Wasatch Choice 2050 Regional Vision
Salt Lake County Council | July 31, 2018
Utah’s Population Growth

- 1980: 1,000,000
- 1990: 1,500,000
- 2000: 2,000,000
- 2010: 2,500,000
- 2020: 3,000,000
- 2030: 3,500,000
- 2040: 4,000,000
- 2050: 5,000,000
Utah’s Population Growth
Utah’s Population Growth
Utah’s Population Growth
Current Challenges
More Time Traveling

Today

Current Path
Air Quality

Photo courtesy of UTA.
Decreased Access to Opportunity

**Today**

Average resident can access
**458K jobs**
within a 30 minute commute

**2050 from Current Path**

Average resident can access
**290K jobs**
within a 30 minute commute
More Crowded

Photo courtesy of Tom Kelly via Flickr.
Demand is exceeding supply

Figure 2: Increase in Households Compared to Increase in Housing Units for Utah

Source: Ivory-Boyer Construction Database, Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute
More Expensive

Figure 1: Percent Change in Housing Price Index by State – Purchase Only
1991 to third quarter 2017

Source: Federal Housing Finance Agency.
In 15 years, almost all major pieces of vacant land between Ogden and Provo will be under development.

Source: WFRC using county assessor data
Wasatch Choice Vision: Process

1. Explore Goals & Scenarios
2. Choose Preferred Scenario
3. Prioritize Projects & Investments

We Are Here
Key Strategies
Key Strategy: Provide Transportation Choices

Source: WFRC and MAG Travel Demand Model, Version 7, Travel Delay.
Key Strategy: Provide Transportation Choices
Key Strategy: Provide Transportation Choices

Today

Draft Vision
Key Strategy: Provide Transportation Choices

Current Path

Draft Vision
Key Strategy: Support Housing Options

Today
- Single-Family: 75%
- Multi-Family/Townhouse: 25%

Draft Vision
- Single-Family: 60%
- Multi-Family/Townhouse: 40%

+15%
A Few Housing Policy Considerations

1. Utah’s growth mostly comes from our large families. We have a responsibility.

2. If housing isn't built in one location, it will be built in another. Is there a risk of bigger negative development impacts elsewhere?

3. Multi-unit housing has lower impacts per person. Less land per unit = less infrastructure, water, energy use, etc. per person. Less overall driving in the region.
Key Strategy: Preserve Open Space

Current Path

Draft Vision

27,400 Acres Saved
Key Strategy: Preserve Open Space
Key Strategies

1. Provide Transportation Choices
2. Support Housing Options
3. Preserve Open Space
4. Link Economic Development with Transportation and Housing Decisions
Wasatch Choice Draft Vision

Centers and Job Areas
Open Space
Roadways
Transit
Active Transportation
Link Economic Development with Transportation and Housing Decisions
What is a “center?”
Centered Growth: Benefits for Individuals

- More housing choices
- More people with viable transit, walk, and bike options
- Affordability
- Easier access to jobs and destinations
What is access to opportunity (ATO)?

How many valued destinations can be reached in a reasonable period of time?
How do you improve ATO?
How do you improve ATO?
Centered Growth: Benefits for Communities

- More accepted density
- Helps preserve suburban neighborhoods and rural land
- More people near transit and jobs = reduced driving and better air quality

20% fewer auto trips and 30% shorter driving distances
Outcomes
Outcomes: Better Access to Jobs

Average Number of Jobs Within 30-Minute Trip

+57%
+166K Jobs
Outcomes: Cleaner Air

- NOx
- VOC
- 2015 Emissions

59% Reduction
Outcomes: Local Infrastructure Savings

Current Path: $26.2B

Draft Vision: $20.5B

$5.7B or 22% Saved
Outcomes: Improved Health

Key Strategies

1. Provide Transportation Choices
2. Support Housing Options
3. Preserve Open Space
4. Link Economic Development with Transportation and Housing Decisions