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March 13, 2018

Dear Little Cottonwood Canyon Enthusiasts:

As people who live, work, and enjoy outdoor activities in Little Cottonwood Canyon, we know how the traffic is often frustrating. The recent storm cycles and subsequent avalanche mitigation activities have led many of you to contact us to express not just your exasperation at the traffic, but also your ideas for dealing with the difficult drive to and in the Canyon.

Canyon traffic and weather issues are numerous, complex, and often unpredictable, especially when it is most desirable to be in the Canyon. Public and private partners including the Town of Alta, Alta Ski Lifts, Snowbird Ski and Summer Resort, the Unified Police Department of Greater Salt Lake (UPD), the Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT), Sandy City Police Department, Cottonwood Heights Police Department, the Unified Fire Authority (UFA), the Utah Transit Authority (UTA), and the United States Forest Service (USFS) have worked collaboratively on these issues for many years in the context of the Little Cottonwood Canyon Road Committee. This road operations committee, chaired by the Town of Alta, meets monthly to review and learn from recent events.

We hear your concerns and we share them. We continuously strive to improve our management of the Canyon. We work dynamically with weather forecasting and on-the-ground conditions to manage avalanche control work. We coordinate traffic management, mass transit, enforcement of snow tire and chain regulations, notifications and updates via social media, and staffing. The number of vehicles, the complexity of the situation, and our limited resources combine to create a very difficult problem.

A critical element is public involvement. In the immediate term, we are asking for your assistance in spreading the word about the importance of:

- **Carpooling and Transit:** One of the best ways to reduce congestion is to reduce the number of vehicles coming to the Canyon. There are Park and Ride lots throughout the valley that can be used to meet up with friends, family, or other winter enthusiasts. Several LDS Churches have kindly turned their parking lots into Park and Ride lots. See UTA's website for locations: <https://www.rideuta.com/Rider-Info/UTA-Park-and-Ride-Lots>.
- **Traffic Alerts:** Please check official information sources before you come to the Canyon for restrictions and updates. We are considering some adjustments to closure times and to traffic patterns/metering at the mouth of the Canyon and being aware of current conditions will help

everyone. The following entities have Twitter and other online resources available to keep you up to date: the resorts (@Snowbird and @AltaSkiArea), UPD (@CanyonAlerts), UDOT (<http://commuterlink.utah.gov>, @UDOTavy and <http://www.udot.utah.gov/avalanche>), the Utah Avalanche Center (@utavy and <http://utahavalanchecenter.org>), and the Town of Alta (@AltaCentral and <http://townofalta.com/road/>).

- **Being Prepared:** Ensure that your vehicle is properly equipped. You should have rated snow tires. This means, ideally, tires with the mountain snowflake symbol, and minimally marked “M+S.” If you need to use chains, they must be mounted before you get to the Canyon because drivers stopping in the Canyon to chain up impede everyone, including the snowplows (with obviously bad consequences). An adequate supply of fuel in your vehicle is essential when delays are likely.
- **Assisting Operations:** Allow UDOT plows and emergency vehicles to go by on the approach roads to the Canyon (pull off where it is safe and legal).
- **Reporting Incidents:** Report slide-offs and accidents. Information about the number and description of vehicles involved and whether they are blocking traffic and involve injuries greatly assists our response. Unified Police non-emergency line is 801-743-7000. Alta Marshal’s Office non-emergency line is 801-363-5105. For accidents with injuries, call 911.
- **Respecting Road Closures and Interlodge Restrictions:** Increasing numbers of visitors seem to be unaware of the illegality and danger of being in the Canyon when it is closed and we are engaged in avalanche control work. To read more, visit: <http://townofalta.com/town-services/public-safety/>.

In the long run, please share your concerns with your elected officials in addition to friends on social media. It helps us to know your experiences. UDOT plans to improve State Road 210. UDOT’s goal is to identify realistic and attainable improvement options and implement them. You can contribute your ideas by going to <https://www.udot.utah.gov/littlecottonwoodeis/>. As details emerge and additional requests for public comment develop, we will send out updated information.

Thank you for your engagement...and your patience. We are really trying to make the Canyon work for you!

Sincerely,



Harris Sondak
Mayor



Mike Morey
Marshal