

National and Local Leaders Convene to Discuss Transportation Safety

Six Utah Communities among recipients of The Safe Streets and Roads for All Grants

SALT LAKE CITY (March 27, 2023) — Robin Hutcheson, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) Administrator along with representatives from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Wasatch Front Regional Council (WFRC), Salt Lake City and Salt Lake County convened to discuss transportation safety in Utah. The past two years have seen some of the highest number of fatalities on our roadways, and safety is a top priority of national, state, and local leaders and transportation officials. Together the group considered Utah's safety challenges, discussed solutions, and forged relationships that will allow Utah to address them collaboratively.

"I am very excited to be a part of this historic effort to support the U.S. Department of Transportation's vision of zero roadway deaths and its National Roadway Safety Strategy," said FMCSA Administrator Robin Hutcheson. "I'm also very honored to be with local elected officials and transportation leaders to celebrate the recent award of the Safe Streets and Roads for All planning grants, established by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and announced by Secretary Buttigieg in February. I hope the grants awarded to Utah, and the work being planned is an encouragement to other communities and regions throughout the nation to implement strategies to eliminate traffic fatalities."

Reported deaths and serious injuries on Utah's roads continue to increase. In 2020, there were 276 total fatalities on Utah roads, a higher fatality count than any of the three years prior. And then in 2021 and 2022 there were over 300 roadway fatalities each year in Utah, making the last two years some of the more deadly on record.

"Since the pandemic, we're seeing more and more county residents looking for opportunities to walk or ride bikes to their jobs, schools, and neighborhood centers," said Jenny Wilson, Mayor of Salt Lake County. "The increase in auto crashes involving pedestrians and cyclists is the wake up call. Elected leaders throughout the county need to push for critical multi-modal infrastructure, as the best and safest response to this growing trend."

Part of today's discussion includes the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) planning grants, of which both Wasatch Front Regional Council (WFRC) and Mountainland Association of Governments (MAG) are recipients. On Feb. 1, 2023, U.S. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg announced \$800 million in grant awards for 510 projects through the first round of funding for the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) grant program. The following activities are eligible for the SS4A program (1) Develop or update a comprehensive safety action plan (2) Conduct planning, design, and development activities in support of an Action Plan. (3) Carry out projects and strategies identified in an Action Plan.

"Our residents deserve to travel safely to and from our incredible neighborhoods, regardless of what time of day they travel, or how they travel," Mayor Erin Mendenhall said. "Salt Lake City is committed to this work, reducing the speed limit on City streets to 20 miles per hour, adding more bike lanes and increasing traffic calming protections citywide. 'Safe Streets and Roads for All' is not just a goal, but an expectation we should all have when addressing transportation needs."



[Event Photos/Video](#) *Assets expected to be available shortly after event*

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