

*For Immediate Release:*

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## **Governor Herbert opens longest multi-use trail network West of the Mississippi**

*Golden Spoke network offers over 100-miles of trail connecting Ogden to Provo, Utah*

**SALT LAKE CITY** (June 2, 2018) – Today Governor Gary R. Herbert, along with several local and regional leaders, officially recognized the completion of the [Golden Spoke](#) network at a community celebration event. The Golden Spoke network offers over 100 miles of safe, connected, paved trails from Ogden to Provo, becoming the longest continuous, multi-use urban trail network this side of the Mississippi, cementing Utah as a national leader in outdoor recreation and active transportation.

“The Golden Spoke is a tremendous representation of Utah’s commitment to health, community and a high quality of life,” said Mike Caldwell, Mayor of Ogden and Wasatch Front Regional Council (WFRC) Chair. “Through the strong partnerships and collaborative efforts at local, state, public, private and nonprofit levels, we are today introducing this incredible asset for our state, and this is just the beginning. We are expecting \$200 million in funding Statewide over the next five years for trails and other active transportation facilities.”

The Golden Spoke network is now open and available for use. WFRC has created a map outlining the trails. Those interested in enjoying part or all of the trail can learn more at [www.goldenspokeutah.org](http://www.goldenspokeutah.org).

Thirty years in the making, the idea for the Golden Spoke network was not developed all at once, but rather a discovery. As various trails were constructed, individuals and organizations realized there was a greater potential among the separate trails. This realization caused groups to evaluate if existing and proposed trails could be linked to make an impactful network trail system. With that discovery, the Golden Spoke network idea was born.

Like any good idea, the biggest hurdle faced by the project was funding. But as the proposed network of trails was to pass through four counties, including 33 cities, the trail network found support through the cooperative efforts of numerous municipal, county and state agencies, as well as public, private and non-profit entities. When all was said and done, these partnerships provided over \$100 million in funding over the past 30 years.

“There were sacrifices made by multiple communities along the trail system who were willing to push back other trail projects to help make this system come together,” said Scott Hess, WFRC Community and Economic Development Director. “This type of collaboration is what sets Utah apart. I am grateful for the Golden Spoke partners, they have given Utahns an incredible gift.”

In the year leading up to today's celebratory opening, several "gaps" in the trail network were finalized, including the \$6.5 million bridge of the Jordan River Trail near the Utah State Fairpark in Salt Lake City. The bridge became a symbolic bridging of the many partnerships necessary to make the vision of this trail network a reality.



Utah will continue to prioritize active transportation by improving and building new systems throughout the state. Though the Golden Spoke network is now open it hasn't finished evolving. Federal, state and local leaders have committed over \$200 million in funding over the next five years toward expanding and enhancing the Golden Spoke trail network.

Again, those interested in enjoying part or all of the trail can learn more at [www.goldenspokenutah.org](http://www.goldenspokenutah.org) or follow WFRC's Twitter (@WasatchCouncil) and Facebook (@WasatchFrontRegionalCouncil) accounts.

### **Wasatch Front Regional Council (WFRC)**

The Wasatch Front Regional Council builds consensus and enhances quality of life by developing and implementing visions and plans for a well-functioning multi-modal transportation system, livable communities, a strong economy, and a healthy environment. Visit [wfr.org](http://wfr.org) to learn more.

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