

SB 185 (Transportation Amendments) includes the proposed Utah Trail Network. The following letter is being sent to you on behalf of 400+ organizations and individuals from the public and private sectors who urge your support:



To the Honorable members of the Utah State Legislature:

On October 28, 2022, Governor Cox offered a new vision to build a Utah Trail Network connecting Utahns of all ages and abilities to their destinations and communities throughout the state. This vision will be a sustainable contribution to the quality of life for Utahns and visitors for generations to come. As stated in the Governor's FY24 budget proposal, "Our vision is about connecting communities in ways that provide additional transportation choices for everyone to commute, to recreate and to enjoy Utah." We agree.

Subsequently, the Governor recommended investing \$100 million in paved biking and walking trails in FY24. This would include \$45 million in annual transportation funds and a one-time General Fund investment of \$55 million.

As you consider authorizing additional investments in Utah's transportation systems during this legislative session, the signatories of this letter — representing public, private, and community stakeholders across Utah — respectfully urge you to support the Utah Trail Network.

Building safe, family-friendly paved trails draws people to them; a prime example is the 18-mile Murdock Canal Trail in Utah County, which runs through multiple communities and was ridden nearly 350,000 times in 2021.

Biking and walking are universally recognized for their benefits to individual and community health across all demographic groups. They improve air quality and decrease traffic congestion while increasing physical activity and decreasing healthcare costs. They improve transportation choices to access social, educational, and job opportunities, and they bring recreational opportunities to the front door of Utah residents. In order to bring these benefits to more people, Utah must continue to invest to complete key connections and pieces of our active transportation systems.

Additionally, in order to have a reliable statewide paved trail system, it is imperative that ongoing and predictable funding is identified and secured to build and maintain the trails. Supporting and funding a world-class state for pedestrians and cyclists will enhance Utah's unparalleled quality of life by providing safe, inexpensive, and healthy transportation choices to Utah residents of all ages and abilities. State funding, leveraged with additional public and private-sector funds, will continue to place Utah at the forefront of providing mobility choices to residents and visitors alike.

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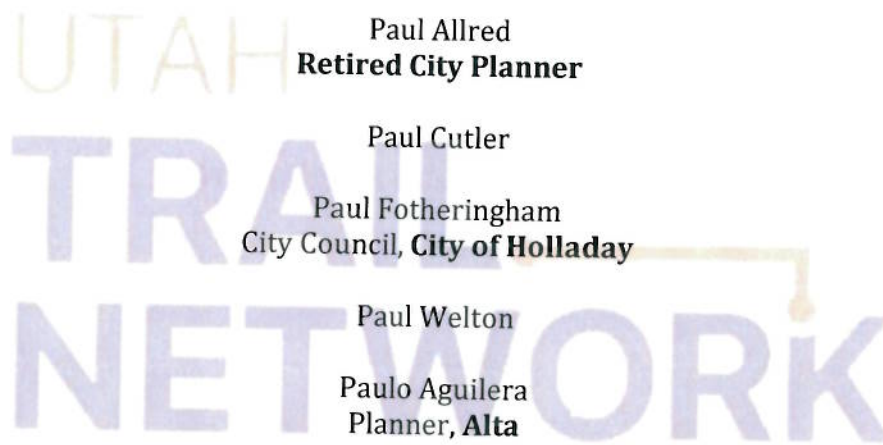
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