



1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41

MINUTES OF THE CENTRAL WASATCH COMMISSION (“CWC”) STAKEHOLDERS COUNCIL TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM COMMITTEE MEETING HELD MONDAY, MARCH 9, 2026, AT 3:30 P.M. THE MEETING WAS CONDUCTED BOTH IN-PERSON AND VIRTUALLY VIA ZOOM. THE ANCHOR LOCATION WAS AT THE CWC OFFICES, LOCATED IN THE BRIGHTON BANK BUILDING, 311 SOUTH STATE STREET, SUITE 330, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH.

Present: Danny Richardson, Chair
Kurt Hegmann
Eva De Laurentiis
Dani Poirier
Morgan Mingle
Kim Doyle
Roger Borgenicht
Mark Baer

Staff: Sam Kilpack, Director of Operations

OPENING

1. Chair Danny Richardson will Open the Public Meeting as Chair of the Transportation System Committee of the Central Wasatch Commission Stakeholders Council.

Chair Danny Richardson called the Central Wasatch Commission (“CWC”) Stakeholders Council Transportation System Committee Meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. and welcomed those present.

2. Review and Approval of the Minutes of the February 9, 2026, Meeting.

Chair Richardson reviewed the Meeting Minutes from the February 9, 2026, Transportation System Committee Meeting. The last meeting was a Joint Meeting between the Transportation System Committee and the Millcreek Canyon Committee. There was a lengthy discussion about the Feasibility Study for a Millcreek Canyon shuttle. In addition, it was noted that the CWC submitted a public comment on the Big Cottonwood Canyon Environmental Assessment (“EA”). It suggested that transportation improvements align with the environmental protections associated with the Central Wasatch National Conservation and Recreation Area Act (“CWNCR A”).

The CWC also submitted a public comment in opposition to the proposed gravel pit in Parleys Canyon. During the last meeting, it was noted that the Wasatch Backcountry Alliance met with

1 the Utah Department of Transportation (“UDOT”) and U.S. Forest Service to discuss signage and
2 parking in the canyons. Chair Richardson reported that the Legislative Session ended last week.
3 At the last meeting, there was discussion about a proposal to make Millcreek Canyon a State Park.
4 There were also comments about the Central Wasatch Symposium shared at the Joint Meeting.
5

6 **MOTION:** Mark Baer moved to APPROVE the Minutes from February 9, 2026. Kurt Hegmann
7 seconded the motion. The motion passed with the unanimous consent of the Committee.
8

9 **COMMITTEE UPDATES**

10
11 **1. The Committee will Share Updates, as Applicable, on Issues Pertinent to**
12 **Transportation and Transit in the Central Wasatch;**

13
14 **a. Big Cottonwood Canyon Environmental Assessment.**
15

16 There was no new information shared about the Big Cottonwood Canyon EA. Chair Richardson
17 reiterated that the CWC recently submitted a comment related to the Big Cottonwood Canyon EA.
18

19 **b. UDOT Enhanced Busing.**
20

21 There was no new information shared about UDOT enhanced busing.
22

23 **c. Transit Hub at the Gravel Pit on Wasatch Boulevard.**
24

25 Discussions were had about the transit hub at the gravel pit on Wasatch Boulevard. Dani Poirier
26 reported that UDOT is working to either purchase or lease the land. It is an integral part of the
27 transportation plan, but at the time of the last comment period, UDOT did not officially own the
28 land. It is currently owned by Walker Development, but UDOT seemed confident about a lease
29 or purchase. Anyone meeting with UDOT before the next meeting can ask for clarification.
30

31 **d. Proposed Gravel Pit in Parleys Canyon.**
32

33 There was no new information shared about a proposed gravel pit in Parleys Canyon.
34

35 **e. Proposed Gondola in Little Cottonwood Canyon.**
36

37 Mark Baer reported that he forwarded an article to CWC Staff about a recent situation where a
38 gondola stopped working at Gore Mountain in New York. It took hours to bring people down. He
39 noted that 67 skiers were trapped in the 20 gondola cabins, which is a fraction of what is proposed
40 for the capacity of a potential gondola in Little Cottonwood Canyon. Mr. Baer pointed out that all
41 mechanical devices will break down at some point. If there is a gondola built in Little Cottonwood
42 Canyon, there will be breakdowns that happen from time to time. He feels this is an important
43 issue that should be considered. He asked that the article be shared with others in the CWC.
44

45 Mr. Baer noted that there have been a lot of mechanical issues at Deer Valley this year. One of
46 the lifts goes down often because of the wind. There are a lot of concerns that need to be taken

1 into consideration when it comes to a gondola proposal in Little Cottonwood Canyon. Chair
2 Richardson pointed out that when a bus breaks down, passengers are able to exit the bus, but when
3 a gondola breaks down, evacuation measures must be taken. Mr. Baer offered to send the article
4 about Gore Mountain to Chair Richardson and the rest of the Transportation System Committee.
5

6 **f. Signage and Parking in the Canyons.**
7

8 Ms. Poirier reported that the Wasatch Backcountry Alliance met with UDOT and the Forest
9 Service to discuss signage. Work is being done to clarify the parking that was installed improperly
10 at White Pine. UDOT Cottonwoods recently posted a parking map on social media. She is
11 optimistic there will be meetings once or twice a year with UDOT to discuss parking changes.
12

13 **g. Legislative Session.**
14

15 Chair Richardson asked if there are any comments about the recent Legislative Session. Mr. Baer
16 reported that he tried to encourage some changes to the traction law so there was the possibility of
17 liability for companies that do not adhere to the law, but that was not considered during this
18 session. He offered to continue to reach out to his Legislator about this in the future.
19

20 It was noted that Save Our Canyons flagged House Bill (“H.B.”) 546, which could threaten public
21 lands. There was some momentum on that bill, but work was being done on the language. There
22 is some uncertainty about where that bill stands currently, so there could be an update at the next
23 meeting. Co-Chair Kurt Hegmann read some of the language in H.B. 546. A question was asked
24 about the Millcreek Canyon shuttle request. Director of Operations, Sam Kilpack, reported that
25 the Millcreek Canyon shuttle appropriation was not funded by the Legislature this session, so next
26 steps are being explored. Chair Richardson reported that outcomes will continue to be monitored.
27

28 **h. WBA’s Winter Shuttle Pilot in Millcreek Canyon.**
29

30 Ms. Poirier shared information about the Wasatch Backcountry Alliance winter shuttle pilot in
31 Millcreek Canyon. She reported that there is not a lot of ridership at this point, but many people
32 are still unaware of the shuttle. There were signs placed at trailheads in Millcreek and at some of
33 the nearby businesses. Those who have taken the shuttle so far have provided positive feedback.
34 The idea is to run the shuttle for a season or two in order to obtain solid data about the demand.
35 Chair Richardson noted that those who have used the winter shuttle could be asked to provide
36 comments and suggestions for improvement. It would be interesting to hear more from the riders.
37

38 Chair Richardson asked if there was anything else Committee Members would like to discuss
39 before moving forward on the agenda. Roger Borgenicht reported that at a previous meeting, John
40 Knoblock determined that buses could only accommodate 16% of visitor demand. The Big
41 Cottonwood EA is talking about 21 to 25 buses per hour. With an efficient mobility hub and
42 certain incentives in place, it is possible to improve the numbers. Mr. Borgenicht thought it made
43 sense to look into bus efficiency and convenience in both of the Cottonwood Canyons. Chair
44 Richardson agreed that there is more to bus use than the frequency of service. It is also important
45 to consider amenities at transit hubs, such as restroom facilities and comfortable waiting areas.
46 There are also disincentives to consider, such as tolling and not as many parking spaces available.

1
2 **COMMITTEE ADMINISTRATION**
3

4 **1. The Committee will Discuss its Meeting Cadence.**
5

6 Chair Richardson reported that many of the Stakeholders Council subcommittees have chosen to
7 discuss their meeting cadence. The Transportation System Committee was asked to consider how
8 often meetings should be scheduled. Ms. Poirier thought meetings every other month made sense
9 with more email communication in between. Ms. Kilpack stated that each individual
10 subcommittee can decide how often meetings should be held, but it seems there is a general
11 appetite to meet less frequently. Another option is to keep meetings on the calendar monthly, but
12 make a decision about whether to hold that meeting based on what needs to be discussed. CWC
13 Staff wants to make sure Committee Members feel time is well spent, and progress is being made.
14

15 Ms. Kilpack offered to send out the email roster to the Transportation System Committee so
16 Committee Members are able to communicate with one another between scheduled meetings. She
17 explained that the contact information is included in the shared Google Drive folder as well. Chair
18 Richardson noted that, based on the Meeting Minutes from other Stakeholders' Council
19 subcommittees, it seems that most are interested in meeting every other month. The Stakeholders
20 Council has shifted to quarterly meetings, and there is a Council Meeting scheduled next week.
21

22 Committee Members expressed support to meet every other month moving forward. It was noted
23 that the Chair of the Transportation System Committee can always call for an extra meeting to be
24 scheduled if there is something pressing that needs to be discussed. Ms. Kilpack reported that
25 Committee Members who believe a certain item should be considered by the Transportation
26 System Committee can communicate that, and a meeting of the Committee can be scheduled. A
27 motion can be made to finalize the meeting cadence. The next meeting will be on May 11, 2026.
28

29 **MOTION:** Danny Richardson moved that the Transportation System Committee meet every
30 other month for future Transportation System Committee Meetings. Dani Poirier seconded the
31 motion. The motion passed with the unanimous consent of the Committee.
32

33 **2. A New Chair and Co-Chair will be Needed for the Committee in June.**
34

35 Chair Richardson reported that his term as Chair of the Transportation System Committee ends in
36 June 2026. There needs to be a Chair and Co-Chair determined for the Committee. If someone is
37 interested in serving in one of those roles, he asked that this be communicated as soon as possible.
38

39 Ms. Kilpack thanked Chair Richardson for serving as Chair of the Transportation System
40 Committee. She explained that terms are one year and there is a two consecutive term limit. As a
41 result, Chair Richardson is unable to continue to serve in the Chair position for another year.
42 Committee Members were asked to think about whether there is a desire to serve as either Chair
43 or Co-Chair. Chair Richardson stressed the importance of the Transportation System Committee's
44 work and thanked everyone who has participated in the meetings and transportation discussions.
45

1 **MEETING RECAP AND NEXT MEETING AGENDA**

2
3 1. **The Committee will Review Any Action Items that Have Been Decided Upon for the**
4 **Next Meeting.**

5
6 2. **The Committee will Discuss Topics for the Next Meeting Agenda.**

7
8 Chair Richardson reported that there were a number of items discussed during the Transportation
9 System Committee Meeting. Many of the items are continuing to move forward. If Committee
10 Members meet with the Forest Service or UDOT, he asked that those outcomes be shared with the
11 Committee. He stressed the importance of communicating between scheduled meetings.

12
13 **OTHER ITEMS**

14
15 There were no additional items discussed.

16
17 **CLOSING**

18
19 1. **Chair Richardson will Call for a Motion to Adjourn the Transportation System**
20 **Committee Meeting.**

21
22 **MOTION:** Danny Richardson moved to ADJOURN. Dani Poirier seconded the motion. The
23 motion passed with the unanimous consent of the Committee.

24
25 The Central Wasatch Commission Transportation System Committee Meeting adjourned at
26 4:12 p.m.

1 *I hereby certify that the foregoing represents a true, accurate, and complete record of the*
2 *Central Wasatch Commission Transportation System Committee Meeting held on Monday,*
3 *March 9, 2026.*

4

5 Teri Forbes

6 Teri Forbes

7 T Forbes Group

8 Minutes Secretary

9

10 Minutes Approved: _____