

Appendix I: 2025 Plan Update

Revising plans over the course of their life is critical to their continued success. This appendix does just that, and gives recommendations to make the second half of the plan's life as (or more) successful than the first.

Relationship to 2020 Mobility Plan

This update is not intended to replace any of the directives in the 2020 mobility plan. Instead, it is intended only to add some projects and priorities that have emerged since the 2020 plan was adopted.

Outreach & Data



Outreach booth at Craftoberfest 2024

During summer and fall of 2024, city staff heard from residents and stakeholders about how South Salt Lake's transportation system is working for them and how it can be improved. Outreach was done in person at city events as well as online.

In addition to hearing from the public, staff compared the plan's original goals with what has been done in the last 5 years. This, combined with the latest safety and demographic data, were used to elevate some projects in priority over the next five years. The data used for this plan update are available in Appendix J.

Key themes for the future:

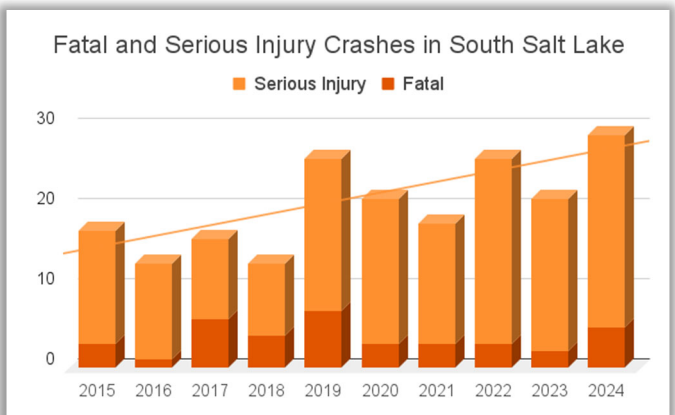
1. Traffic calming and road safety improvements are very high priorities for everyone.

Unfortunately, serious injuries and traffic fatalities continue to rise in South Salt Lake. The City receives many speed and traffic related complaints from residents, and neighboring cities have made great strides towards reducing serious crashes. Because of this, the priority of traffic calming and safety is at an all-time high.

Finishing and implementing the City's Vision Zero and Traffic Calming Policies are imperative to resident health and well-being.



An example of a sidewalk fit for a walking loop



Serious crashes continue to rise

2. There is strong community support for a safe and landscaped walking loop around SSL's Downtown

This is a new concept since the 2020 plan, but was strongly supported by the public in outreach efforts for this update. The suggestion would serve both a transportation and recreational purpose for residents. This loop would likely involve very wide sidewalks, quality landscaping, shade trees, and public art. Wherever necessary, bicycle facilities should be separated from the pedestrian realm for comfort and safety.

3. Improving the *quantity* of mobility routes is more important to our residents than improving the *quality* of existing routes.

As costs of infrastructure continue to rise, this could translate into more quick-build solutions to maximize where our residents can travel comfortably, rather than focusing on a few premium corridors. Quick-build solutions might involve traffic paint, flexible plastic posts, planter boxes, and other inexpensive solutions.

These low-cost solutions could be used to address a number of the other priorities in this plan, such as calming traffic, creating neighborhood byways, or improving cycling and pedestrian routes. Over time, the most successful of these can be made permanent.

Similarly, some streets require only minimal upgrades to turn them into a comfortable corridor. For example, missing sidewalk sections and poor lighting were very common issues discovered during public outreach. Improving these does not require rebuilding an entire street, but it can make a big difference on the street's usability.



Low cost traffic calming

4. Safe and comfortable East-West Connections are sorely needed in South Salt Lake.



3300 South, the only continuous East-West street through the center of the city

Residents expressed frustration with their ability to navigate the city from East to West, with and without an automobile. Other than Parley's Trail on the North end of the city, no safe, continuous connections exist across town. Myriad rail lines, I15, and State Street all present major barriers to mobility. High priority projects to bridge this divide are:

- Expanding Central Pointe TRAX Station to be accessible from the East side of the tracks
- Mill Creek Trail: a safe, comfortable trail along Mill Creek from the Jordan River to 700E
- A Neighborhood Byway on Gregson Avenue
- A safer crossing of State Street near Woodrow Wilson Elementary
- A continuous complete street from 300W to State Street in South Salt Lake's Downtown

5. Decisions and policies must adapt to changing standards.

The Covid-19 Pandemic accelerated shifts that have been in the making for many years. Travel preferences, behavior, and values are markedly different for younger generations than those who built today's transportation system. Additionally, recent peer reviewed studies throw into question many industry standards previously taken as fact.

As preferences and practices rapidly change, professionals and decision makers must base new decisions on recent evidence. This may include vehicle, pedestrian, and bicyclist counts; peer reviewed studies; and guidance from professional organizations such as the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the American Planning Association (APA), the American Association of State Highway Transportation Officials (AASHTO), or the National Association of City Transportation Officials (NACTO).

Some policies likely to be affected by new evidence are land use and parking codes. In addition to raising the costs of goods and housing, many legacy zoning and parking requirements effectively mandate low density, sprawling development patterns at the expense of mobility. Modernizing South Salt Lake's land use and parking regulations has the potential to improve mobility more than any grants or infrastructure improvements can.

Five-Year Plan Priorities

With limited resources to achieve the goals of the 2020 Mobility Plan, effort should be concentrated on the highest priority items. The following table contains unfinished goals from that plan (some consolidated), and are roughly placed in order of urgency. Items on the left have seen measurable progress since 2020. Items on the right have not. Of course, the actual order in which these should be accomplished will vary by funding, season, staff capacity, and other factors. So, the order of this table should be used as a decision-making tool, not a requirement.

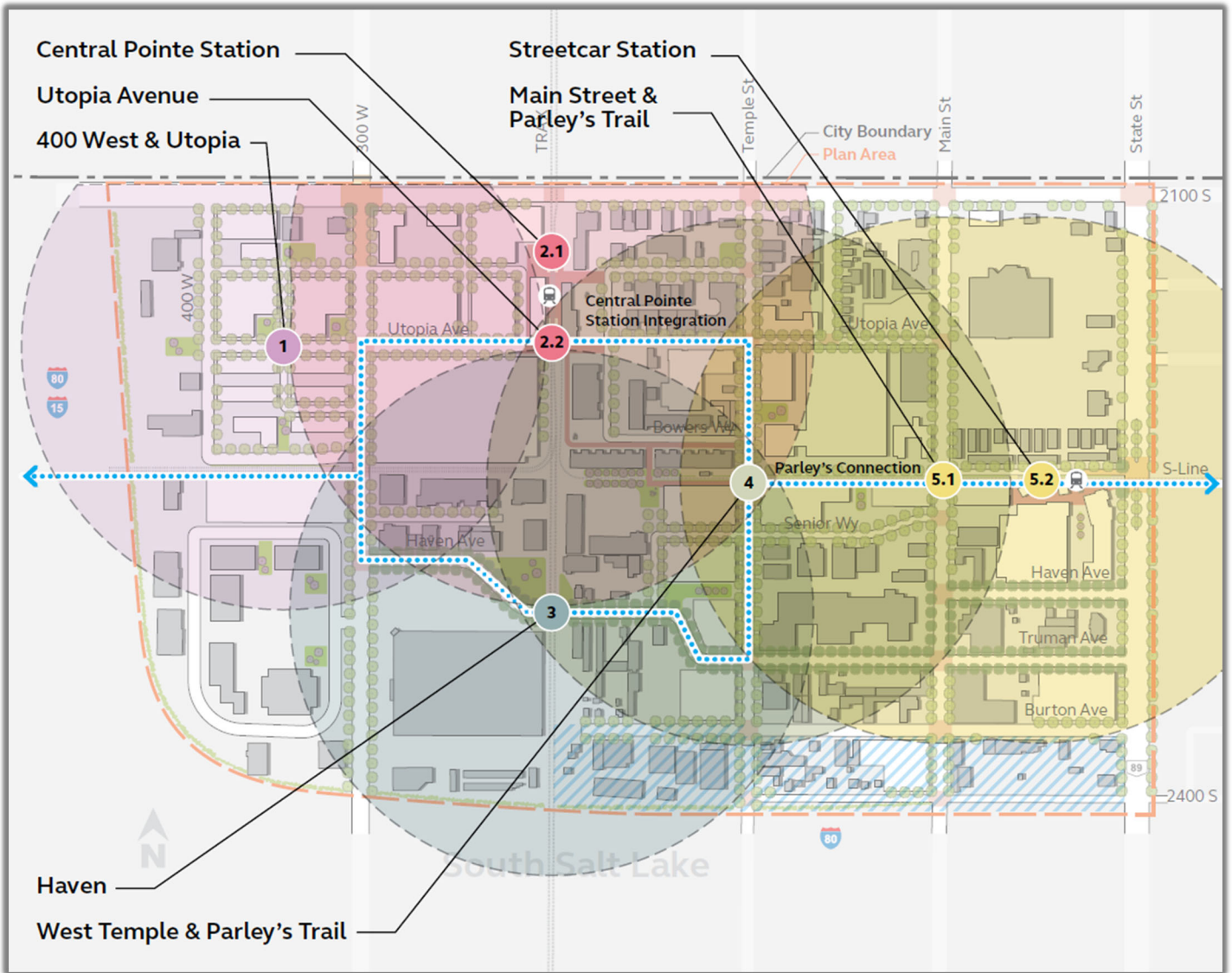
Projects Underway	Projects to Kickstart
Adopt a citywide traffic safety plan and educate stakeholders about Vision Zero practices	Construct a comfortable and landscaped walking loop in Downtown South Salt Lake
Adopt a citywide traffic calming policy that encourages interventions and calming measures	Advance construction detour practices to prioritize multimodal users
Redesign standard street cross sections to promote safe speeds and walkable communities	Continually inform the public of upcoming and ongoing projects
Reconfigure Main Street to accommodate all modes and match current travel patterns	Reform parking requirements to legalize less automobile-oriented developments
Construct a multimodal trail along Mill Creek	Revise Land Development Code to promote denser, multimodal-friendly neighborhoods
Incentivize development of mixed uses and higher densities near transit	Elevate the priority of plowing and repairing damage to trails, sidewalks, etc. equally to streets
Improve the accessibility of transit stops	Provide wayfinding on active transportation routes in South Salt Lake
Reconfigure West Temple Street to increase safety and accommodate all modes	Implement curb management strategies and policies such as loading zones, parklets, bike parking, etc.
Connect a multimodal trail from Carlisle Park Ln to 3900S	Enact Transportation Demand Management (TDM) strategies

New Ideas

While most of the projects and policies in the matrix above were featured in the 2020 Mobility Plan, a few concepts have emerged only in the last five years. The paragraphs below provide more context and background information for the new ideas.

A Comfortable Walking Loop in Downtown South Salt Lake

Since the adoption of the Mobility Plan in 2020, the idea of an urban walking loop, or linear park has been gaining steam. Inspired partly by the success of Parley’s Trail, partly by Salt Lake City’s Green Loop concept, and partly by original community ideals, this loop would serve a recreation need for the growing number of residents and visitors our downtown sees daily. At present, the city does not own enough property in the downtown to create a traditional park space. Instead, residents and other stakeholders have encouraged the city to consider providing recreational opportunities that rely on road rights-of-way, small parcels, and private developments. Rather than sport courts or open fields, the downtown loop would feature things like quality landscaping, shade trees, walking/cycling space, and outdoor seating. Of course, a safe and inviting loop of this nature would also be a backbone of the multimodal transportation system, connecting important locations such as State Street, transit stations, housing, and other commercial nodes.



A potential alignment of the downtown loop, as shown in the 2025 Downtown Station Area Plan

Keeping the public informed of upcoming and ongoing projects

A number of recent construction projects in the last five years, both within and without South Salt Lake, have highlighted the need to involve the public early and often. Too frequently, those impacted by construction detours, or the new layout of a project in the right-of-way report that they were not given advanced notice or an opportunity to provide feedback.

Going forward, the city should make a concerted effort to inform residents, businesses, and other stakeholders. When possible, opportunity to provide meaningful feedback should also be provided. Due to South Salt Lake's diverse resident base, special effort may need to be made to meet residents where they are at, or to consider alternative information delivery strategies. For some residents or businesses, door-to-door canvassing may be the best way to reach them. Mailers, A webpage, or social media may work best for others. The method and level of effort will depend greatly on the project and the impacted parties, but the concept remains the same: people want to know what's happening, and they want their voice to be heard.



Unexpected closures or delays can have big consequences for residents and travelers

Revise Land Development Codes

The connection between land use and transportation has received more focus and publicity in recent years, and for good reason. The land uses on either side and either end of the street dictate who (or what) uses that street for transportation. Conversely, the character of a street has a huge impact on what land uses can succeed there. For example, a shipping distribution center wouldn't do very well on a tiny lane too narrow for trucks. Likewise, a small café with outdoor dining might have a hard time attracting customers next to a major highway. But the connection goes deeper than this.

By segregating land uses into highly specific zones, many land use codes mandate large distances between homes, workplaces, and stores. Distances between places are further increased by minimum lot sizes, required parking lots, setback requirements, and other density limitations. Highly specific zones make it very unlikely that a parcel will be available for purchase in the same location as the demand for that development type. This raises the cost of urban developments, pushing growth out into the suburbs.



Much of the Salt Lake Valley is characterized by single-story buildings with large setbacks and parking lots

These sprawling development requirements increase the distance people need to travel, making healthy and sustainable transportation modes impractical. They also increase the amount of roads, utilities, and other services per taxpayer, and increase the traffic using those roads and services. To reverse this trend, the city should consider amending land use codes to legalize more workplaces and stores near homes. Fewer zoning districts, more allowed uses per district, smaller setbacks, smaller minimum lots, and lower parking requirements can all encourage more mobility-friendly development.

Updated Future Mobility Map

The public outreach for this plan update provided the public an excellent opportunity to tell the city what parts of the maps they were excited about, what they were not, and what needed to be added. Feedback was compiled and used to inform the following map. Existing conditions and planned improvements were also brought up to date in this version of the mobility map.

This map should be consulted whenever right-of-way or other city property is renovated, so that an opportunity for improvement is not missed. If incorporated early in the project, modernizing bicycle and pedestrian facilities can be cost-neutral, or even lower the total project cost. Other uses for this map are to assist the City's capital improvements planning, informing the public and development community of future conditions, and to assist other government agencies with adjacent or multijurisdictional planning efforts.

