

# RAIL IN THE WEST

## ENVISION UTAH

Christie Oostema, Planning Director



**“This ‘telephone’ has too many shortcomings to be seriously considered as a means of communication. The device is inherently of no value to us.”**

Western Union internal memo, 1876

**“Heavier-than-air flying machines are impossible.”**

Lord Kelvin, President, Royal Society, 1895

**“I think there is a world market for maybe five computers.”**

Thomas Watson, Chairman of IBM, 1943

**“640K ought to be enough for anybody.”**

Bill Gates, 1981

**They said it couldn't be done....**

**“The prospect of riding light rail to the opening ceremonies of the 2002 Winter Games is looking bleak.”**

Deseret News, June 9, 1999

**“Light Rail: The Solution to No Problem.”**

The Public Purpose, May 2001

**“Rail never comes in under budget.”**

Light Rail Progress, Austin, Texas

**“Rail has no impact on mobility,  
air quality, or congestion.”**

Light Rail Progress, Austin, Texas

**“GOP Group Wants Light Rail Derailed.”**

Deseret News, March 4, 1996



# Utah Faced Serious Challenges in 1997



- A million new residents by 2020
- Air quality at risk
- Doubling urban land by 2020
- New water sources needed by 2010
- Crowding and congestion increasing
- Business and personal costs rising
- Infrastructure needs outstripping resources

# Coalition for Utah's Future



**A project to evaluate and address growth issues**

# Envision Utah

- Nonprofit, nonpartisan, voluntary
- Partnership of business, government, and community





**Envision  
Utah** How we grow matters.

Envision Utah engages people to create and sustain communities that are beautiful, prosperous, healthy and neighborly for current and future residents



# Leadership – Honorary Co-Chairs



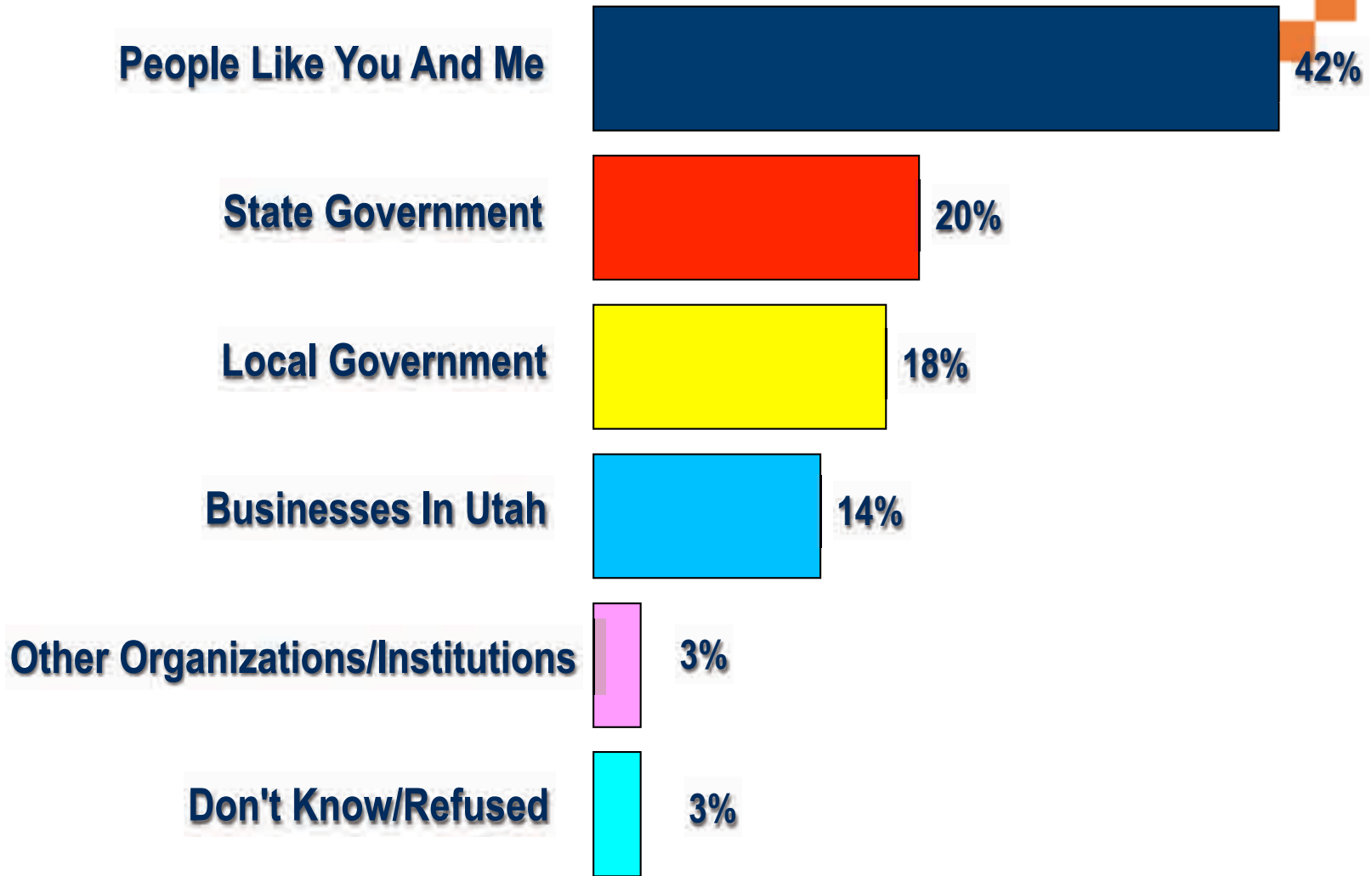
- Public Sector
  - ▣ Mike Leavitt
  - ▣ Olene Walker
  - ▣ Jon Huntsman Jr.
  - ▣ Gary Herbert
- Private Sector
  - ▣ Larry H. Miller
- Philanthropy
  - ▣ Spencer F. Eccles

# Envision Utah's Executive Committee



- Dan Lofgren, Cowboy Partners (chair)
- Natalie Gochnour, University of Utah (vice chair)
- Alan Matheson, Governor's Office (vice chair)
- Tom Berggren, Jones Waldo (secretary)
- Jeff Hatch, Former Salt Lake County Auditor (treasurer)
- Larry Ellertson, Utah County Commission
- Wayne Niederhauser, Senate President
- David Burton, Emeritus LDS Presiding Bishop
- Spencer Eccles, Governor's Office of Economic Dev.
- Jeff Edwards, EDCU
- Charles Sorenson, Intermountain Health Care
- Lonnie Bullard, Jacobsen Construction
- Rich Walje, Rocky Mountain Power
- Rebecca Chavez-Houck, House of Representatives
- Pamela Atkinson, Community Leader
- Martin Bates, Granite School District
- Andrew Gruber, Wasatch Front Regional Council
- Brenda Scheer, University of Utah
- Bonnie Jean Beesley, Board of Regents
- Kathleen Clarke, Utah Public Lands Policy
- Ty McCutcheon, Rio Tinto
- Robert Grow, Envision Utah

# Who Can Best Deal With Growth Issues?



n=400

# The Premise of Envision Utah



- The “public” has the right to choose its future—public officials should serve that vision
- The “public” will make good choices if presented with real options





# Visioning Starts with Utah Values

PERSONAL VALUES

PSYCHO-SOCIAL CONSEQUENCES

FUNCTIONAL CONSEQUENCES

ATTRIBUTES



## Community Enrichment Declining

## Time & Opportunity Increasing

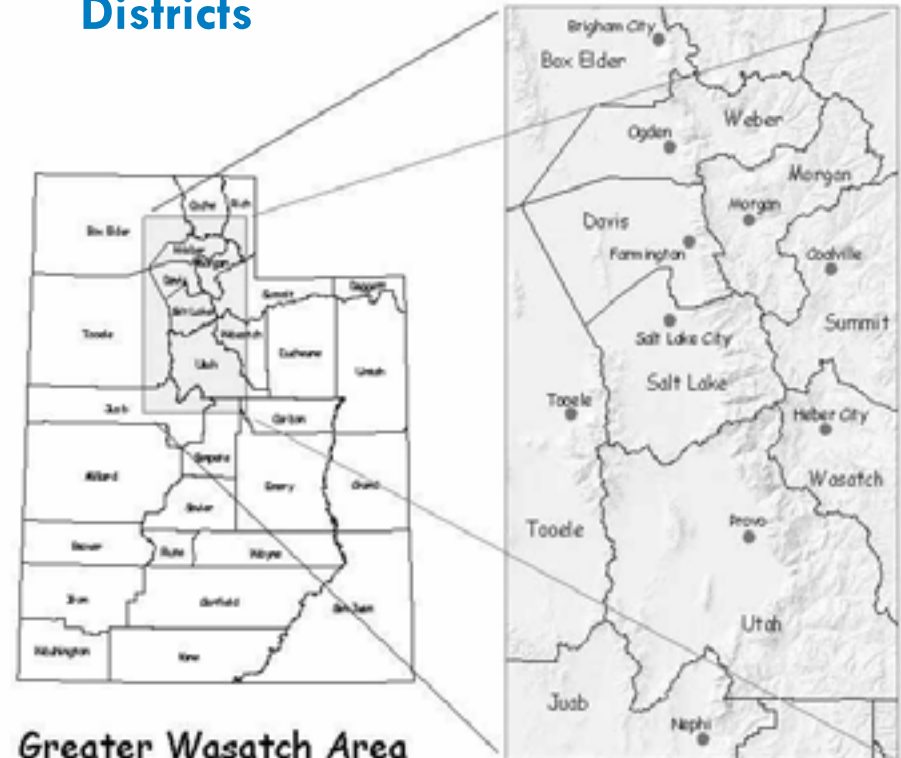




# Greater Wasatch Area

- Over 500 City Council Members
- Over 500 Planning Commissioners
- 30 County Commissioners
- 90 Mayors
- 100s of developers, realtors and other key stakeholders

- 10 Counties
- 90 Cities and Towns
- 157 Special Service Districts



# Broad Scope of Community

- Business Leaders
- Developers
- Utility Companies
- Local and State Government
- Citizen Organizations
- Advocacy Groups
- Religious Leaders
- Education
- Media



# Workshops: You Tell Us

- Focused problem solving, not philosophizing
- Recognition of competing goals
- Mixed groups must reconcile differences
- Long time horizon helps find common ground`

Participants imagined the future for their children and grandchildren...



...and answered the question:  
*How shall we accommodate anticipated growth?*

# Public Awareness Efforts

- Television, Radio, and Newspaper

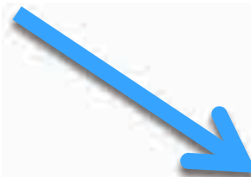


“(Envision Utah’s) intent – empowering Utahns to control and maintain their envied quality of life – is above approach.” (Deseret Morning News editorial, 15 Dec. 98)

Envision Utah ... is a grand exercise in democracy. (Deseret Morning News editorial, 10 Jan. 99)

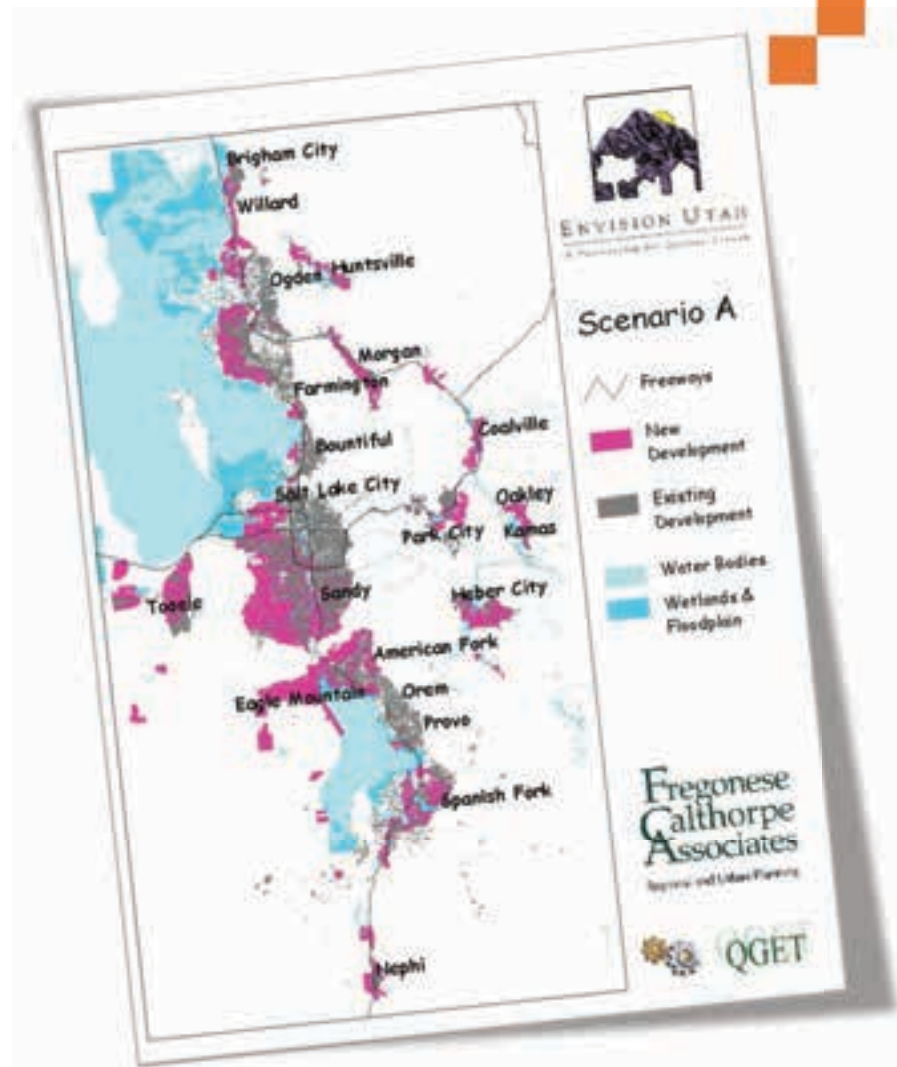
# Scenarios

- Contrast today's choices by showing long-term consequences



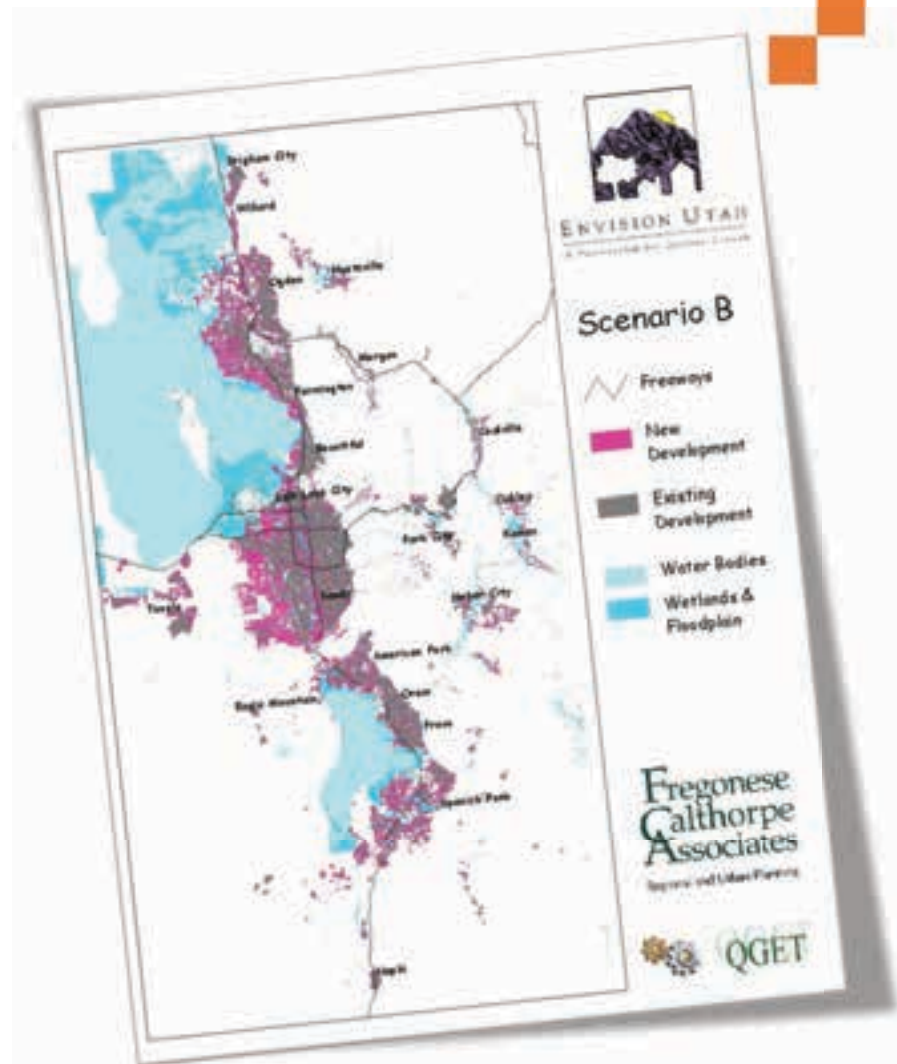
# Scenario A - New and Existing Development

- Continuation of Recent Trends
- Larger lot sizes
- More auto-oriented development will occur.



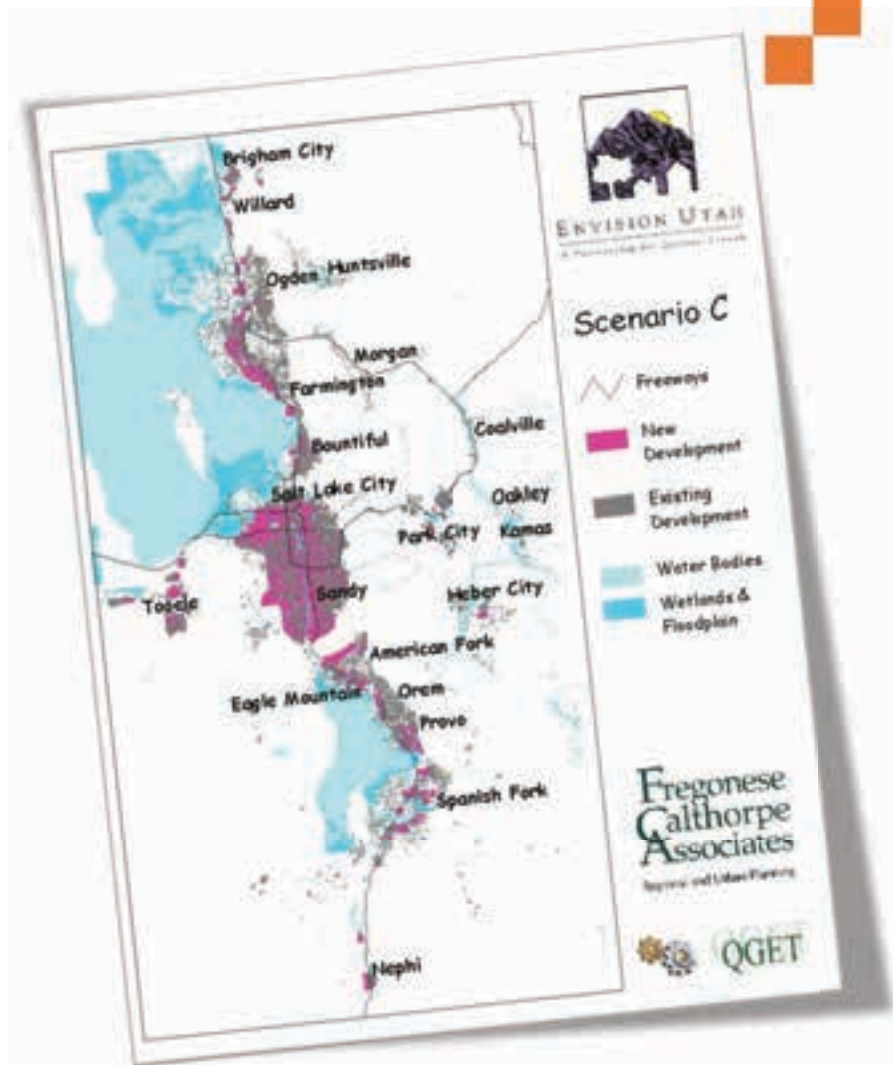
# Scenario B - New and Existing Development

- Baseline - implement adopted plans
- Dispersed development pattern common in last 20-30 years



# Scenario C - New and Existing Development

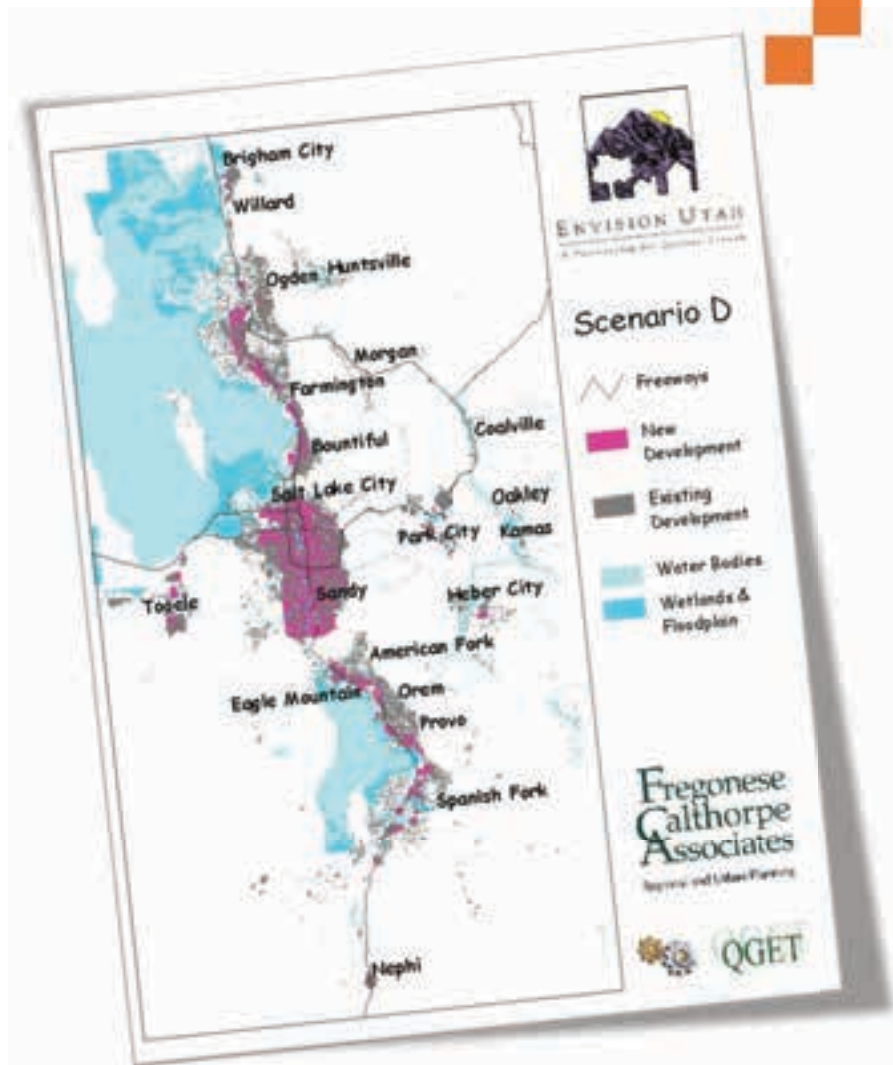
- More infill and redevelopment
- Growth on new land focused into walkable, transit-oriented communities



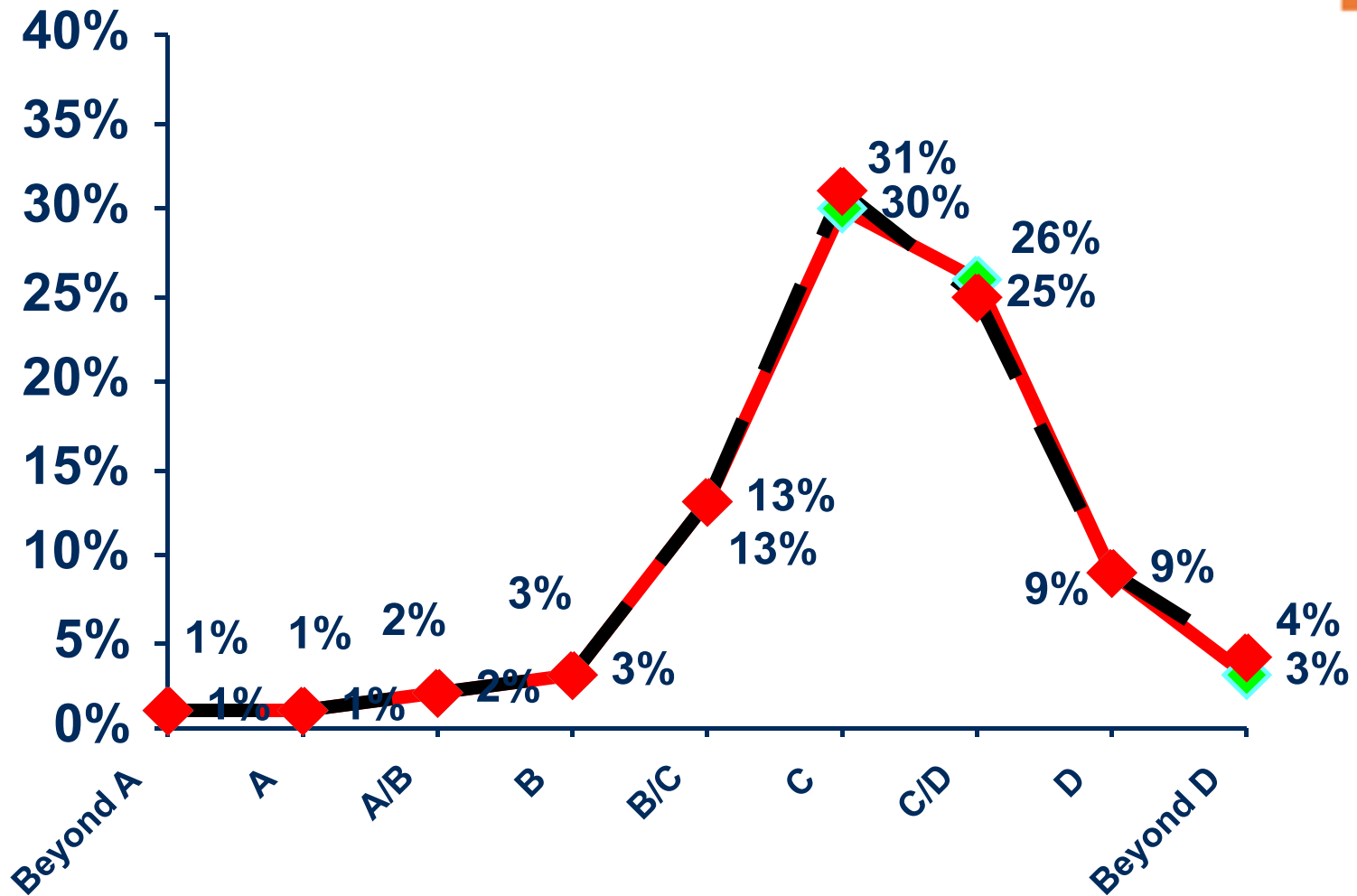


# Scenario D - New and Existing Development

- Significant increase in densities
- Extensive infill and redevelopment
- Extensive transit system



# Choosing a Scenario



1997



GRONDAHL STANDARD EXAMINER

2004



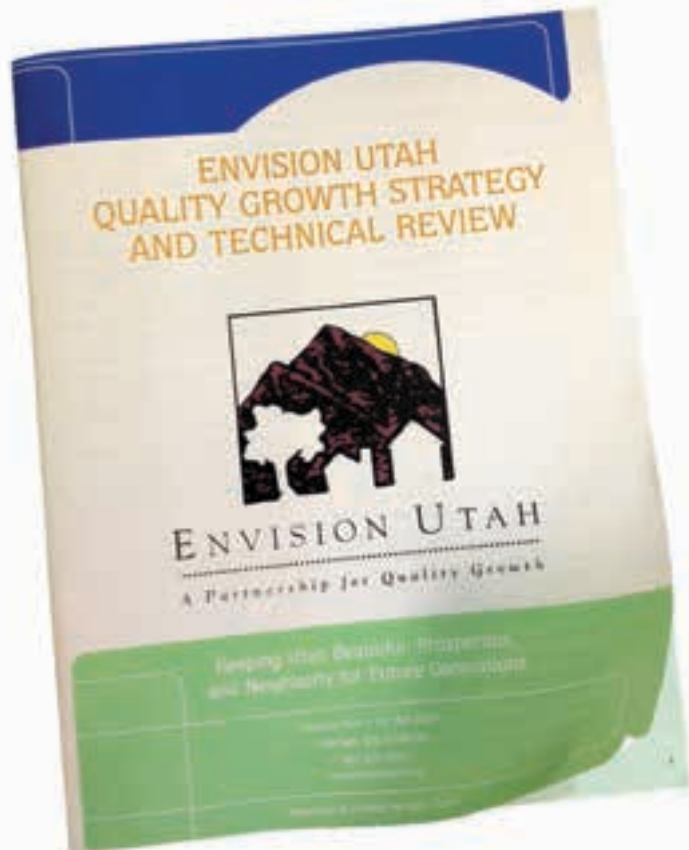
GRONDAHL STANDARD-EXAMINER

# 1998

# 2020



## Quality Growth Strategy 10 County Analysis



## 6 Goals | 42 Strategies

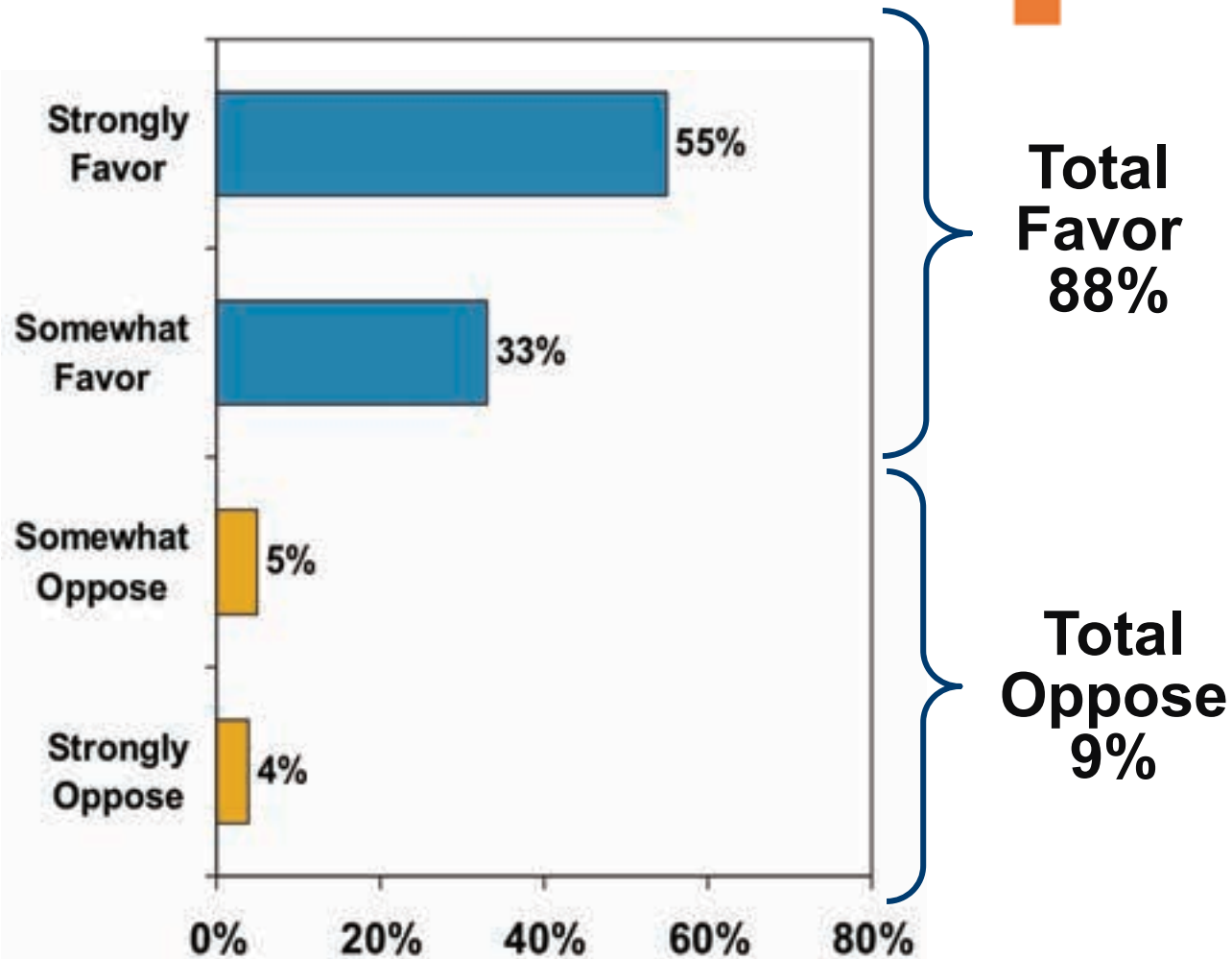
- Enhance Air Quality
- Increase Transportation Choices
- Preserve Critical Lands
- Conserve Water Resources
- Provide Housing Opportunities
- Maximize Efficiency in Public Investment

## Measures

- *1998 Conditions*
- *2020 Trend*
- *2020 Strategy*

# Increasing Transportation Options

*Do you favor or oppose the **EXPANSION** of light rail and other public transportation systems?*



# Preparing for Future Transit

- MPO reopens RTP
- \$185 million acquisition
- Purchased 175 miles of rail right-of-way
- Created nine future transit corridors



# Rail System in 2010

- **TRAX light rail – 15-mile Sandy/Salt Lake Line, opened Dec. 1999**
- **TRAX light rail – 2.5-mile University Line, opened Dec. 2001**
- **TRAX light rail – 1.5-mile Medical Center Line, opened Sept. 2003**
- **TRAX light rail – 1-mile Intermodal Hub Extension, opened April 2008**
- **FrontRunner – 44-mile commuter rail line from Ogden to Salt Lake City, opened April 2008**







**Proposition 3 Support**  
 Transportation Projects  
 57% (Salt Lake Chamber)  
 61% (KSL/Deseret Morning News)  
 Source: Dan Jones & Assoc.



# NOVEMBER 2006 ELECTIONS: Business Rocks the Vote for Transit!

Proposition 3 passes, 63.7% in favor

Opinion question, 68.6% in favor

Second transit referendum in six years

Expedited massive transit development

**DESERET MORNING NEWS/KSL-TV  
 POLL**

**PROPOSITION 3:** Sales and use tax for corridor preservation, congestion mitigation and expansion of capacity for regionally significant transportation facilities - which is the public transit and road tax.

*Shall Salt Lake County be authorized to impose a .25 percent sales (quarter cent) and use tax for corridor preservation, congestion mitigation or to expand capacity for regionally significant transportation facilities?*

DEFINITELY FOR	39%
PROBABLY FOR	21%
PROBABLY AGAINST	8%
DEFINITELY AGAINST	21%
DON'T KNOW	9%

A poll of 501 Salt Lake County residents was conducted Oct. 26-Nov. 2, 2006, by Dan Jones & Associates. It has a margin of error of +/-4.4 percent.

©2006 Deseret Morning News

# FrontLines 2015

- UTA's project in its history
- Building 70 miles of rail in seven years
- One project that includes five lines
  - Mid-Jordan TRAX
  - West Valley TRAX
  - FrontRunner South
  - Draper TRAX
  - Airport TRAX

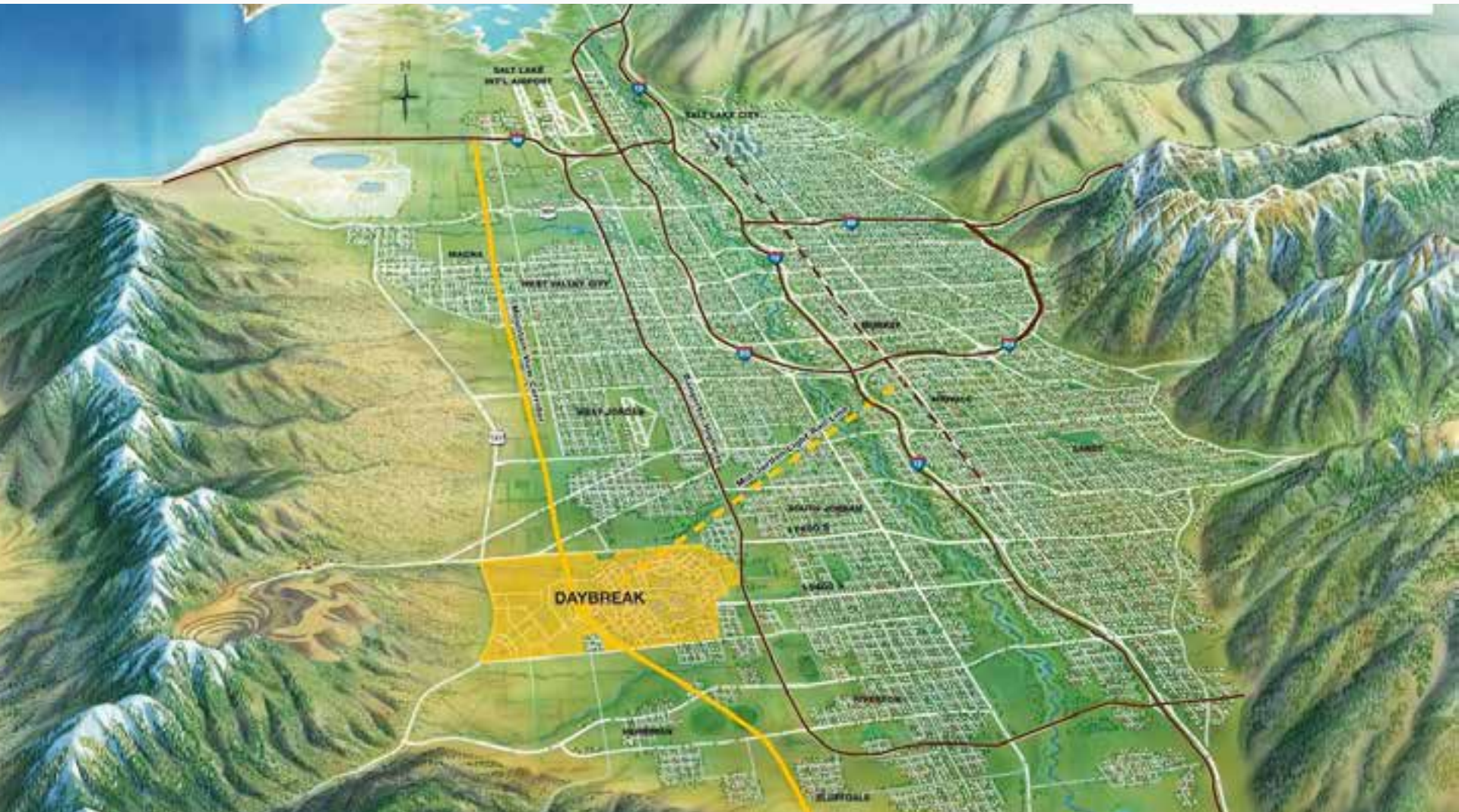


# We've come a long way!





# Mid-Jordan & West Valley LRT



# Commuter Rail South



# Airport LRT



# Airport Terminal





# Airport Welcome Center



# Airport Half Grand Tie-In



1912

Digital Image © 2001 Utah State Historical Society. All rights reserved.



2012

# Sugar House Streetcar

## Sugar House Streetcar





**Existing**

**7th EAST**

**CRSA**

ARCHITECTURE • PLANNING • URBAN DESIGN

**Sugarhouse Streetcar Rendering**



DRAFT - March 15, 2011

7th EAST

CRSA

ARCHITECTURE - PLANNING - URBAN DESIGN

Sugarhouse Streetcar Rendering

# HISTORIC, YES. OLD FASHIONED, HARDLY.

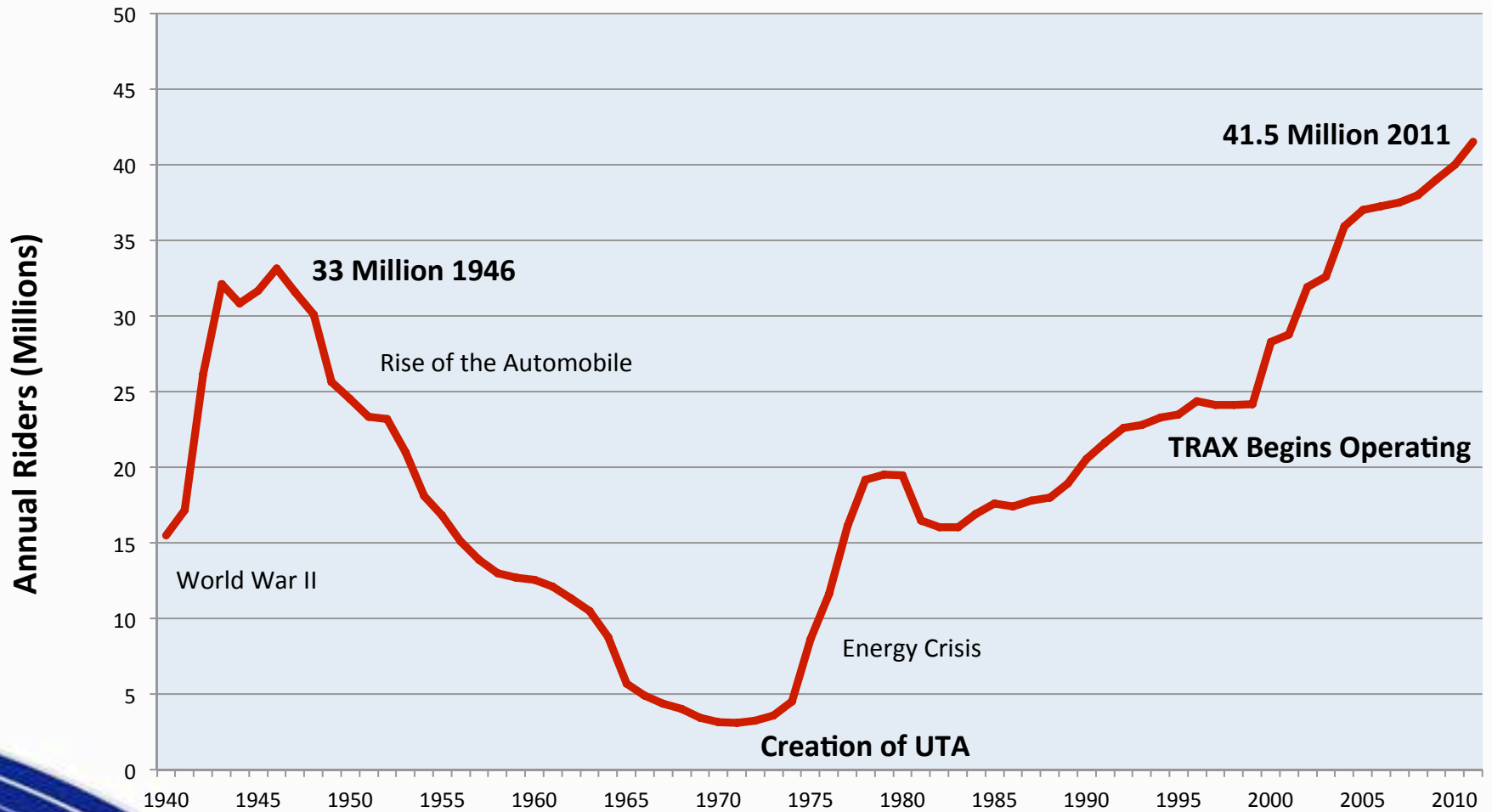


UTA



S-LINE STREETCAR Opens December 8

# Transit Ridership



**Approximately \$1 billion projected**  
in private investment in the Sugar House  
Business District

## Sugar House Streetcar





# 1998

# 2020



## Quality Growth Strategy 10 County Analysis



## 6 Goals | 42 Strategies

- Enhance Air Quality
- Increase Transportation Choices
- Preserve Critical Lands
- Conserve Water Resources
- Provide Housing Opportunities
- Maximize Efficiency in Public Investment

## Measures

- *1998 Conditions*
- *2020 Trend*
- *2020 Strategy*



**RioTinto**

# DAYBREAK



GREAT SALT LAKE

SALT LAKE  
INT'L AIRPORT

SALT LAKE CITY

MAGNA

WEST VALLEY CITY

MURRAY

MIDVALE

WEST BENCH

WEST JORDAN

SANDY

COPPERTON

BOYBROOK

SOUTH JORDAN

BINGHAM CANYON MINE

HERNIMAN

BLUFFDALE

**RioTinto**

# DAYBREAK

Promoting Housing Options

GREAT SALT LAKE

SALT LAKE  
INT'L AIRPORT



SINCHAM CANYON MINE

SOVEREAK

JORDAN

HEBRON

BLUFFDALE

**RioTinto**

# DAYBREAK

Promoting Housing Options



GREAT SALT LAKE



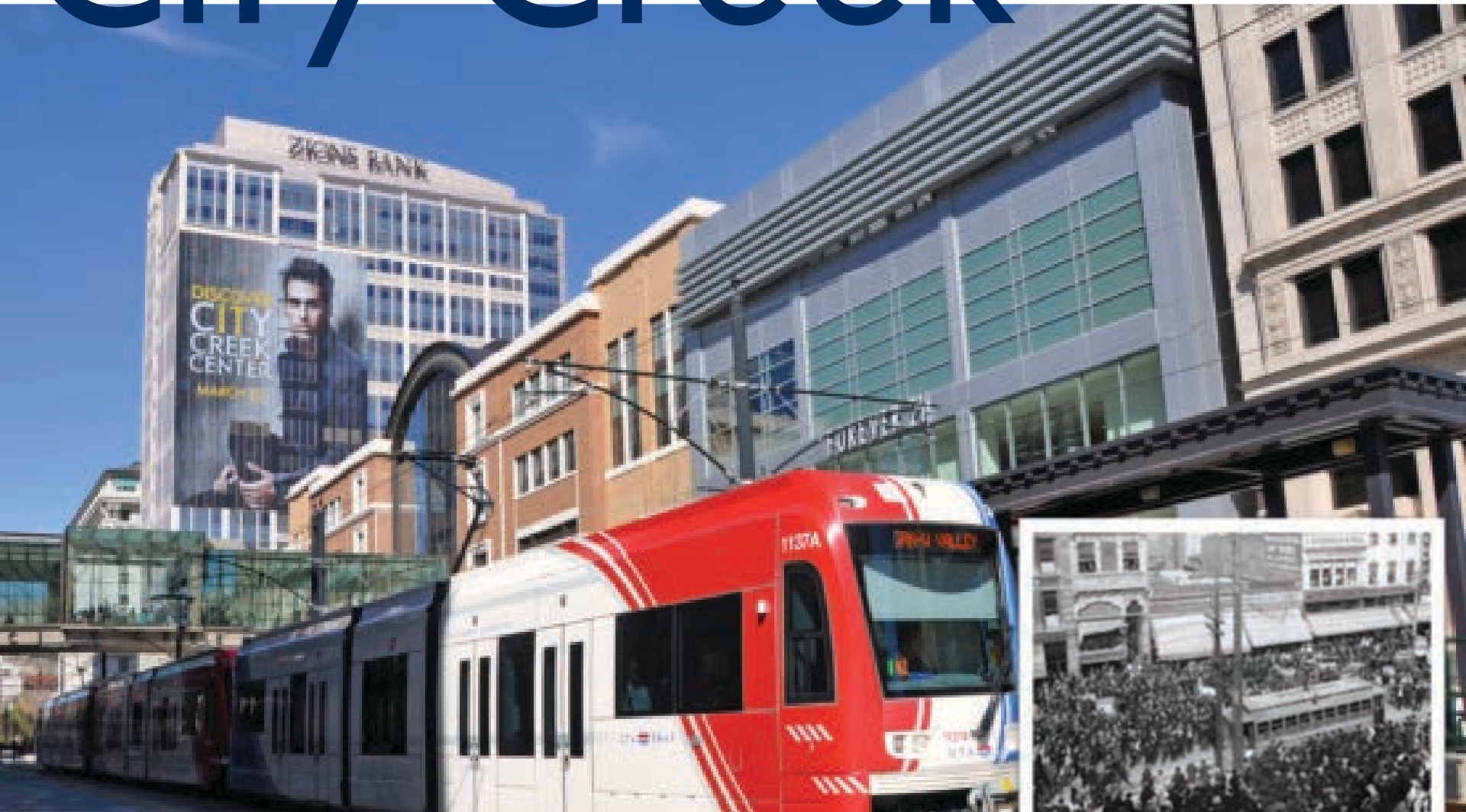
**RioTinto**

# DAYBREAK

Promoting Housing Options



# City Creek



# City Creek



# City Creek





# City Creek



# City Creek



# City Creek





# Meadowbrook Station

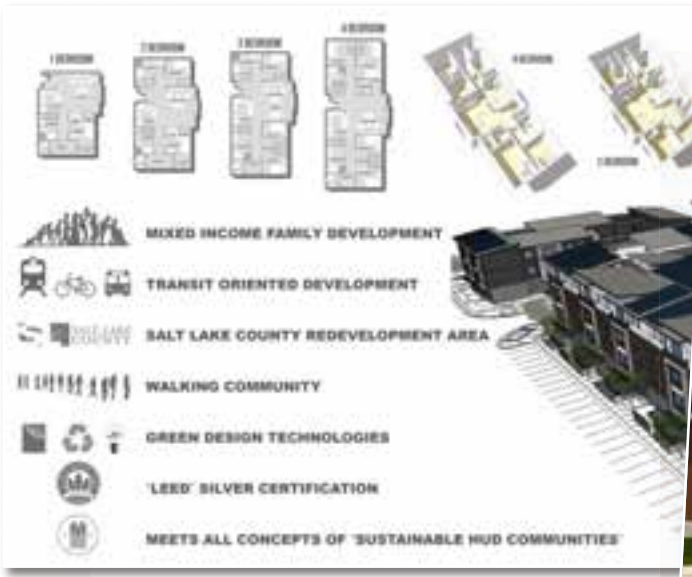






# ENVISIONING CENTERS

A planning and **implementation** process for smaller areas





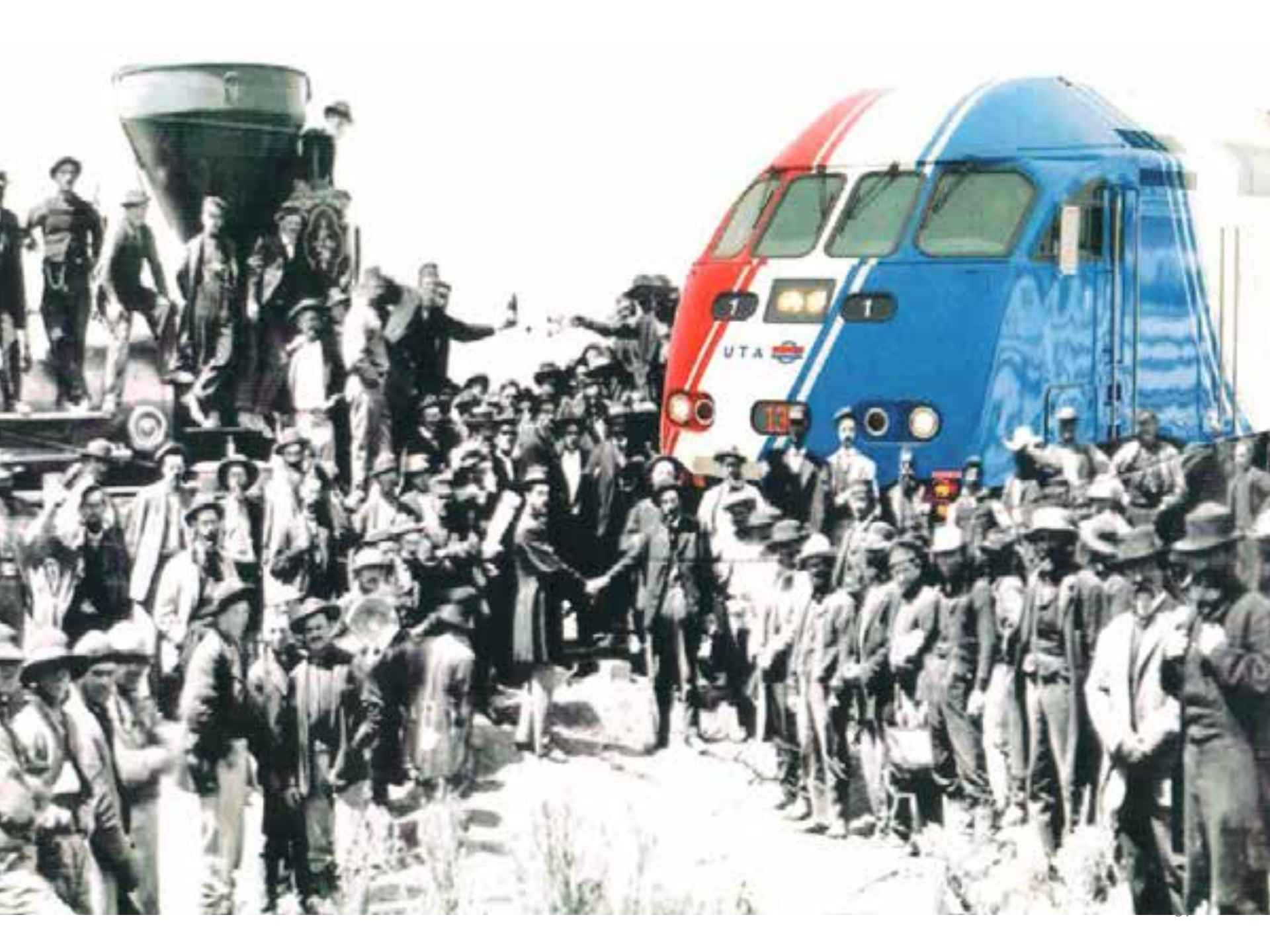
# ENVISIONING CENTERS

A planning and **implementation** process for smaller areas



# \$7 Billion Private Investment & TOD





# Utah

# 2013 Report Card

1998



2013



Land Consumption



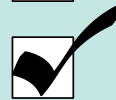
Housing Mix



Transportation



Emissions



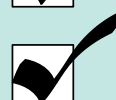
Water Use



Air Quality



Infrastructure



# 10 County Population

1998  1.7m

2013  2.3m

2020  2.7m



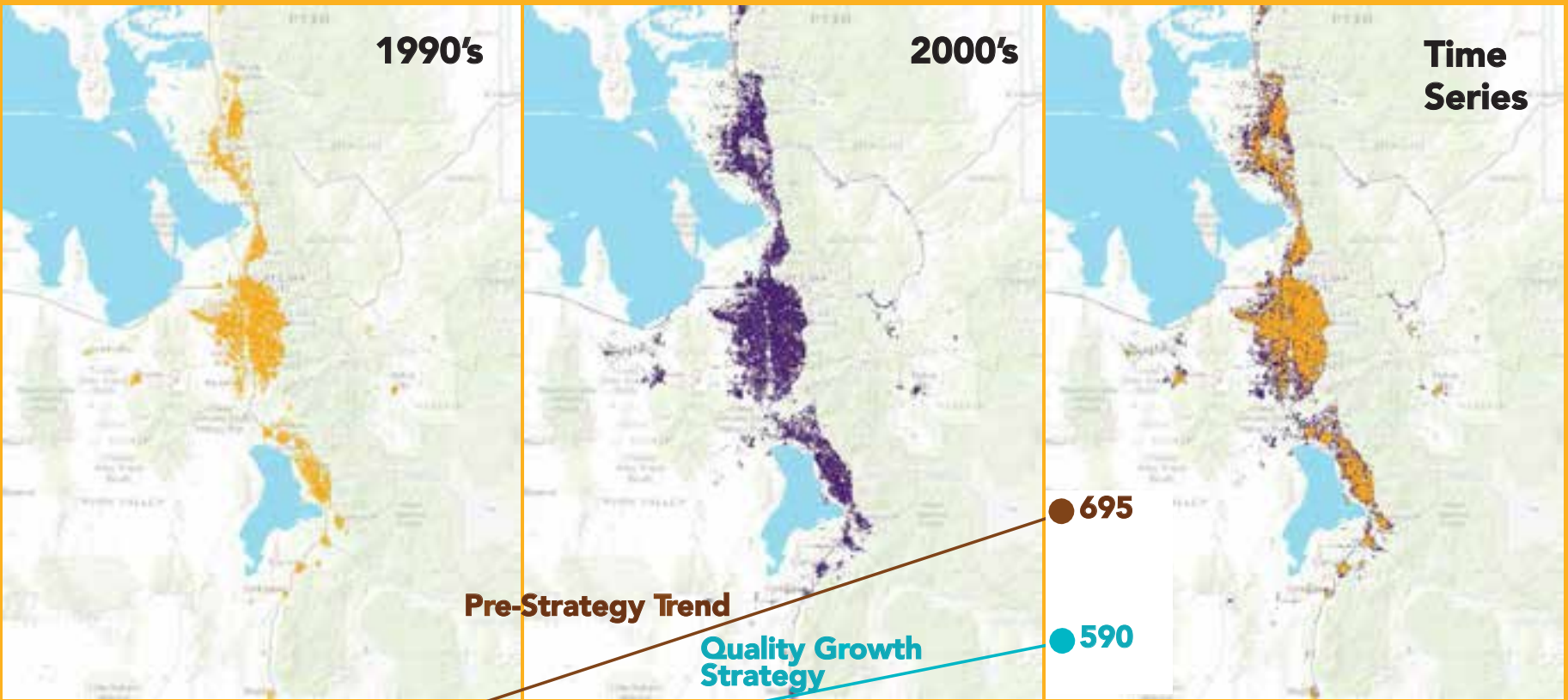
# Original Analysis



Source: Envision Utah Quality Growth Strategy and Technical Review, Census 2010 SF1 100%



# Square Miles of Developed Land



Pre-Strategy Trend

Quality Growth Strategy

Current Trend



Source: National Land Cover Data

# Average Single Family Lot Size

1998



.32 acres

2013



.25 acres

22% Decrease

## Options for Living

- More housing types
- Closer to jobs
- More transportation options
- Lower cost of living
- Water conservation
- Reduced infrastructure costs
- Access to natural beauty and recreation

Source: Salt Lake County Assessor 2012, Weber County Assessor 2013, Davis County Assessor 2012, Utah County Assessor 2012, lots <5 acres

# Per Capita Water Consumption



**25% Decrease**



Source: Envision Utah Quality Growth Strategy and Technical Review, Census 2010 SF1 100%, Utah DNR





# Transportation

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Vehicle miles per person per day

**1998**  **25.1**

**2013**  **24.2**

**2020 Trend**  **29.3**

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**2013** 

**150,000 Transit Boardings  
replacing 110,000 daily auto trips**

## Increased Mobility

- Better access
- More options

Source: UDOT 2011 VMT by County, UTA 2012 Network Study

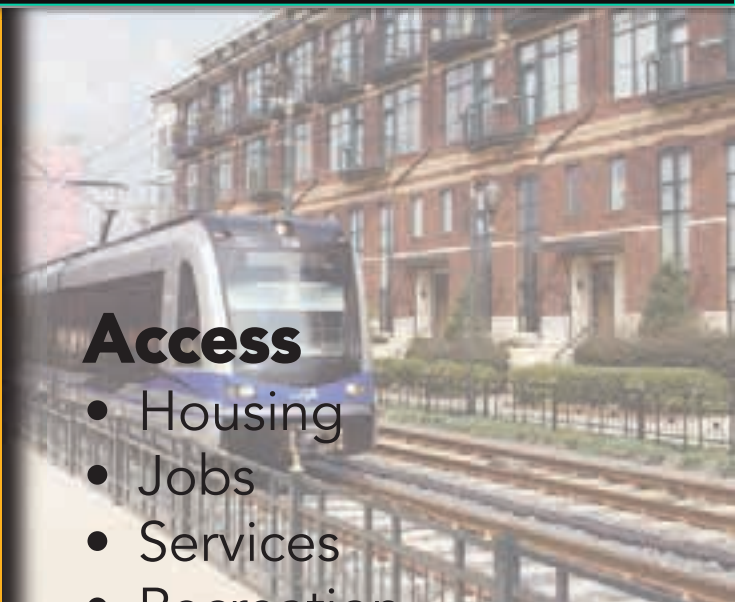
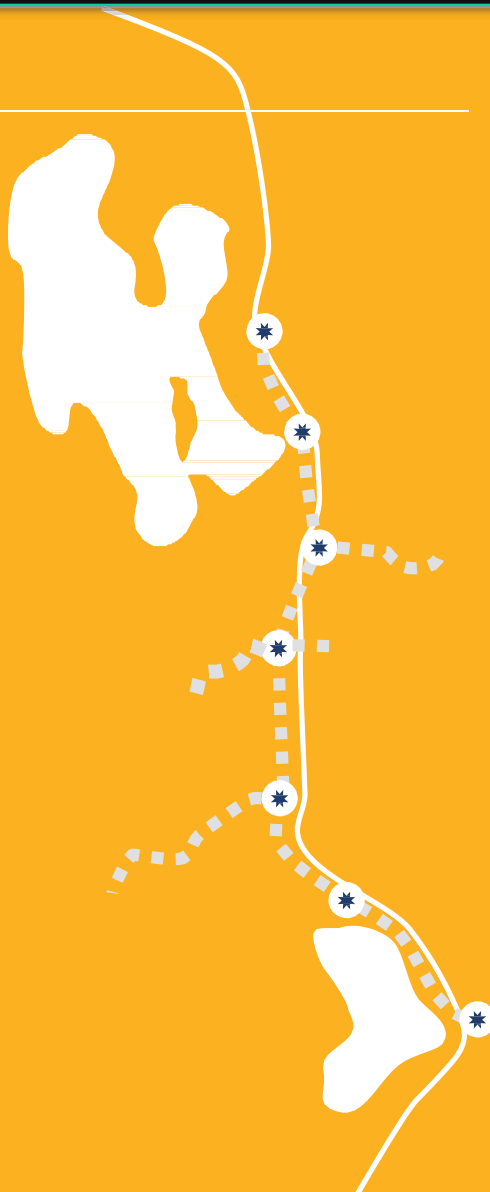
## Connected Centers

**135 miles of Rail  
added**

**65 stations**

**195,000 people  
within ½ mile of a  
rail station**

**2020 strategy goal:  
700,000+**



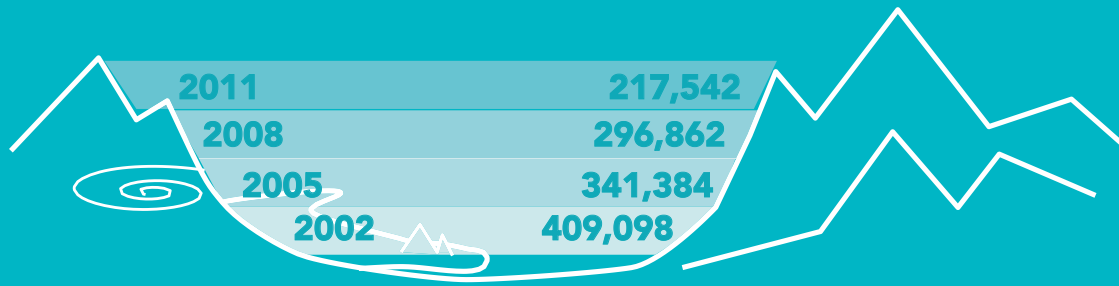
## Access

- Housing
- Jobs
- Services
- Recreation
- Region



Source: Envision Utah Quality Growth Strategy and Technical Review, Utah Automated Geographic Reference Center, Census 2010 SF1 Block Group

# Air Quality

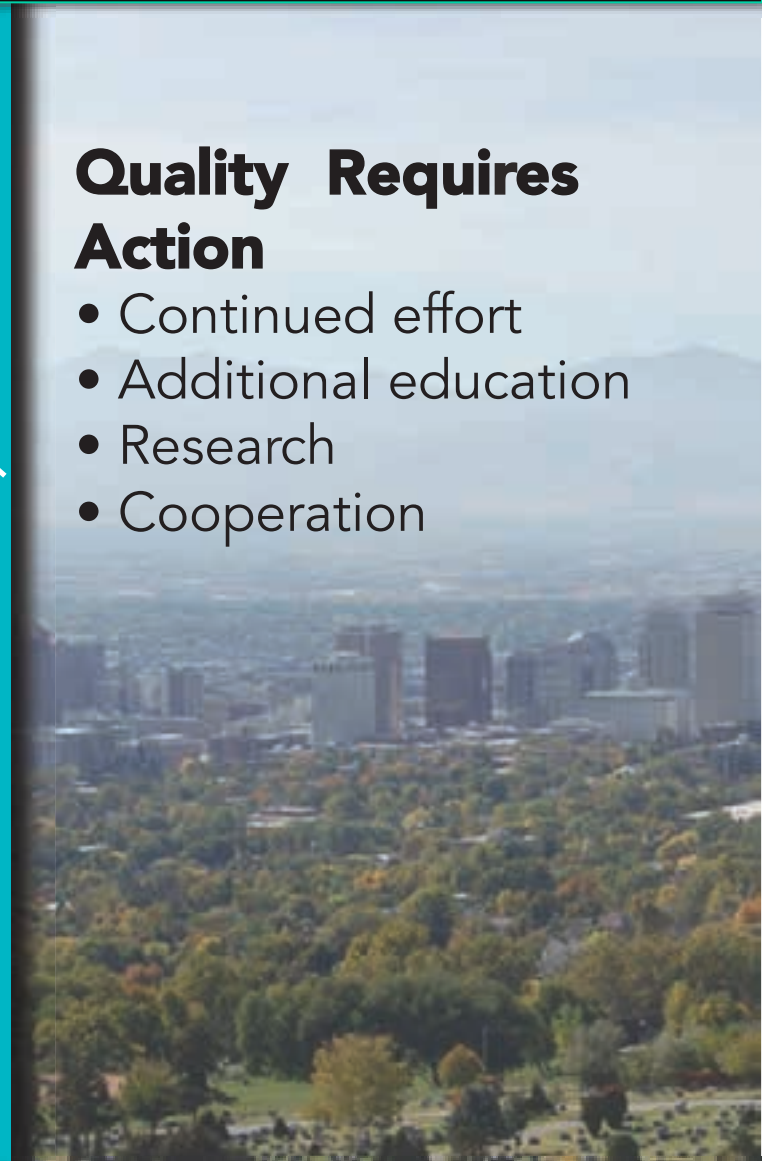


**Division of Air Quality  
inventoried pollutants  
annual emissions in tons  
per year**

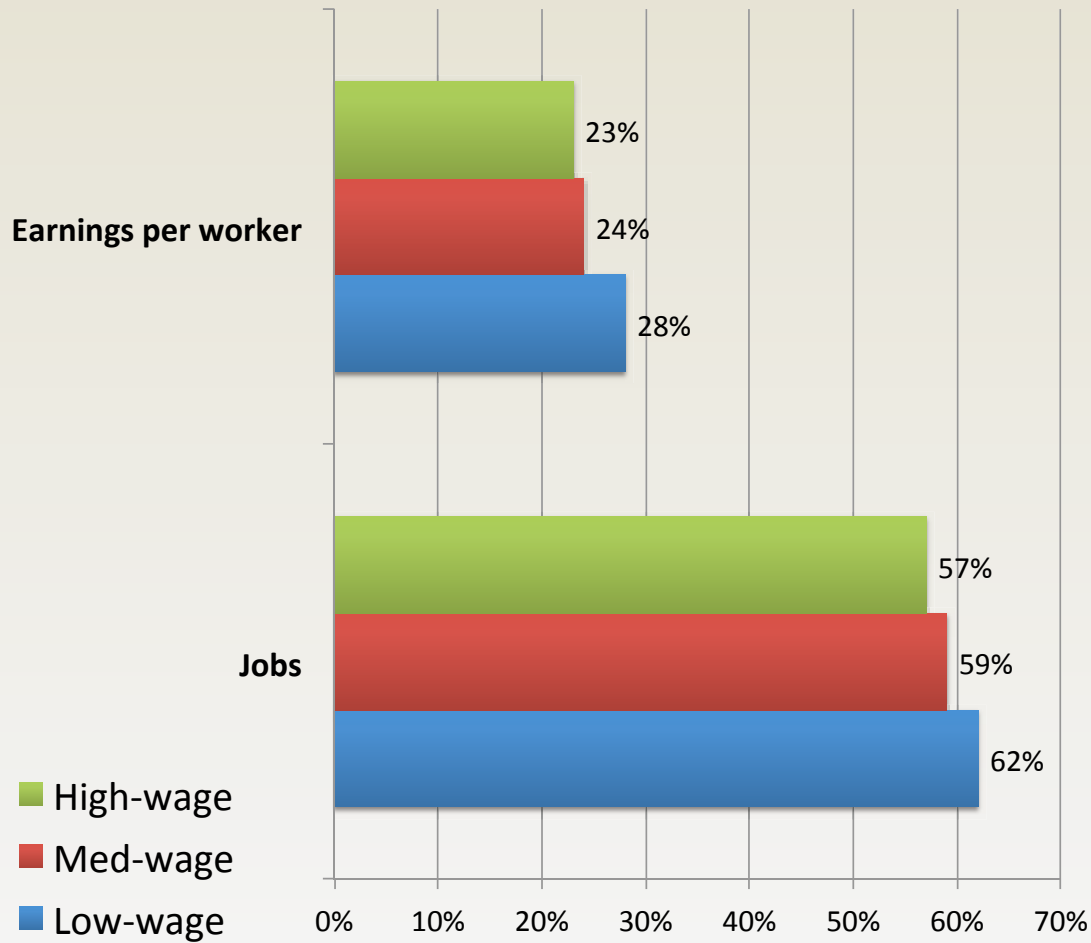
Source: Utah Division of Air Quality

## Quality Requires Action

- Continued effort
- Additional education
- Research
- Cooperation



Growth in Jobs and Earnings by Wage Level  
Salt Lake City Metro, 1990-2010



**“Remarkable  
record of more  
inclusive growth”**



Source: Dr. Manuel Pastor, University of Southern California

# As Utah adds 2.5 million by 2050...

1998



2.1m

2013



2.9m

2050



5.4m



1998

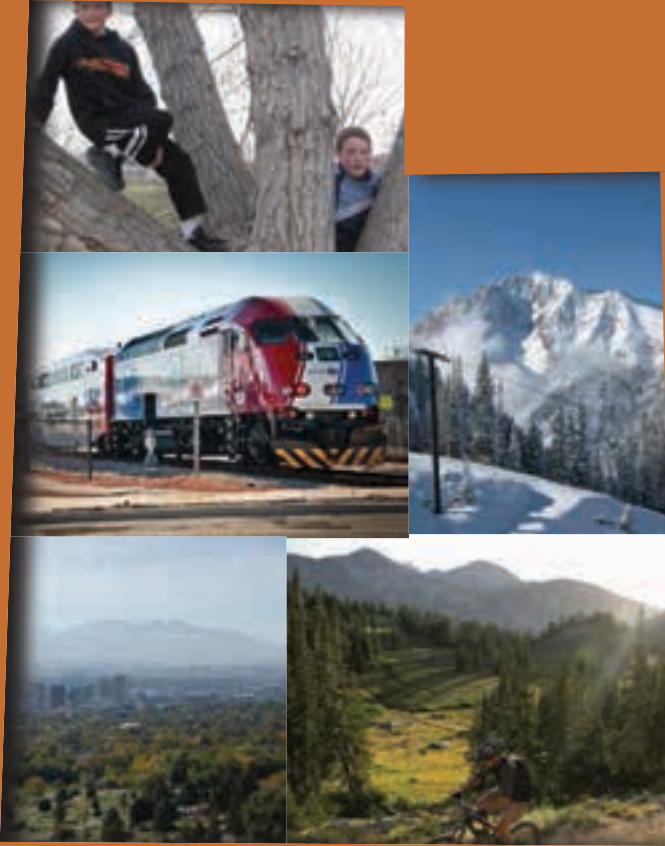


2050

Source: Envision Utah Quality Growth Strategy and Technical Review, Census 2010 SF1 100%, State of Utah GOPB



## Where are we headed?



## Will we have...

- Clean air to breath?
- Enough water for our needs?
- Transportation choices that promote a high quality of life?
- An affordable cost of living, with housing options for everyone?
- Natural lands, agriculture, and recreational options?
- Quality jobs for all of us?
- An educated population?
- Enough roads, rail, and utilities without overburdening ourselves with costs?

2013





**YOUR**

**FUTURE**

**ENVISION UTAH**