

November 21, 2022

Dear Planning Commission and City Council Members,

Since the Transportation Master Plan is a vital step in meeting the transportation needs of our community, we wanted to outline our values, which focus on quality of life and economic vitality.

We cannot build out of congestion: Many residents in Orem will only drive. Orem is to a point that building more roads is either too costly to acquire land rights, or just not helpful because demand will increase to fill the new capacity. When growth requires construction, we suggest keeping city-owned streets to five lanes or fewer. Level of service may drop to our recommended acceptable level E during certain times of the day. To reduce this congestion, we need to also spend time and resources addressing other modes of transportation like public transit, biking, or on a neighborhood level, walking.

We have to balance the needs of drivers and pedestrians and bikers: An open road, with wide lanes that encourages high speeds may move cars effectively, but has elements that are detrimental to encouraging walking or biking. The needs of traffic flow and the safety and comfort of active transportation must be balanced. Traffic calming techniques should be employed where appropriate.

Good planning and transportation infrastructure encourage active transportation: Planning for growth will maintain our quality of life. We suggest a strong correlation between land-use, transportation, and infrastructure planning. The goal is to optimize safety for all road users while encouraging the use of alternative transportation including transit, bikes and walking.

We must be fiscally and socially responsible: Within a limited budget, we must prioritize projects that meet current needs and anticipate growth. This means selecting the right projects, at the right time, with the most cost-effective solutions, and with consideration for our neighborhoods and quality of life. For example, we support Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) because it is more economical and flexible than light rail.

We recognize that city streets are the largest public space we have; roads are for everyone. A large portion of our tax dollars supports the building and maintenance of streets. We look forward to working with you in encouraging transportation plans that focus on quality of life and economic vitality, keeping Orem's status as a great place to live and work.

Sincerely,

The Transportation Advisory Commission

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