

Government Affairs Update December 7, 2021



Today the Governor [released](#) his [Budget Recommendations](#) and policy priorities for Fiscal Year 2023. Included in the \$28.5 billion budget are significant amounts of funding for the state's infrastructure needs, including water, transportation, air quality, and housing. These recommendations, now under consideration by the Legislature, will be considered with additional legislative priorities during the 2022 General Legislative Session. The recommendations are designed to invest in Utah's future, reflecting the significant surplus funding that is available in state and federal revenues, while being cautious about creating unsustainable ongoing budgetary obligations.

Highlighted below are some notable recommended funding amounts that align with Wasatch Front Regional Council goals.

Transportation

- \$232 million one-time to replace previously authorized FrontRunner bonding with cash. This is not additional funding for FrontRunner, but simply avoids debt obligations and allows the state Transit Transportation Investment Fund (TTIF) to be used for additional transit projects throughout the state.
- \$46.2 million one-time for regional active transportation projects, requiring 20% local match (this is in addition to the \$35 million appropriated in FY22)
- \$62 million one-time to replace other previously authorized transportation bonds

Note: the funding available to Utah from the recently adopted [Bipartisan Infrastructure Law](#) is generally not called out in the budget recommendations because the majority of that funding is in formula-based programs over the next five years that were already anticipated to be coming to Utah, to be used for maintenance of existing infrastructure.

Other Infrastructure, Growth and Planning

- \$1 million in one-time funding for a data-driven, statewide conversation about growth
- \$1.05 million in ongoing funding for technical planning assistance to Associations of Governments (AOG's)
- \$600 thousand increase in ongoing technical planning assistance to UDOT
- \$250 thousand one-time to the Property Rights Ombudsman, for "Train the Trainer"
- \$2.1 million (\$2M one-time and \$100K ongoing) for the LeRay McAllister Fund for

- critical lands conservation
- \$100 million one-time to the ARPA Local Matching Grant Program (this is in addition to the \$50 million that was originally appropriated to this program, which received over \$1 billion in total funding requests)
- \$141 million one-time as an initial investment in the Point of the Mountain project area
- \$115 million one-time to UDOT for rural broadband middle mile fiber optic backbone projects

Air Quality

- \$4.7 million one-time to expand the state's air quality monitoring network into Wasatch and Summit counties
- \$3 million one-time to the Office of Energy Development to expand the electric vehicle charging infrastructure network into rural areas

Housing Affordability

- \$100 million one-time for housing affordability, including \$50 million for private activity bonds to create 1,100 units, and \$50 million for new construction or rehabilitation of rural workforce housing
- \$128 million one-time (ARPA funds) for deeply affordable housing which is to be deed restricted and serving individuals making less than 40% AMI

We appreciate the Governor, and his team at the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget for putting together thoughtful recommendations that contemplate the need for continued investment in infrastructure. We look forward to working with the legislature as they also plan, prioritize, and ultimately appropriate the Fiscal Year 2023 state budget.

Best,

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