



WASATCH FRONT REGIONAL COUNCIL

HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS NEWSLETTER INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

- COVID-19 Potential Long-Term Impacts on Transportation and Communities
 - Wasatch Choice 2050 Current Initiatives
 - UCAIR Telecommuting Survey
 - UTA COVID-19 Rider Survey
 - Wasatch Front Travel Demand Model Version 8.3.1 Released
 - Map of the Month: Wasatch Front Bike Plans
 - May Was National Bike Month!
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COVID-19 Potential Long-Term Impacts on Transportation and Communities

What will conditions be like when the pandemic crisis recedes and life settles into a "new normal?" Coronavirus has affected communities in significant ways including the way people live, work, play, and travel. Some of these changes will endure even after we gradually emerge and recover from the pandemic. This article [Some of Utah's growth challenges take a breather -- but not for long](#) considers potential new equilibriums, and is based on work done by WFRM. As we recover, addressing longer-term outcomes and uncertainties will help increase our communities' resiliency and help us to return better in the years to come.

Wasatch Choice 2050 Current Initiatives

Wasatch Choice 2050 Current Initiatives

IMPROVE RESILIENCY

*Disruptive and innovative forces in the
Regional Transportation Plan/Unified Plan*

Peer Groups:

1. Transit and On Demand
2. Roadway
3. Local Communities
4. Active Transportation

Understand how external forces (COVID19, technology and market shifts) might impact us. Shape those impacts with policies.

Timeframe: Two meetings per group, preliminary meetings completed on the week of June 8, 2020.

ASSIST IMPLEMENTATION

*Local planning tied to regional
Wasatch Choice Vision*

Working Groups:

1. Public Engagement
2. Technical Assistance
3. Communications
4. Analysis

Develop resources to assist local governments with planning efforts and alignment of local and regional decisions.

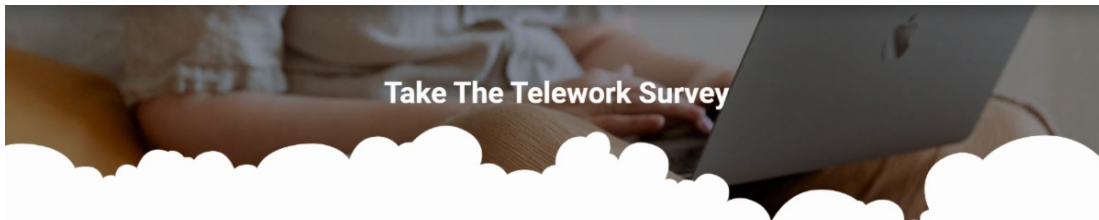
Timeframe: Meetings to begin in June and continue at quarterly intervals as determined by each group.

WFRC is currently working with transportation partners and local stakeholders on two initiatives that will assist our region with planning and recovery post COVID-19. The first effort is a series of Peer Group meetings to understand how external forces (COVID-19, technology and market shifts) might impact our local governments as well as the Regional Transportation Plan. These meetings will help our region shape those impacts with policies.

The second effort will be ongoing Working Group meetings to develop resources to assist local governments with planning efforts and alignment of local and regional decisions including implementation of the [Wasatch Choice Regional Vision](#).

The Wasatch Choice Peer Groups are initially meeting twice each, and the Wasatch Choice Working Groups are kicking off the first week of June.

For more information on the Wasatch Choice 2050 Current Initiatives, please contact Scott Hess at shess@wfr.org.



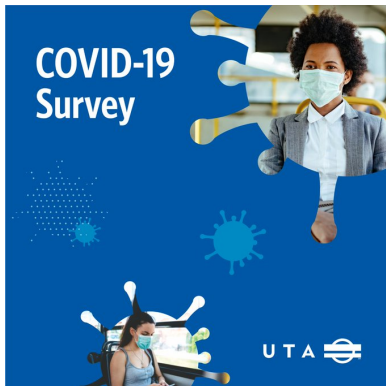
UCAIR Telecommuting Survey

WFRC is joining with the Utah Clean Air Partnership (UCAIR) and a number of other organizations in the community in a pulse survey of business and community leaders and employees about their policies, attitudes and experiences during this large-scale telework period. Many organizations have shifted fully or partially to a telework model during the pandemic, and we wish to learn what we can from this unprecedented moment in time to help us get back to better, and inform teleworking in the future.

Below is a link to a brief survey. We are working to get a large cross-section of input from every perspective in your organization. ***Please share this link with all members of your organization and team.*** It should take about 3-5 minutes to complete. The survey will be available until 10 p.m. on June 12.

We thank you in advance for sharing this with your teams and for making time to share your experiences. The results of this survey will shape important conversations around the future of work and quality of life in our communities.

TELECOMMUTING SURVEY



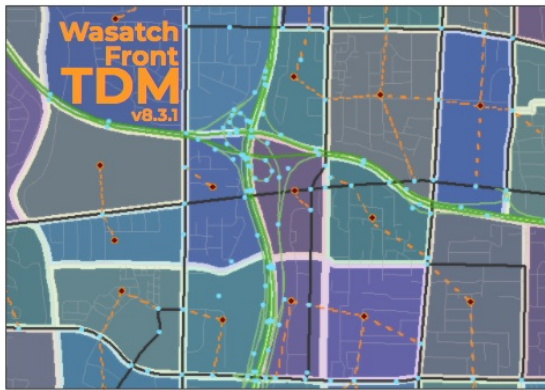
UTA COVID-19 Rider Survey

UTA continues to put every effort into keeping riders safe and getting you to where you need to go - always, and especially now through coronavirus.

Complete the survey below and tell them how they are doing in response to COVID-19, and share your ideas on what they can do better going forward.

UTA welcomes input from previous and current riders.

RIDER SURVEY



Wasatch Front Travel Demand Model Version 8.3.1 Released

Wasatch Front Regional Council (WFRC) and Mountainland Association of Governments (MAG) released the version 8.3.1 update to the Wasatch Front Travel Demand Model (TDM) on Friday, May 8th. The TDM is our region's primary tool for

forecasting road and transit usage and evaluating the performance of these systems against different scenarios for the future, including proposed transportation projects and the distribution pattern of households and jobs.

The new version includes the project additions and modifications expected within the first round of amendments to the WFRC and MAG Regional Transportation Plans.

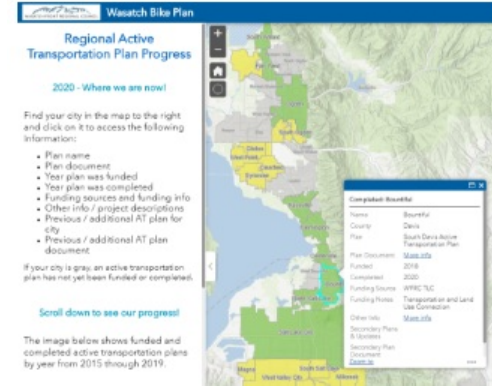
The 8.3.1 update includes other noteworthy enhancements such as:

- road segment-level summary capabilities for simplifying and mapping model results coordinated statewide with Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT),
- the ability to automatically recalculate Traffic Analysis Zone (TAZ-base) Access To Opportunities metrics with every model run, and
- a refresh of the detailed [Model Inputs document](#).

For more information and to read through the complete list of 8.3.1 changes, please click on the button below.

THE NEW 8.3.1 INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTS

Map of the Month:



Wasatch Front Bike Plans

More people around our region are using biking as a means of transportation and enjoyment. Also, cities are now required by law to include an active transportation component in their transportation element within their General Plan. Great progress is being made to plan and develop safe and comfortable bike routes in communities around our region.

Did you know that 74% of communities in the Wasatch Front Regional Council (WFRC) area have completed or been funded for an active transportation plan?

Wasatch Front communities continue to make speedy progress toward prioritizing safe, connected bicycling routes through the development and adoption of Active Transportation (AT) plans.

With a new interactive map, developed by Wasatch Front Regional Council and hosted by Bike Utah, you can easily check the status of AT planning in your area, access completed plan docs and maps, and information about funded plan development projects.

The map shows communities with completed AT plans (green) and those with funded projects for AT plan development (yellow). Click anywhere on the map to access more information about any of the AT plans as the map links to completed plans and details about AT planning projects in progress. You can also view the impressive AT planning progress in our region over the last 5 years, -- scroll down on the left sidebar to watch the animation!

If bikes, data, and maps are your thing, you may also want to check out [this update on new and forthcoming bike-related GIS data resources](#).

This map is also available through [Bike Utah's web page](#).



May Was National Bike Month!

Biking and walking has nearly doubled during the COVID-19 pandemic! According to Strava Data, run, walk, and hike trips in Utah jumped to 249,366 in April 2020, up from 123,633 in April 2019. (+125,733, 101%)

Similarly, bicycle trips jumped to 191,657 in April 2020, up from 107,802 in April 2019. (+83,855, 78%)

Jumping on your bike is not only a way of exercising, it's also a way of life, transportation for many, and a great way to spend quality time with family.

While our staff at WFRC has continued to social distance amid the COVID-19 pandemic, many have thrown on their helmet and hit the trails!

As John F Kennedy once said, *"Nothing compares to the simple pleasure of riding a bike."*

