

Nibley City Mayor's Report

17 June 2024 – 30 June 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.

I mentioned in the last report a special city council meeting with citizens dealing with street safety. It was a productive meeting, and I summarized it in the July newsletter. This is an important and ongoing problem that Nibley City takes seriously. I appreciate citizens' involvement in finding solutions.

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:

- **US 89/91 UDOT Congestion Project**
- **Master Plans: Parks and Recreation, Active Transportation**
- **BRAG Human Services Meeting**
- **Commercial Development Update**

US 89/91 UDOT Congestion Project

The Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT) has committed \$52M to mitigate traffic congestion on Logan's Main Street, aka US 89/91. This is a tough problem, and this is not the first UDOT project that has attempted to solve it. Municipalities from Nibley to Hyde Park have been part of a planning group to identify methods to mitigate this congestion, and we are to the point of making recommendations. The most interesting ideas are related to making the one-dimensional traffic pattern of Logan's Main Street into a two-dimensional grid. In a one-dimensional system, everything travels back and forth along a single line (Main Street, in this case). In a two-dimensional grid system, traffic can travel east/west and north/south on multiple routes. The grid isn't a new idea, but what is new is UDOT's apparent willingness to spend money on roads that they don't own. The consensus of the planning group is for UDOT to increase traffic throughput on 100/200 East, 100 West, 600 West, and 1000 West and upgrade key east-west connections.

There was good agreement from the planning group on developing these alternative traffic routes, but not good agreement on what to do with Logan's Main Street. Logan City would like to use this project for beautification, revitalization, and economic redevelopment along their Main Street. Everybody else is not interested in spending part of the \$52M for these purposes and fears that these goals will, in fact, slow traffic even more. Despite a long meeting to discuss it, the issue isn't settled yet.

Master Plans: Parks and Recreation, Active Transportation

Levi Roberts, Nibley City Planner, held meetings to help push us to conclusion on a couple of important master plans: one for Parks and Recreation, and the other for Active Transportation. It's good timing to complete these plans in conjunction with other efforts. First, the feasibility studies (a Nibley-sponsored study, and one at county level) for indoor recreation space that previous reports have discussed. Second, the Active Transportation Plan coincides with growing concerns for street safety in Nibley (please see my article in the July newsletter) and participation and potential funding through a federal program called Safe Streets for All to make safety improvements to existing roads and streets.

BRAG Human Services Meeting

I attended a Bear River Association of Governments (BRAG) Human Services Meeting to hear Lucas Martin, Human Services Director, give us a meaningful report on BRAG's efforts to combat poverty in Box Elder, Cache, and Rich Counties. Most of the funding for Human Services comes from the Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The efforts include programs for homeless and unsheltered individuals and families, eviction prevention, utility assistance, emergency home repair, tax preparation assistance, and many volunteer opportunities.

Commercial Development Update

Justin Maughan, Nibley City Manager, and I received an update on the potential commercial development on the west end of 2600 South. I have discussed this possible project in previous status reports, including the concept plan presented to the planning commission and city council. Things are moving along, with the biggest problem to solve being groundwater in the area. I appreciate working with a developer who takes the issue seriously and the practical approach he brings to solving problems.

Many, many thanks to all of you—both staff and citizens—that made Heritage Days a spectacular celebration of our community in Nibley. Great job!

Please call, text, or write anytime.

Thank you,
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