

## **Summary of analysis from Draft Alternatives Public Comment**

On Friday, September 18, 2020, the Central Wasatch Commission released a Mountain Transportation System draft alternatives and sub alternatives report for public review and comment. Over the 30-day public comment period, the CWC received submissions from 218 individuals, groups, businesses, and local governments. Of those submissions, 1131 different topics were identified. This memo outlines the key findings from public comments.

Many of the comments expressed a preference for, or against particular modes or a transportation alternative. A large number of comments also reiterated the objectives and attributes of the MTS.

The most mode and alternative commented on regarded buses and the draft alternative 1, the comprehensive bus alternative. Many of these comments supported a comprehensive bus alternative citing flexibility, ability to serve all canyon users, ease of implementation, lower costs, ability to use existing corridors, and minimum impact on the watershed.

Regarding a gondola aerial system in Little Cottonwood Canyon, there were more comments opposing an aerial system than in favor. The main reasons for opposition to an aerial system cited are impacts on the viewshed, an aerial system would only serve the ski resorts, impacts on congestion at the mouth of the canyon, and potential creation of new service roads. Many comments were received against any type of aerial system including connecting the Cottonwood canyons and connections to Park City. Alternatively, reasons for supporting an aerial system cited include ability to reduce congestion in the canyons, ability to serve at a high capacity, safety, and an enjoyable scenic ride.

There were more comments opposing a rail option for Little Cottonwood Canyon than those who supported it. Many of these opposing comments cited impacts to watershed, emissions, cost, and equitable access. Comments in support of rail cited better lifecycle costs, ability to operate in all weather conditions, and ability to reduce congestion.

Additional key findings include:

- Variable tolling was commented on favorably, but many questions were raised regarding implementation and use of potential revenue.
- There was broad support for a seasonal express bus in Big Cottonwood Canyon.
- Opposition to any road widening
- Opposition to any connections between the Cottonwood Canyons and connections to Park City

A segment of comments also raised multiple questions and necessary clarifications that were not addressed in the draft alternatives report. Although not addressed in the draft alternatives, the questions raised can be used as a framework for a possible next step of analysis. The questions raised include:

- Complete understanding of impacts on the watershed
- Complete a visitor use study
- Impacts on air quality
- Consider the impacts of climate change on the decided upon MTS
- Consider a watershed analysis
- Transportation solutions and federal lands bill need work and implement in tandem

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