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**Tooele Valley Leaders and Wasatch Front Regional Council Seek Input
on Long-Range Transportation Plan**

SALT LAKE CITY — Leaders from Tooele County, Tooele City and Grantsville City, in close partnership with staff at the Wasatch Front Regional Council (WFRC), UDOT and UTA, have created a draft long-range transportation plan for the Tooele Valley through 2040 that includes proposed new or expanded roadway, transit and walking and biking facilities. The public is invited to provide feedback on the proposed projects and timing of construction.

The public comment period on the plan is now open and runs through Feb. 13. Those interested can learn more about the process, review the plans and give input via an interactive map linked at <http://wfrc.org/committees/tooele-valley-rural-planning-organization/>. Representatives will also be available to answer questions about the plan at an in-person open house.

Tooele Valley Long-Range Transportation Plan Open House

Date: Thursday, Jan. 31

Time: 4:30-6:30 p.m.

Location: Tooele City Council Chambers (90 N. Main St., Tooele)

While the plan is comprehensive and all proposed projects would require additional development and funding to move forward, highlights of the 2040 plan include proposed:

- Construction of the Midvalley Highway
- Widening of I-80 between SR-201 and the Midvalley Highway
- Alternate connection from Lakepoint to SR-201
- Widening of Burmester Road
- New east-west connections between Droubay Road on the east and Sheep Lane on the west and another between Tooele City and the Mormon Trail
- Potential expansion of service hours for existing transit routes
- Feasibility study to explore corridor preservation for a potential future high-capacity transit route between Tooele County and Salt Lake County
- Improved pedestrian and cyclist access to transit
- New and improved pedestrian and bicycle routes throughout the valley to connect educational, recreational and trailhead locations

“Tooele County and its local government partners are excited about the bright future for this valley,” said Tooele County Commissioner Tom Tripp. “As we grow, keeping people moving is critical to our quality of life and our economy. We look forward to working together as local leaders with the state’s transportation agencies to deliver projects that will not only provide a way to get around but that will enhance our citizens’ experience of living here.”

With Tooele County’s population projected to nearly double in the coming decades, local leaders’ collective transportation vision includes providing choices to valley residents.

“We are rapidly moving into a future where roads and cars will not and cannot be the only way to get around,” said Tooele City Mayor Debbie Winn. “The long-range plan incorporates expansion of transit and walking and biking paths alongside new and better roads. We recognize now is the time to plan for a future that improves mobility, health, the economy, tourism and our overall quality of life.”

The long-range planning process allows leaders to create consensus around needs and projects locally. Leaders can then build awareness and support of needs and priorities at the regional and statewide levels, providing better opportunities to secure funding for future projects.

“We have to work together in this valley to secure funding for the projects we need,” said Grantsville City Mayor Brent Marshall. “This plan puts us in a good position to begin now to develop projects and pursue funding to make them a reality. Being ahead of the game is critical to maintain and enhance the way of life we prize.”

About the Tooele Valley Regional Planning Organization (RPO)

A Rural Planning Organization (RPO) was formed for the Tooele Valley in 2004 to establish a process for the local jurisdictions to cooperatively plan the valley’s transportation system and prioritize projects. The process identifies community priorities earlier, providing better integration with regional and statewide transportation plans. Learn more at <http://wfr.org/committees/tooele-valley-rural-planning-organization/>.

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