

Decision Memo #7

To: Mountain Accord Executive Board
 From: Laynee Jones, Program Manager
 Date: December 30, 2015
 Re: Mountain Accord Phase II Plan

The purpose of this memo is to propose an approach and specific outcomes for the next phase of Mountain Accord. The Executive Board approved this approach in their December 14, 2015 meeting.

PHASE II OUTCOMES AND APPROACH

Our intent for the next phase is to advance all components of the Accord while maintaining the program brand and integrity and ramping up public engagement and awareness. Based on recent discussions with the Management Team, the following approach is proposed:

Outcome	Approach
Federal Designation	Continue to pursue congressional action for federal designation before end of 2016. <i>Note from UDOT: If the MA board seeks a lands designation, we would request that the proposals be submitted through the governor's office and state legislature for an opinion, before asking our federal delegates to consider an action. Based upon our role as State of Utah Transportation Department, this is the method we would endorse moving forward.</i>
Short Term Transportation Solutions for Cottonwoods	Focus on transportation solutions that can be implemented in 2 years for the Cottonwood Canyons and that do not require major construction or NEPA. Short term solutions could potentially include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased bus service in winter • new bus service in summer • park and ride additions in the valley (UDOT, UTA, Sandy City, and Cottonwood Heights have offered to help in this area) • roadside parking and safety management strategies • avalanche control improvements (UDOT leading this effort) • road cycling improvements • paid parking or user fees planned to incentivize transit use • a coordinated public roll out and marketing campaign to take transit and carpool

Outcome	Approach
Phased and Long Term Transportation Solutions for Cottonwoods	<p>Study phased (5-year, 10-year) and long term transportation solutions to include in the Long Range Transportation Plan. This process could take about a year. The Accord stated a preference to initiate NEPA on transportation and other actions; however at this time additional study on long-term transportation solutions is appropriate. The study of long-term solutions should include a comparison of cost-effectiveness for various alternatives.</p> <p>The National Park Service has offered to help with transit and user experience planning. A decision needs to be made on this partnership in January.</p>
LCC to BCC Connection	<p>Evaluate options for a Little Cottonwood Canyon to Big Cottonwood Canyon connection to bring resolution to the Grizzly Gulch issue in next year if possible. Grizzly Gulch is owned mainly by Alta Ski Lift company, and Alta Ski Lift company has proposed a ski lift to connect to Big Cottonwood Canyon as a part of the One Wasatch concept. Alta Ski Lift company has agreed to consider other options such as a tunnel through the Mountain Accord public process.</p>
I-80 Corridor	<p>Continue to progress the Parley’s Corridor study. The sub-committee is moving forward and has drafted project goals and a scope of work which includes study of transit, cycling, and wildlife crossing improvements. If amenable to the sub-committee, the scope could consider identifying 2-year, 5-year, and long term transportation solutions consistent with the approach for the Cottonwood Canyons. UDOT will be involved in the study and has offered to lead efforts to look at wildlife crossing issues.</p>
Governance/ Inter Local Agency	<p>Investigate an Inter local Agency (similar Jordan River Commission) that acts as a neutral body to administer funding/ contracts but has no authorities. We can explore this agency over the next 60 days, and if agreed to, it could be set up and functioning in about 6 months.</p>
Land Exchanges	<p>The USFS has indicated they will likely lead the land exchange NEPA and valuation process and they are conducting a required feasibility study that will take a few months.</p>
Environmental Dashboard	<p>Continue to progress the Environmental Dashboard. Salt Lake County released a Request for Proposals last week.</p>

<p>Trails, Recreation, Cycling Plan</p>	<p>The trail network proposed by the Mountain Accord recreation system group extends beyond USFS boundaries and will require multiple jurisdictions to be implemented. A trail sub-committee can be convened to determine next steps, including compiling a map of the existing and proposed trail network from existing jurisdictions (including Alta trail plan). The sub-committee should include a member to represent the Environmental Dashboard.</p> <p>A recreation plan will be part of the Federal Designation process (Resource Management Plan), and the USFS has indicated they will lead a climbing management plan for the entire forest. The road cycling plan can be a part of the short term transportation plan.</p> <p>A carrying capacity analysis will tie into this planning effort to understand if/how an increasing amount of use can be accommodated while minimizing impact to natural resources and maintaining a positive user experience. The University of Utah and the National Park Service have offered to help in this area. A decision needs to be made on these partnerships by the end of January.</p>
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Outcome	Approach
Value Proposition	The value of proposed actions needs to be quantified (economic and quality of life) in the next phase. The University of Utah has put together a proposal to identify the value of several scenarios that they will help us develop. A decision on whether to partner with the University or release a Request for Proposals from economic firms needs to be made in January.
Private Land Acquisition Program	Specific outcomes and next steps need to be discussed.
Big Cottonwood Canyon to Park City connection	No action currently proposed.
Millcreek shuttle	Next steps need to be discussed.

MEETINGS AND COMMUNICATION STRUCTURE

Currently the only regularly scheduled meetings are the Executive Board meetings on the second Monday of each month from 3:30 to 5:00 pm. Additional sub-committee and technical meetings will be set up based on the final agreed-upon outcomes.

Sub-committees can be comprised of Executive Board members, staff, and/or consultants and should be limited to about 7 members or fewer to be effective and remain action-oriented. It is recommended each sub-committee have a chair and/or technical lead that will be accountable for the progress and agreed-upon outcomes. Sub-committee chairs or technical leads will give regular reports to the Executive Board and other stakeholders to keep everyone informed.

Based on recent discussions, sub-committees are recommended for the following, at minimum:

- Cottonwoods transportation
- Parleys Corridor (in place)
- Environmental Dashboard (ad hoc committee in place)
- Governance/ Inter Local Agency (recommend Management Team)
- Trails
- Big Cottonwood Canyon to Little Cottonwood Canyon connection

In addition, regular communications with key stakeholders are proposed based on the following geographies:

- Park City
 - Kimball Junction/Snyderville Basin
 - Old Town
 - Guardsman Pass Area
- Parleys
- Cottonwoods
 - Upper Little Cottonwood
 - Lower Little Cottonwood
 - Big Cottonwood
- Millcreek
- Salt Lake Valley
 - Salt Lake Metro Area
 - Cottonwood Heights
 - Sandy Area

NEXT STEPS

Next steps for the next 90 days include:

1. Agree on outcomes and approach (Executive Board meeting December 14, 2015)
2. Finalize schedule, budget, and public engagement approach and update program charter or Inter Local Agency Agreement
3. Launch Phase II to the public (January)
4. Present the federal designation proposal to the Utah delegation (February)
5. Investigate and decide on Inter Local Agency or other governance approach (January)
6. Set up sub-committees by end of January
7. Agree on the basic components of the 2-year transportation plan and have each agency with decision-making authority engaged in executing the plan (by end of March)
8. Make decision on University of Utah and National Park Service partnerships (January)
9. Identify scope of work and procurement approach for technical consultants (transportation, GIS/mapping, funding/finance, etc)
10. Find and set up office space

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERSHIP

An updated list of Executive Board members is below. *It is recommended that a representative of private property owners be added to the Executive Board. This recommendation has not yet been discussed or approved by the Executive Board.*

Name	Organization
<i>Cities/Counties</i>	
Mayor Ben McAdams, Chair	Salt Lake County
Council Mmbr Chris Robinson, Vice-Chair	Summit County
Mayor-Elect Jackie Biskupski as of January 4	Salt Lake City
Council Member Andy Beerman	Park City
Mayor Kelvyn Cullimore	Cottonwood Heights
Mayor Tom Dolan	Sandy City
Mayor Tom Pollard	Town of Alta
Mayor Troy Walker	Draper City
<i>Local Districts/MPOs</i>	
Jerry Benson	Utah Transit Authority
Andrew Gruber	Wasatch Front Regional Council
Mike Wilson	Metropolitan Water District Salt Lake /Sandy
<i>State Government</i>	
Carlos Braceras/ Nathan Lee	Utah Department of Transportation
Gov. Gary Herbert/ Alan Matheson	State of Utah
Theresa Foxley	Governor's Office of Economic Development
<i>State Legislators (non-voting in meetings, signatory to outcomes)</i>	
Representative Johnny Anderson	Utah Legislature, House Transport. Chair
Representative Brad Dee	Utah Legislature, House Majority Leader
President Wayne Niederhauser	Utah Legislature, President of Senate
<i>Federal Government (non-voting in meetings, non-signatory to outcomes)</i>	
Linda Gehrke	Federal Transit Administration
Ivan Marrero	Federal Highway Administration
Dave Whittekiend	US Forest Service
<i>Private Entities</i>	
Lane Beattie/ Justin Jones	Salt Lake Chamber of Commerce
Joan DeGiorgio	The Nature Conservancy
Carl Fisher	Enviro & Dispersed Rec (Save Our Canyons)
Peter Metcalf	Outdoor Industry Association
Nathan Rafferty	Ski Industry (Ski Utah)

Voting Executive Board members will complete a disclosure form.

LOG OF EXECUTIVE BOARD DECISIONS AND CONCENSUS RECOMMENDATIONS

Decision Memo	Description	Date
Decision Memo 1	Phase I Structure and Process	December 2013
Decision Memo 2	Phase I Systems Approach and Funding	January 2014
<i>Program Charter</i>	<i>Program Charter</i>	<i>February 2014</i>
Decision Memo 3	Existing Conditions/Future Trends	June 2014
Decision Memo 4	Parametrix Scope/Budget	August 2014
Decision Memo 5	Vision, Goals, Metrics	August 2014
Decision Memo 6	Ideal Systems, Combined Scenario	November 2014
<i>Accord</i>	<i>Phase I Accord</i>	<i>August 2015</i>
Decision Memo 7	Phase II Plan	
Decision Memo 8	Federal Designation	

LOG OF INTERLOCAL AGREEMENTS (ILAs)

Item	Description	Date
MOU Phase I	Transportation Modeling, between WFRC and UTA	June 2013
ILA Phase I	Phase I Program and Funding, between Exec Board government entities	July 2013
ILA Phase II	Phase II Program and Funding, between Exec Board government entities	November 2015, ongoing