

**Utah Department of Transportation
Utah Transportation Commission
Moab Area Tour
November 18, 2021**

The Utah Transportation Commission, UDOT staff members and others departed for an area tour of the Moab area at 1:52 p.m. from the Springhill Suites, located at 1865 North Highway 191, Moab.

Those in attendance included:

- Commissioners: Naghi Zeenati, Lew W. Cramer, Donna J. Law, Jim Evans, Kevin T. Van Tassell, Ronda R. Menlove
- UDOT Staff: Carlos Braceras, Teri Newell, Lisa Wilson, Heather Barthold, Bob Pelly, Charles Stormont, Devin Squire, Jim Palmer, Kayde Roberts, Kris Peterson, Leif Elder, Linda Hull, Monte Aldridge, Nathan Lee, Rick Torgerson, Rob Clayton, Rob Wight, Robert Dowell, Robert Stewart, Ryan Anderson, Sharice Walker
- Others: Emily Niehaus, Tweet Zeenati

Moab Mayor Emily Niehaus talked about the Canyonlands Regional Airport runway expansion and the resulting increases in enplanements and visitation by plane.

The following projects were also viewed and discussed.

Recreational Hot Spot Projects - Dispersed Parking: This \$5.7 million project will develop dispersed parking on local streets within the core of downtown Moab and in the northern business area off of Emma Boulevard, and will continue to record the previous expenditures incurred on the original parking structure project scope. The project will include nine street parking areas, with a total of 188 new parking stalls and a reconfigured Emma Boulevard, with the roadway paid for by the City of Moab, and parking areas paid for by UDOT.

Recreational Hot Spot Projects - Grand County & Moab Shuttle/Transit Pilot: This \$1.6 million five-year pilot transit program has been identified as a method to help mitigate congestion. The project will be a financial partnership between UDOT and the local community, providing another alternative mode of transportation in the area, while providing valuable insight into the future of transit in this part of the state. The service will include 2 to 3 passenger vans, 10 to 16 hours of service per day (dependent on season and bids) and 250-350 estimated riders per day. A fixed route is expected to be established in years 2 or 3, and will likely be 4 to 5 miles in length, one way.

Recreational Hot Spot Projects - Spanish Valley to Moab Shared Use Path: This \$2.7 million shared-use path along Spanish Valley Drive will play a key role in connecting affordable housing areas in the northern Spanish valley to the downtown business area of Moab, providing an alternative to motor vehicle travel on US-191, reducing commuter traffic and improving the quality of life for residents and recreational opportunities for visitors.

Utahraptor State Park Access, Grand County: State Parks prefers one entrance to the new park off Highway 191, midway between the Dalton Wells and Willow Springs roads.

Pavement Projects, Grand County:

US-191 Slurry Seal, MP 151 to I-70: This \$1 million project was completed in 2021.

US-191 Southbound Passing Lane, Crescent Junction to MP 154: Construction for this \$4.2 million project will begin in 2022.

US-191 Preservation, Seven Mile Wash to SR-279: Construction on this \$8.9 million project will begin in 2022.

US-191 Preservation, Moab to LaSal Junction: Construction on this \$3.2 million project will begin in 2022.

US-191 North Moab to Colorado River Bridge Reconstruction: Completed in 2021, this \$32.4 million reconstruction project completes a decades-long process to alleviate a regional chokepoint on the highway, providing a more consistent traffic flow through the city as well as to and from recreation destinations to the north. The corridor now supports two travel lanes in each direction with a two-way turn lane down much of the center as well as consistent shoulders for active transportation. The project enhanced pedestrian connectivity with the addition of curb, gutter and sidewalk on the west side of the highway up to the Colorado River Bridges, and includes an additional signalized crossing. UDOT partnered with the City of Moab and worked with the Scott and Norma Matheson Wetland Preserve to construct a storm drainage system to address not only conveyance but also better management of storm events originating beyond the highway that at times flooded properties adjacent.

Regional Planning Efforts - Moab and Spanish Valley Area: The Moab and Spanish Valley Regional Transportation Plan is a joint planning effort between UDOT and local stakeholders, including Grant and San Juan counties, the City of Moab, and the School and Institutional Trust and Administration. The plan presents a regional transportation vision for 2050 and includes a set of projects and programs to achieve that vision.

US-191 SITLA - USU Master Plan: UDOT has been coordinating with the Utah School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration and local governments to consider accommodations and potential impacts of the Utah State University Master Plan for its Moab Campus. UDOT is evaluating intersection and access impacts from local roads to US-191 in an effort to determine future solutions that will provide more free flow traffic on the highway. The USU Moab new campus remains on schedule, with a ribbon cutting scheduled for April 1, 2022.

The bus returned to the Springhill Suites at 3:32 p.m., concluding the road tour, and at 3:45 p.m., a small group of UDOT staff members and Commissioners Law and Zeenati met in the lobby of the Springhill Suites before departing for an optional, informal walk along the Colorado River.



Heather Barthold, Commission Assistant