

Nibley City Mayor's Report

13 May 2024 – 26 May 2024

Larry Jacobsen

Greetings, boss! Thank you for reading this report. Please be sure to check the official public notifications on Nibley's website (www.nibleycity.com) and the Utah Public Notice website (www.utah.gov/pmn/) for more information.

As always, my sincere appreciation to volunteer Leslie Maughan for proofreading and reviewing these reports for clarity before you see them.

Here are some highlights from the past two weeks and the topics in this report:

- **2600 South Commercial Concept Plan**
- **Potential Nibley-Logan Boundary Adjustment**
- **Regional Indoor Recreation Center Feasibility Study**
- **UDOT Commitment to Blacksmith Fork River Trail**
- **Safe Streets for All (SS4A)**
- **Cache County South Corridor Planning**
- **BRAG Governing Board**

2600 South Commercial Concept Plan

We have discussed the potential for commercial development north of 2600 South and along US 89/91 in many of these status reports. To encourage you to get information on Nibley governance from official sources, I usually don't include items in these reports once they are placed on Nibley Council and Planning Commission agendas and reported in the respective minutes. That practice made me forget to mention an important step we accomplished towards this commercial development. In the past month, the planning commission approved a concept plan for a commercial development in the 2600 South area, and although the council isn't charged with approving concept plans, the council also had a favorable workshop with the commercial developer in a regular meeting. This is good news that has been a long time in the making. This project will start to build a commercial economic base in Nibley and provide point-of-sale local sales tax revenue in our city. In addition, it will provide the convenience of not driving into Logan to shop and help Nibley become a complete community. The developer plans to announce who are the main tenants for this development in the next few months.

Potential Nibley-Logan Boundary Adjustment

In the same part of town, and in another lengthy process, there is now the potential for the property owners north of Thomas Edison Charter School to disconnect their property from Logan and annex it into Nibley. I have reported on this before, and rather than repeat the background in this report, I encourage you to refer to a previous report linked below. To

summarize, Nibley City supports this move because Thomas Edison Charter School prefers the Nibley development plan to the Logan plan. There was progress on this item last week when the Logan City Planner told us in an email that he supports a much simpler process than disconnecting and annexing. The simpler process is called a boundary adjustment, and is only available if both cities and the landowner agree to realigning the boundary between the cities. I anticipated that Logan would oppose the disconnection of the land from Logan, making this simpler option unavailable. However, it now appears that Logan will be amenable to this simple boundary adjustment. In fact, the email from Logan even suggested including several other properties south of 2200 South in the boundary adjustment from Logan to Nibley. The next step is for Nibley to approach these additional land owners to see if they prefer to be in Nibley rather than Logan. If they don't, that's ok. We can move forward with the property adjacent to the charter school. Not to jinx this, but I hope the Logan Planner is in cahoots with the Logan City Council.

https://nibleycity.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/2023_08_06-1.pdf

Regional Indoor Recreation Center Feasibility Study

The question continues regarding funding with RAPZ Tax (Recreation, Arts, Parks, and Zoos) a county-wide feasibility study for indoor recreation space. The County Council is split on committing this voter-approved local sales tax to this study, despite it being recommended by the RAPZ advisory committee. The Nibley City Council adopted a resolution at their meeting last week supporting the use of RAPZ Tax for the feasibility study, and we forwarded this resolution to the Cache County Council.

UDOT Commitment to Blacksmith Fork River Trail

During the past year, the Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT) committed ninety-five million dollars (\$95M) to build trails for active transportation in Utah (link below). To me, this represents a meaningful change in how UDOT is adapting their traditional role from moving vehicles to moving people. Even though I was encouraged by UDOT's commitment to build trails, I was skeptical that any of those trails would be outside the Wasatch Front. I need to apologize for that bias. UDOT intends to build sixty miles of trails, with one of these trails in our own backyard, which will be a tremendous asset to Nibley citizens. A 1.8-mile Blacksmith Fork River Trail was selected and includes four million dollars (\$4M) in state funding. The trail will go north from Ridgeline High School to the Blackhawk Soccer Complex and the Logan River Trail. When I started asking specific questions about the location of this trail, I found there are some complications regarding land access. Securing that land access is tied to the twenty million dollar (\$20M) Open-Space Bond that the Cache County citizens approved last year. While it's not clear where the actual route for this trail will be, this is good news for our community.

<https://www.udot.utah.gov/connect/2024/05/16/udot-to-build-and-plan-nearly-60-miles-of-new-paved-trails-as-part-of-the-utah-trail-network/>

Safe Streets for All (SS4A)

At the request of the Cache Metropolitan Planning Organization (CMPO), I agreed to serve on a steering committee for a federally-funded program called Safe Streets for All (SS4A). I included a link below describing this program. The funding is five billion dollars (\$5B) nationwide and was adopted last year by the federal government as part of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. The goal is to prevent highway and road deaths and serious injuries. The aim is to protect people in vehicles, bicyclists, and pedestrians. I am optimistic that our steering committee can envision and submit proposals for Cache County that have good chances of being funded.

<https://www.transportation.gov/grants/SS4A>

Cache County South Corridor Planning

We had what will likely be the last meeting of a project to plan a new east-west corridor between US 89/91 and Hwy 165 in the southern part of Cache County. This is a CMPO project with a goal of suggesting a specific location for this new corridor. Part of the need for this new road is to alleviate heavy truck traffic between the two highways—traffic that currently travels on Hyrum’s Main Street. After looking at a number of alternatives, and after addressing a specific set of criteria, the suggested location is 4400 South between Nibley and Hyrum. The next step will be more detailed engineering design and environmental studies.

BRAG Governing Board

To conclude this report, I will share about a Bear River Association of Governments board meeting that I attended last week. We reviewed the ways that federal funding flows from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to Cache, Box Elder, and Rich Counties. This funding totaled about eleven million dollars (\$11M) in 2024, with twelve million (\$12M) anticipated in 2025. The assistance awards are made based on income levels of families and individuals, and the programs include help for the aging, homeless, and veterans. Services include emergency home repairs and weatherization, assistance paying utility bills, help with tax preparation, emergency housing, aid from the food pantry, and other efforts.

Thanks for being part of our Nibley community and thanks for reading this report. Please call, text, or write anytime.

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