



## Salt Lake City 2020 State Legislative Priorities

### Inland Port Legislation

We anticipate that there will be several bills this year seeking to make further modifications to the Inland Port legislation originally adopted by the State Legislature in 2018. We are already aware of one bill, requested by the Inland Port Board staff, that will be sponsored by Representative Gibson. As you know, the City filed a lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of the Inland Port legislation, and the District Court recently issued a decision in favor of the State. The City intends to appeal that decision. However, we also plan to continue dialogue this session between City and State officials about the possibility of making significant modifications to the Inland Port legislation with the goal of resolving the long-standing dispute between the City and the State on this issue. Any bill related to the Inland Port will be a high priority for Salt Lake City.

### Homelessness

Over the past few years, the State, Salt Lake County, and Salt Lake City have worked closely together, along with service providers and other interested parties, to help provide adequate shelter for individuals experiencing homelessness and to respond appropriately to the needs for public safety. During the past year, three new homeless resource centers have been opened, which we believe will better address the needs of homeless individuals. Nevertheless, concerns remain about the amount of available shelter space, the challenges created by homeless encampments, and other related issues. The City is committed to continue working with all stakeholders to find appropriate solutions to these challenges. We support legislation that will provide resources including diversion and mental health treatment, so long as responsibilities and financial impacts are allocated appropriately.

### Affordable Housing

Salt Lake City supports efforts to create additional affordable housing within the State, and we see this as one of the key ways to prevent and address homelessness. During the past year, the City has invested approximately \$14 million toward affordable housing within Salt Lake City. The City strongly supports SB 39 Affordable Housing Amendments (Anderegg), which would provide State funding to help create additional affordable housing across the State. We anticipate that there may also be other bills introduced this session seeking to promote more affordable housing. The City supports that effort.

### Sales Tax

A significant portion of Salt Lake City's annual budget comes from the local option sales tax, which is allocated among cities based upon a 50% population and 50% point of sale distribution formula. The recent tax reform bill passed by the Legislature in the December 2019 special session did not make any significant changes to the amount or distribution of local sales tax. However, the City will be concerned about any bill that proposes to make changes to the sales tax base, rate or distribution formula, because those changes could have a significant financial impact upon Salt Lake City.



### Water

The City is always interested in any legislation affecting water. As the public water supplier for almost 400,000 people in the Salt Lake Valley, the City is very concerned about any legislation that might affect the Wasatch Front watershed area, or the City's ability to deliver clean and safe drinking water. We are already aware of approximately 20 water bills this session. We will carefully review each of those bills and let you know how each bill would affect the City and our position on that legislation.

### Transportation and Transit Funding

The City supports additional funding for transportation and transit projects, including active transportation, across the State, and especially across the Wasatch Front. However, most of those projects ultimately facilitate the movement of people and vehicles in and out of Salt Lake City. For that reason, if there is a legislative effort to provide additional funding for transportation or transit projects, we want to make sure that any funding provided also includes the amounts necessary to fund the appropriate connection of those projects into and within Salt Lake City.