Wasatch Choice for 2040

MAG Staff, Shawn Seager February 3, 2011
We enjoy an unparalleled quality of life in our region...
We enjoy access to the outdoors,
friendly communities,
and rich economic opportunities...
In Salt Lake, Davis, Weber, and Utah counties, population will increase by 68%, adding another 1.5 million residents by 2040.
The way we develop our communities affects all aspects of our lives.

If we continue the growth patterns of the past few decades, the consequences could result in a negative quality of life impact.
Traffic Congestion…

Miles driven daily will almost double by 2040

- 2010: 49 Million
- 2040: 90 Million

WFRC and MAG
Utahns report a good quality of life and expect their quality of life to increase over time.

Utahns have become increasingly concerned about growth in the state and its impact on their quality of life specifically Traffic/transportation, Overpopulation, Development, Managing growth, Housing Market/Affordability.

Utahns still believe erroneously that the primary cause of population growth in the state comes from people outside the state moving in. (79% hold this belief)

Two core values drive the feelings about life in Utah:

1. Safe & Secure Communities from shared values and low crime leading to a sense of personal security and peace of mind.

2. Time & Opportunity for Personal Priorities leading to a sense of accomplishment, personal enjoyment and peace of mind.
Utah’s dramatic population growth requires that we make wise decisions.
There is a Better Way to Grow...

The Wasatch Choice for 2040:
A Vision for the Region

We can grow AND preserve our great quality of life.
Lower Tax Needs

We can save billions of dollars in infrastructure costs by growing more efficiently.

20 year growth comparison: Baseline vs. Vision

- $26 billion (2020 Baseline)
- $21.5 billion (2020 Vision)

Saves 17% or $4.5 billion over 20 years

Envision Utah Quality Growth Strategy; 1999
Enhanced Mobility and Economic Growth

The Vision reduces traffic congestion by 18%

Businesses in Utah will save $6.4 to $8.8 billion through improved mobility of goods, services and workers
Better Air Quality

Less driving and more transportation choices will lead to cleaner air.
How Do We Realize the Vision?
Centers: focus growth in economic centers and near regional transportation systems and transit stations.
Growth in Centers responds to market demand

• Demographic trends:
  – First wave of baby boomers will be 65 in 2011
  – Largest number of millennials reaches 22 in 2012

• One-third of future households will prefer to live in new "walkable" developments: smaller homes, townhomes, condos, with access to transit, jobs, and amenities. We are far short of meeting this demand.
Centers – the Vision maintains the character of existing neighborhoods

The Vision puts more *new* homes and jobs in walkable developments near transit stations. This allows *existing* suburban neighborhoods to largely remain the same.
Centers – focus growth in economic centers and near regional transportation systems and transit stations.
Regional Transportation Plan:

- Highway, transit and Bike/Ped
- Planning horizon extends at least 20 years
- Updated every 4 years
- Financially constrained
- Conforms to state air quality plan
- Population & Job growth is based on Wasatch Choice for 2040
November 2010, Utah selected for $5 Million Sustainable Communities - Housing & Urban Development Grant

Purpose: Implementing “The Wasatch Choice for 2040”

1. Regions wide Envision Tomorrow plus (ET+)Computer Model
2. Remove barriers for development at six sites
   - Provo intermodal center and commuter rail
   - Salt Lake Central Station
   - Sugarhouse Trolley corridor
   - Magna town center
   - 3900 South TRAX
   - Sandy 10000 South TRAX
3. Creation of a Regional Affordable Housing Plan
4. Creating a tool box and info. campaign for other local comm.
Transit Oriented Development Analysis

Provo Intermodal Center and Front Runner commuter rail

Provo Center Street

University Avenue

300 So.
“I salute the Utah organizations whose vision brought this important grant to our State. The Utah consortium behind the grant is made up of the following partners—the Wasatch Front Regional Council, Mountainland Association of Governments, Envision Utah, the Utah Department of Transportation, UDOT, Utah Transit Authority, UTA, Salt Lake County, Salt Lake City, University Of Utah and the Utah Chapter of the American Planning Association”

Senator Robert Bennett
“The future is not some place we’re going to, but a place we are creating. The paths to it are not found, they are made.”

Jane Garvey