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Salt Lake City Looks at Portland for Streetcar Model

Leaders tour streetcar system for Sugarhouse project

SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH – Salt Lake City Mayor Ralph Becker, along with City Council members, other City officials and local business leaders are in Portland, Oregon today to see first-hand how businesses, property owners, developers and residents have benefitted from the Portland Streetcar system and how Salt Lake City can realize those benefits in Sugar House. The visit will include meetings with property owners, business owners, and developers who will share how they have benefited from the Portland Streetcar system.

For several years, the idea of a streetcar to Sugar House has been the center of discussion for Salt Lake City, South Salt Lake, community activists, the Utah Transit Authority (UTA), and business owners. “I made a commitment during my campaign to include this project as a high priority for my administration,” said Mayor Becker.

Salt Lake City, South Salt Lake, and UTA have worked together to complete an alternatives analysis, and both cities have formally endorsed the recommendation of that analysis – to build a modern, rail-based streetcar line along the old freight rail right-of-way that runs from Highland Drive to 200 West at about 2200 South. “I am happy to report that we continue to make progress on this effort, and are getting closer to seeing a streetcar system in the heart of Sugar House.”

Across the country, modern streetcar projects have rejuvenated neighborhoods and business districts, attracting thousands of new residents and shoppers, and luring billions in investment dollars. The success of streetcars is rooted in the commitment of the community and the excitement that it generates among local residents, businesses, and property owners. Portland, Oregon, in particular, has lead the way in creating a successful streetcar system that provides a safe, convenient form of transportation as well as dramatic economic benefits.

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