, and consider ways to overcome the lost revenue from vehicles entering the canyons. One
15 action item for Committee Members is to look into other shuttle programs in the country to
16 determine how those are funded and who operates them. Ms. Nielsen reported that there were
17 previously cost estimates created for operation and capital costs. That was the result of her
18 conversations with many different shuttle companies. Chair Draper wondered whether an updated
19 Fehr & Peers study could potentially look into shuttle services in other areas for reference. Ms.
20 Nielsen confirmed that an update to the Feasibility Study would include that kind of information.

21
22 **Closing**

23
24 **1. Chair Draper will Call for a Motion to Adjourn the Millcreek Committee Meeting.**

25
26 **MOTION:** Chair Draper moved to ADJOURN the Millcreek Canyon Committee Meeting. There
27 was no second. The motion passed with the unanimous consent of the Committee.

28
29 The Millcreek Canyon Committee Meeting adjourned at approximately 2:00 p.m.

1 *I hereby certify that the foregoing represents a true, accurate, and complete record of the*
2 *Stakeholders Council Millcreek Canyon Committee Meeting held on Monday, November 18, 2024.*
3

4 Teri Forbes

5 Teri Forbes

6 T Forbes Group

7 Minutes Secretary

8

9 Minutes Approved: _____