

THE UTAH WAY FORWARD



House Majority
State of Utah

2022 HOUSE MAJORITY POLICY PILLARS

An aerial photograph of a mountain valley. The foreground shows a river winding through a valley with a small town. The middle ground features steep, rocky slopes. The background is dominated by large, rugged mountains with patches of snow, partially obscured by a layer of white clouds. The sky is filled with soft, white clouds, suggesting a bright but slightly overcast day.

**2022
HOUSE MAJORITY
POLICY PILLARS**



Dear Fellow Utahns,

For decades, Utah has practiced a forward-thinking, principled, collaborative, and responsible approach to public policy, often referred to as "The Utah Way." As our state population grows, we face new challenges and significant opportunities. Balancing our conservative principles with thoughtful pragmatism will continue to be fundamental to our prosperity in the years and decades ahead.

By design, the Utah House of Representatives is a body built for leadership; we consider, debate, and enact policies that have lasting impacts on our state. Over the past two years, circumstances compelled all branches of government to navigate the crisis of the moment, pulling much of our attention away from planning for the future to deal with the present. Representatives admirably stepped up to meet the challenge, but now is the time to recommit to The Utah Way and to chart The Utah Way Forward.

To accomplish this, House members and our leadership team have been working diligently to identify the most important policy challenges facing our state.

The identified areas serve as policy pillars to frame the 2022 General Legislative Session. We must ensure our policies not only meet the pressing needs of today, but also establish systems that can address the opportunities of tomorrow. This session, we will look to enact policies that:

- Conserve, optimize, and preserve Utah's water
- Keep life affordable for Utahns
- Drive innovation in education
- Promote sustainable growth, rather than rapid expansion
- Make large-scale, strategic investments that are sure to have generational impacts

Over the course of the next 45 days, many more great ideas will come forth. We look forward to debating and enacting policies that will ensure our state continues to be the best place to live, work, learn, and play – not only now, but for generations to come.

Sincerely,

The Utah House Majority Caucus

POLICY PILLARS

WATER

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- Conserve
- Optimize
- Preserve

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- Rural Utah

WATER

Every drop matters

Utah is one of the driest and fastest-growing states in the nation. Strains on our water supply threaten our ability to thrive, our recreational opportunities, our environment, and our food supply. Securing reliable water to meet these needs sustainably for generations to come will require a significant, coordinated, statewide effort. With this ever-increasing demand on a diminishing water supply, taking action to conserve, optimize, and preserve our water is more critical than ever.

THE WAY FORWARD

- 1) Implement secondary water metering statewide
- 2) Invest in agricultural optimization
- 3) Invest in rural drinking water infrastructure
- 4) Preserve the Great Salt Lake and Utah Lake



2000



2021

CONSERVE

Reduce the amount of water used throughout the state to maintain an adequate water supply as our population continues to grow.

UTAHNS USE
268,000
 acre-feet
 of secondary water
EACH YEAR (2012)

IF SECONDARY METERING IS IMPLEMENTED

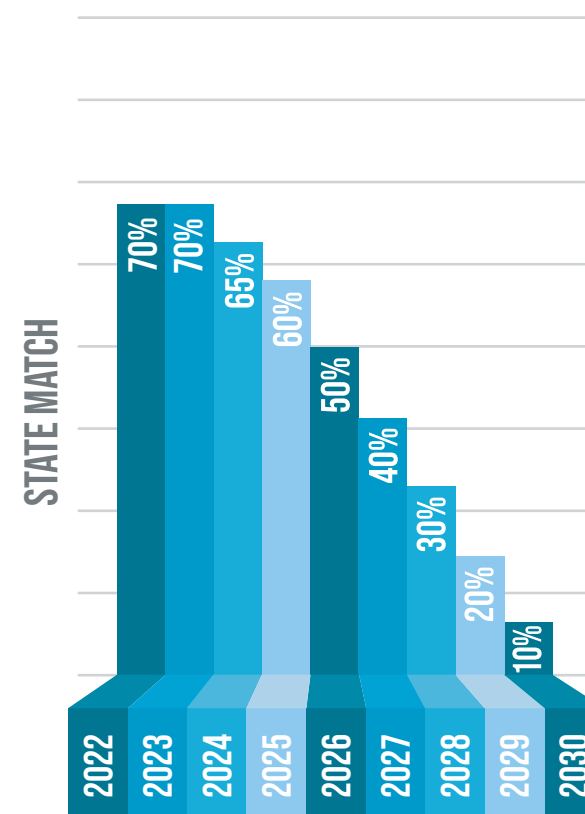
260,000
 SECONDARY CONNECTIONS
IN STATE

70K-80K
 ACRE FEET
 SAVED EACH YEAR
 EQUIVALENT TO
40,000
 OLYMPIC SIZED POOLS

20-30% water use reduction

Source: Department of Natural Resources

Using ARPA funds, the state would partner with municipalities to install secondary meters, decreasing the state match over time as indicated below.



SECONDARY METERING: KEY TO OUR FUTURE WATER SUPPLY

- 60-65% of municipal water is used for landscaping
- The average home uses approximately 3,000 gallons every time they water their outdoor landscapes
- Equalling 38,000 gallons of water used per month when watering three times a week
- In comparison, the average family indoor use is 8,000-10,000 gallons per month
- If a secondary water meter is installed, there is a 20-30% reduction in outdoor water use

Source: Weber Basin Water Conservancy

GREAT SALT LAKE

PRESERVE

Protect Utah's natural infrastructure by preserving and restoring the Great Salt Lake and Utah Lake.

GREAT SALT LAKE ELEVATION



1986



2000



2021

RECORD HIGH
4211.65'

AVERAGE
4202.2'

RECORD LOW
4191.3'

Source: Department of Natural Resources



The Great Salt Lake is a vital natural resource that provides significant economic benefits, ecosystem services, and quality of life assets to the state.



In 2021, the Great Salt Lake shrank to never before seen elevation levels.



If nothing is done to reverse course, there will be dramatic and sustained harm to communities, local business, our environment, and our health.

STRATEGY FOR AVERTING DISASTER



KEEP WATER FLOWING

Great Salt Lake Wetlands and Tributary Program to preserve natural infrastructure and improve water quality



PROTECT NATURAL INFRASTRUCTURE & HABITATS

Protect natural infrastructure of Great Salt Lake and its wetlands by restoring or preserving uplands and wetland habitat and protecting hydrologic function around the lake, including saline and mudflat wetlands



INVEST IN WATER CONTROL INFRASTRUCTURE

Invest in water control infrastructure to manage Great Salt Lake railroad causeway breach and bi-flow between the north and south arms



INCORPORATE GREAT SALT LAKE INTO WATER BUDGET AND PLAN

Launch integrated regional water management and planning effort that incorporates Great Salt Lake into the water budget and plan

UTAH LAKE

COVERING APPROXIMATELY 95,000 ACRES, UTAH LAKE IS ONE OF THE LARGEST FRESHWATER LAKES WEST OF THE MISSISSIPPI.

UTAH LAKE STRUGGLES WITH POLLUTION, ALGAE BLOOMS, AND A LOSS OF BIODIVERSITY.



ALGAE BLOOMS



POLLUTION



BIODIVERSITY LOSS

UNDERUTILIZED ASSET

The deepest parts of Utah Lake are only about 14 ft. deep, making the lake vulnerable to fluctuating lake levels.

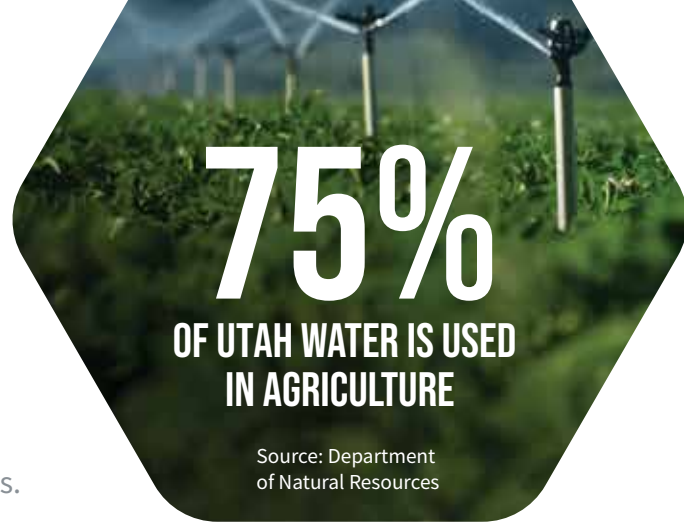
\$30M ARPA for projects that reduce agricultural water depletions, optimize value to producers, maintain instream flows, and improve water quality.



Source: Utah Lake Commission

OPTIMIZE

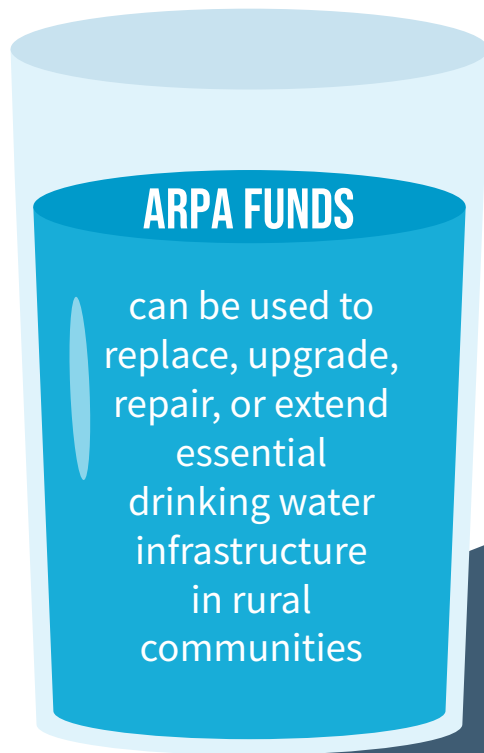
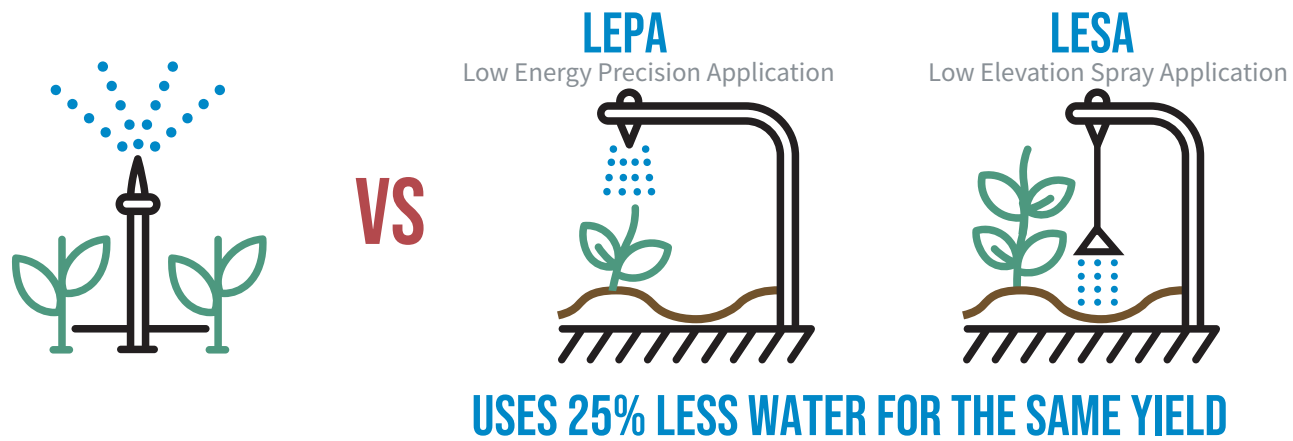
Invest in rural Utah by providing Utah's farmers and ranchers with tools to maximize the efficiency of agricultural water use while maintaining current production and replacing and upgrading essential drinking water infrastructure into rural communities.



AFFORDABLE UTAH

Life elevated for all Utahns

Life is getting more expensive in Utah due to our state's rapid population and income growth. Buying a home, raising a family, or settling into retirement in Utah is a dream that is becoming out of reach for many. The solutions to these challenges must come from everyone who has a stake in the success of our state in both the private and public sectors. As the public sector, we need to ensure local and state elected officials take the long view and consider regional and statewide goals as they enact policies that impact jobs, housing, and incomes. We must also identify and remedy government policies that have exacerbated these economic challenges to ensure current and future generations can afford to establish a life in Utah.



Planning and investing for the future provides more certainty and opportunity for Utah's rural communities



LINING AND COVERING CANALS PREVENTS EVAPORATION AND GROUND LOSS

THE WAY FORWARD

- 1) Align economic development incentives with housing needs
- 2) Reduce regulations that limit the availability and supply of affordable childcare
- 3) Evaluate statewide government employee compensation
- 4) Reduce the tax burden on Utahns

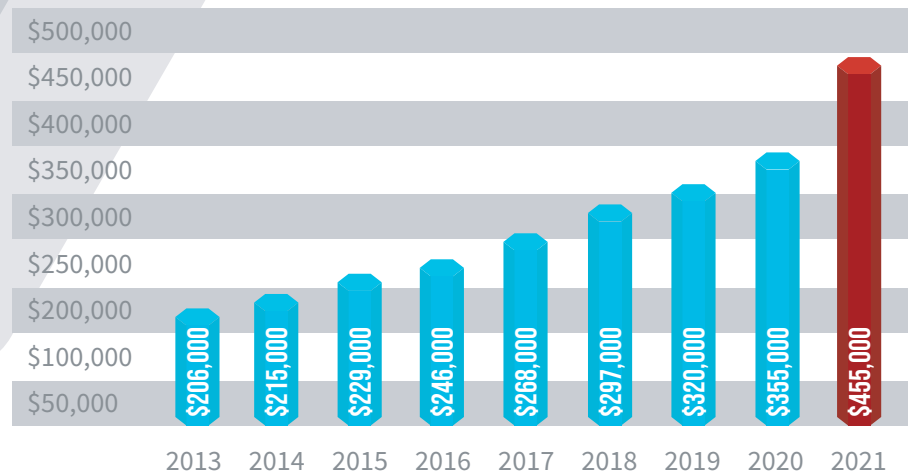


HOUSING AFFORDABILITY

Address government policies that have distorted the housing market in the state.

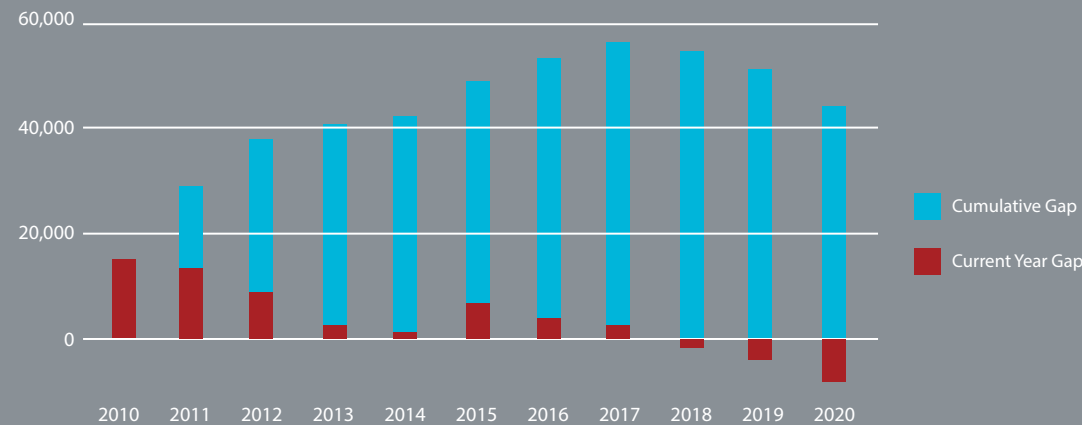
Utah's housing supply hasn't kept up with our record population growth, leading to housing costs that are unaffordable for many Utahns

UTAH'S ANNUAL MEDIAN HOME SALE PRICE



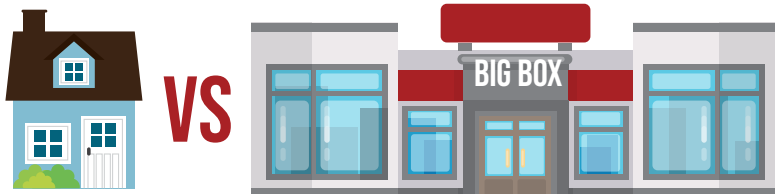
Source: Utah Association of Realtors

CUMULATIVE SHORTAGE OF HOUSING UNITS IN UTAH 2010-2020



Source: Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute

LOCAL TAX INCENTIVES



CURRENT GOVERNMENT POLICIES
INCENTIVIZE
RETAIL OVER RESIDENTIAL HOUSES
exacerbating the housing supply issues

ACCESS TO CHILDCARE

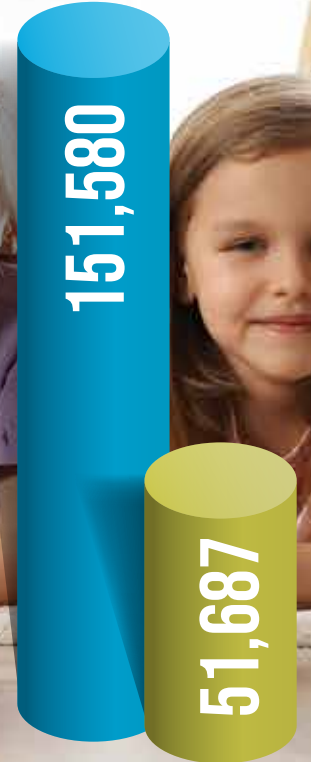
Eliminate barriers to increase availability of affordable childcare.

CHILD CARE CAPACITY BY COUNTY

COUNTY	NUMBER OF CHILDREN UNDER 6 W/CHILD CARE NEED	FACILITY CAPACITY	CHILD CARE GAP
Salt Lake	58,834	24,118	34,716
Utah	26,887	6,404	20,483
Davis	16,934	5,321	11,613
Weber	14,017	4,988	9,029
Washington	6,735	2,302	4,433
Cache	5,962	2,428	3,534
Tooele	3,044	992	2,052
Box Elder	2,931	590	2,341
Iron	2,271	781	1,490
Uintah	2,039	327	1,712
Wasatch	1,904	315	1,589
Summit	1,786	924	862
Sanpete	1,209	275	934
Duchesne	952	235	717
Sevier	929	352	577
Carbon	803	315	488
Morgan	636	36	600
San Juan	627	212	415
Juab	583	129	454
Millard	570	112	458
Grand	465	174	291
Emery	410	156	254
Kane	331	20	311
Beaver	278	77	201
Garfield	184	36	148
Wayne	114	28	86
Rich	67	0	67
Piute	65	20	45
Daggett	13	20	0

UTAH CHILD CARE NEED AND CAPACITY

TOTAL NUMBER OF UTAH KIDS THAT DO NOT HAVE ACCESS TO CHILDCARE
98,482



CHILDREN NEEDING CHILD CARE
FACILITY CAPACITY

Source: Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute

STATE EMPLOYEE COMPENSATION

To continue to provide essential services such as law enforcement, social work, infrastructure, and education, we must provide wages that keep pace with the rest of the economy.

Utah ranks **10th** of the 11 western states for starting **Highway Patrol wages**.

131%

estimated increase in Highway Patrol resignations FY2021-FY2022

THE AVERAGE STATE EMPLOYEE SALARY IS **12.6%** BELOW MARKET

83.7% of State of Utah jobs are **BELOW MARKET**

STATE EMPLOYMENT VACANCIES **8,621**

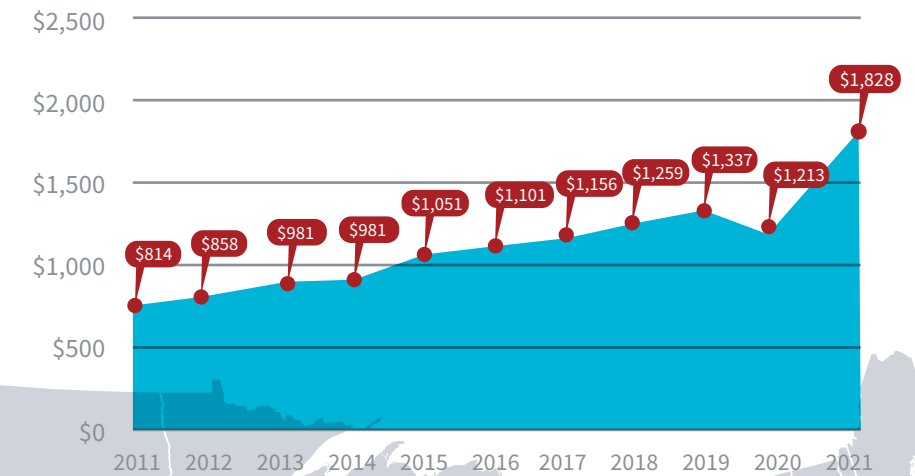
Source: Division of Human Resources

TAX REDUCTION

The best way to ensure Utahns can afford the costs of living is to enable them to keep more of the money they earn.

Over the past decade Utah has seen significant economic growth, which has also led to increased tax revenue. This growth has been especially rapid over the past year due to the substantial federal stimulus payments related to COVID-19.

TAX REVENUE PER CAPITA



Source: Utah State Tax Commission Income Tax Data and Kem C. Gardner Institute

14TH LOWEST COMBINED TAX COLLECTIONS AS A PERCENT OF GDP
17TH LOWEST COMBINED TAX RATE OF ANY STATE

Utah is well positioned to provide tax relief to its residents, but we must do so carefully because we don't want to make long-term plans based on a short-term increase in revenue.



EDUCATION MODERNIZATION

Preparing students for a prosperous future

While we have seen many recent advancements in education policy and funding, there is always room for improvement. Utah must foster innovation in Higher-Ed and K-12 classrooms, change the narrative on allocating education funds to reflect outcomes-not algorithms, and work with our partners to ensure education is a pathway to employment and not a barrier. By doing so, we will further expand opportunities for students and educators to thrive in an ever changing and advancing world.



THE WAY FORWARD

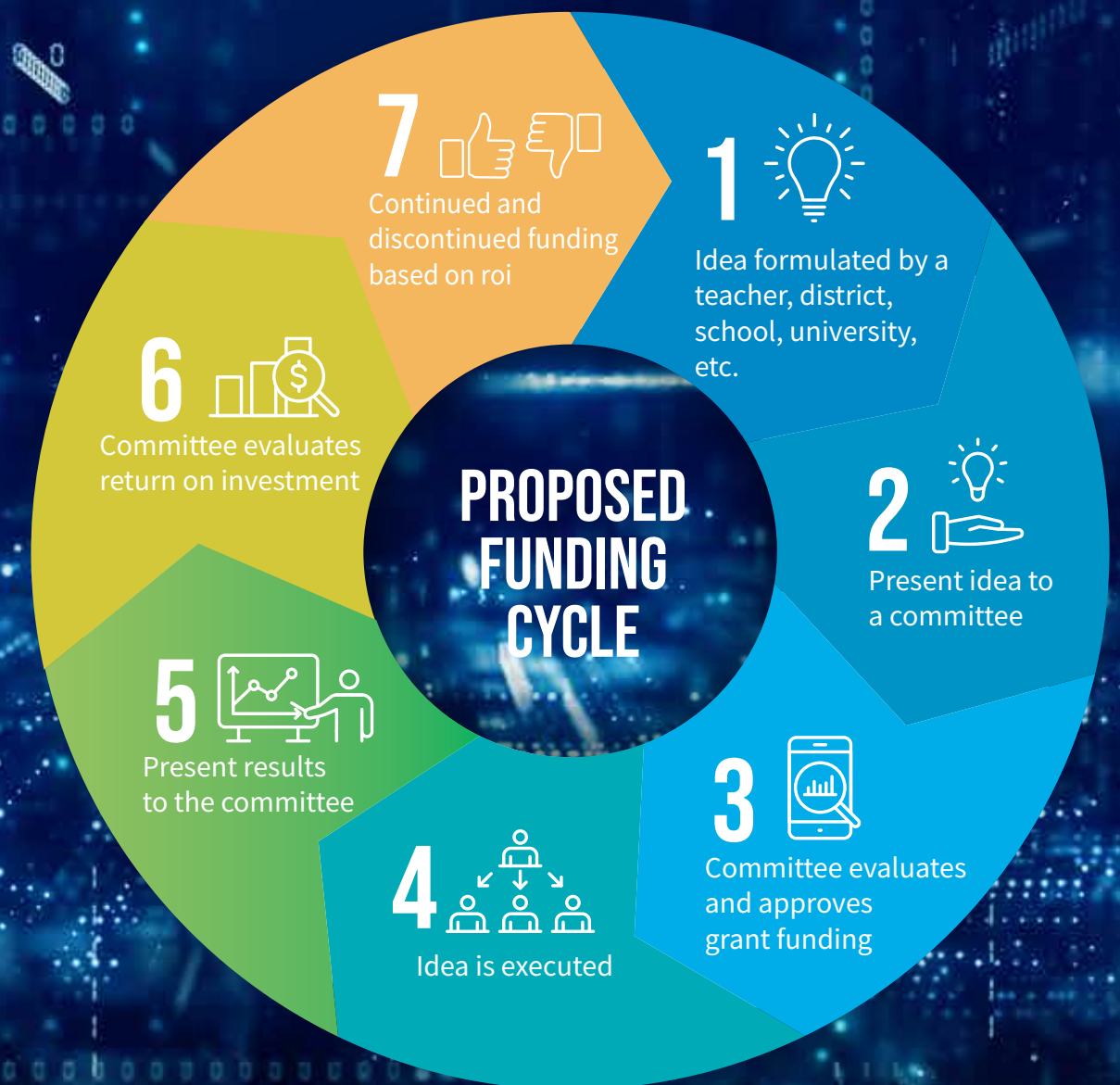
- 1) Establish an education innovation fund
- 2) Align education pathways with career opportunities
- 3) Expand the critical workforce pipeline
- 4) Create equal educational opportunity for all Utah children



EDUCATION INNOVATION

Allow teachers, schools, districts, and institutions of higher education institutions the flexibility to innovate.

By changing the way we think about funding education programs, we can shift the financial incentives to encourage schools to try new methods of teaching that will help us keep pace with advancing technology.



EDUCATING FOR TOMORROW'S JOBS

Increase the supply of qualified workers to meet the demand of current and future markets.



EDUCATION FUNDING EQUALIZATION

Ensure education resources for Utah students are not dependent on geographic location.

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION STUDY ON SCHOOL FUNDING

KEY FINDINGS:

Fundamentals of Utah's funding system are strong.

Utah's funding system is not providing sufficient additional resources for students with greater needs.

The impacts of state programs on mitigating disparities in local wealth are limited.

Current policies to address needs associated with district size or remoteness do not fully address costs.

Source: Utah State Board of Education



Utah State law recognizes that children are entitled to reasonably equal educational opportunities regardless of residence

ONLY
28%
OF DEGREE AWARDEES GRADUATED IN
HIGH DEMAND FIELDS

Source: Utah System of Higher Education

MAINTAINING THE UTAH WAY

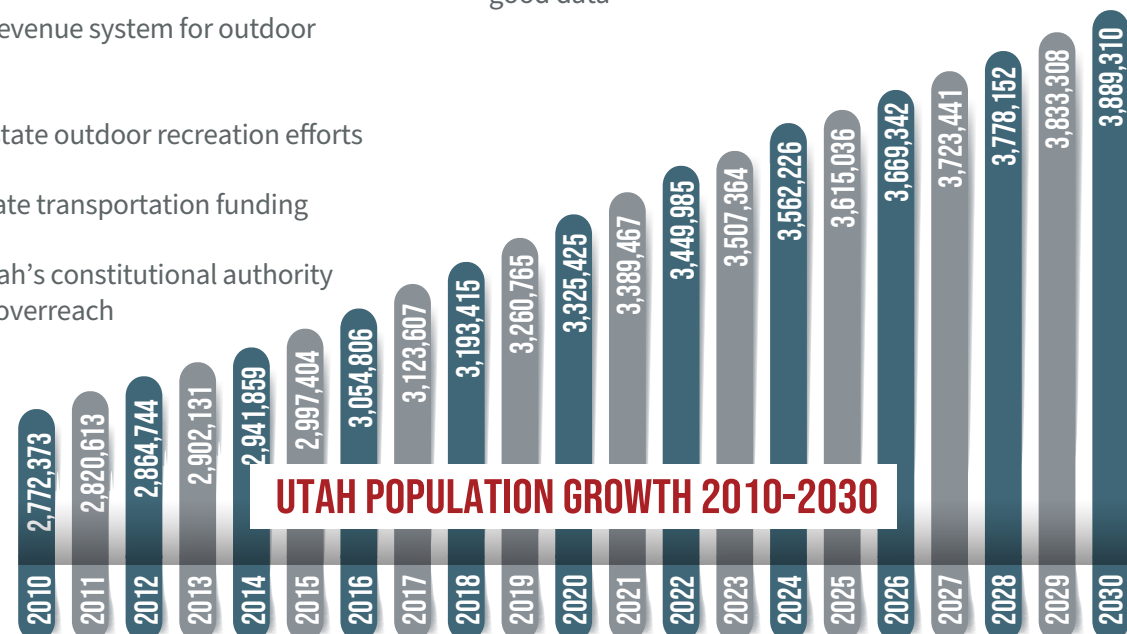
Preserving quality of life in the face of growth



Over the last decade, Utah has experienced the fastest population growth in the country. While this growth has brought great success to our state, it also presents significant challenges. To maintain our economic vitality and top-notch quality of life, we must transition our focus from rapid expansion to a sustainable and consistent growth model by aligning economic incentives, enhancing and maintaining our recreational assets, and modernizing and investing in roads and transit. We also must rebalance and safeguard our state's constitutional authorities and make adjustments to our criminal justice system to better serve the citizens of our state. By doing these things, we will ensure Utah remains a place for all to enjoy now and well into the future.

THE WAY FORWARD

- 1) Align state and local economic development incentives with our key targeted industries
- 2) Sustainable revenue system for outdoor recreation
- 3) Consolidate state outdoor recreation efforts
- 4) Modernize state transportation funding
- 5) Safeguard Utah's constitutional authority from federal overreach
- 6) Adjust criminal justice policies to promote accountability, reduce recidivism, and collect good data



Source: Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute

HARNESSING THE FOURTH INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION

Boost Utah into the next generation of technological advancement and innovation by creating new opportunities and future-forward policies that align our workforce needs and incentives.

FOURTH INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION

A fusion between the physical, biological, and digital worlds using new technologies such as artificial intelligence, cloud computing, robotics, 3D printing, the Internet of Things, and advanced wireless technologies.

Align Economic Development Incentives:

For years, our economic development strategy has placed an emphasis on building our economy and creating well-paying jobs. As our economy has grown, it is now time to re-evaluate *how* we grow, by focusing our efforts on jobs of the future and building rural Utah.

TARGETED INDUSTRIES FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INCENTIVES:



TRANSPORTATION

Modernize transportation funding and make investments to meet the infrastructure needs of our growing state.

In the past, the state has filled holes left by the dying gas tax with sales tax funds. This is not a sustainable long-term solution and will continue to place added strain on our General Fund as electric vehicles gain popularity.

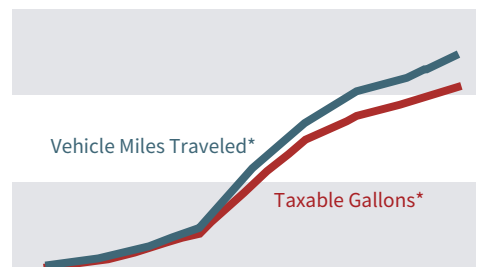
UTAH STATE-LEVEL TRANSPORTATION FUNDING SOURCES 1970 AND 2020



■ Fuel taxes ■ Registration and other fees ■ General Revenues
(not directly tied to level of use) (not directly tied to level of use)

Source: Office of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst and Utah State Tax Commission

UTAH BEGINNING TO SEE DIVERGENCE BETWEEN ROAD USE AND FUEL SALES



2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019
*indexed to 2011

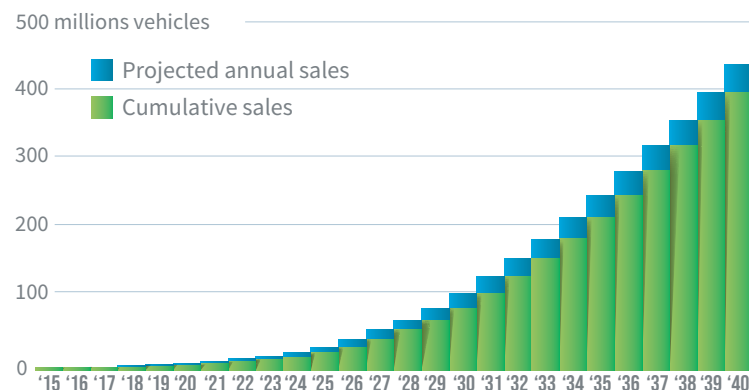
Source: Utah State Tax Commission, UDOT



In 2040 electric vehicles will account for 35% of all new vehicle sales.

THE RISE OF ELECTRIC CARS

By 2022 electric vehicles will cost the same as their internal-combustion counterparts. That's the point of liftoff for sales.



Sources: Bloomberg New Energy Finance, Markines



While the state can rely on sales tax revenues to backfill budgets, without an alternate revenue system, cities and counties will be much harder hit by the inevitable decline in gas taxes.

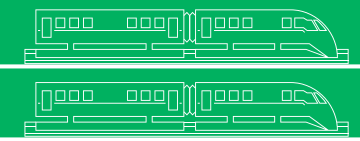
The transportation needs of our rapidly growing state cannot be met by roads alone. Underinvestment in transit will put strains on our available land, our economy, our air quality, and our time.

SINGLE TRACK



TRAINS EVERY 30 MINUTES

DOUBLE TRACK



TRAINS EVERY 15 MINUTES

By funding FrontRunner expansion with available funds rather than bonding, the state can save approximately

\$32 MILLION

IN INTEREST PAYMENTS



A BUS + TRAX TRIP

REDUCES EMISSIONS BY

93%



COMPARED TO A SINGLE-PASSENGER VEHICLE TRIP

Source: www.rideuta.com

A HIGH QUALITY RAIL OR BUS LINE CAN CARRY AS MANY PEOPLE AS

7 LANES OF HIGHWAY

17 LANES OF URBAN STREET

Source: American Public Transportation Association

RECREATION

Preserve access to world class recreation for Utahns.



Source: Utah State Parks

GROWTH IN OUTDOOR RECREATION SINCE 2019

Ogden Bike Use: 90% increase

Draper Trail Use: 111% increase

Utah Valley Trail Use: 47% increase

Little Hole Recreation Area: 2308% increase

Hunt/Fish License Revenue: 21% increase
(New Customers increased 37%)

Off-Road Vehicle Sales: 46% increase

Camper/Trailer/RV Sales: 46% increase

Watercraft Sales: 27% increase

Source: Utah State Parks

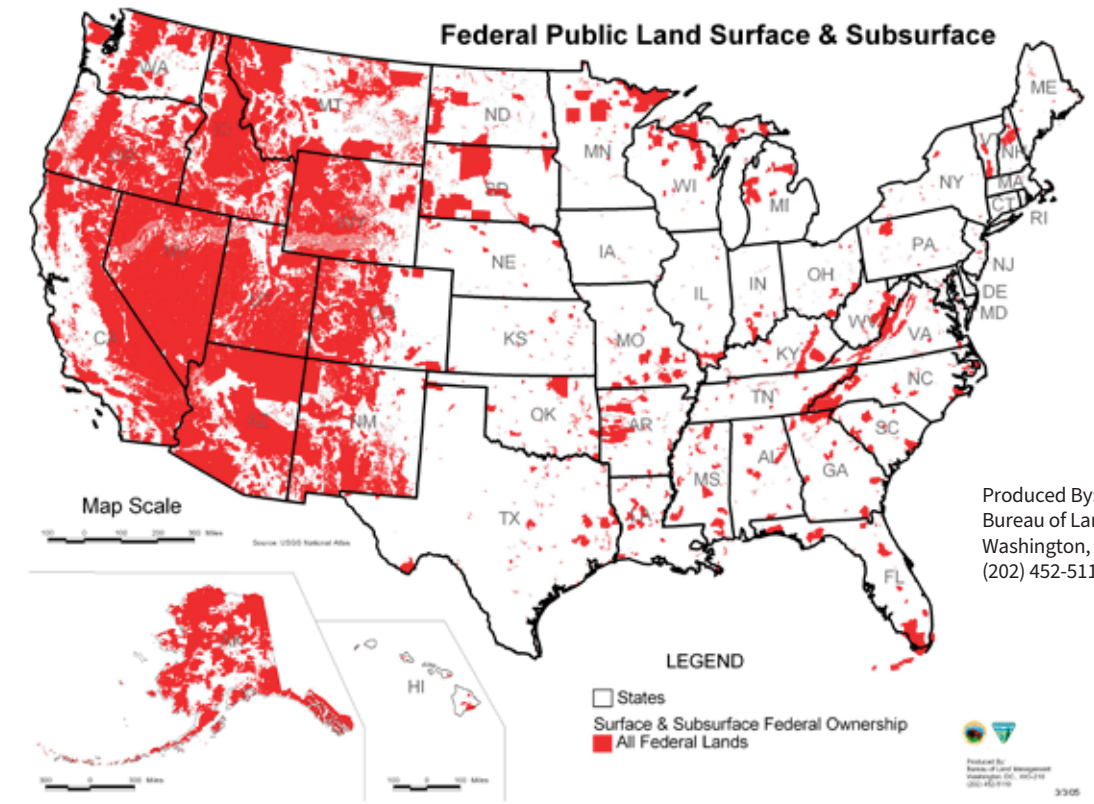
In 2021 the Legislature invested **\$145 MILLION** in outdoor recreation.

Last year was monumental, but to keep up, we need to identify sustainable funding sources.

UTAH GOVERNING UTAH

Restore balance to state authority and responsibilities.

In recent years, we have seen a sharp increase in federal government overreach through battles over our state's public lands, unprecedented federal government mandates, and overregulation. We must work to restore the balance between federal and state government rights and responsibilities.



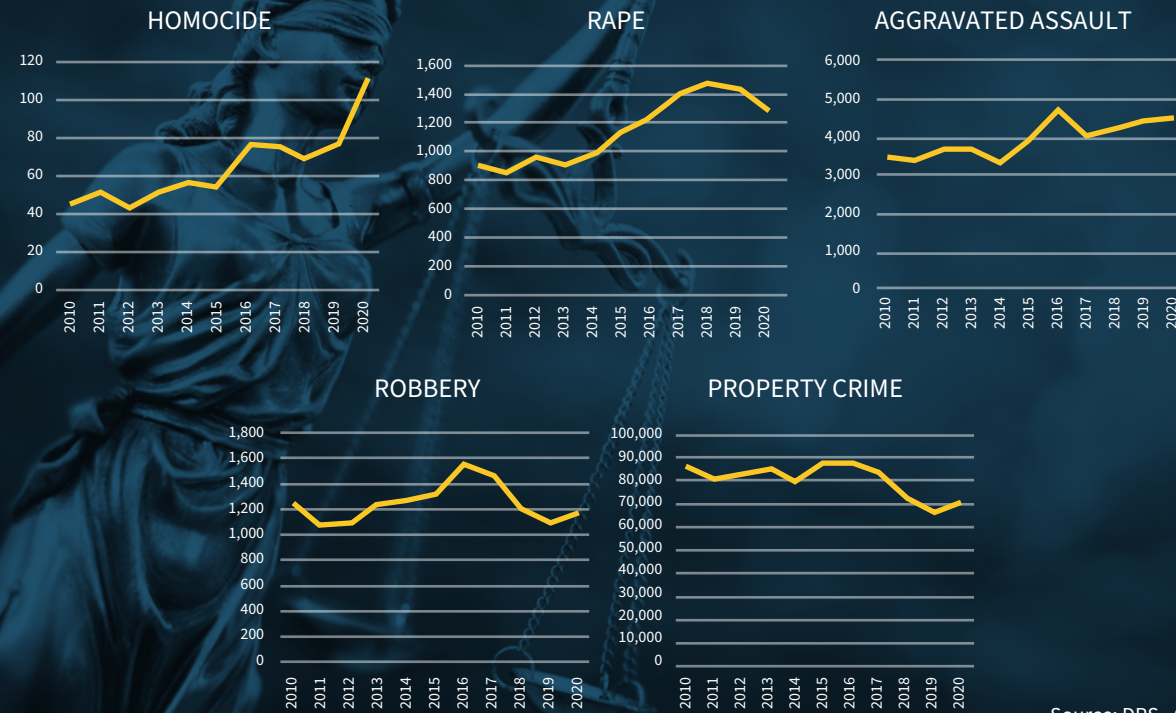
“The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.”

- US Constitution-Amendment 10

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

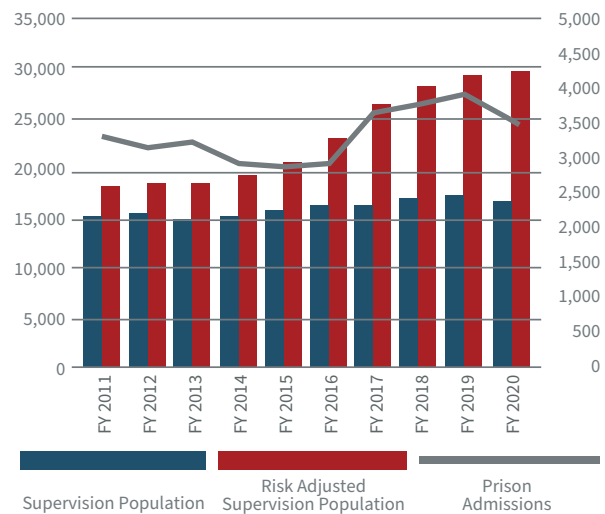
Ensure accountability throughout our justice system.

OVER THE PAST YEAR, MANY CATEGORIES OF CRIME HAVE TRENDED UPWARD.



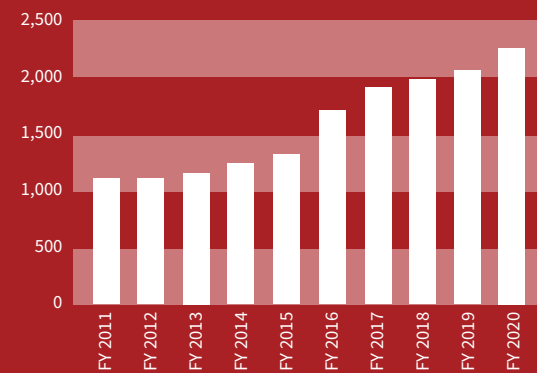
Source: DPS - Crime in Utah

Utah is seeing fewer incarcerations, however, more supervised offenders require intensive supervision, This increase in caseloads contributes to supervision failures and requires additional personnel.



Source: CCJJ

Absconding from supervision continues to be a problem and is often associated with substance abuse issues. Better treatment resources and increased accountability may divert people from the criminal justice system and reduce recidivism.



Source: CCJJ

GENERATIONAL INVESTMENTS

Building a legacy

As the state looks forward, we have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to make large-scale, strategic investments in key projects that will provide benefits felt by us, our children, and our grandchildren. By acting now with the same foresight shown by past leaders, we can invest a portion of our abundance today to ensure Utahns continue to prosper for decades to come.

THE WAY FORWARD

- 1) Ensure the construction of infrastructure at Point of the Mountain maximizes the return on our taxpayer funded investment
- 2) Strategically align Inland Port board composition with statewide goals
- 3) Expand investments and economic development opportunities in Rural Utah



POINT OF THE MOUNTAIN

Fulfill our promise to the people of Utah to use the prison land at the Point of the Mountain to provide statewide benefits and a return on investment for the taxpayers of the state.

The Point will be a connected community featuring greenspace linking the Jordan River to the Wasatch Mountains, multi-modal transportation solutions, and a built environment that will be a regional hub for innovation, culture, and recreation.



TRANSPORTATION AT THE POINT

- ➔ Integrated, multimodal transportation system with a connected street grid and a high-capacity roadway
- ➔ Extensive regionally connected biking and walking routes
- ➔ Two transit stops located in strategic areas to maximize ridership and connect to FrontRunner
- ➔ Future-focused transportation technologies including a connected automated vehicle circulator system

GREENSPACE

River-to-Range Park connecting the Jordan River to the Wasatch Mountains

Central Park that is the civic center of the development and a site for regional events

Neighborhood parks in each section of the site and window parks providing views throughout the development



RECENT TRAFFIC STUDY

PRISON SITE TO PROVE IF NO INVESTMENTS MADE

28 MIN TODAY | **86 MIN** IN 2040

Source: Point of the Mountain Development Commission



INVESTMENT NEEDS

\$72 MILLION in shared regional investment generates

\$2.7 BILLION in private investment

Source: Point of the Mountain State Land Authority

INNOVATION HUB



A place that promotes a culture of creativity and ingenuity, attracts outstanding talent and investment, and facilitates industry and academic partnerships to generate and commercialize new ideas.

INLAND PORT

With the completion of the Intercontinental Railroad, Utah was dubbed the Crossroads of the West. Since that time, the state's strategic location has been enhanced by global connections and with the development of the inland port, Utah has the opportunity to become the Crossroads of the World.

The Utah Inland Port Authority is not a singular place, it's a statewide logistics system that will be an economic driver and will even lead to better environmental outcomes for the entire state.

The port will follow a hub and spokes model, and while much of the public focus has been on the hub of the port located in Salt Lake County, the spokes of the port are a key component that will create dynamic economic impacts across Rural Utah.

CROSSROADS OF THE WORLD - 40% OF US GDP TRAVELS THROUGH UTAH

Source: Utah Inland Port Authority



- Major Port
- Utah Mainline Rail Connections
- Other Mainline Rail



- Major Air Hub
- Utah Interstate Highway Connections
- Other Interstate Highways

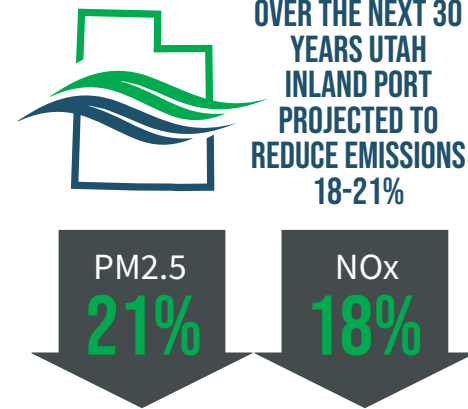


GOVERNANCE

Because the inland port will be a statewide system, the governance structure of the port authority should represent the interests of the entire state. Properly aligning the makeup of the board to reflect the statewide impacts will set the port up for future success.

SUSTAINABILITY

Every **100** rail cars take **300** truck trips off the road reducing greenhouse gas emissions by an average of **75%**

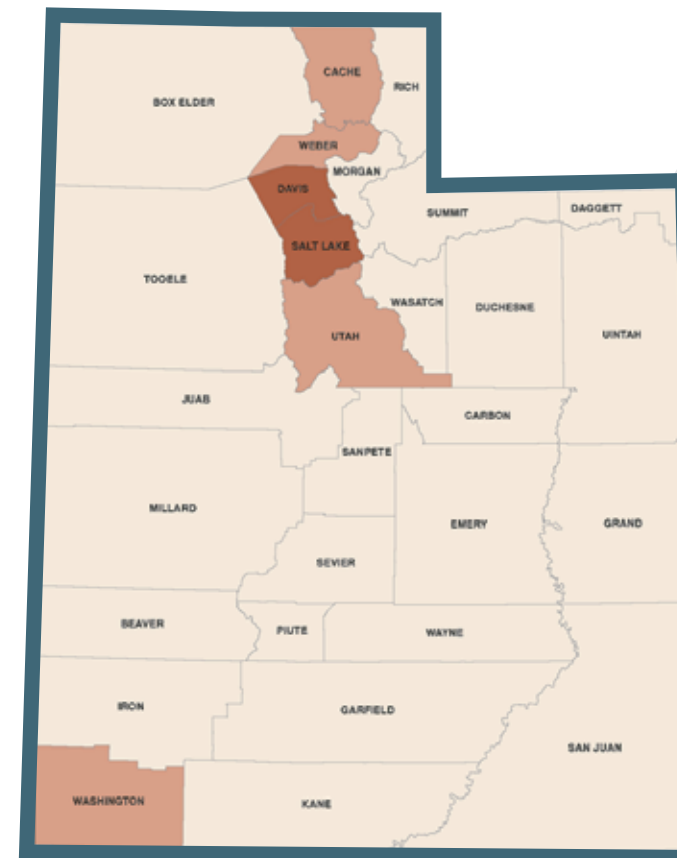


RURAL UTAH

Expand investments and economic development opportunities in rural Utah.

Utah's rural communities and the industries they support are key to a diverse economic foundation for the state's overall economy. Strategic rural investment in infrastructure, education, and economic development is critical to driving future opportunities, including access to global markets, technological innovation, and competitive success in the coming years.

PERSONS PER SQ. MILE

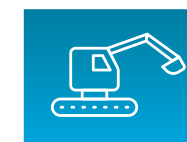
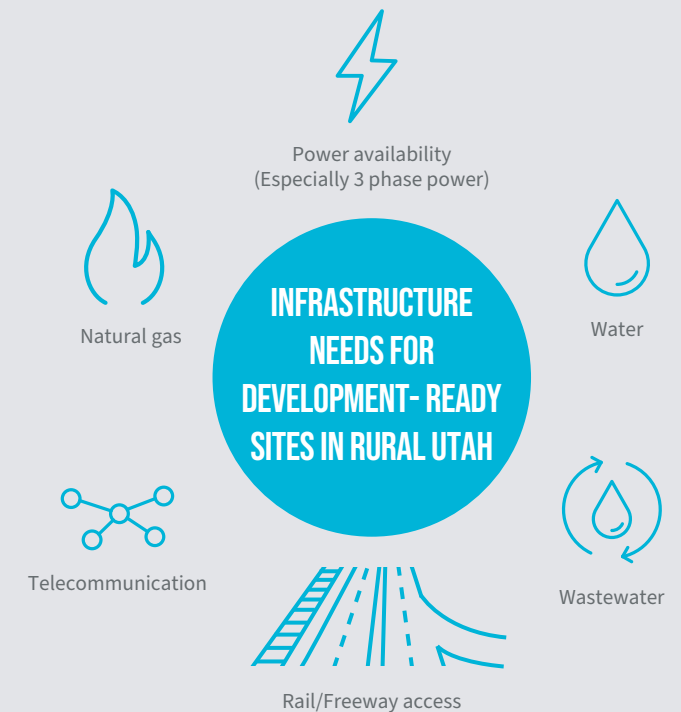


QUALITY OF LIFE IN RURAL UTAH IS UNSURPASSED BUT INFRASTRUCTURE IS NEEDED TO MAKE WORKING IN RURAL UTAH A CONTINUING POSSIBILITY



STREAMLINE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INCENTIVES TARGETED TO RURAL UTAH

Currently, communities must navigate 11 separate rural programs to access state resources.



In 2020, only 3 new EDC Utah projects in rural Utah involved new construction

Source: EDC Utah



Private developers cited higher risk and higher cost as key barriers to investing in rural Utah



WATER

Every drop matters



AFFORDABLE UTAH

Life elevated for all Utahns

THE UTAH WAY FORWARD

FORWARD-THINKING
PRINCIPLED
COLLABORATIVE
RESPONSIBLE



EDUCATION MODERNIZATION

Preparing students for a
prosperous future



GENERATIONAL INVESTMENTS

Building a legacy



MAINTAINING THE UTAH WAY

Preserving quality of life
in the face of growth