

For Immediate Release

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“Green” Asphalt to be used on Salt Lake City’s North Temple Boulevard
Progressive Warm Mix to be demonstrated as Environmentally Friendly Solution

Joining other progressive cities in utilizing environmentally responsible construction techniques, Mayor Ralph Becker joins Utah Transit Authority (UTA) and Granite Construction Company in a premiere demonstration of Warm Mix asphalt. Based on UTA’s initial production test, the environmental benefits of this “green” asphalt include a 15% fuel reduction and 23.5% nitrous-oxide (NOx) reduction in the production process.

Mayor Becker will host a media event with UTA and Granite Construction during the first pavement test this Friday, September 25 at 10:00 am. The lane closure for the test pavement will be the south-most lane on North Temple from 1000 West to 1100 West. Work will take place from about 6 a.m. - 6 p.m.

“We are excited about the potential effects of this green alternative to traditional asphalt,” Mayor Becker added. “As early adopters of methods like Warm Mix to reduce damaging emissions, we continue to show our dedication to protect our natural resources including air quality as we grow and build our beautiful City.”

This new Warm Mix asphalt is an alternative to the more traditional Hot Mix currently being used for street and parking lot creation and maintenance. Mixed at lower temperatures, the result is fewer emissions and air pollutants per batch. Warm Mix is already being used in other states and major U.S. cities including Atlanta and Chicago. If this test pavement produces the desired results for durability and performance, UTA may use the new type of asphalt for repaving all of North Temple Boulevard as part of the airport TRAX line construction process.

The reductions of fuel and NOx emissions may improve further with mass production of the asphalt. Additionally, due to the mixing technique, the Warm Mix allows for an extension of the paving season. Gerry Carpenter of UTA referred to the new asphalt mix as, “...the responsible wave of the future for environmentally friendly pavement practices.” He added, “We are truly leading the nation in green practices by utilizing this new process for our key entrance to Salt Lake City.” Stacy and Witbeck/Kiewit Western in cooperation with Granite Construction are the contractors UTA has selected for the airport line.

Media representatives are encouraged to attend the demonstration with elected and appointed officials from throughout the valley. All media inquiries for the Mayor’s Office can be directed to Lisa Harrison-Smith via phone 801-913-9748 and email lisa.harrisonsmith@slcgov.com. Media inquiries for Utah Transit Authority and the airport TRAX line should be directed to Gerry Carpenter, 801-859-6095 or email gcarpenter@rideuta.com.

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About Utah Transit Authority

Established in 1970, UTA has become a multi-modal transportation leader that is 100 percent accessible with 69 light rail vehicles, 35 commuter rail cars and more than 600 buses. UTA's TRAX light rail system is currently averaging over 40,000 riders a day along its 15-mile Salt Lake-Sandy line and the 4-mile University Line. UTA is an ISO 14001:2004 9001:2000 certified agency. During the 2002 Winter Olympic Games, UTA's transit system was declared a great success on the international scene - carrying more than four million Olympic riders.

