

## 2026/2027 State Appropriation Request Outline

Each year, the Central Wasatch Commission has submitted a request to the Utah State Legislature for an appropriation to assist in funding ongoing and new projects. Previously funded projects include: the Ski Bus Priority Access Program, graffiti abatement work, trailhead bathroom maintenance, Central Wasatch Dashboard data maintenance, and the Short-Term Projects Grant Program that helps to fund trail maintenance, bike share programs, invasive weed removal, bridge construction, shuttle transit programs, ADA trail construction, man-made beaver dam construction, and more across the Central Wasatch. Senator Kirk Cullimore has very graciously sponsored our appropriation requests and has been a stalwart champion for the Central Wasatch Commission with his colleagues on the Hill.

This year, we plan to make the following funding requests:

1. **Ski Bus Priority Access Program: \$30,000** requested
  - a. The Ski Bus Priority Access Program facilitates orderly traffic, frees up the roads for local commuters, reduces frustration for residents, commuters, and resort-goers, decreases travel time on the ski bus by an average of 50 minutes, or 34%, incentivizes public transit by prioritizing bus access to the canyon, reduces cars on the road, provides for better safety for visitors and residents, and more efficiently serves visitors and residents as they recreate in Little Cottonwood Canyon on canyon-closure days. Without this essential program, Little Cottonwood Canyon and surrounding areas would be less safe and more chaotic on heavy snow days.
2. **Graffiti Abatement: \$5,000** requested
  - a. Since 2020, this abatement work has removed over 1,000 graffiti tags from rock faces, bathroom doors, and signs across the Central Wasatch Mountains, ensuring a quality visual experience for all who visit the Central Wasatch Mountains.
3. **Trailhead Bathroom Maintenance: \$10,000** requested
  - a. This is essential maintenance and cleaning of existing bathroom facilities at trailheads popular with the public in Millcreek Canyon, Little Cottonwood Canyon and Big Cottonwood Canyon. This builds upon a multi-year partnership among the Central Wasatch Commission, Salt Lake City Public Utilities, the Town of Brighton, Snowbird, and the Uinta-Wasatch National Forest to maintain canyon bathroom facilities for visitors.
4. **Central Wasatch Dashboard: \$18,000** requested
  - a. The Dashboard provides open-source data to the public about the Central Wasatch Mountains with the aim of providing the information and data people need to make good decisions about visiting, recreating, and using the Central Wasatch Mountains. Data including water quality of the water found in the Cottonwood Canyons, the species of bird, snake, and all other animals, the air quality across the Central Wasatch, and traffic visitation data are accessible via the Dashboard.
5. **Short-Term Projects Grant Program: \$100,000** requested
  - a. The Short-term Projects Grant program assists community-led projects that address recreation, environmental issues, transportation, or the economy by providing funding up to \$20,000 to the project. Previously funded projects included transit shuttle programs, trail maintenance, invasive weed removal, and fuels reduction across the Central Wasatch.



6. **Millcreek Canyon Shuttle: \$2,250,000**

- a. Additional funding requests for the 26/27 fiscal year can include funding the next phase of Millcreek Canyon Shuttle Program implementation. As the update to the Feasibility plan has been completed and it was determined that the shuttle program could be feasible pending operational funding and parking and staging infrastructure construction, the Commission should consider requesting State funding for the necessary infrastructure improvement costs.
- b. At approximately \$750,000 for 3500 service hours, accounting for five busses and 10 hours per day, times three for a three-year pilot program.

**Total request: 2,413,000**

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