

**TOWN OF ALTA**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2024-R-5**

**A RESOLUTION BY THE ALTA TOWN COUNCIL IN RESPONSE TO THE UTAH DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION’S LITTLE COTTONWOOD CANYON ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

WHEREAS, the Town of Alta (“Town”) is located at the end of State Route (“S.R.”) 210 within Little Cottonwood Canyon (“LCC”);

WHEREAS, because State Route 210 ends within the Town, vehicular traffic and associated peak travel times and congestion significantly affects residents, businesses, and visitors in the Town;

WHEREAS, to address traffic issues in LCC, the Utah Department of Transportation (“UDOT”) conducted an Environmental Impact Statement to evaluate proposals to improve safety, mobility, and reliability on S.R. 210 in and near LCC (the “LCC EIS”);

WHEREAS, UDOT issued a Record of Decision in the summer of 2023 (the “Final EIS”), in which it identified Gondola Alternative B (the “Gondola Alternative”), with proposed phasing (“Phase 1, Phase 2, and Phase 3”), as the preferred alternative to improve transportation in LCC;

WHEREAS, UDOT’s implementation of the LCC EIS will affect the Town in ways dissimilar from any other entity; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council (“Council”) wishes to express its position on the UDOT LCC EIS,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL AS FOLLOWS:

**Section 1.**

The Council expressly supports and appreciates all UDOT employees and personnel, including but not limited to road maintenance workers, avalanche forecasters, engineers, project managers, and executives, for their commitment to safety and mobility in Little Cottonwood Canyon and Alta. The Council wishes to maintain a constructive and collaborative relationship between the Town and UDOT, and each agency’s respective personnel, in perpetuity. The Council appreciates UDOT’s continued financial investment in solving problems that are unique to Little Cottonwood Canyon.

The Council strongly supports collecting, and sharing with the public, transportation data essential for evaluating the efficacy of long-term transportation solutions in Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the LCC EIS. **The Council also supports conducting more rigorous and transparent evaluation of the capacity of the natural and social environment in LCC to withstand the additional visitation long-term transportation solutions would facilitate.** Council believes analysis of such data will be essential to understanding the need for, and justifying, large and expensive transportation infrastructure projects that could have permanent negative impacts on the environment in LCC. The Council urges UDOT to engage a third party to conduct such an analysis to ensure public trust in the outcome of the analysis.

The Council notes and supports many specific measures articulated in [Salt Lake County Mayor Wilson's letter to UDOT dated October 17, 2022](#), especially those highlighted in the "Framework for Commonsense Solutions Approach". In addition to Mayor Wilson's recommendations, we request that UDOT implement additional measures in both phases including but not limited to:

- Mandatory traction laws for LCC from November 1 to May 1; all vehicles must have approved traction control devices in vehicles or mounted on their vehicle. When enhanced traction is in effect (with lights, or signs), such devices must be mounted on vehicles.
- Undertake various efforts to mitigate congestion associated with reliance on the Alta-Snowbird Bypass Road, including but not limited to efforts to maintain roadway operations on the S.R. 210 "Main Line" under Mt. Superior, and reduce the impact to traffic originating in Alta created by merging of vehicles parked along the Alta-Snowbird Bypass Road.
- Continued evaluation of selective lane closures for private vehicles during peak traffic hours to reduce travel times for buses and other shared-ride vehicles and services.
- Relocating tolling infrastructure to the mouth of the canyon to prevent congestion at the tolling point within the canyon.
- Include the ability of tolling infrastructure to provide variable pricing to accommodate residents and delivery vehicles and to promote carpooling and micro-transit solutions.

**Section 2.** The council urges UDOT to suspend all consideration to construct the proposed gondola in Little Cottonwood Canyon.

**Section 3.** This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon passage and shall be forwarded to representatives of Salt Lake County, municipalities at the mouth of LCC, and the Town's legislative representatives.

APPROVED by the Town Council on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2024.

