

PROPOSED CWC WORKING GROUP ON LITTLE COTTONWOOD CANYON TRANSPORTATION

Purpose of the Request: CWC to establish a dedicated working group to increase high-occupancy vehicles (HOV) ridership into Little Cottonwood Canyon (LCC) via low-cost, high-impact short-term projects

Why such an ask?

Currently, users of the canyon, particularly bus riders, do not have an effective forum to share their experiences, noticeable areas for improvements, as well as other concerns about canyon transportation. These users are critical to any decision being made by local and regional transportation organizations, though their experiences are often ignored.

Why CWC Is the Right Forum

CWC is the proper entity to host such a forum. While the decisions are advisory, the CWC provides a legitimate forum for canyon users to participate. A targeted working group aligns with CWC's mandate and fills a key institutional gap in the public process.

Benefits to CWC

- Reinforces CWC's leadership in addressing canyon congestion.
- Demonstrates value to municipal and county partners and funders.
- Provides a home with an established regional problem-solving organization.
- Advances CWC's mission of connected stewardship of the Central Wasatch.

Roles and Responsibilities

- CWC would host the working group.
- Staffing and notices will be provided by the participating working group members on a volunteer basis.
- The working group will provide CWC with suggested website posts, meeting schedule, minutes, and action tracking.
- Volunteers will help draft governance documents.

Operating Model

- The Working Group is delegated by one existing CWC Committee.
- Meeting to be conducted on a monthly basis before and during ski season.
- Governance details (quorum, decision-making process, required attendees) to be approved by the delegated CWC committee.

Key Stakeholders

- UDOT – roadway operations
- UTA – bus routing & frequency
- Utah Highway Patrol – traction law enforcement
- Alta Ski Area & Snowbird – resort policies influencing congestion and ridership
- Town of Alta – residents, workers
- User groups – climbers, skiers, bikers, backcountry users
- General public

Examples of near term topics:

- Increase C1/2 bus frequency on the weekend during peak hours (or have two buses leave every 30 mins)
- Extend CS1 bus hours to support skiers. Last up canyon bus to leave at 10am, instead of 8am, and down canyon service starts at 3pm instead of 445pm
- Review ridership data, including number of riders who can't get onto the bus
- Broaden permit parking requirements
- Reintroduce Uber Ski Shuttle or similar Private Partnerships
- Coordinate traction law enforcement and traffic merging
- Preferential bus treatment
- Support carpool/HOV apps