



## Short-Term Projects 2026-2027 Grant Cycle FINALIST Project Worksheet

Please complete this worksheet and the questions found at the bottom of this page and send to Sam Kilpack at [samantha@cw.utah.gov](mailto:samantha@cw.utah.gov) no later than **April 1, 2026**.

For project criteria, visit [cw.utah.gov](http://cw.utah.gov).

Name of project:	Transit to Trails – Wasatch Front
Funding questions: 1. What is the estimated total cost of the project? 2. How much are you requesting from the CWC? 3. How much <b>funding</b> are you or your organization committing to the project? 4. How much <b>funding</b> are you requesting from others?	1. \$54,100 2. \$20,000 3. \$25,000 4. \$9,100
Please list your (non-funding) community partners for this project, including in-kind support, if any:	Park City Municipal
Please list your potential funding partners for this project, if any, including the amount of funding requested from each, and whether the funding has been secured:	Town of Brighton (secured): up to \$5000 Sandy City (pending): Salt Lake City (pending): Cottonwood Heights (pending):
I have carefully reviewed this application for accuracy and completeness. I understand that late or incomplete applications will not be accepted.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes

Use the space below to answer the following questions. **Please be as detailed as possible.**

1. Provide an outline, broken out by category, of how you plan to use the funds. Categories may include, but are not limited to: materials, labor, marketing/promotional materials, and transportation/fuel.
  - Shuttle service:
    - \$800 van/day x 2 vans = \$1,600 per weekend
    - 13 weekends = \$41,600
  - **Project Coordination & Implementation** (UOL Staff Time)

This pilot requires significant staff time to build and manage the relationships that make it possible. That includes presenting to city councils, meeting with local leaders and staff, building support, coordinating with the shuttle provider, creating outreach materials, and managing the program while it is running.

    - Presenting to city councils and meeting with city staff and local leaders

- Building partnerships that support funding, promotion, and long-term growth
- Coordinating with the shuttle provider on schedule, logistics, and service details
- Creating and distributing digital and printed outreach materials
- Managing communications and day-to-day program needs during the pilot
- Tracking ridership, evaluating results, and sharing outcomes with partners and funders
- Total: \$10,000

➤ **Outreach & Promotional Materials**

This funding will support the materials needed to help people understand the service and choose it over driving.

- Website updates and rider information (schedule, booking, how-to-use)
- Creation of a short video and digital outreach materials
- Paid social media promotion targeting Salt Lake Valley trail users
- Printing of flyers, signage, and rider-facing materials
- Total: \$2,500

➤ **Total program cost:**

- \$54,100

2. Provide a detailed timeline for your project. Be sure to include the anticipated start date, all important steps and milestones, and anticipated end date.

**Now–June 2026 — Preparations**

- Finalize contract with shuttle provider
- Confirm route, pickup location, schedule, and daily operations
- Continue meetings with cities, including council presentations and follow-ups
- Build support with city staff and partners for funding and promotion
- Update website with clear rider information (schedule, booking, how it works)
- Create outreach materials (video, social media, and print)
- Begin early promotion through partners and digital channels

**July 4 – September 27, 2026 — Run the Pilot**

- Shuttle operates every Saturday and Sunday with anticipated start date: Saturday, July 4, 2026
- Coordinate with shuttle provider to keep service running smoothly
- Actively promote the service through social media, partners, and community channels
- Respond to rider questions and manage day-to-day program needs
- Track ridership and usage throughout the pilot
- Adjust outreach and messaging as needed to increase usage
- Anticipated end date: Sunday, September 27, 2026

**September–October 2026 — Learn and Report Back**

- Compile ridership and usage data
- Evaluate what worked and what needs improvement
- Share results with cities, funding partners, and stakeholders
- Identify opportunities for expansion or continuation

3. Is there anything else you'd like us to know about your project?

This project is based on a model that already works.

In 2022, Utah Open Lands launched Transit to Trails service to Bonanza Flat from Park City. People used it. They supported it. And it has since been built into Park City's transit system as the Purple 9 Line.

Now we are expanding that model to serve Salt Lake Valley residents who are already traveling to Bonanza Flat.

We have heard directly from supporters in the Salt Lake Valley, including donors who helped protect Bonanza Flat, that they would use this service if it were available to them. Park City visitation data shows that roughly 100,000 annual visits to Bonanza Flat originate from the Salt Lake Valley, accounting for nearly one-third of trail users. That's a lot of cars driving up the canyon. This pilot is designed to meet those users before they drive into Big Cottonwood Canyon and offer a better option.

The Town of Brighton has indicated support of up to \$5,000. Salt Lake City has expressed strong interest following a city council presentation, and its transportation director is actively exploring funding support. These are the partnerships that make this kind of shift possible.

By reducing the number of individual vehicles traveling into Big Cottonwood Canyon, this pilot can help ease congestion, reduce emissions, and improve air quality for the Salt Lake Valley while expanding access to Bonanza Flat in a more sustainable way.

It also creates a more accessible way to reach the trailhead. Not everyone has a reliable vehicle or feels comfortable driving steep canyon roads. This service gives more people the opportunity to experience these landscapes, not just those who can easily drive to them.

Make it easier to choose the shuttle than to drive, and people will take it.

PROJECT NAME: Transit to Trails – Cottonwood Heights

SERVICE DATES: July 1, 2026 – September 30, 2026

TO: Utah Open Lands

ATTN: Kaitie Eddington

EMAIL: kaitie@utahopenlands.org

FROM: Ryan Dunyon, Owner

DATE: December 16, 2025

RE: Utah Mountain Shuttle – Transit to Trails Cottonwood Heights Shuttle Service

## **I. Company Overview**

Utah Mountain Shuttle, LLC (UMS) is a Utah-based transportation company founded in 2009, specializing in mountain, recreation, and scheduled shuttle services. UMS has completed more than 50,000 rides statewide and regularly serves tourists, local residents, corporations, universities, athletes, and outdoor recreation users.

UMS is fully licensed, insured, and experienced in operating high-frequency recreation shuttle routes in canyon and mountain environments.

## **II. Relevant Experience**

UMS has extensive experience operating Transit to Trails and similar programs, including:

- Transit to Trails – Park City (2021–2026)
- Wasatch Backcountry Alliance shuttles in Big and Little Cottonwood Canyons (2015–2025)
- Daily school bus service in Big Cottonwood Canyon
- Mountain bike shuttles statewide
- Employee and construction shuttle services throughout Salt Lake County

This experience directly aligns with the operational demands of the Cottonwood Heights Transit to Trails program.

## **III. Project Understanding & Scope**

UMS understands this engagement to be a regularly scheduled weekend shuttle service serving hikers, mountain bikers, trail users, and dogs.

- **Route:** Mill Hollow Park (Cottonwood Heights) to Bonanza Flats Trailhead via Big Cottonwood Canyon and Guardsman Pass

- **Schedule:** Saturdays and Sundays, 7:30 AM – 3:30 PM
- **Season:** Early July through September 30, 2026
- **Fleet:** Two vehicles in continuous rotation

UMS understands and agrees to all insurance and compliance requirements.

#### **IV. Fleet & Capacity**

UMS maintains a large, modern fleet of Mercedes Sprinter vans (11- and 14-passenger), including multiple 4WD vehicles suitable for mountain conditions. The fleet is supported by bike racks capable of carrying up to eight bikes per vehicle.

#### **V. Pricing**

- **11-Passenger Van:** \$640 per day
- **14-Passenger Van:** \$800 per day

UMS has no availability limitations during the project term.

#### **Vi. Operations & Reporting**

UMS provides full operational support, including:

##### Office Operations

- Manage reservations and rider data throughout the week
- Assign drivers and vehicles in advance
- Finalize operating schedules the night before service
- Provide weekly rider data and feedback reports to Utah Open Lands

##### Driver Operations

- Vehicles fueled, cleaned, and inspected prior to service
- Drivers provide water, assist with equipment, manage boarding, and maintain cleanliness throughout the day
- Drivers communicate ETAs and rider updates as needed
- Post-service check-out with dispatch

##### User Process

- Reservations made at [www.utahmountainshuttle.com](http://www.utahmountainshuttle.com)

- Email confirmation sent to riders
- Riders arrive early, stage equipment, and allow drivers to load and unload

## **VII. Staffing**

UMS employs a seasoned team of professional drivers and owner-operators with extensive mountain driving experience. Drivers assigned to this route are familiar with Big Cottonwood Canyon, Guardsman Pass, and recreation-based shuttle operations.

## **VIII. Summary**

Utah Mountain Shuttle is uniquely qualified to operate the Transit to Trails Cottonwood Heights program. We bring proven experience, a deep understanding of the route, a reliable fleet, and a professional driver team committed to safety, efficiency, and an excellent user experience.

We value this opportunity and look forward to continuing to improve and expand access to trail systems through dependable, well-run shuttle service.

### **Contact:**

Ryan Dunyon, Owner  
Utah Mountain Shuttle, LLC  
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utahmountainshuttle@gmail.com