

Existing Conditions & Future Trendlines Report

Public Comment Summary

May 8, 2014

Process

This document summarizes public comments on the Existing Conditions and Future Trendlines reports from the Transportation, Recreation, Environment, and Economy System Groups of the Mountain Accord.

The Transportation and Recreation reports were posted online on April 18th, followed by the Environment Report on April 24th and the Economy Report on April 28th. The comment period was open through May 7th and public comments were accepted on the Mountain Accord website and through the Salt Lake City Open City Hall website. A total of 26 comments were received.

Summary of Comments

The comments received fell along a spectrum ranging from highly specific to very general. Some comments made specific reference to the reports and others were more general comments about potential future outcomes. All comments have been forwarded to System Group Technical Leads for consideration.

Transportation System

- Transit concerns:
 - There is not an unreliability issue, but more of an unavailability issue
 - Would like to see more data on who rides the bus and why or why not people ride the bus
 - Improve the efficiency, comfort, capacity, and safety of public transit
 - Public transit planning should be door to door
 - Cost of riding the bus currently is too high
- Expand study area to include Millcreek Canyon, Neffs Canyon, Ferguson Canyon, and other access points and roads on the Wasatch Front
- Report should mention that the plowing of trailheads in the winter is inadequate
- Support advocating both for and against having dead-end canyons
- Should mention the future use of electronic vehicles and making accommodations for charging stations
- If the focus is on the environment, access, and economy, there is no better unifier than rail. The current system is unsustainable

Recreation System

- Report needs to address conflicts between private property owners and backcountry users
- Traffic in Big and Little Cottonwood Canyon assumes that all cars are going to the resorts and does not take into account weekend backcountry users
- Report should note that recreation opportunities are unmatched in the world, not just western United States
- Concern that there is no methodology for projecting recreational usage into the future. The report needs to address and identify data gaps
- How does climate change effect future winter use, mainly skiing?

Environmental System

- Wasatch Back water supply needs should be mentioned in executive summary
- Little Cottonwood Canyon is a fragile ecosystem and there needs to be increased restrictions to automobile and visitor use coupled with the enforcement of existing regulations
- Due to air pollution along the Wasatch Front, there is an imperative to move to clean energy. Mountain Accord should consider adopting the goal of 100% clean energy by 2050.
- Consequences of climate change are significant and we need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions
- Climate change has been debunked as a pseudo-science

Economy System

- The economic benefit provided by having access to this resource is not addressed
- Need to consider moratorium on growth or focus on planned growth. Managed growth is key component to solving future trendline problems
- If there is an increase in population, what does that mean to changing demographics? Need to understand what type of infrastructure we need to support those demographics
- Private property owners seek to be better represented
- Respect and do not restrict private property rights