

**COUNCIL MINUTES**  
**JANUARY 28, 2026**

The City Council held a meeting on Wednesday, January 28, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, 10 North Main Street, Cedar City, Utah.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mayor Steve Nelson; Councilmembers: Robert Cox; Waldo D. Galan; R. Scott Phillips; Phil E. Schmidt; Carter Wilkey.

**STAFF PRESENT:** City Manager Paul Bittmenn; City Attorney Randall McUne; Finance Director Terri Marsh; City Recorder Renon Savage; Senior Engineer Jonathan Stathis; Police Chief Darin Adams; Public Works Director Ryan Marshall; Economic Development Director David Johnson; Parks Superintendent Anthony Pearson.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Johnny Oh, Captain Mason White & Captain Dalan Bennett of the Triple Duce, Major Jerod Hansen of the ROTC, Former Commander of the Triple Duce Dan Roberts, Jim Rushton, Paul Monroe, Tom Jett, Ann Clark, Patty Maser, Scotty Harville, Bill Payne, Tonya Payne, Lance Pehrson.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chief Darin Adams gave the invocation; the pledge was led by Jonathan Stathis.

**Mayor Nelson-** before we approve the agenda, we need to add public comments at the end of the agenda. Also, regarding the closed meeting, we are still waiting for information. I would like to have all the information together and let you review it before we go into discussions in closed meeting.

**AGENDA ORDER APPROVAL:** Councilmember Phillips moved to approve the agenda order adding public comments at the end of the agenda and pulling the closed session; second by Councilmember Cox; vote AYE – 4 NAY -1 Wilkey.

**ADMINISTRATION AGENDA – MAYOR AND COUNCIL BUSINESS; STAFF**

**COMMENTS:** ■75th Anniversary of the Miracle of the Miracle at Gapyeong – **Johnny Oh**, Honorary Ambassador Gapyeong – We have Captain White, Captain Hansen, Major Bennett, former Captain Dan Roberts and Jim Rushton, the Mayor of Enoch here. We want to honor a story that belongs to the city. This May is the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Miracle at Gapyeong, See Exhibit “A”. The bond created Sister City in 2008. Tonight, we ask to honor the legacy and invite the mayor and council members to participate on May 2<sup>nd</sup> and join the Cedar City delegation on May 26<sup>th</sup> to Gapyeong. **Phillips** – we met with America 250 Steering Committee, and they are supportive of this and want to help how we can make it memorable. One of the programs is an oral history and I am wondering if there is an opportunity in the next 2-3 weeks to coordinate a telephone interview with Mr. **Sweeney**, we want this history that is fading fast. **Wilkey** – any details or proposed plan for the trip to Korea? **Johnny** – we are collecting head counts now, the mayor and first lady and anyone interested we would like to go. **David Johnson** – we have been talking with World Trade Center with the Governor’s Office about this also. We hope to have representatives from the State as well. **Mayor** – if you have not done research, it is well worth googling and watching the video. **Johnny** - The tentative date is May 22<sup>nd</sup> through 29<sup>th</sup>. **Captain Mason White** with 222<sup>nd</sup> Field Artillery, we are excited to be part of this story. This event on May 2<sup>nd</sup> has two other parts, the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary, our centennial event and then the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of



the Triple Deuce deployment in Iraq. We have been coordinating with former commanders. We plan to have an opening ceremony at Veteran's Park at 10 a.m. with speakers, we will email more details See Exhibit "B" I have worked with Combat Films to do Air Documentary screening at the Auditorium at 1400 and a Q & A after. We are inviting the city, our former battalion, our soldiers and Johnny. We have a plaque we have been developing and have produced an image 27 x 21; we hope to have the plaque with the history tracing back to the Mormon Battalion and put it in the memorial park near the Gapyeong.

**Paul** – send proofs to me and I will move it through the process. **Phillips** – as we get closer, we would like to do a proclamation for the event. ■Swear in Sergeant Zachary Banz – **Chief Adams** – as you know, Tim Bonzo retires next month after 30 years of service, we are excited for his new chapter. Zach Banz was part of a field of 7 and was chosen as the new Sergeant. **Zach Banz** – I have been here since 2007, I started at the Animal Shelter, I have loved every minute. Here with me tonight are my wife Erin, my son Archer, and my mom Lori. I wouldn't be here without the men and women that are standing out there. Zach's son Archer pinned his badge.

■Transit Study Presentation – See Attached Exhibit "C". This was a UDOT project in conjunction with Cedar City. **Phillips** – page 17 of the presentation, I am confused, the overwhelming preference for service for the main SUU campus area over alternatives and the commuter hub downtown Cedar City was preferred over an SUU hub. Bullet two or 4.

**Daksha** – one was the routing to SUU. The commuter hub is where the bus would be parked in downtown Cedar City. **Wilkey** – we talked about this in the last CATS meeting; Cox will take that over. Our plan is we heard it and we will kick it back to CATS and have them bring a recommendation back to us.

**CONSENT AGENDA: (1) APPROVAL OF MINUTES DATED JANUARY 7 & 14, 2026; (2) RATIFY BILLS DATED JANUARY 16, 2026; (3) DENY THE REQUEST TO WAIVE A PORTION OF THE WATER BILL FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 362 NORTH 4250 WEST. JERRY LAMP/PAUL BITTMENN; (4) APPROVE CHANGE ORDER #6 FOR ACTION CONTRACTING FOR CONSTRUCTION OF THE WWTP EFFLUENT REUSE FILTRATION PROJECT. JONATHAN STATHIS; (5) APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF WOODY LOTTS TO FILL THE SHAKESPEARE SEAT ON THE HISTORIC DOWNTOWN ECONOMIC COMMITTEE. MAYOR NELSON; (6) APPROVE THE CITY COUNCIL**

**ASSIGNMENTS. MAYOR NELSON:** Councilmember Phillips moved to approve the consent agenda items 1 through 6 as written above; seconded by Councilmember Cox; vote unanimous.

**CONSIDER ROADWAY DESIGN MODIFICATIONS TO THE CEMETERY RENOVATION PROJECT – PHASES 2R & 3R. SHANE JOHNSON:**

**Jonathan** – we had discussion about design changes proposed at the cemetery, at the south end two islands would be removed and replaced with curbing, at the north end one planter removed and replaced with a waterway. We presented costs, but we got updated costs, original cost was \$25,261, new pricing is \$20,581, in house would be \$14,030. Viking would start right away; they couldn't pave until the hot plant is open. **Wilkey** – it comes down to where we stand on the warranty issue. **Schmidt** – I talked to them, if this were my project I would not want another contractor coming in in the middle. It keeps it clean and there is not a conflict if something happens. I feel we should award this part of it to Viking. **Phillips** – is the warranty on the trees, landscape, what? **Anthony** – the entire project, I would encourage to have Viking move ahead. I worry that we have day to day tasks that get in the way also. The warranty is one year at the completion of the project. **Wilkey** – if our people did it who would it be? **Anthony** – a jumble of several departments, parks, street and some of our blanket contracts. **Mayor** – some of the items we are subbing out.



Councilmember Schmidt moved to approve the revised price and the warranty with Viking and award the change order, but it must be done by May 10<sup>th</sup> no matter what; **Phillips** - amend that it be completed prior to Memorial Day; Schmidt is ok with that amendment; Cox seconded the amendment to the motion. The motion was then seconded by Councilmember Phillips; vote unanimous.

**CONSIDER CONTRACT MODIFICATION/CHANGE ORDER #3 FOR HANSEN, ALLEN & LUCE FOR THE WASTEWATER EFFLUENT REUSE STUDY AND THE CROSS HOLLOW AREA WATER MASTER PLAN AMENDMENT. JONATHAN STATHIS:**

**Jonathan** – this was discussed last week, two items, Wastewater (WW) effluent and the Cross Hollow Area water master plan amendment. We received information regarding the WW effluent, talking with Paul Monroe, they would like to move forward with grant money at the WWTP, one is \$1 million from Utah Dept of Agriculture, and one is \$1 million from The Utah Division of Water Resources, the money would go towards the next phase which is the pump station and pipeline. The issue with the grant money must be spent by June 30<sup>th</sup>. **Paul B.** – there are local match and the Water Conservancy District (WCD) is hoping the city would pick up the matching portion, but you don't have money in your budget for that. **Schmidt** – are we looking at a retention pond around the Enoch area, if we do a line pond or a pond that will let the water recharge, right now the current system at the treatment plant is not sufficient unless we let the water recharge, where are we on this? **Paul Monroe, CICWCD** – as far as the WCD approaching this under Mayor Green to help facilitate, he wanted us to look for funding, so we did that and met with State officials, he took it literal that we had to do what we could to utilize water resources which includes Water recharge. We went after the grants and they have strings, and it is to bring to type 1 water which allows us to do a lot, but you still cannot recharge. We are actively looking at that, we will call that phase 3, See Exhibit "D". How do we build a diversion and transmission to Cedar City, Enoch and ag users. There are some adjacent ag users, the Clarks, we were working with them to deliver that to their center pivot, our objective is to deliver the water to them and eventually bring it to the south. We retained the funds and they must be spent quickly. I was never a part of the city budget process; we have \$2 million grant to use to put in the pipelines or wait and not use the funds. I am a big fan of studies and analysis to make better decisions, with that we may be able to use some of the funds. The match is 20%. You have \$2 million; I would hope to build the pump station and have a portion of the water go to ag users and 3 years of data showing how the project has operated with \$1 million from the Dept of Agriculture. **Wilkey** – with the 3 years, we can continue to add on, or would we not be able to? **Paul** – there could be other users and there is plenty of water for other uses. **Cox** – if we run it through a pipe to an alfalfa field, do we get credit for recharge? **Paul M.** – no. We don't get credit for recharge from Coal Creek either. The direct benefit for an ag user is to idle their wells. **Wilkey** – if we tried to recharge, would the State stop that? **Paul M.** – we are not that far off, Arizona is doing it, I had a conversation today, there are some rule changes that need to happen first. Those are promises I can't make. It takes out a storage reservoir which is about \$3 million dollars. **Wilkey** – as far as this year, we would need a 20% match on the \$2 million? **Paul M.** – yes, and that can be between Cedar City, WCD and Enoch. **Mayor** – would this \$50,000 of the study count? **Paul M.** – no, it is all project money. **Phillips** – if we go down this road, is the plan developed enough that we don't need extreme change orders? **Jonathan** – that is my concern, we don't have the design parameters done. If we get the study done, they could get the design going, but I am not sure they could get the construction done. There could possibly be an extension to the grant. **Paul M.** – I have a better opportunity of getting an extension if we have an excavator moving dirt. **Wilkey** – you never want to have a grant offer and not use it; they look at that for future grants. Is there any way that we could look at money and we could move money from exploration wells? **Paul B.** – if that is the \$4 million, I would caution the council to keep taking money from the general fund to enterprise funds. The more you go down the road, put into place a new enterprise fund to run it or redo your existing enterprise funds to fund it. If you expand this arm from the sewer treatment plant, you need to realize it is designed to do a very large expansion in the next 7-10 years. Either adjust your rate schedule or get a new enterprise fund. **Schmidt** – we have a lift station by BZI larger than our Treatment Plan. With the pump system you have to make sure there is adequate water supply. Will we have water coming fast enough to push the



water down. The cost to put the system in, if it runs over budget, who is responsible? **Paul B.** – the short end is us; it is an 80/10/10 split and we are the 80%. **Mayor** – having the study would be important to allow the information to design the stuff to spend the grant money. **Paul M** – it is all relative, the design, you need a wet well, but you have enough water to pull from. There is at least \$5.4 million into this plant, and there are things we need to look at regarding funding moving forward. Rex Shipp is running a request for funds from the State Legislature for \$4 million and if you want to continue you are 80% of that. We think it is great for the community, and it is important to utilize every drop. It may not feel like the highest priority, but it is very important as time goes on. As we recycle and reuse most of our water. Washington County is doing that and may be drinking it before long. **Cox** – what if we turn down the grant funds? **Paul M.** – you can reapply, but the ARFA funds will go away. **Mayor** – going forward is not on the agenda tonight. **Galan** – it sounds like there is a bottleneck on the feasibility and the timing. We can talk about budgets but if we can't pass through the bottleneck it doesn't matter. We need to know if the study can be done. **Phillips** – the study will tell us what we need to do even if we don't meet the timelines. **Paul M** - Hansen Allen and Luce have a lot of this ready to move forward.

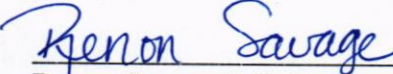
Councilmember Wilkey moved to approve moving forward with Hansen Allen Luce on the change order; seconded by Councilmember Schmidt; vote unanimous.

**ELECT A MAYOR PROTEM FOR 2026. MAYOR NELSON:** Councilmember Wilkey moved to appoint R Scott Phillips as mayor protem for 2026; second by Councilmember Schmidt; vote unanimous.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** ■ **Tamy Naizer**, for 23 years I have lived in the Cedar City/Iron County area. I work for Iron County Schools and for 5 years, I drive school bus. My first concern is water; I don't want to decide between brushing and flushing. The water tastes bad. The growth in the past 10 years has been a lot. My first job was with Mitch Lunt; I could clock out at 5 and drive home, not anymore. The traffic by Wal-Mart is jacked up. In a lot of public places in town, the IFA parking center, there is not pride in cleanliness in front of the stores, they don't have trash receptacles, the landscaping needs attention, how about utilizing the jail house, non-threatening criminals and part of the retribution clean up trash and wash the streets. Thank you. **Wilkey** – we have promised to meet with people and if something needs to be on the agenda we will get it there. I am happy to meet with you. **Phillips** – do we have the ability, can we send a letter to a shopping center or business suggesting they clean up the business? **Paul** – does it fall under the nuisance ordinance, if so we can take action to ask you to clean up or tell you to clean up. **Phillips** – it does fall under the nuisance. ■ **Ann Clark** – couldn't we have a community beautification group to award businesses that look better. ■ **Tom Jett** – for 25+ years I have spoke about water, in the early 80's Kerry Jones was the mayor, he said water will be a problem if we don't do something about it. A few weeks ago, Phil Green gave me a tour of the WWTP, a great project with a bridge to nowhere. I own several properties in town, and it will affect me, but we need to raise the water rates, that is the only way we will fix it. We are killing our aquifer; we will be worth nothing if we don't have water. The grants will dry up; the State of Utah won't continue to have money to give out. We need to get the public on board and explain to them the issues, many people don't now how the aquifer works.

**CLOSED MEETING – PROPERTY NEGOTIATIONS:** this item was pulled.

**ADJOURN:** Councilmember Phillips moved to adjourn at 7:07 p.m.; second by Councilmember Cox; vote unanimous.

  
Renon Savage, MMC  
City Recorder

# City Council Agenda Item

**Agenda Item Title:**

Recognition and Invitation: 75th Anniversary of the Miracle of Gapyeong & Commemorative Ceremony

**Presenter:**

Mr. Johnny Oh, Honorary Ambassador for South Korea (Cedar City)  
With Captain Bennett, Captain White (Triple Deuce / 213th Field Artillery), and Major Hansen (SUU ROTC)

**Purpose:**

To inform the Mayor and City Council of the 75th Anniversary of the Miracle of Gapyeong and formally invite city leadership to participate in the commemorative ceremony on May 2, 2026.

**Background:**

- May 2026 marks the **75th Anniversary of the Miracle of Gapyeong**, a historic battle during the Korean War in which the **213th Field Artillery Battalion ("Triple Deuce")**, comprised of nearly **600 young men from Cedar City and surrounding counties**, played a pivotal role in defending freedom in Korea.
- Remarkably, **every one of those soldiers returned home alive**, a legacy deeply rooted in our community.
- This shared history led to the establishment of the **Cedar City–Gapyeong Sister City relationship (2008)**, which continues today through cultural, educational, and commemorative exchanges.
- Memorial exchanges have included shared monuments between Cedar City Veterans Park and Gapyeong Memorial Park in Korea.

**Upcoming Commemorative Event:**

- **Date:** Saturday, May 2, 2026
- **Location:** Veterans Memorial Park, Cedar City
- **Occasion:**
  - 75th Anniversary of the Miracle of Gapyeong
  - 100th Anniversary of the 213th Field Artillery Battalion
  - 250th Anniversary of the United States
  - 20th Anniversary of Triple Deuce deployment to Iraq

**Expected Attendees:**

- Korean delegation (Consul General's Office and Gapyeong City officials)
- Utah National Guard leadership
- State and federal representatives
- Triple Deuce veterans and families

- Community members, educators, and students

**Special Note:**

- One of the last known surviving veterans, **Gunnery Sergeant Frank Sweeting (age 94)**, hopes to return to the battlefield in Korea as his personal wish. Efforts are underway to support his participation.

**Request to Council:**

- Formal recognition of the commemorative year
- Participation of the Mayor and City Council in the May 2 ceremony
- Support in honoring Cedar City's veterans and legacy



**EXHIBIT "B"**  
**CITY COUNCIL – JANUARY 28, 2026**

## **2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion 222<sup>nd</sup> Field Artillery Regiment Centennial Celebration**

This year the 2nd Battalion, 222nd Field Artillery Regiment (AKA: Triple Deuce), commemorates three significant milestones: the 100th anniversary of its establishment, the 75th anniversary of the Battle of Gapyeong, and the 20th anniversary of the Battle of Ramadi. We will host a comprehensive event on May 2, 2026.

The main celebration will occur at Veteran Memorial Park, featuring speakers and memorial ceremonies to honor these key events. A historical display showcasing the battalion's legacy will be located at the SUU Hunter Alumni Center, alongside a documentary on the Battle of Gapyeong presented at the SUU Auditorium Theatre.

The 2-222nd Field Artillery Battalion embodies the spirit of our Southern Utah communities, as it is the only military battalion headquartered and operated out of this region. For the past century, local sons and daughters have served side by side in the 2-222nd during nearly every conflict our nation has faced.

Currently, the battalion seeks City Council approval to solidify these plans, and a more formal flyer and invitation will be provided soon.

This flyer aims to share initial details and seek input regarding city involvement

### **Tentative Schedule of Events**

Time	Event	Location	Details
1000	Main Ceremony	Veterans Memorial Park	Wreath Laying, Memorial Recognition, National Anthem (Cedar City Middle School Band), PAC 75 Cannon Salute, Color Guard (SUU ROTC).
1200	Lunch	Cedar City Park	Cup Bop will be served.
1300-1700	History Display	SUU Hunter Alumni Center	An exhibit showcasing the battalion's history.
1400-1530	Documentary Screening	SUU Auditorium Theatre	Air Documentary screening followed by a Q&A session.

### **Contact Information:**

CPT Mason White  
Battalion Administrative Officer  
2-222<sup>nd</sup> Field Artillery  
C: (801) 577-6920  
[Mason.r.white6.mil@army.mil](mailto:Mason.r.white6.mil@army.mil)

## **Requests for Support & Questions for the City Council**

To ensure the success and safety of this event, we respectfully request the City Council's assistance with the following:

1. How do we get approval to install 2-222<sup>nd</sup> FA Memorial Plaque?
2. Traffic Management: Can the city assist with blocking traffic near Veterans Memorial Park from 0600 to 1500 on the day of the event?
3. Ceremonial Cannon Salute: Do we require special clearance to perform a ceremonial cannon salute with the PAC 75 at Veterans Memorial Park around 1000?
4. Police Escort: Could we arrange for a police escort for the movement of an M109A6 Paladin military vehicle from the armory to the park?
5. Audio Equipment: Does the city have a microphone and audio equipment that could be borrowed for the main ceremony?
6. Seating: Would it be possible for the city to provide chairs for the ceremony attendees?
7. Mayoral Participation: We would be honored if Mayor Nelson would consider speaking at this event. Is he available and willing?
8. Flags: Can the city provide both United States and Republic of Korea flags for the ceremony?
9. Who is the best Cedar City Point of Contact for 2<sup>nd</sup> BN 222<sup>nd</sup> FA to work with moving forward?

We are excited about the prospect of collaborating with Cedar City to create a memorable and honorable event for our service members, veterans, and the entire community. We believe this partnership will strengthen the bonds between the military, the city, and our international friends in Gapyeong.

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to your response.



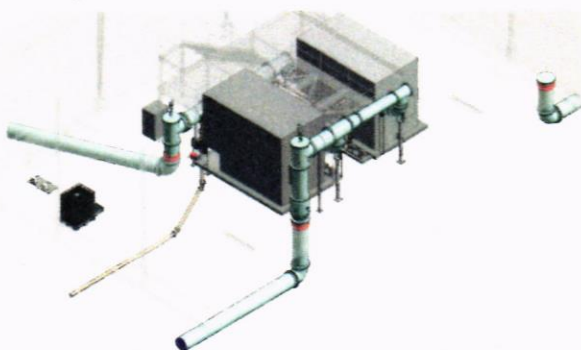
# EFFLUENT WATER CAPTURE & REUSE PROJECT

*Cedar Valley, Iron County, Utah*

## WHAT IS THE EFFLUENT CAPTURE & REUSE PROJECT?

### PHASE 1 - FILTRATION & TREATMENT

In 2025, local municipalities joined together to construct a filtration plant (using a Pile Cloth Disc Filtration System) to treat effluent water to Type 1 specifications for reuse. Expected cost is \$5.4 M.

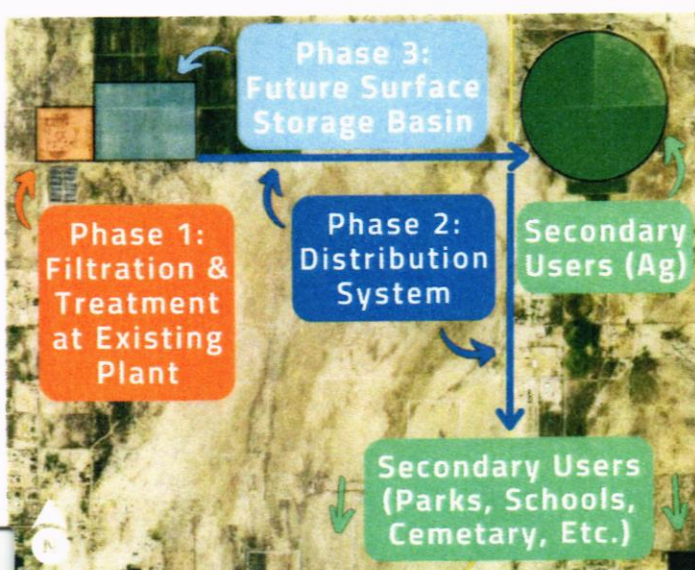


### PHASE 2 - DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM

During 2026-2027, a distribution system is planned to be constructed, including a pump station and pipeline to transport treated water to end users Ag & Secondary systems during the summer months. Expected total cost is \$11.4M.

### PHASE 3 - SURFACE STORAGE

In approx. 2030, a surface storage basin (2,400 AF capacity) for winter flow will be constructed near the Treatment Plant. This basin will be constructed of native material for the storage of winter flow.



## WHY CAPTURE & REUSE EFFLUENT?

Cedar Valley's safe yield (available water supply) is 21,000 AF, but the valley uses 28,000 AF. This results in an average annual deficit of 7,000 AF.



In 2021, the State implemented a **Groundwater Management Plan** that will reduce water rights to safe yield.

Cedar Valley is experiencing high population & economic growth.

Irrigating parks, schools, and farms with effluent water **reduces groundwater pumping**.

Project will provide a **growing secondary water resource** as volumes will increase as our communities grow.

Recycling our wastewater for beneficial use **saves water and money**.

## WHAT IS THE COST?

### PHASES 1&2 - FILTRATION, TREATMENT, AND DISTRIBUTION

We are 32% funded (Phase 1 fully funded). An additional \$11.4 M funding is necessary to build out the distribution system for delivery of Type 1 water starting in 2027.

### PHASE 3 - SURFACE STORAGE

CICWCD is planning a site assessment to ensure water retention suitability and determine retention structure requirements. Construction is scheduled in 2030 after completion of Phases 1 & 2.

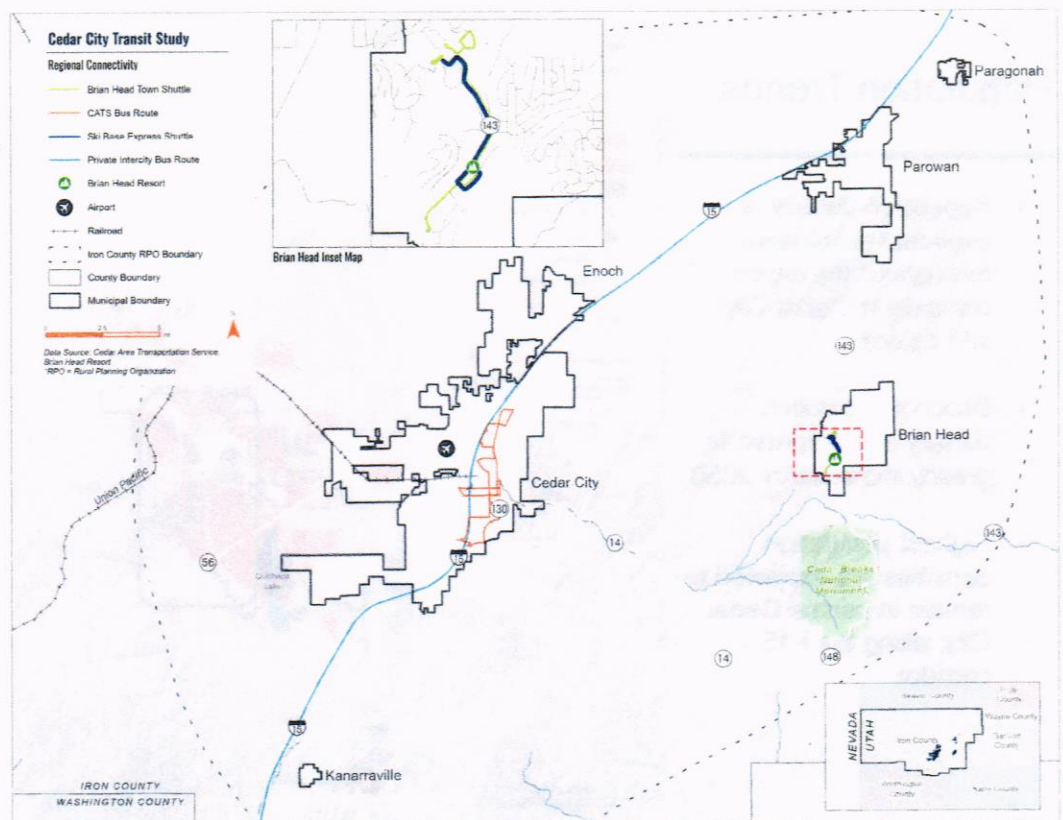
Project Phase	Start Year	Cost	We Have	We Need
1	2024	\$5.4M	\$5.4 M	\$0
2	2025	\$11.4M	\$3.75	\$7.65
3	2030	TBD	TBD	TBD



# Existing Conditions

## Existing Transit Services (2024)

- CATS fixed-route and Dial-a-Ride service operates within Cedar City.
- No local transit service in Enoch and Parowan.
- 2 seasonal routes in operation within Brian Head.
- Intercity bus service is available via private providers. There is currently no stop in Enoch.

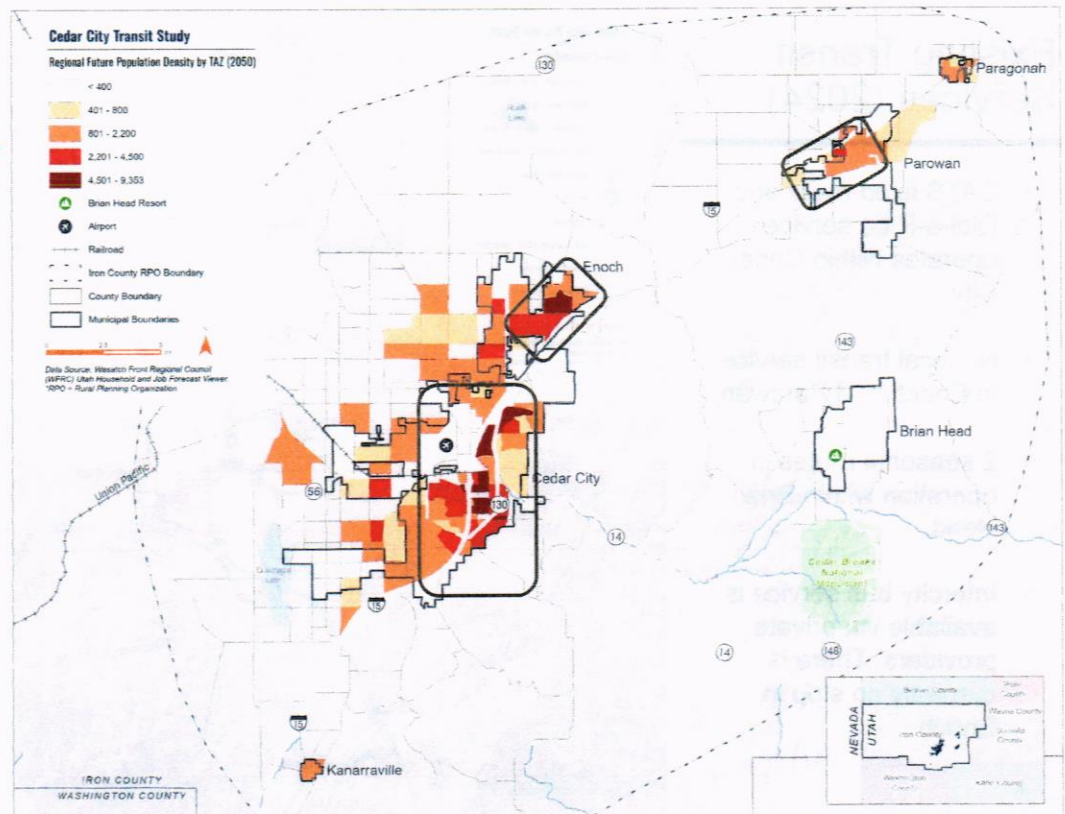




# Needs and Opportunities

## Population Trends

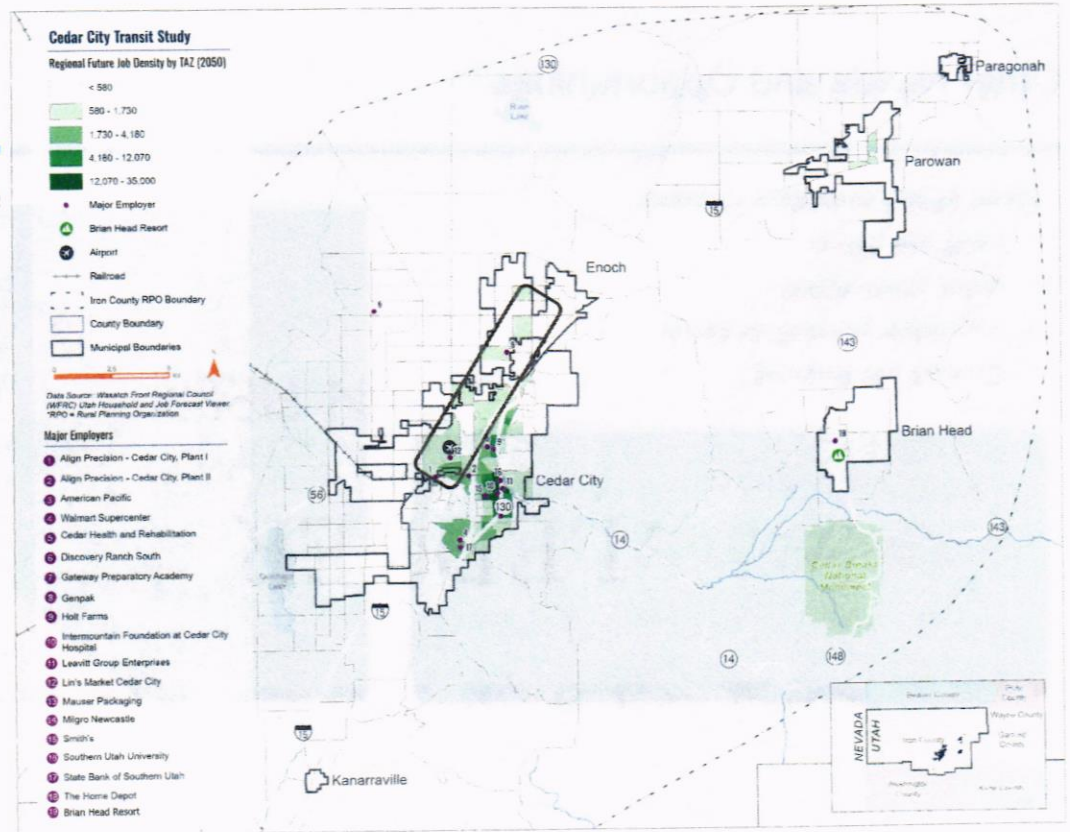
- Population density is expected to increase throughout the region, primarily in Cedar City and Enoch.
- Enoch's population density is anticipated to greatly increase by 2050.
- Highest population densities are expected to remain in central Cedar City, along the I-15 corridor.





## Employment Trends

- Employment densities are generally expected to follow current employment distribution patterns with Downtown/SUU home to the highest densities.
- Employment growth is anticipated along the northern segment of I-15.

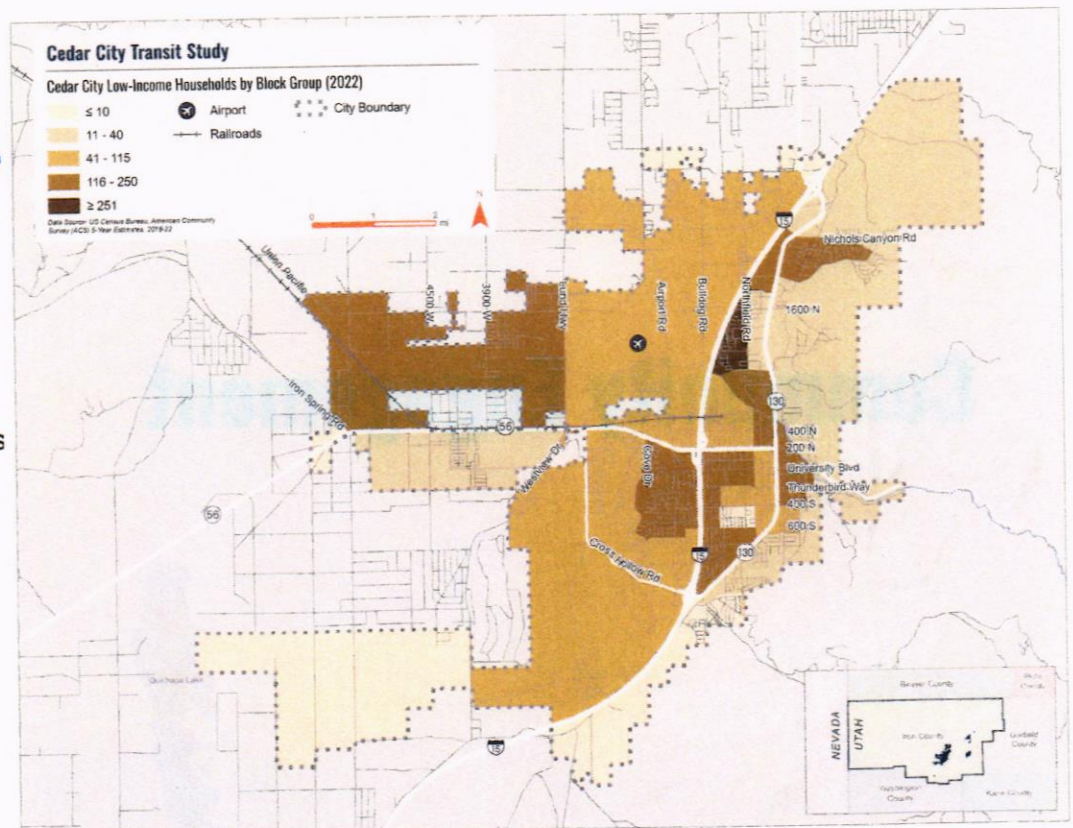


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## Transit Propensity

Six different demographic groups were mapped in Cedar City to identify areas with the highest potential for transit use:

- Minority populations
- Low-income households
- Seniors (over age 64)
- Youths (under age 18)
- Zero-car households
- University students



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## Other Needs and Opportunities

Other factors evaluated included:

- Land use trends
- Major destinations
- Affordable housing locations
- Existing trip patterns

Trip patterns suggest:

- Steady travel demand between neighboring towns and Cedar City.
- Strong travel demand from residential areas to Walmart Supercenter.
- Major destinations like SUU, Downtown Cedar City, and medical centers are strong trip attractors.



# Community Engagement



## Community Engagement

- A **Technical Working Group** guided the study methods and included representatives from UDOT, CATS, Cedar City, Southern Utah University, Brian Head, Parowan, and Enoch.

### Engagement Phase 1

- A stakeholder **Visioning Workshop** was held in-person to help identify the project vision, goals, and objectives.
- **Public Survey #1** established public needs and concerns regarding transit.



### Engagement Phase 2

- A stakeholder **Recommendations Workshop** was held virtually.
- **Public Survey #2** provided feedback on preferences between potential solutions.

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## Vision and Goals

**CATS envisions a comprehensive transit network that connects residents to key destinations, supports daily travel needs, and enhances regional mobility while remaining efficient and financially sustainable.**



Connect communities to essential services and major destinations.



Enhance quality, frequency, and reliability of service.



Raise public awareness of the CATS transit network.



Enhance transit operations through technology solutions.



Improve long-term system viability through cost-effective improvements.

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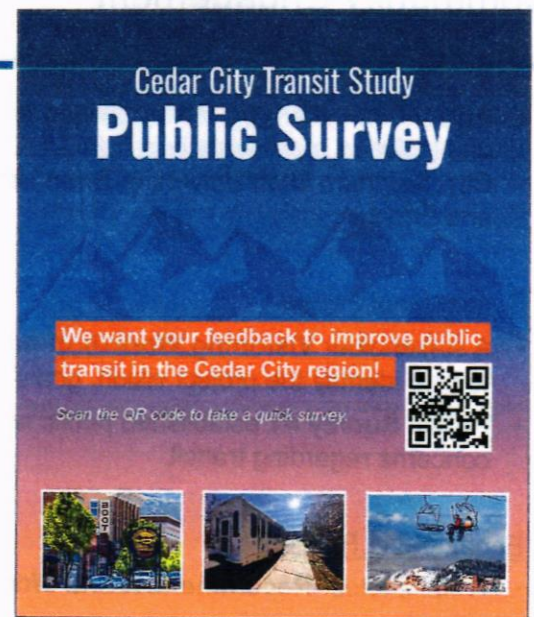
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## Public Survey Overview

**838** total survey responses

- Two public surveys were hosted on PublicInput.
- Public surveys were advertised using public flyers with QR codes posted onboard buses and circulated digitally.
- Public Survey #1 was open from mid-November 2024 through the end of January 2025.
- Public Survey #2 was open from mid-April 2025 through mid-June 2025.



For more information or to complete the survey on the web, please visit <https://publicinput.com/m40546>



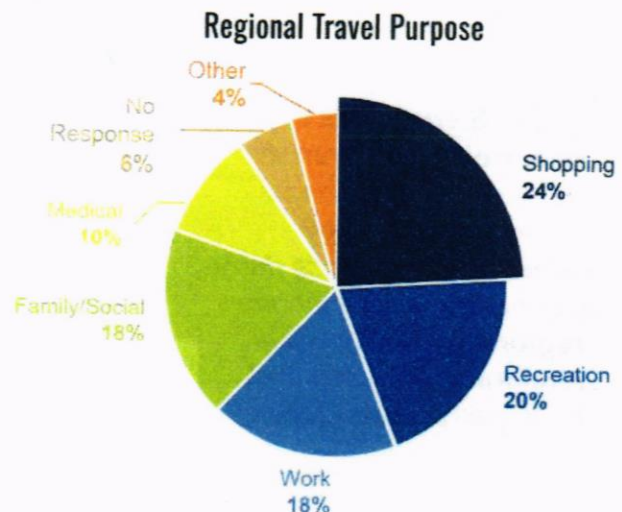
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## Public Survey Results

### Key findings from Public Survey #1:

- Shopping is the primary purpose of regional trips, followed by recreation.
- About  $\frac{1}{3}$  of people make regional trips at least weekly.
- Transit coverage and transit frequency are most people's biggest challenges
- More routes and more frequent service would be the biggest transit improvements.

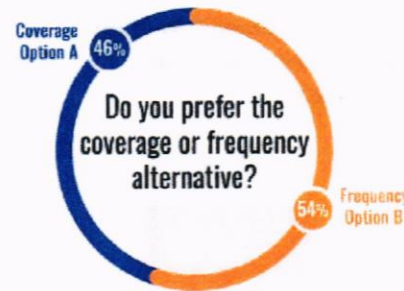


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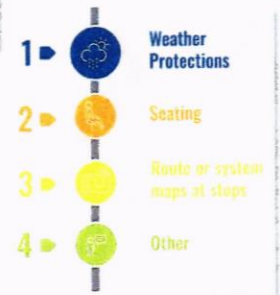
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### Key findings from Public Survey #2:

- Relatively equal preference between a coverage type route and a shorter, more frequent route.
- Overwhelming preference for serving the main SUU campus area over alternatives.
- Preference for service to the Cedar City LDS Temple.
- Commuter hub Downtown Cedar City was preferred over an SUU hub.
- Preferences for improvements to bus stops were relatively split.



*"Which improvements would you prefer for bus stops in Cedar City? (Please rank the options from 1 to 3)."*



# Transit Recommendations



Transit recommendations were developed to meet current and anticipated needs using technical analysis and community feedback.



### Recommendations included potential:

- Local bus routes
- Commuter fixed routes
- Microtransit zone
- Vanpool program
- Bus stop enhancements
- Park & ride facilities
- Technology improvements

Fixed route transit recommendations were evaluated using a **Needs Assessment** scoring method.

The overall Needs Score was a combination of scores in five main categories:

- Population- current and future population densities
- Employment- current and future employment densities
- Transit propensity- combined demographics
- Affordable housing- number of affordable housing locations
- Key destinations- number of identified key destinations

Key findings are summarized below.

- Highest Population Density: **Coverage Route**
- Highest Employment Density: **Frequency Route**
- Highest Transit Propensity: **Cove Drive Route (Option B)**
- Highest Overall Score: **Coverage Route**
- Lowest Overall Score: **Cove Drive Route (Option C)**



# Phased Plans



## Phased Plans

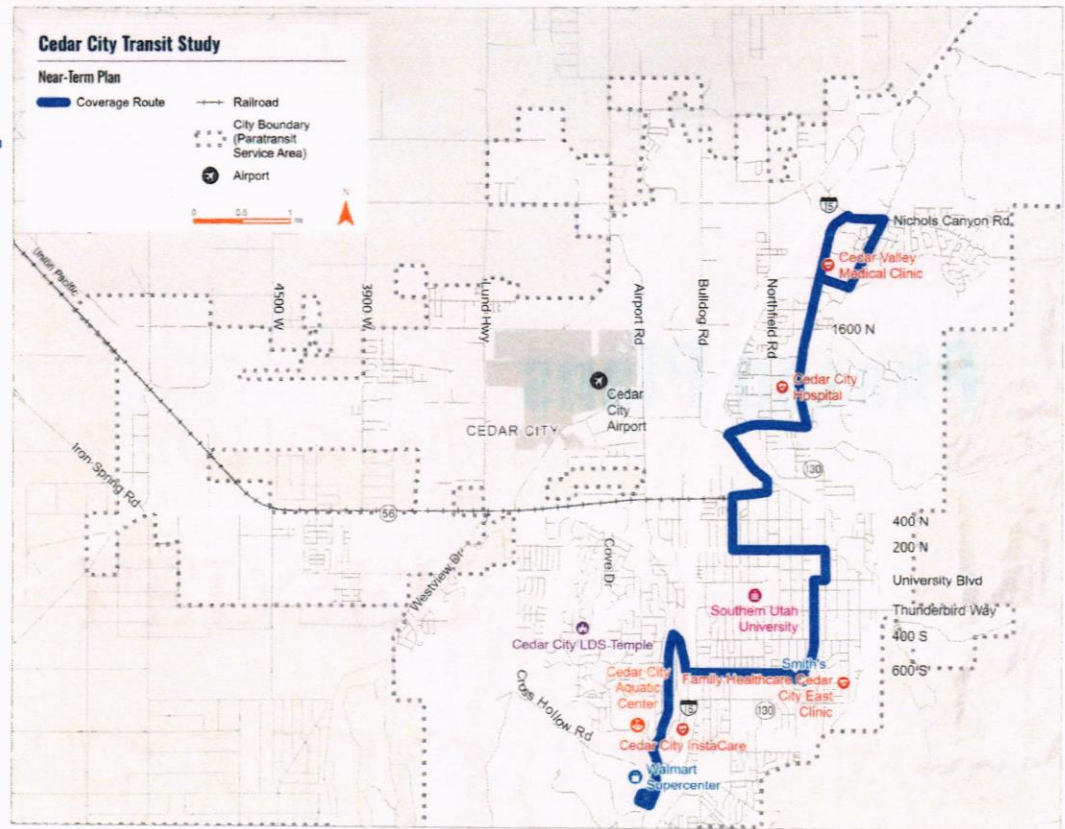
- Recommendations were organized into three **phased plans- Near-Term, Mid-Term, and Long-Term.**
- **Planning-level cost estimates** were developed for each proposed recommendation and phased plan.





## Near-Term Plan

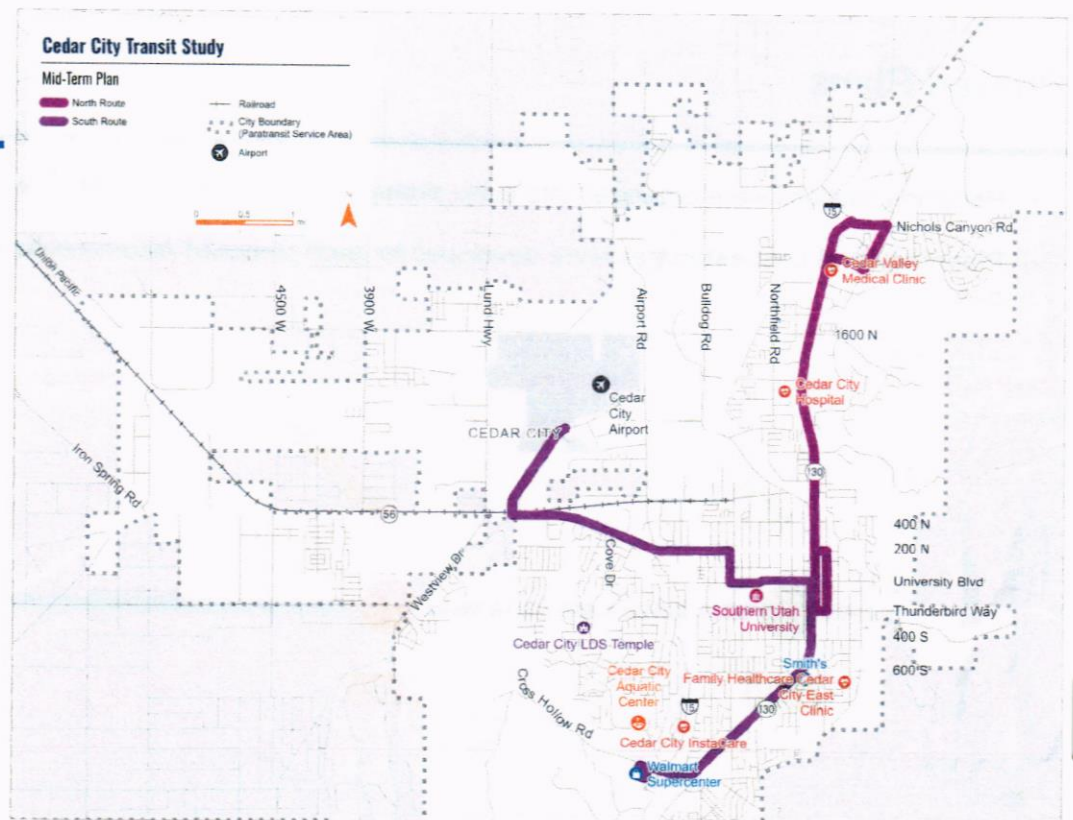
- Near-Term Plan would implement the proposed Coverage Route.
- Assumes 2 vehicles in operation for one bidirectional route.
- Estimated annual operating costs: \$136,000



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## Mid-Term Plan

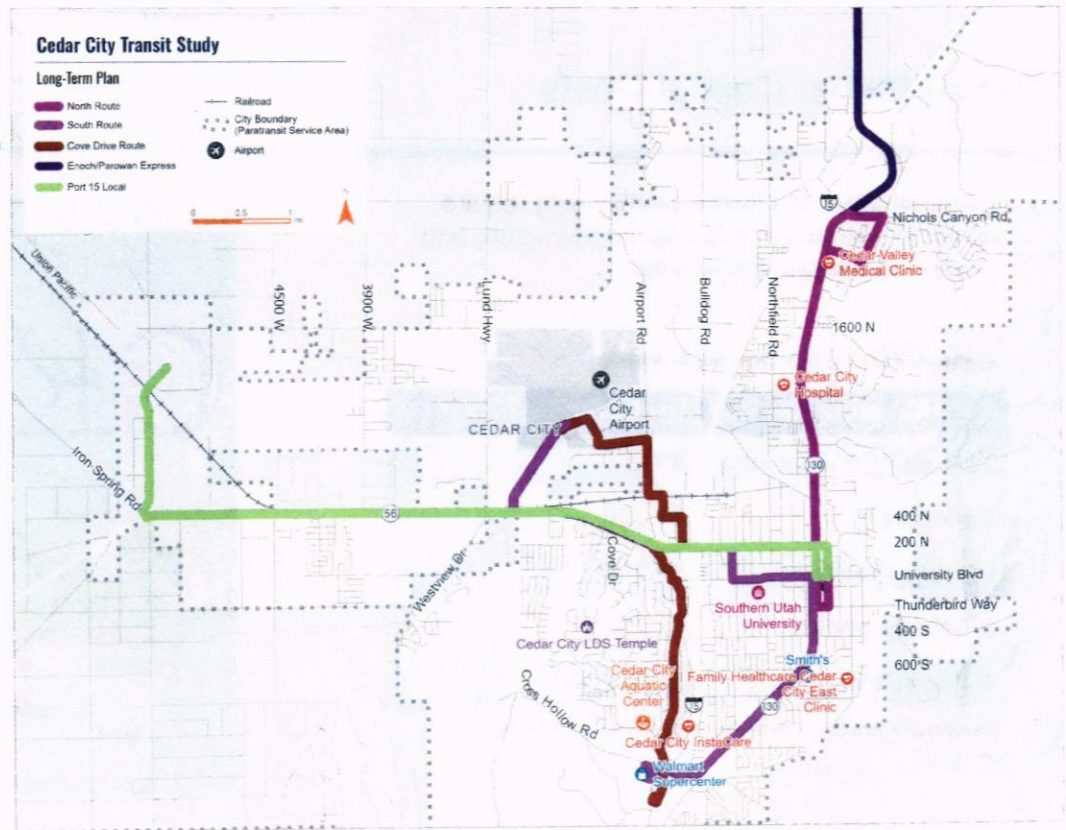
- Mid-Term Plan would split service into two routes: North Route and South Route.
- Assumes 3 vehicles.
- Includes a vanpool program and new software.
- Estimated annual operating costs: \$345,000-\$405,000



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## Long-Term Plan

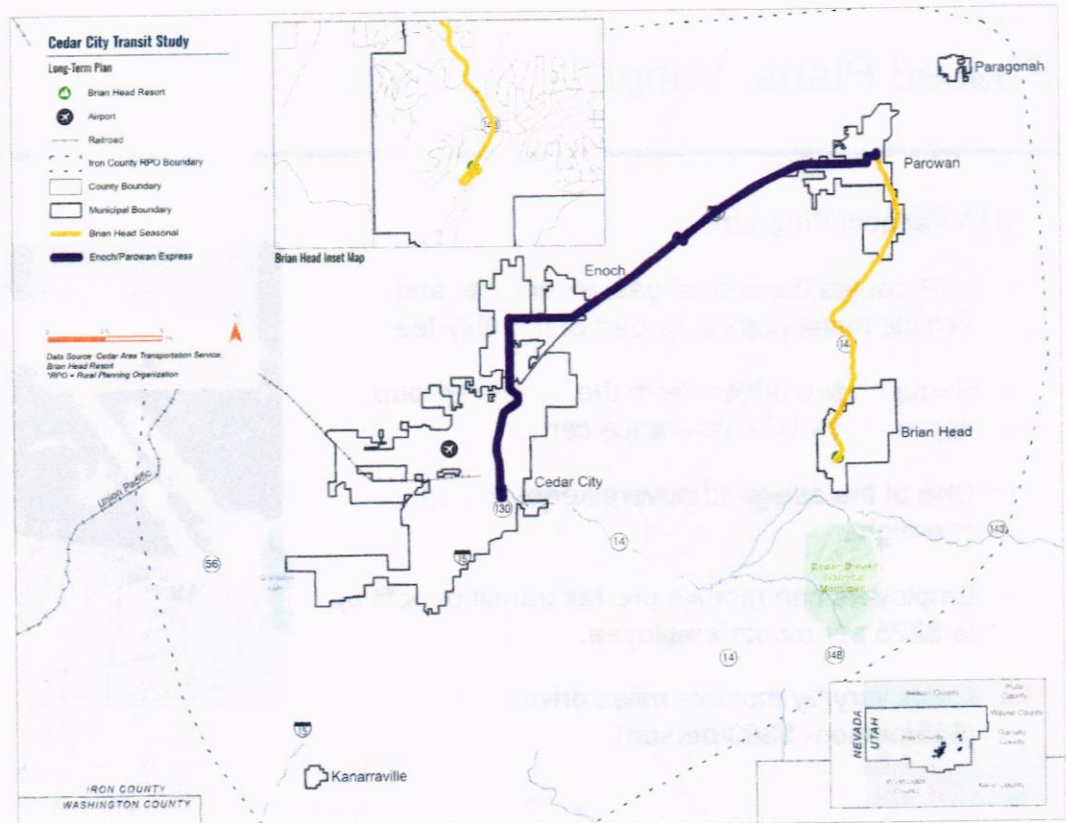
- Long-Term Plan would greatly expand service by adding four more routes.
- Assumes 12 vehicles.
- Estimated annual operating costs: \$860,000



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## Long-Term Plan

- Long-Term Plan would add connectivity to Enoch, Parowan, and Brian Head.
- Commuter hubs/park & ride locations would be established in each community.



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## Phased Plans: Capital Costs

- Implementation of phased plans would require capital investment in bus stop infrastructure and vehicles to operate the service.

### Estimated Unit Costs for Capital Needs

Recommendation	Unit Cost
Pole and sign bus stop	\$370
Park bench	\$1,300
Lighting (solar)	\$1,500
Small bus shelter	\$7,750
Cutaway bus	\$120,500

Sources: UTA Bus Stop Master Plan; UTA procurement contract 2022



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## Phased Plans: Vanpool Program

### UTA Vanpool Program:

- UTA covers the cost of gas, insurance, and vehicle maintenance as part of monthly fee.
- Requires two drivers from the vanpool group, approved by UTA insurance carrier.
- One of the assigned drivers keeps the van overnight.
- Employers can receive pre-tax transit benefit up to \$225 per month/employee.
- Costs vary by monthly miles driven (\$55/person- \$300/person).



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## Phased Plans: Vanpool Program

### Employer-based Program:

- Public-private partnership to fund capital investments
- Applications completed through Cedar City
- Considerations:
  - Number of vans needed
  - Insurance provider
  - Vehicle maintenance and fueling process (reimbursement)

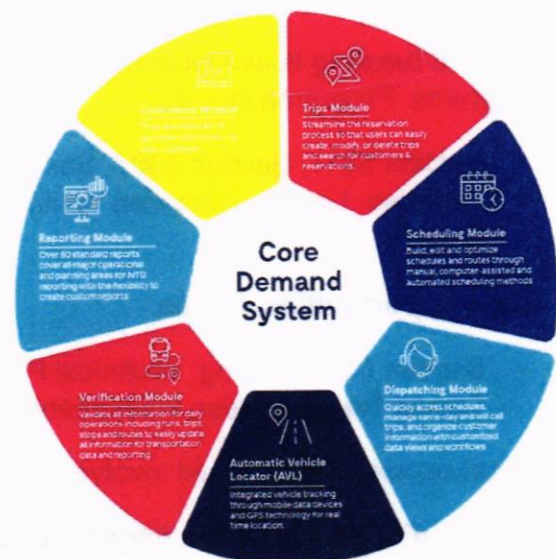


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## Phased Plans: Technology Improvements

New technology for transit operations is recommended to:

- Schedule service for multiple fixed routes and DAR trips.
- Identify high-demand locations.
- Monitor key performance indicators like on-time performance.
- Deliver more efficient and cost-effective service.
- Build ridership through improved passenger experience.



Source: Routematch

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# Next Steps

## Next Steps: Funding Opportunities



- **Federal funding** is available through formula programs and competitive discretionary grant programs. Programs include:
  - Section 5311, Section 5307, Section 5310, Carbon Reduction Program, Bus and Bus Facilities, Low/No Emission Vehicle Program, Congressional Member designated projects.
- **State opportunities** include:
  - Section 5305 funding, Technical Planning Assistance through UDOT, Transportation and Transit Transportation Investment Fund (TTIF).
- **Local opportunities** could involve:
  - a dedicated transit tax, partnerships to purchase fare passes for members, students, or employees.

## Next Steps

The following describes the next steps for Cedar City, step-by-step:



- Test Coverage Route alignment, including stops and timepoints to finalize route schedule.
- Secure capital funding to deploy (at a minimum) pole and sign stops along the transit route.
- Negotiate license agreements for stops on private property and gain all necessary approvals for sign installation.
- Determine which vanpool program model Cedar City would like to implement.
- Enter negotiations with SUU regarding funding for South Route operations.
- Prepare marketing plan.
- Monitor performance metrics, particularly stop-level ridership.

### Other next steps:

- Procure additional vehicles.
- Procure operations software.
- Create a marketing plan.
- Initiate or strengthen partnerships with local and regional organizations such as SUU, neighboring municipalities, and Paiute Tribe.

# Thank you