FIRST/LAST MILE CONNECTIONS: IMPROVING COMMUNITY ACCESS TO REGIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

APPLICANT/SPONSOR: Utah Transit Authority (UTA)
TIGER GRANT AWARD: $ 20,000,000
TOTAL PROJECT COST: $75,722,739

PROJECT DESCRIPTION
This grant implements Utah Transit Authority’s plan to improve connectivity and access to its transit system. The project includes building network connections including crosswalks, trail connections, sidewalks, and bike lanes, filling non-motorized network gaps. The project also includes spot treatment such as bus shelters and Americans with Disabilities Act accessible pads, sidewalk condition improvements, curb extensions and curb cuts, raised crosswalks, pedestrian hybrid beacons, detectable bicycle and pedestrian warnings, painted or protected bike lanes, improved wayfinding, additional bike share stations, street and station lighting and bike parking.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS & BENEFITS
The project increases opportunities for safe, multi-modal access to transit stops and improves connectivity of the overall network, especially for non-motorized road users. Additionally, Utah Transit Authority estimates that full plan implementation will result in a 3 to 6 percent ridership increase and will remove cars from the road, which will benefit the environment.
Feds approve $20 million grant for bike/pedestrian trails across Wasatch

Genelle Pugmire DAILY HERALD  Updated Jul 29, 2016  

Matt Smith, Daily Herald
Cyclists Ryan Barrett, at left, and Racer Gibson, at right, ride along the Provo River Parkway trail in this file photo.

MORE INFORMATION

The old adage of sticking to a project until it sticks to you has paid off for Jim Price, active transportation program manager for Mountainlind Association of Governments.

Price has been fixed on finding funding for bike/pedestrian trails across the county since 2005. On Wednesday, he was alerted that U.S. Transporation Secretary Anthony Foxx announced a $20 million grant was awarded for bike/pedestrian facilities along the Wasatch Front for transportation projects.

"I am thrilled for Utah County as this TIGER grant will benefit the users and planners of transportation throughout the county. It's a huge opportunity to improve the quality of life for our residents and visitors. This grant will ensure our region gets a fair share of available resources and will help support the growth of bike facilities," said Price.

South County pedestrian/biking study in early stages
As a part of the early stages of an estimated one-year study process, South County leaders are soliciting the public's feedback online regarding the future of bike trails and other transportation facilities.

"We are looking to understand the current conditions of our existing bike trails and identify potential gaps and opportunities for improvement. The feedback from the public will help guide the planning process and ensure that the needs of our residents are addressed," said Price.

The study will include a comprehensive analysis of the current bike trail network, as well as an assessment of future needs and priorities. The results will be used to develop a plan for the expansion and improvement of bike facilities throughout the county.

Price encourages residents to participate in the study by providing their input through the online survey. The feedback will be used to inform the planning process and help ensure that the new bike facilities meet the needs of the community.

"We want to make sure that the bike facilities we build in the future are designed with the input of the people who will use them," said Price. "By engaging with the public early in the process, we can ensure that the final product meets the needs of our residents and contributes to a healthier and more active community."