

Voices of the Community
Shaping the Future of
Transportation in Utah

2024

A HEAL Utah Report on Public Engagement in the
I-15 Expansion and Transportation Initiatives

Introduction

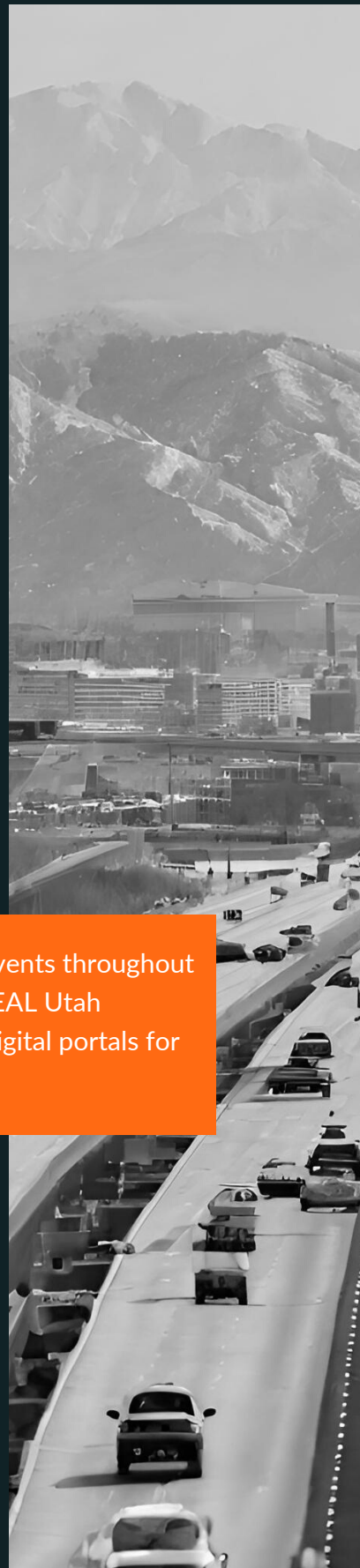
Public engagement stands as a cornerstone in shaping policies and projects that directly impact communities. HEAL Utah, an organization committed to environmental well-being, firmly advocates for a participatory approach in public projects. Central to this belief is the idea that the voices of residents—those directly affected by proposed projects—should play a pivotal role in guiding taxpayer-funded initiatives.

The current focal point is the proposed expansion of the Interstate 15 corridor and other transportation-related developments. Residents in the surrounding areas are poised to live with the consequences of these undertakings. For the past year, HEAL Utah, in collaboration with the ___Over Highways coalition, has orchestrated numerous interactive events and educational sessions. These events aimed to inform individuals about the proposed projects and provided a platform for direct engagement with the Utah Division of Transportation. Facilitating public comments and raising concerns has been at the forefront of these events.

The engagement process encompassed physical presence at community events throughout Utah, enabling direct interaction and comment collection. Furthermore, HEAL Utah streamlined the comment-gathering process by developing user-friendly digital portals for submission.

This report serves as a compilation of the crucial points to consider regarding the proposed I-15 expansion and similar transportation initiatives. Within the report, key insights and considerations will be explored, laying the groundwork for informed decision-making.

The report is structured to serve as a valuable resource for understanding the concerns and expectations of the residents directly impacted by these projects. Additionally, at the conclusion of this report, you will find a comprehensive summary of each and every public comment submitted, recognizing that each horizontal line represents a separate comment and must be recorded separately.



Methodology for Commnet Collection



In-Person Events:

- HEAL Utah hosted and/or participated in 21 events throughout the Wasatch Front. These events served as a direct way to engage with the community, disseminate information from the Utah Division of Transportations, and gather data from communities impacted by the proposed project.
- HEAL Utah collected data through surveys, sign-up sheets, and face-to-face conversations with attendees at these events. This data includes names, contact information, and demographic information.

Printed Materials:

- Fact sheets and information about air quality, redlining, induced demand, project details, and a summary of the Utah Division of Transportations Draft Environmental Impact Statement were provided at these events.

Posters:

- Over 100 posters were placed throughout Salt Lake City to raise awareness of the issues. While posters themselves don't directly collect data, they serve as a visual communication tool to inform and engage the community.

Digital Platform Usage:

- HEAL Utah utilized various digital platforms to reach a wider audience and gather data. This included:
 - Social Media: HEAL Utah created and posted content on social media platforms, reaching over 98,500 individuals residing throughout Utah.
 - News Articles: HEAL Utah appeared in 5 different news articles, which garnered additional attention and led to more public engagement and data collection.
 - Public Comments: HEAL Utah mentions that 521 public comments were sent to the Division of Transportation.

KEY Findings and Themes

The following is a summary of key findings from the compiled public comments.

Traffic Expansion Concerns:

- The expansion may not alleviate traffic congestion but rather lead to more traffic (induced demand).
- It may negatively affect the quality of life for Utah residents due to increased air pollution and displacement of communities.

Emphasis on Public Transportation:

- Funds should be prioritized for public transportation electrification, expansion, and accessibility.
- Public transportation, reliable buses, and more train stations can provide an effective alternative.
- The need for better public transit, including free or affordable options, as an environmentally friendly and efficient mode of transportation.
- Concerns about making public transit more affordable to encourage its use.

Community Engagement and Public Input:

- The importance of involving the community in decision-making processes.
- Calls for transparency and sharing information regarding environmental and socioeconomic impacts.

Environmental and Air Quality Concerns:

- The expansion is expected to increase air and noise pollution.
- Negative impacts on the environment, including habitat loss, wetland destruction, and degradation of green spaces.
- The importance of focusing on clean air and cleaner transit for the health and well-being of residents.

Spending Priorities:

- The allocation of funds and the prioritization of public resources for more pressing issues, such as homelessness, housing, and basic human needs.
- Suggestions to invest in cleaner transit modes rather than expanding roads.

These comments reflect a strong desire to improve public transit, enhance community well-being, and ensure equitable development that doesn't negatively impact vulnerable communities.



Key Data points and Public comments

281 Comments provided their zip code

- 55448: 1
- 84003: 4
- 84009: 4
- 84010: 7
- 84015: 2
- 84020: 3
- 84037: 3
- 84041: 2
- 84043: 2
- 84044: 4
- 84045: 1
- 84047: 2
- 84054: 3
- 84057: 5
- 84058: 5
- 84065: 2
- 84070: 1
- 84081: 2
- 84087: 2
- 84088: 2
- 84092: 3
- 84093: 1
- 84094: 2
- 84095: 2
- 84097: 3
- 84098: 4
- 84101: 6
- 84102: 15
- 84103: 10
- 84104: 10
- 84105: 13
- 84106: 10
- 84107: 4
- 84108: 9
- 84109: 7
- 84110: 1
- 84111: 7
- 84112: 3
- 84115: 7
- 84116: 30
- 84117: 5
- 84118: 3
- 84119: 4
- 84120: 1
- 84121: 7
- 84123: 5
- 84124: 7
- 84128: 2
- 84129: 3
- 84321: 4
- 84325: 1
- 84339: 1
- 84341: 2
- 84403: 2
- 84405: 1
- 84414: 1
- 84601: 4
- 84604: 5
- 84606: 3
- 84651: 1
- 84660: 2
- 84746: 1
- 84763: 1
- 84770: 1
- 84790: 1
- 01775: 1
- V8M 1W6: 1



425 SUPPORT PUBLIC TRANSIT INVESTMENT AND EXPANSION

425 individuals have expressed a strong interest and desire for increased public transportation investment and expansion across the entire state of Utah.

125 comments provided their City

- Bountiful: 4
- Clearfield: 1
- Coon Rapids, MN: 1
- Draper: 1
- Highland: 1
- Holladay: 4
- Kaysville: 1
- Kearns: 1
- Layton: 2
- Leeds: 1
- Logan: 4
- Mendon: 1
- Midvale: 1
- Millcreek: 3
- Murray: 3
- North Salt Lake: 1
- Ogden: 2
- Orem: 8
- Park City: 2
- Provo: 7
- Rockville: 1
- Saanichton, BC: 1
- Salt Lake City: 49
- Sandy: 4
- South Jordan: 1
- South Weber: 1

PUBLIC COMMENTS

FULL REPORT CAN BE REQUESTED

At HEAL Utah, we hold the privacy of individuals who submit public comments as our utmost priority. We believe that every voice matters, and we are committed to safeguarding the personal information and identities of those who contribute to the public discourse. Rest assured, your privacy is of the utmost importance to us.

Moreover, our dedication to transparency means that we can provide comprehensive and insightful comments to public offices, lawmakers, and decision-makers. Your input is invaluable in shaping policies and decisions that affect our community, and we take the responsibility of representing your views seriously.

In our commitment to openness, we will also be sharing more data on these comments, further ensuring transparency and accountability in the decision-making process. Your trust and participation are what drive our mission, and we will continue to prioritize your privacy while striving to make a positive impact on our community.



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