

**From:** [Tom Diegel](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Ordinance OAM2025-001431  
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Hello

I have been visiting Big Cottonwood Canyon in winter and summer for 25 years, and have skied Solitude, Brighton, and the surrounding backcountry hundreds of times. Solitude in particular has experienced dramatic growth due to its embrace of the Ikon pass and to be sure Solitude was the first of the 4 local resorts to embrace paid parking designed to encourage carpooling, and the Solitude GM has been engaged in the Central Wasatch Commission that in turn encouraged UDOT on their BCC Mobile Action Plan to encourage enhanced bus transit. So I was surprised when they announced their plans to develop a large parking lot across the street, which flies in the face of what the community wants and indeed the efforts that Solitude has made over the years.

Additionally, Solitude management has indicated that one of their incentives for the lot was the concern for safety of the folks who park along the highway and walk up to the entrance; however, in the last 5+ seasons that this has been happening there have been zero injuries, according to Solitude. In that time, however, there have been hundreds of serious injuries and a handful of fatalities once the customers have been in the confines of the Solitude resort.

Solitude does not have a solid plan for getting customers across the highway via an expensive bridge and instead have mentioned -only in passing - a crosswalk, which at best is not much different in safety to walking up the road, and if there was a HAWK crossing as per the Cardiff/Reynolds crossing this would create yet more significant traffic issues for resort goers and residents of the upper Canyon resort and community, as well as the traffic associated with the legions of drivers trying to make a left turn on busy mornings.

Additionally, this is essentially a dramatic resort expansion that is contrary to the Uinta/Wasatch/Cache National Forest's Forest Plan that has been the guiding document for over two decades, and encroaches on Salt Lake City's watershed, eroding the integrity of the water quality that SLCPU has the responsibility of delivering to the entire SL Valley.

Please vote to uphold the integrity of upper BCC and continue to encourage UDOT, the USFS, and Solitude itself to pursue more modern traffic abatement measures than adding just another parking lot.

Sincerely,

Tom Diegel  
Salt Lake City