

## **Mayor Ralph Becker to Participate in Mayors' Innovation Project**

*Issues covered include transportation innovation, equitable economic development and local food systems*

SALT LAKE CITY – Salt Lake City Mayor Ralph Becker will be attending the Mayors' Innovation Project July 30 – August 2 in Madison, Wisconsin, where he will meet with national policy experts and mayors from approximately 40 cities around the country. At the meeting, Becker expects to learn about new ideas to improve transportation choices in the community, expand equitable economic development, and provide more local food opportunities.

“Our city has had some great success with expanding our public transportation system” said Mayor Becker. “I am looking forward to sharing our successes and using the experiences of other cities to think about how we can continue to improve and expand our efforts in Salt Lake City.”

Mayors typically bring home real-world ideas that have succeeded in other communities. Transportation options, for instance, will range from car-share programs to creating bike-friendly cities. Economic development ideas will focus on comprehensive equitable development that includes affordable housing, green building and cultural amenities. And there will be a special emphasis on the growing interest in local food systems.

Among the nationally-known leaders sharing their expertise:

- John Norquist, President and CEO of the Congress for New Urbanism and former mayor of Milwaukee
- Jim Newberry, Mayor of Lexington, Kentucky, on his work to make Lexington bike-friendly
- Ian Lockwood, one of America's top transportation authorities
- Will Allen, of Milwaukee's "Growing Power" project which provides job training and affordable produce shares from local farms
- Baye Adofo-Wilson, developer of the unique Lincoln Park Cultural District offering a mix of green building, affordable housing and cultural amenities

“We have made great progress with transportation. Although our city is clearly unique, it is amazing what we can learn from the successes and failures of other cities” said Mayor Becker. “I hope to come home with some new ideas we can think about and implement locally.”