

CITY OF NORTH SALT LAKE
TRAILS AND ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEETING
CITY HALL 10 EAST CENTER STREET, NORTH SALT LAKE
JULY 8, 2025

FINAL

PRESENT: Brent Crowther, Chair
Kyle Poulter
Peter Wirthlin

EXCUSED: Pedro Huebner, Ryan Oakes, Ted Knowlton, City Council

STAFF PRESENT: Jon Rueckert, Public Works Director; TJ Riley, Parks Superintendent; Ali Avery, Long Range Planner

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Brent Crowther, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and welcomed attendees.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no comments.

3. DISCUSSION REGARDING COMMITTEE GOALS AND PROGRAMS

Ali Avery opened the discussion on Committee goals and programs, referencing Peter Wirthlin's suggestion from the May 13, 2025 meeting that members prepare ideas for a mission statement and goals. She noted an email from Ted Knowlton containing a proposed mission statement and goals.

Peter Wirthlin reviewed the email sent by Councilmember Knowlton and suggested modifications to ensure inclusivity and clarity.

The Committee discussed refining the mission statement to emphasize the well-being of all residents and specifying a transportation network. The Committee revised the mission statement to: "Our mission is to enhance the physical and economic well-being of all residents by developing both a transportation network and a community where walking, bicycling, and other forms of active transportation are safe and comfortable, both for recreational and utility trips."

The Committee reviewed long-term goals based on Ted Knowlton's proposal and suggested amendments to improve specificity and avoid redundancy. The Committee agreed on the following five long-term goals:

1. Increase active transportation use.
2. Improve safety for all users.

3. Develop, enhance, and maintain a network that connects destinations, such as parks and trailheads.
4. Champion supportive policies.
5. Implement programs that support the mission.

Peter Wirthlin suggested replacing “major destinations” with “destinations” to avoid implying only large-scale locations, proposing examples like parks and trailheads.

Ali Avery noted additional destinations, such as the town center and schools, could be included in implementation plans.

The Committee debated terminology, favoring “connects” over “serves” for clarity and replacing “transportation network” with “network” to avoid confusion with vehicular infrastructure. The Committee preferred “champion supportive policies” over “implement” or “formulate” for the fourth goal, as their role is to recommend policies to the City Council.

The Committee separated the fifth goal to focus on programs, such as bike-to-school events or trail cleanups, that foster appreciation for trails and active transportation. The Committee agreed to circulate the draft mission statement and goals via email for further review.

Ali Avery committed to distributing the draft to Committee members.

The Committee scheduled continued discussion for the September 9, 2025 meeting, with an agenda item for minor adjustments and formal adoption of the mission statement and goals.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MAY 13, 2025 MEETING

The Trails and Active Transportation minutes of May 13, 2025 were reviewed and approved, as drafted.

Committee Member Peter Wirthlin moved the Committee approve the minutes of May 13, 2025 meeting, as written. Committee Member Kyle Poulter seconded the motion. The motion was approved by Committee Members Crowther, Poulter, and Wirthlin. Committee Members Pedro Huebner and Ryan Oakes were excused.

5. ACTION ITEMS

Ali Avery updated the Committee on action items tracked in the SharePoint spreadsheet, noting ongoing progress. She reported efforts to create an email sign-up sheet or QR code for event updates, currently limited to known volunteers.

Peter Wirthlin proposed adding an email field to event sign-in sheets, including name, email, phone number, and an opt-in for updates.

Ali Avery agreed to collect sign-in sheets.

Peter Wirthlin committed to creating and providing sign-in sheets for events.

Ali Avery noted the creation of a trails email address (e.g., trails@nslcity.org) is in progress to improve public communication. She committed to ensuring Committee members have SharePoint access, an ongoing task from May 13, 2025.

Jon Rueckert reported no updates on donation options, as no response was received from Heidi Voordeckers, Finance Director.

Ali Avery updated the Committee on the Wild Rose to Bonneville Shoreline Trail (BST) connection, reporting delays with the U.S. Forest Service due to staffing shortages. She noted a recent inquiry sent to the Forest Service and plans to follow up with Tyler from Salt Lake City to clarify their BST connection plans.

The Committee discussed Salt Lake City's master plan, which includes a separate BST connection in Davis County.

Brent Crowther emphasized prioritizing a long-term, coordinated alignment with Salt Lake City and the Forest Service, even if it delays construction.

Peter Wirthlin suggested building the City-owned portion up to the property line (approximately 70 feet from the BST), noting a short, steep, and loose section of existing trail.

The Committee agreed to pursue the preferred alignment, requiring Forest Service approval.

Ali Avery committed to continuing coordination, potentially including the City's segment in Salt Lake City's NEPA study.

Jon Rueckert reported no specific updates on curb ramps at Wild Rose Trail crossings but noted they are planned for the regular concrete work budget, pending a future budget adjustment. He committed to including Wild Rose Trail curb ramps in the concrete work budget or pursuing an adjustment.

The Committee discussed realigning the Parkway Drive trail exit during the August 23, 2025 cleanup to address erosion onto the sidewalk.

Ali Avery committed to consulting City Engineer, Karen Baxter on property constraints for the Parkway Drive realignment.

Kyle Poulter suggested redirecting the trail at an angle to reduce runoff, proposing berms or vegetation for soil stabilization, referencing other trail systems.

Ali Avery confirmed the City is registered with JustServe for event promotion. The Committee agreed to use JustServe for upcoming events, ensuring a City email address is used instead of personal emails.

6. STAFF UPDATES

Ali Avery updated the Committee on the Trails Master Plan, planning to advertise the Request for Proposals (RFP) on July 14, 2025, with proposals due in early August and selection in the first or second week of August, despite her absence starting July 21, 2025.

The Committee discussed forming a selection committee for the Trails Master Plan consultant. Peter Wirthlin volunteered to serve on the selection committee. Brent Crowther volunteered to join the selection committee. The Committee designated Ryan Oakes as an alternate if either Wirthlin or Crowther is unavailable.

Ali Avery confirmed staff would handle additional representation and the consultant would engage the Forest Service. She made a goal to advertise the Trails Master Plan RFP on July 14, 2025, and coordinating consultant selection in early August.

Ali Avery reported the South Davis Greenway Study RFP was issued on June 19, 2025, with a consultant selection meeting held on July 8, 2025. She withheld further details due to a consultant's presence but noted a decision was expected soon, with the project to start after her return. She stated the study aims to determine an alignment, likely along US 89, connecting downtown North Salt Lake to Farmington and linking 12 regional centers per the Wasatch Front Regional Council's Wasatch Choice Map.

The Committee expressed enthusiasm for the Greenway's potential, citing St. George's paved trail system as an example.

Ali Avery committed to presenting the South Davis Greenway Study draft to the Committee for review.

Ali Avery described the Safe Routes to Schools Plan as a Citywide initiative to ensure safe walking and biking to Adelaide, Orchard, Foxboro, Wasatch Peak, and Spectrum Academy schools. She noted the plan focuses on Citywide walkability within a reasonable distance, to be defined by the consultant with the school district.

Peter Wirthlin requested a review of the Safe Routes draft plan.

Ali Avery confirmed the draft would be presented to the Committee before the Planning Commission and City Council, potentially informing a capital improvement plan with wayfinding features like school mascot stencils.

Jon Rueckert updated the Committee on Wild Rose Trail sign designs, noting progress was paused due to Liberty Fest commitments. He presented 17 sign mock-ups, designed in Microsoft

Publisher, to be finalized in Adobe InDesign by David Frandsen. He stated signs will use high-intensity reflective materials on fiberglass poles, including trail names, directional arrows, IMBA-standard difficulty ratings, and restrictions (e.g., “downhill only”). He proposed a “mile high” sign styled like a freeway mile marker for a photo opportunity, potentially with a QR code for donations.

The Committee discussed color-coding signs (green for easy, blue for intermediate, red for restrictions) for cyclist visibility.

Ali Avery emphasized minimal text for readability.

The Committee raised concerns about hikers using downhill-only trails. The Committee suggested explicit “wrong way” signs at trailheads.

Jon Rueckert committed to finalizing sign designs, incorporating IMBA standards, color-coding, rivet placement, and Committee feedback.

The Committee discussed Liberty Fest, estimating 20,000 plus attendees.

Brent Crowther proposed a future bike / bus event to mitigate Liberty Fest traffic, noting discussions with Chief Black.

7. CITY COUNCIL UPDATES

Councilmember Ted Knowlton was excused and no updates were made during the meeting.

8. REVIEW OF PAST AND UPCOMING TRAILS EVENTS

Ali Avery reported the National Trails Day event on June 7, 2025, at Wild Rose Trail was successful, with vegetation removal to prepare for State-led maintenance.

Ali Avery stated the Utah Division of Outdoor Recreation conducted four days of maintenance on Wild Rose Trail in late June, focusing on decision points, rock clearing, and trail definition. She shared before-and-after photos, highlighting a decision point where the trail splits to the bench or loop trail, addressing vegetation overgrowth and unclear turns. She noted the maintenance team widened trails, cleared branches, dug waterways, and placed rocks to deter hikers from cutting switchbacks.

Peter Wirthlin suggested a split rail fence for a permanent solution at the decision point, to be considered in the Trails Master Plan.

The Committee emphasized maintaining some trail difficulty (e.g., rocks and roots) to avoid over-sanitizing trails.

Peter Wirthlin reported 113 volunteer hours from the mountain bike team and parents in 2025. He stressed tracking all volunteer hours, including non-team participants, for the City Council annual report.

Ali Avery proposed adding affiliation and sign-in/sign-out time fields to sign-in sheets and SignUpGenius.

The Committee confirmed a trail cleanup on August 23, 2025, from 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. at the Parkway Drive section of Wild Rose Trail, scheduled to avoid conflicts. Ali Avery stated Communications staff is advertising the August 23 event. She committed to coordinating logistics for the August 23 cleanup.

The Committee planned a 9-11 Day of Service event on September 6, 2025, from 8:00 to 10:00 a.m., focusing on trash removal at the lower Wild Rose Trail, starting at the pond near the loft apartments. They discussed targeting debris along the trail and Frontage Road near the Highway 89/Starbucks stoplight. The Committee proposed splitting volunteers into groups for paved and unpaved sections, noting drainage issues and construction debris.

Ali Avery committed to confirming the September 6 event location and time with Communications staff and arranging food, as Peter Wirthlin, TJ Riley, and others will be unavailable.

The Committee explored a canoe cleanup with the Jordan River Commission but noted the City lacks canoes and crews. Ali Avery suggested coordinating with the Jordan River Commission for a cleanup in July 2026 to avoid September conflicts with the Get to the River Festival.

Ali Avery described the Jordan River Paddle on September 13, 2025, a three-mile event from Riverview boat ramp to Porter's Landing, with registration opening August 1, 2025, via the City's website. She noted the paddle includes a shuttle, food truck, and tabling by the Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District and Audubon Society. She invited Committee members to participate in the paddle, noting no volunteers are needed.

The Committee agreed to limit events to one per month, prioritizing the 9-11 Day of Service over a September river cleanup.

9. DISCUSSION ON FUTURE AGENDA(S)

Ali Avery confirmed the adoption of the mission statement and long-term goals would be on the next meeting's agenda for minor adjustments and formal adoption. The Committee debated holding an August meeting, given the August 23, 2025 cleanup and September 6, 2025 9-11 Day of Service.

The Committee decided to skip the August 12, 2025 meeting due to insufficient new topics, scheduling the next meeting for September 9, 2025.

The Committee confirmed trail tools are available at City Hall or Public Works. Jon Rueckert reported a pair of loppers was lost during a previous event.

The Committee agreed to number all trail tools (e.g., with a Sharpie) and track them via sign-in sheets. Jon Rueckert committed to numbering the trail tools.

Ali Avery suggested budgeting for work gloves for events. The Committee decided volunteers should bring their own gloves, with a small reserve to be considered for the budget.

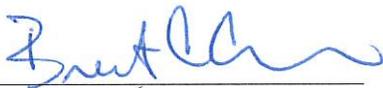
Peter Wirthlin committed to publicizing the August 23 and September 6 events to the mountain bike team, despite his absence. He agreed to assign a volunteer to manage sign-in sheets, including fields for name, email, phone number, opt-in for updates, affiliation, and tool checkout.

Ali Avery committed to coordinating event assignments (refreshments, tool logistics) via email.

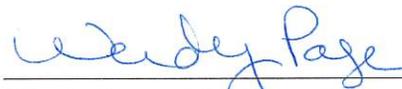
10. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

The foregoing was approved by the Trails and Active Transportation Committee of the City of North Salt Lake on September 9, 2025 by unanimous vote of all members present.



Brent Crowther, Chair



Wendy Page, City Recorder

