

## **Early Scoping Period Public Comment Summary**

### **Process**

An early scoping public comment period for the Mountain Accord was held January 21 to March 28, 2014. A total of 958 comments were collected over the 9.5 week period. Outreach efforts included:

- Two public open houses, February 4<sup>th</sup> in Park City and February 5<sup>th</sup> in Salt Lake City. Meeting attendees were encouraged to submit written comments or to submit comments online. A comment wall was designated for attendees to post comments publically and to interact with one another, soliciting conversation and input.
- Additional in-person outreach was conducted by Salt Lake City Mayor Ralph Becker's office at Whole Foods, Salomon and Sports Den in Salt Lake City. The Town of Alta also held an educational open house and Park City highlighted the Mountain Accord at a Community Events open house.

The majority of public comments received during this period were submitted online (via the project website, email address, and Open City Hall forum) indicating that the web is a preferred method for the public. Approximately 550 comments were submitted through the project website while more than 60 were sent through email. Several comment forms were mailed to Mountain Accord and one was submitted via phone.

Additional comments were received by participating organizations specific to proposals that will be considered throughout the Mountain Accord effort and those comments will be included in the official Mountain Accord report.

### **Comment Themes**

Key themes that emerged in the comments received are described below.

#### **Transportation**

- Reduce vehicles in the project area
- Increase public transit opportunities via train, tram, and/or expanded bus service
- Public safety concerns: Biker safety on roadways, avalanche risk, and "dead-end" canyons
- Relieve parking congestion at the resorts, established trailheads and other dispersed recreation locations

## **Environment**

- Protection of watersheds and maintaining high quality water resources is critical
- Preserve open space and wilderness areas
- Protect wildlife and maintain wildlife corridors
- Address air quality problems
- With current high use and projected population growth, concern over natural resources being “loved to death”

## **Recreation**

- Maintain existing trails and add more trails (more mountain biking trails mentioned specifically)
- Ski resort expansion (for and against)
- Maintain recreational experience for backcountry skiers
- Enhance transportation to serve trailheads
- Trailhead parking is often congested

## **Economy/Development/Land Use**

- New development should be increased density instead of sprawl, consider use of landswaps
- Concern over additional development in the canyons, need to have responsible growth
- Need to be sensitive to and incorporate the needs of gateway communities
- Ensure adequate representation from private property owners, maintain access to private property, and respect private property rights
- The effects of our natural resources for bringing businesses and conventions is important
- Ski and tourism industries are important economically to the state but must be balanced with other interests

## **Topic Rankings**

At the Open Houses, the public was asked to rank the four main goals (transportation, environment, recreation, and economy) in order of importance to the future of the central Wasatch. Each goal was ranked one through four, with one being the most important and four being the least important. The results are graphically shown below for each open house.

At each location, the trends were similar. Environment was overwhelmingly ranked as the topic with number one importance, and Economy was ranked as the topic of least importance. In Salt Lake City, recreation was the second most important topic, followed

by transportation. In Park City and the Town of Alta, transportation was the second most important consideration, followed by recreation. (Results depicted below)



