Tuesday, November 02, 2010

To: Western Weber Planning Commission

Subject: Weber County Cooperative Pathways Master Plan Implementation

In January 2009, the Weber County Planning Division along with Weber Pathways established a project to create a countywide pathways master plan. The project was initiated with an endorsement by both Weber Pathways Board of Directors and the Weber Area Council of Governments. A representative from each municipality and entity (National Forest Service, Utah Department of Transportation, etc…) was invited to attend monthly meetings of the newly formed pathways committee.

The existing pathways/trails/bike plan master plans from each municipality and entity were gathered and combined into one geographic information system based database. From this database, a countywide trails and bicycle route map was developed. This map was reviewed for accuracy and missing connections between each municipality and entity. Many corrections over several months were made to the map by the participating municipalities and entities. Weber Pathways and the Planning Division worked jointly on the written portion of the master plan; it is included as an exhibit to this letter. The plan is envisioned to serve as a guideline to help facilitate better planning of future trails and their connectivity between the various entities in Weber County.

In June, 2010 the Weber Area Council of Governments endorsed the map and written plan. The recommendation from the Planning Division to the Weber Area Council of Governments was as follows:

* That the Weber Area Council of Governments endorse the Weber County Cooperative Pathways Master Plan,
* Each jurisdiction give consideration to adopting the plan and incorporating this information into their individual general plan,
* Municipalities are encouraged to audit their existing subdivision and site plan review ordinances to identify a process to provide for the dedication and/or construction of pathways,
* That the Weber Pathways Planning Committee continues to meet periodically.

This project has put pathways on the forefront of thought and action for many municipalities and entities. Several municipalities are in the process of adopting the Weber County Cooperative Pathways Master Plan as part of the general plan, and are reviewing their ordinances for pathways development.

The Planning Division is now identifying the process to incorporate the Weber County Cooperative Pathways Master Plan into the general plans of the county, and updating the pathways ordinance. Some questions to consider:

* Should the West Central General Plan Trails Map (Proposed Land Use Map 2-4) be updated with the map from the Weber County Cooperative Pathways Master Plan?
* Should the Ogden Valley Pathways Ordinance be updated and amended to be applicable in Western Weber County and the Uintah Highlands area? What other changes should be made, if any?

Please review Chapter 40 of the Zoning Ordinance to prepare for the discussion.

Justin Morris, Planner

Weber County Planning Division

jmorris@co.weber.ut.us

801-399-8763