



## News Release

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### **Residents can attend event about the future of the economy, housing and local transportation**

**Salt Lake County, UT**—Salt Lake County Mayor Ben McAdams and Wasatch Front Regional Council (WFRC) are welcoming elected officials, community planners, and other stakeholders for an annual regional planning event. Wasatch Choice 2050 + Mayor’s Metro Solutions brings local visionaries together to look at the challenges facing the Wasatch Front and to explore issues such as jobs and the economy, housing, and transportation. Residents interested in joining the discussion on January 23<sup>rd</sup> can register [here](#).

“Everyone has a stake in how we work, grow, travel and play in our rapidly-growing metro area. Business, university, government and nonprofit partners have been looking for collaborative opportunities for some time now, with one goal: how to build a better future. This event will give the public a chance to listen, ask questions and weigh in on our ongoing collaboration,” said McAdams.

McAdams said discussions will include mayors, economists, transportation planners, university leaders and others who have been looking at many different ideas for future growth and development.

At the event, WFRC will release the draft Wasatch Choice 2050 Vision. The Vision is a blueprint for growth that supports a well-functioning economy, improves air quality and enhances the overall quality of life for Utahns living across the Wasatch Front.

“We have a strong track record of turning challenges into opportunities in Utah,” said Ogden City Mayor Mike Caldwell, WFRC Chair. “While rapid growth and change are realities we are dealing with daily, the Wasatch Choice Vision - which bears the fingerprints of stakeholders across the region - provides a strong pattern for how we want to grow, how we want to live and how we get there.”

McAdams said the event capitalizes on the long-standing research by University of Utah professors on innovative solutions that address traffic, congestion, and upward mobility and broad-based prosperity.

“Where you live matters. In compact metropolitan areas, low-income households have better access to jobs, and a better chance of moving up the social and economic ladder,” said Reid Ewing, Ph.D., professor of City and Metropolitan Planning at the University of Utah.

The keynote session features the latest work and insights compiled by international community planning experts and authors Bruce Katz and Jeremy Nowak, who highlight where local communities are solving problems and making life better in cities and counties throughout the world.

An event agenda and registration is available at [slco.org/regional-development](http://slco.org/regional-development). McAdams said several organizations are assisting in planning the event: Salt Lake County Regional Development, Wasatch Front Regional Council, The University of Utah’s Department of City & Metropolitan Planning, Envision Utah, and Mountainland Association of Governments.

**WHAT:** Wasatch Choice 2050 + Mayor’s Metro Solutions, metro planning event  
**WHEN:** Tuesday, January 23  
8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.  
**WHERE:** Salt Palace Convention Center  
100 South West Temple  
Salt Lake City

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