

ANSWERS

Volume 3c: Demographic Effects - Possible Impacts of Constructing a Correctional Facility at the I-80/7200 West Site

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If the proposed Utah State Correctional Facility were to be developed at the I-80/7200 West Site in Salt Lake County, the surrounding areas should expect to see some resulting population growth as corrections employees and their families relocate over time to be proximate to their place of employment. Table 1 indicates the potential population increase the area could experience as Utah Department of Corrections (UDC) employees relocate according to their current commuting patterns.

Table 1: Potential Population Growth

	Within 10-Minute Commute	Within 10-20 Minute Commute
Population Increase	198	318
School Enrollment Increase	50*	81
Corrections Employees	55	297

Source: Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel's analysis of data from the Utah Department of Corrections, the Utah State Office of Education, and U.S. Census Bureau, 2015.

It can be reasonably assumed that a majority of UDC correctional facility employees will eventually relocate around the proposed facility consistent with their current commuting patterns at the Draper facility. In other words, over time it is likely that correctional facility employees will eventually become geographically stratified around the new facility in roughly the same pattern as they are now. For example, since 20.6% of current employees of the Draper facility have a 20-30 minute commute to the facility, it can be assumed that, following a reasonable transition period, approximately the same percentage of employees would have a 20-30 minute commute to the new facility.

Table 2: UDC Employees' Proximity to Draper

The analysis was performed by first mapping the current commute travel times for each UDC employee to the Draper facility. The drive time was then calculated for each employee to a new facility located at the I-80/7200 West Site. Employees were then segmented into groups according to the length of their commutes (Table 2).

Drive Time (minutes)	Percent Employees	Number of Employees
50 - 60	2.4%	17
40 - 50	5.7%	41
30 - 40	22.7%	164
20 - 30	20.6%	149
10 - 20	41.1%	297
0 - 10	7.6%	55

For purposes of this analysis an eight-year transition period has been assumed. Within a 10-minute drive of the I-80/7200 West Site lies Magna and parts of Salt Lake City. Within a 20-minute commute lies many other communities, including West Valley City and Woods Cross. It can be reasonably assumed that over time, all correctional facility employees commuting less than 10 minutes would live in Magna or Salt Lake City. Furthermore, all correctional employees with a 10-20 minute commute would live in or around one of the other surrounding communities.

After calculating how many employees might live in each community over time, U.S. Census data concerning average household sizes was used to calculate the population increases the community might expect, including the number of school-aged children which may also move into each community. To ensure data was used that reflects the demographics of a typical corrections employee, U.S. Census data was adjusted to exclude individuals who are not of working age. Table 3 provides a conservative estimate of the magnitude of population increases Magna, Salt Lake City, West Valley City, and others might experience over an eight-year period as employees relocate, retire, and are newly hired.

Table 3: Demographic Changes over Correctional Facility Transition Period

		Number of Locational Changes	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8	Totals
		Total Locational Changes	7	5	65	54	40	39	8	0	218
Within 10-Minute Commute	Employee Increase		1	0	5	5	4	32	8	0	55
	Cumulative Employee Total		1	1	6	11	15	47	55	55	
	Total Population Increase		4	1	18	18	15	113	28	0	198
	School Age Increase (5-18 years)		1	0	5	5	4	29	7	0	50
	Cumulative School Age Children Increase		1	1	6	10	14	43	50	50	
Within 10-20 Minute Commute	Employee Increase		3	2	27	28	23	6	0	0	89
	Cumulative Employee Total		211	213	240	268	291	297	297	297	
	Total Population Increase		11	7	98	98	82	22	0	0	318
	School Age Increase (5-18 years)		3	2	25	25	21	6	0	0	81
	Cumulative School Age Children Increase		3	5	29	54	75	81	81	81	
Employees Commuting	Number Commuting 0-9 Minutes		1	1	6	11	15	47	55	55	
	Number Commuting 10-19 Minutes		211	213	240	268	291	297	297	297	
	Number Commuting 20-29 Minutes		132	133	147	149	149	149	149	149	
	Number Commuting 30-39 Minutes		126	128	143	158	171	172	164	164	
	Number Commuting 40-49 Minutes		112	113	116	120	80	41	41	41	
	Number Commuting 50-59 Minutes		135	135	70	17	17	17	17	17	
	Number Commuting 60 Minutes +		5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	

Source: Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel's analysis of data from the Utah Department of Corrections and the U.S. Census Bureau, 2015.

The infusion of corrections employees into the host community of the new correctional facility will bring stable, recession-proof jobs. As employees purchase houses, shop, dine, and live in the community, it will boost the local economy. Additionally, corrections officers are trained in law enforcement techniques and are upstanding, vigilant community members. They are good neighbors, will be the eyes and ears of the community, and will help make the community in which they live a safer place for everyone.

*While school children may live within a 10-minute commute of the proposed site, no schools are located within a 10-minute commute.

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