



WASATCH FRONT REGIONAL COUNCIL

HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS NEWSLETTER INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

- **2018-2023 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy**
 - **Wasatch Choice Vision: 2019-2050 Regional Transportation Plan**
 - **Local Governments Act to Mitigate the Housing Affordability Crisis**
 - **The Box Elder-Weber-Cache Mobility Study has begun!**
 - **Meet the newest member of the WFRC Data and Analytics Team!**
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2018-2023 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy

On May 20, 2019 the [Wasatch Front Economic Development District](#) (WFEDD) adopted the 2018-2023 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). The CEDS provides a framework for improving and maintaining the regional economies of Davis, Morgan, Salt Lake, Tooele, and Weber Counties. The CEDS is one element of the Wasatch Choice 2050 Vision.

The CEDS focuses on four key strategies:

1. **Link Development with Transportation and Other Infrastructure** - Coordinated transportation, infrastructure, and land-use decisions to enhance household's access to jobs and educational opportunities and employer's access to the workforce and customers.
2. **Create Fiscally Sustainable Places** - Revenues and expenses are balanced and sustainable for households, communities, and the region.
3. **Provide Amenities** - Maintain quality of life elements that attract skilled labor by encouraging more walkable cities, open space preservation, and improved air and water quality.
4. **Attract and Retain Businesses, and Encourage Innovation** - Support and encourage business retention, job creation, workforce development, and innovation by partnering and information sharing.

The CEDS was developed with input from the WFEDD Board and Strategy Committee, as well as through surveys, meetings, and feedback gathered from WFEDD member communities, staff, educational institutions, and the public.

A few final refinements are being made to the CEDS and then it will be submitted to the Economic Development Administration for their review on June 1, 2019.

For more information regarding the CEDS document, please contact Scott Hess, Community and Economic Development Director, at shess@wfr.org or 801-363-4250 x1104.

2018-2023 COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

EXPLORE | CHOOSE | PRIORITIZE | IMPLEMENT



Wasatch Choice Vision: 2019-2050 Regional Transportation Plan

After four years of preparation and development, The Wasatch Front 2019-2050 Regional Transportation Plan (2019-2050 RTP) is ready for adoption this month by the Wasatch Front Regional Council. The 2019-2050 RTP is the Region's fiscally constrained blueprint for roadway, transit, active transportation, and other facility improvements to help achieve the Wasatch Choice 2050 Vision and adopted regional goals over the next 31 years.

The 2019-2050 RTP includes multimodal facilities coordinated with regionally significant land use centers identified by region-wide planners, engineers, elected and appointed officials, partner agencies, stakeholder and special interest groups, and the general public that would best serve the needs of the Wasatch Front Region. The planning process and the steps used to develop the 2019-2050 RTP have been documented, and are available on our [website](#) along with details of transportation projects and regional centers in an interactive map.

2019-2050 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN



Local Governments Act to Mitigate the Housing Affordability Crisis

Housing affordability is a key issue on the Wasatch Front and in Utah as a whole. As our population continues to grow, we are seeing a decline in both housing availability and affordability. In fact, Utah's rate of housing price increase is the 4th highest in the nation over the past 26 years (Gardner Policy Institute). Additionally, Utah has fewer housing units than households, and steadily increasing housing prices. This contributes to the overall burden of housing affordability, especially for low to moderate income households. Fortunately, Utah has many leaders, advocates, planners, developers, and legislators working toward solutions.

Utah's Legislature passed [Senate Bill 34 Affordable Housing Modifications](#) (2019) with broad support throughout the State of Utah. SB34 encourages local communities to adopt policies to promote housing affordability and enhance coordination efforts of the three General Plan planning elements: transportation, land use, and moderate income housing. General Plans must now consider the location of housing for all income levels in addition to the other categories of public and private uses of land.

The Transportation element of the General Plan must now provide the general location and extent of active transportation (bike and trail) facilities in addition to road and transit; plan residential and commercial development around major transit investment corridors (FrontRunner, TRAX, and Bus Rapid Transit (BRT)); correlate the transportation plan with population and employment projections and land use; and consider the Regional Transportation Plan (see above) developed by the region's Metropolitan Planning Organization like WFRC.

The Moderate Income Housing element of the General Plan must be created/updated to comply with SB34 and adopted by December 1, 2019. Communities must now facilitate a reasonable opportunity for a variety of housing including moderate income housing, and should meet the needs of people of various income levels living, working, or desiring to live or work in the community, so they can benefit and participate in all aspects of community life. SB34 has a "menu" of strategies that municipalities can choose to adopt to help ensure that all residents have housing they can afford (see WFRC bill summary for the menu items).

WFRC has been working with many partners and stakeholders to implement SB34

including the Utah League of Cities and Towns, Utah Department of Workforce Services, Utah Association of Counties, Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute, and of course the transportation agencies including the Mountainland Association of Governments, Cache MPO, Dixie MPO, UDOT and UTA.

We are working on making data available to assist local governments in the Wasatch Front region to implement the requirements of SB34, as well as work with our partners to make data available for areas outside the Wasatch Front region as well - stay tuned!

DO YOU TRAVEL TO/FROM/THROUGH BRIGHAM CITY, LOGAN, OR OGDEN?

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Visit us in person at one of the following events:

The Ogden Heritage Festival 150th Anniversary | Thursday May 9th - Saturday May 11th
| Union Pacific Station, Ogden

The Brigham City Arts Festival | Saturday June 8th | Bill of Rights Plaza, Brigham City

Summerfest Arts Faire | Thursday June 13th - Saturday June 15th | 50 Main Street, Logan

Or on the web:
www.boxeldermobility.org

The Box Elder-Weber-Cache Mobility Study has begun!

Box Elder, Cache, and Weber Counties, in partnership with UTA, UDOT, and WFRC, have begun the Box Elder-Weber-Cache Mobility Study, an exploration of current transit and mobility opportunities. The objective of this study is to find, evaluate, and recommend mobility services to meet demands of the growing population while continuing to support community and economic development opportunities, and maintain regional mobility along the Wasatch Front and Cache Valley. The project team would like to hear from area residents and employees about existing transit service and needed transit improvements. Visit any of these upcoming events, or find us on the project website (www.boxeldermobility.org) to share your ideas:

- The Brigham City Arts Festival: June 8th, Bill of Rights Plaza, Brigham City
- Summerfest Arts Faire: June 13th - Jun 15th, 50 Main Street, Logan

[LEARN MORE ABOUT THE BOX ELDER-WEBER-CACHE MOBILITY STUDY](http://www.boxeldermobility.org)

Meet the newest member of the WFRC Data and Analytics Team!

Nicole Proulx graduated from the University of Utah with a Master's degree in Geographic Information Sciences



(MSGIS). She will be working with the Data and Analytics group at WFRC on a variety of geospatial data and analysis projects, maps and models. She will also be working with the Long Range Planning group to support their efforts with applied analytics such as latent demand modeling, active transportation analysis and performance measures tracking.

In her free time, she enjoys skiing, biking, camping, hiking with her two dogs, gardening, and almost any other activity that gets her outside or into the wilderness. And of course, she loves to look at maps and make plans for all the places she wants to visit!

Welcome Nicole!

