

## **Nibley City Mayor's Report**

**1 July 2024 – 22 July 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](http://www.nibleycity.com)) and the Utah Public Notice website ([www.utah.gov/pmnl/](http://www.utah.gov/pmnl/)) 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 three weeks and the topics in this report:

- **Bear River Association of Governments (BRAG) Executive Director**
- **Cache Metropolitan Planning Organization (CMPO) Meeting**
- **CMPO Safety Action Plan**
- **Master Plans**

### **Bear River Association of Governments (BRAG) Executive Director**

BRAG is one of the seven associations of governments in Utah that were founded in the 1970s to act as a bridge between higher levels of government (federal and state) and local levels (counties and cities). BRAG consists of Box Elder, Cache, and Rich Counties, and its mission is twofold. First, to combat poverty by providing human services to those in need, and second, to encourage and coordinate economic development. Sometimes it seems (at least to me) that these two goals are at odds with one another because the unprecedented economic success we have recently experienced creates a large demand for local housing which, in turn, can drive housing prices to the point of unaffordability for many.

I feel that the apparent pull in two directions was evident in the process to find a successor for Roger Jones, Executive Director of BRAG, who announced his retirement after more than fifty years of dedicated and valued service. I was appointed to the selection committee for the next director. While considering a change in leadership, it is a good time to evaluate an organization's priorities. There were many qualified candidates, and the selection process provided a great chance to talk about maintaining BRAG's current focus, as well as considering some new directions. After several rounds of resume reviews and in-person interviews, the committee chose Lucas Martin as the new director. Lucas is the current Director of Human Services at BRAG, and I believe he will be a great asset as the Executive Director.

### **Cache Metropolitan Planning Organization (CMPO) Meeting**

As mayor, I am Nibley's representative on the CMPO Board. During a recent meeting, we discussed early planning on two new transportation corridors. One is an east-west connection

between US 89-91 and Hwy 165 between Nibley and Hyrum. After many meetings and consideration of different specific locations, 4400 South is the likely candidate for this new corridor. A similar corridor study is underway to find a new north-south route west of 1000 West. Both of these studies are in the early planning stages and have not yet been funded for construction. A project that is funded, however, is the Blacksmith Fork Trail that will go north from Ridgeline High School to Logan at some point around 600 West. This project is funded by UDOT in their first-ever exclusive commitment to trails rather than roads. The exact location for the trail is not yet determined.

### **CMPO Safety Action Plan**

City staff and I met with Landis Wenger, Cache County Trails Coordinator, and consultants to work on securing funding from the Federal Highway Administration's Safe Streets for All (SS4A) program. This first step identifies temporary demonstration projects in Nibley that will lead to permanent infrastructure that improves street safety, especially for bicyclists and pedestrians.

### **Master Plans**

Levi Roberts, Nibley City Planner, held several meetings to move a couple of important planning documents towards completion. The first is the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan that is now before the city council. The second is Nibley's first stand-alone Active Transportation Master Plan. These documents are an important part of the process that shapes Nibley's future.

I am pleased that citizens are reaching out to me to discuss important issues that range from street safety to animal land-use to road surface preservation. Thank you for contacting me. I admit that I don't always have the answers during our first discussion. However, thanks to helpful city staff, I feel the conversations with citizens quickly get to a meaningful exchange of ideas.

Please call, text, or write anytime.

Thank you,  
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