

Heber Valley Corridor EIS
c/o HDR
2825 E Cottonwood Parkway # 200
Cottonwood Heights, UT 84121

April 25, 2022

Dear UDOT/Heber Valley Corridor EIS,

We contact you with great concern over the Heber “Western Bypass D” option. We are expressing our opposition to option WD only and realize that there needs to be continued discussion on solving the traffic concerns in Heber Valley.

In 2020 Heber City adopted the Envision Heber 2050 plan. This plan states that the number one concern of the citizens is the preservation of Heber’s “open space and rural character”...especially “in regard to the North Fields.” This document also states that, “Heber City will work with the County and surrounding communities to create permanent farm and mountain land protection through such mechanisms as conservation easements and partnerships.” (Envision Heber page 7).”

We are shocked by this “Option D” proposal that would destroy the traditional agricultural use of the North Fields and create an overwhelming cascade of environmental problems in these sensitive areas. All of this is so contrary to the citizens’ desire to preserve the North Fields!

Another great concern we have is the impact of even having a “Western D” bypass option left on the table. In 2018 the citizens of Wasatch County passed a ten million dollar Open Space Bond. If “Option D” is left among the alternatives being considered during the time needed by UDOT to complete this lengthy process, it could jeopardize the bond. The North Fields is the area where the bond will be used to preserve open space. Wasatch County is among the fastest growing counties in the nation, and this growth MUST be balanced with critical land preservation, including ranch and farm land, agricultural lands, and other wildlife lands and natural environments. These are the areas where the bond will be used for conservation easements. If “Western D” remains an option, precious time will be lost and could cause irreparable harm in the loss of conservation easements. This is a time sensitive matter given that the bonds must be used within 10 years.

We ask that Western Option D be removed immediately from the Bypass Alternatives being considered by UDOT for Heber Valley.

Sincerely,

Christi Judd (Co Executive Director, Friends of Heber Valley)

Cheryl Fox (Executive Director, Summit Land Conservancy)

Heidi Franco (Heber City Mayor)

Steve Dougherty (Midway City Council Member)

Yvonne Barney (Heber City Council Member)

Lori Stone (President, Preserve Midway)

Holly Bodily (Vice President, Preserve Midway)

Brad Winegar (Board member, Preserve Midway)

Kris Ward (Board member, Preserve Midway)

Athina Koumarela (Board member, Preserve Midway)

Rene Holm (Board member, Preserve Midway)

Ann Zimmerman (Former Chair, Heber City Open Space, Trails, Parks and Trees Advisory Committee)

Trudy Simmons (Co Executive Director, Friends of Heber Valley)

Daniel Simmons (Board Member, Friends of Heber Valley)

Carl Fisher (Executive Director, Save Our Canyons)