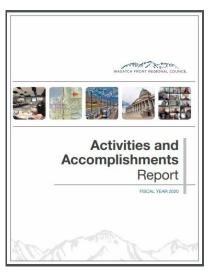


HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS NEWSLETTER INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

- WFRC Thanks Our Members and Partners and Reports on 2020 Activities and Accomplishments
- The "Great Localization": Long-Term Implications of COVID-19 on Transportation, Development Patterns, and Air Quality
- August Map of the Month: Active Transportation GIS Data Resources
- Tell Us How You Really Feel and Take the Survey!
- Upcoming Events



WFRC Thanks Our Members and Partners and Reports on 2020 Activities and Accomplishments

We are living in challenging and unprecedented times. The Wasatch Front Regional Council (WFRC) thanks all of our elected and non-elected members, partners and stakeholders for their commitment and efforts to serve our community. Our region faces twin challenges: the pandemic, which we all hope to move beyond in the near future, and growth, which has been and will continue to be with us in Utah. By working together, we

can help to ensure a strong recovery in the near term, and high quality of life for many years to come.

Over the past year, WFRC has continued its work to promote this high quality of life. Transportation planning in the region is a cooperative effort of local, regional, and state agencies. As the designated Metropolitan Planning Organization for the majority of the Wasatch Front, WFRC is responsible for coordinating the transportation planning process. WFRC and its partners achieved several important milestones during fiscal year 2020 in line with the goals and priorities adopted by the Council. These goals and activities included:

- 1. Collaboratively advance the Wasatch Choice Regional Vision as a regional framework for integrating transportation, land use, and economic development, to best address growth-related opportunities and challenges.
- 2. Develop and implement plans and programs.
- 3. Provide subject-matter expertise to federal, state, and local officials and policymakers.
- 4. Strive for organizational excellence.

To learn more about WFRC's activities and accomplishments, please view the full report.

WFRC is proud of the work we were able to do over the past year in close collaboration with WFRC's members and our public and private-sector partners and stakeholders. We are deeply appreciative of the opportunity to serve our community.

The "Great Localization": Long-Term Implications of COVID-19 on Transportation, Development Patterns, and Air Quality



COVID-19 is an important moment in the history of cities. Even as we continue to battle the public health emergency of COVID-19, and are grappling with the economic emergency, we are beginning to understand that living with a pandemic may forever alter people's lifestyles and decisions. COVID-19 shifts include teleworking, more online shopping, less commuting and driving, different uses of living and working spaces, and more biking and walking. In short, life has been revolving more around our neighborhoods. This is a "great localization" of life and activity.

Enduring changes in lifestyle like these can affect the physical form and function of cities. This happened when automobile use and suburbanization boomed after World War II, and may shift again in the coming years. Despite being forced upon us by COVID-19, we have learned that localization of activity can have positive effects for many households, businesses, and the economy. For example, it can mean reduced travel demands, more walking and bicycling, and overall improvements to air quality. These changes also have the potential to impact municipal revenues. Economic benefits follow the teleworker, including the ability for municipalities to capture the teleworkers' distribution of online retail sales taxes.

So what communities will the teleworker choose to live in? If patterns of activity are centered more around the home, and teleworkers can work from anywhere, they may choose to live in a more complete community.

How will municipalities respond to these potential long-term changes? Communities are made more complete with the presence of strategically located town centers, a part of the shared Wasatch Choice Regional Vision. Having nearby destinations in town centers like grocery stores, restaurants, parks, or haircuts is part of the recipe to attract teleworkers. A town center will also be more desirable if it is designed to be real community amenity by being walkable and having character.

Recently, WFRC Executive Director Andrew Gruber and Deputy Director Ted Knowlton presented these long-term implications during the Utah Legislature's Clean Air Caucus meeting. You can listen to the full meeting by clicking the button below.

LISTEN HERE: UTAH CLEAN AIR CAUCUS MEETING



August Map of the Month: Active Transportation GIS Data Resources

Building on the work of so many WFRC partners, the first comprehensive bicycle and pedestrian maps and datasets are now available for the Wasatch Region! Our new Active Transportation GIS Data Resources web map allows you to view

and explore all of this newly available active transportation (AT) information from the comfort of your favorite browser. This information is more important than ever, as bike use has increased by nearly 100% during the pandemic, and our region is likely to see lasting

gains in biking for commuting and for recreation.

Each tab of the map offers a different view of the AT network, including:

- Existing pathways and on-street bike infrastructure
- Plans for new regional and local AT facilities
- A future "build-out" view of the bicycle network
- · Bike and pedestrian demand indicators
- Level of traffic stress and other Network Quality measures

Our new map also contains links to access all of this information as GIS-formatted map data.

You can also find this map in WFRC's new interactive map gallery. For more information, contact nicole@wfrc.org or analytics@wfrc.org.

Tell Us How You Really Feel and Take the Survey!



West Bench General Plan - Vision

Do you want to shape the future of the West Bench? Salt Lake County is preparing a long-range plan for the unincorporated western areas of the County. All good plans begin with a vision. Your input is critical to this process. Please tell us what you think about the vision statements in the short survey.

TAKE THE SURVEY

Upcoming Events



ULCT 2020 Annual Convention

"Respond, Recover, Reimagine" September 21st - 25th, 2020

Utah League of Cities and Towns (ULCT) is partnering with American Planning Association (APA) and Wasatch Front Regional Council (WFRC) to bring you opportunities Monday through Friday to see and hear the latest about planning, managing, communicating, and innovating in your city or town. With more than 30 workshops, multiple mobile tours, roundtable discussions, a debate between the two candidates running for Governor, and keynote speakers including author Peter Kageyama, "Love Your City", and Reverend France Davis, you will not want to miss this event! The event is fully virtual, except for opportunities for the local mobile tours. We hope to "see" you there!



Diversity, Inclusion, and Social Equity in Land Use

September 29th and October 1st, 2020

<u>Urban Land Institute</u> (ULI) in partnership with Daybreak Communities and GSBS Architects will offer a two part educational opportunity:

Part 1: Panel discussion on the history or social injustice in real estate and planning locally

Part 2: Anti-Bias Training by Sarah Jones

REGISTER HERE



