

## Toward a Mobile Community

By Søren D. Simonsen

Salt Lake City is working on many fronts to increase mobility options throughout the city. From trails and transit to other transportation enhancements, there is a lot going on. When you consider that over one-third of the residents of Salt Lake City do not drive—either because they are too young, too old, or have financial or physical limitations that do not permit the use of a private vehicle—we are developing an expansive system that serves the varied mobility needs for our entire city population.

In 2007, the Utah Department of Transportation conveyed to Salt Lake City the entire length of 1300 East and North Temple streets within our municipal boundaries. Although this comes with some strings attached, such as the burdens of maintenance and repair and sometimes less than ideal design conditions, it also affords Salt Lake City greater control over these thoroughfares. In the coming months, the City will conduct a study of 1300 East to determine what improvements we might undertake. This analysis of traffic and travel demand might suggest transit, bicycle and pedestrian improvements that could enhance the function of this corridor in the future.

The city council will soon consider the adoption of a Downtown Transportation Master Plan that will guide transportation policies and improvements in our central business district. Recommendations of the plan include expanded transit services, increased public parking and parking management strategies, and improved bicycle and pedestrian facilities.

The city council is reviewing a TRAX extension to the Salt Lake International Airport, and exploring options to make this line efficient, accessible and cost-effective, while minimizing impacts to neighborhoods along its route. Other expansions of the TRAX light rail system to outlying areas of the valley, and completion of the first phase of the FrontRunner commuter rail line to Ogden in April with future expansion from Brigham City to Provo, will continue to point to Salt Lake City as the premier destination in the region, and provide new options for all types of commuters and visitors.

The city council is also at work on expanding rail transit service into Sugar House. The recently completed Alternatives Analysis recommends a streetcar system to serve Sugar House and South Salt Lake City, connecting to the TRAX line at the Central Pointe (2100 South) station. We continue to work with UTA to identify ways to improve service to many areas of the city that were adversely impacted by recent changes in bus routes.

Finally, we are in the process of constructing the final sections of the Jordan River Parkway in Salt Lake City, which will complete the trail along the entire length of the Salt Lake Valley. We anticipate construction of the eastern leg of the Parley's Trail, from the mouth of Parley's Canyon to Sugar House Park to begin in 2008, and are working closely with Salt Lake County to complete the entire trail, connecting the Bonneville Shoreline and Jordan River Parkway trails through the heart of our city. Development of

on-street bicycle lanes and other right-of-way bicycle and pedestrian facilities continues throughout the city.

If you would like to participate in the development of these projects, please visit the city transportation web site ([www.slctrans.com](http://www.slctrans.com)), and follow the links to these and other transportation projects. If you have your own ideas of how to improve our mobility choices, please feel free to email me ([soren.simonsen@slcgov.com](mailto:soren.simonsen@slcgov.com)) or call the city council office (801-535-7600) to share your thoughts. And if you'd like to sign up to receive our weekly District 7 email newsletter, with regular updates on transportation projects and other useful information, please visit the council web site ([www.slcgov.com/council/D7](http://www.slcgov.com/council/D7)).

Most of all, I hope that you'll try out some of the new ways to get around our community. You might just find a new favorite.