
UTAH IS GROWING. OUR STATE IS HOME TO THE “MIGHTY FIVE” NATIONAL PARKS, AND WE ARE INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED FOR OUR HIKING, BIKING, SKIING, AND MANY OTHER OUTDOOR OPPORTUNITIES. UTAHNS ENJOY A RESILIENT AND DIVERSE ECONOMY SUPPORTED BY INFRASTRUCTURE FROM ROADS AND TRAILS TO WATER TREATMENT PLANTS AND AIRPORTS THAT REPRESENTS A COMMITMENT GOING BACK TO THE STATE’S PIONEER ROOTS. IF YOU LIVE IN UTAH, YOU KNOW THIS IS A SPECIAL PLACE WHILE WE SHOULD CELEBRATE THE SUCCESS OF OUR劉 RAPIDLY DEVELOPING WASATCH FRONT, WE UTAHNS SHOULD RECOGNIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF OUR RURAL COMMUNITIES TO THE CONTINUED STRENGTH AND PROSPERITY OF OUR GREAT STATE. THESE RURAL COMMUNITIES NEED ACCESS TO RELIABLE CLEAN WATER, FUNCTIONAL ROADS, TRANSIT, FLOOD CONTROL, AND OTHER NECESSITIES OF LIFE. MEANWHILE, THE MORE DENSELY POPULATED WASATCH FRONT IS CONCERNED ABOUT PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE AND KEEPING UTAH AN AFFORDABLE, ACCESSIBLE, AND BEAUTIFUL PLACE TO LIVE. THE UTAH SECTION OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CIVIL ENGINEERS (ASCE) HAS PRODUCED THIS INFRASTRUCTURE REPORT CARD FOR THE BENEFIT OF ALL UTAHNS. YOU ARE OUR NEIGHBORS, OUR FRIENDS, AND OUR FELLOW CITIZENS AND WE VIEW THE RESPONSIBILITY OF BEING GOOD STEWARDS OF OUR STATE’S INFRASTRUCTURE AS A CALLING RATHER THAN JUST AN OCCUPATION. WE HOPE THAT YOU WILL TAKE A MOMENT TO READ OUR INFRASTRUCTURE ASSESSMENTS, REFLECT ON THE ROLE THAT INFRASTRUCTURE PLAYS IN YOUR DAILY LIFE, AND CONSIDER CONTACTING YOUR REPRESENTATIVES AS WELL ON ISSUES THAT MATTER TO YOU AS WELL AS ACTIVELY PARTICIPATING IN PUBLIC FORUMS TO CONTINUE TO MAKE INFRASTRUCTURE MATTER IN UTAH. THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT YOUR INPUT IS CRITICAL TO DEVELOPING A FULL UNDERSTANDING OF COMMUNITY NEEDS AND PRIORITIZING LONG-TERM INVESTMENT AND PLANNING IN INFRASTRUCTURE. WHEN IT COMES TO PLANNING FOR OUR FUTURE, YOUR VOICE MATTERS!

INFRASTRUCTURE MATTERS

THE SOLUTIONS TO RAISE THE GRADE

1. DEVELOP A STATEWIDE RISK ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK THAT PRIORITIZES AND PROGRAMS FUNDING (OR PROVIDES PRACTICAL FINANCE MECHANISMS) FOR LEVEE FLOOD CONTROL AND CANAL PROJECTS TO SYSTEMATICALLY ADDRESS DEFICIENCIES, REDUCE RISKS, AND ELIMINATE POTENTIALLY EXPENSIVE FLOOD INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS FOR PROPERTY OWNERS IMPACTED BY REVISIONS TO FEMA FLOOD MAPS IN THE NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM.

2. IMPROVE FREQUENCY OF DAM REHABILITATION FROM 60 YEARS TO 25 YEARS FOR THE HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE OF THE PUBLIC.

3. EXTEND THE LIFE-CYCLE COST OF DRINKING WATER, STORMWATER AND WASTEWATER SYSTEMS BY ESTABLISHING STATEWIDE GUIDELINE FOR CONSTRUCTION, OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE. THESE GUIDELINES SHOULD INCLUDE SEISMIC RESILIENCY, LOW-IMPACT DEVELOPMENT POLICIES, AND SUSTAINABILITY PRACTICES.

4. UPDATE THE STATE’s WASTE MANAGEMENT PRACTICES WITH AN EMPHASIS ON SUSTAINABLE WASTE MANAGEMENT, A STRONG LOCAL RECYCLING MARKET, A CIRCULAR MANUFACTURING ECONOMY TO REDUCE COSTS, AND A BAN ON E-WASTE IN LANDFILLS.

5. IMPROVE ACCESS TO FREQUENT, RELIABLE TRANSIT AND ESTABLISH TRANSIT PLANNING AND LAND USE POLICIES THAT SEEK TO ENCLOSE ACTIVES TO HISTORICALLY UNDERSERVED AND MULTI-CULTURAL COMMUNITIES.

SOLUTIONS TO RAISE THE GRADE
There are more than 900 dams in the State of Utah, 60% of which are in the National Inventory of Dams. Ninety-nine percent of the dams in the state have an emergency action plan, which is much higher than the national average. However, downstream development is increasing, meaning many dams that were initially constructed using less stringent design criteria are now operating under multiple threats.

LEVEES
Utah’s geography rapidly transitions from high elevation, mountainous terrain to low-lying basins or lakes, which puts communities in the path of potential flooding. Floods are one of four major threats to Utah’s flood control system. There are between 102 and 112 miles of levees statewide with approximately 252 individual segments averaging nearly 65 years old. It’s estimated that over 30% of the levees are at risk to property or life if a failure occurs. It is anticipated that there will be a funding gap in the coming years.

STORMWATER
Stormwater systems protect urban and rural communities from flooding. Stormwater quality regulations through the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) M4 program have created a system of best management practices including bioswales, retention basins, swales, and tree plantings. The reduction of pollutants in stormwater discharges has been underway for years, yet the financial pressures on municipalities may cause some to stop or slow their efforts.

Stormwater quality standards are being increased by the EPA as a result of new nutrient regulations. Older wastewater treatment plants may also be subjected to additional requirements to meet new nutrient limits. The state of Utah does not currently have a program in place to enforce these requirements.

Roadway and stormwater improvements are especially important now as deliveries of essential goods increase and travel increases due to business adaptability and growth. Local governments and municipalities will have to address the infrastructure needs of a new economy under new economic conditions.

TRANSPORTATION • Less than 1% of Utah’s residents use public transit from the city center to the airport. The Wasatch Front operates over 200 public transit routes.

• The national average for traffic congestion is 23 minutes, whereas the Wasatch Front average is 40 minutes.

• Utah’s Hazardous Waste infrastructure grade.

• Utah’s Hazardous Waste management is essential to Utah’s public and environmental health and safety. Utah’s hazardous waste management system is overseen by the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). Since 2013, the number of solid waste landfill bodies has increased from 107 to 122. To date, only 3% of the state’s total landfill area has been used. While the state’s capacity is currently sufficient, the continually increasing rate of potentially hazardous waste generation is expected to increase e-waste recycling by as much as 20%. Coordinated policy support for recycling and reuse is key for improving Utah’s recycling rate and reducing the amount of waste sent to landfills.

• Hazardous wastes, such as byproducts of mining and manufacturing, present complex management and potential cleanup challenges. To address this challenge, Utah has a number of waste management programs and policies in place.

• In addition, there is an ongoing assessment underway to identify and prioritize remediation of targeted hazardous waste sites. The Solid Waste Management Plan has been updated to reflect new initiatives and emerging issues.

ROADS
Utah’s roadway network is more than 49,000 miles, 73% of which is owned by localities and 25% by the state. The remaining 3% of roadway mileage is part of the interstate highway system. Utah has long been considered the crossroads of the West and its roadway systems have played a critical role in connecting Utah to the rest of the nation and the world. As a result of increased travel and transportation needs, the state’s roadway network is expected to face increased traffic volumes and congestion.

The state’s roadway network is expected to face increased traffic volumes and congestion. As a result, it is important to prioritize and plan for transportation needs and investments to ensure the continued safety and mobility of Utah’s residents.

WASTEWATER
Wastewater infrastructure is a term used to describe the entire wastewater treatment system. In general, it includes the systems of pumps and pipes that collect wastewater and convey it to a treatment facility, where a combination of physical, chemical, and biological processes clean the wastewater before it is released back into the environment. Generally, the municipal wastewater treatment plants in Utah are operated and maintained by the state, some by private entities, and others by counties. The state of Utah has developed a number of policies and programs to support wastewater infrastructure planning and funding, including the Solid Waste Management System, the Solid Waste Management Plan, and the Solid Waste Master Plan.

The Solid Waste Master Plan has been updated to reflect new initiatives and emerging issues. A growing number of new small and medium-sized municipalities are building and expanding their wastewater treatment facilities to keep up with new treatment needs.

An ongoing degradation of sewage collection systems that are 65-75 years old and beyond their design life is expected. For these facilities, aging infrastructure, and increasing maintenance needs may result in declining water quality.

With aging infrastructure, communities are struggling to keep up with repair and replacement of facilities, along with addressing ever more stringent regulations and accelerating population growth. For these facilities, aging infrastructure, and increasing maintenance needs may result in declining water quality.