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**Nearly \$1 Million Enables Communities to Plan for a More Prosperous Future**

*Technical assistance funding provides Wasatch Front communities with planning resources in the face of unprecedented growth*

**SALT LAKE CITY** – With Utah's population expected to nearly double by 2050, 16 Wasatch Front communities have received a total of \$909,000 in grant funds from the Transportation and Land Use Connection (TLC) program to plan for a future that includes better connectivity, greater mobility, balanced development and greater prosperity.

This year's grantees will use the funds to initiate plans and projects to foster more active transportation; encourage zoning and land use patterns that offer transportation choices; analyze and plan for the future of major corridors in the Salt Lake Valley; and develop centers within communities to support economic development and affordable living.

The TLC grant program is led by the Wasatch Front Regional Council (WFRC) and funded through a partnership with Salt Lake County, the Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT) and the Utah Transit Authority (UTA). TLC provides funding to local governments to support local planning efforts toward achieving the individual vision of each community.

"As we look toward a future that includes nearly double the number of people and twice as much travel, commerce and recreation, we are wise to invest in smart planning now to create a framework for continued success within our communities," said Ogden City Mayor and WFRC Chair Mike Caldwell. "The TLC grants provide critical resources to our local communities, allowing them to put plans in place for a better connected, more active and more prosperous future."

The TLC program grantees are encouraged to use concepts and tools from the Wasatch Choice, a locally-driven, regionally-focused vision for the future of the Wasatch Front.

"The TLC program is critical in creating a future we choose rather than a future that just happens," said Salt Lake County Mayor Ben McAdams. "Deciding now that we want more active transportation options, more centered development, more places to recreate close to home puts us on the path we desire. Supporting these efforts will have positive impacts for generations within communities and across our region."

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While the program began four years ago with WFRC and Salt Lake County as primary partners, through a growing collaboration with UDOT and UTA additional program funds allowed for the number of grant awards to increase from 12 to 16 this year.

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