

Salt Lake City  
Department of Public Utilities & Transportation Division



# Roadway Safety Initiative

March 2011

# Project Background

City Creek Canyon, located north of Bonneville Boulevard, is a unique recreational and nature preserve just minutes from the downtown metro center. In addition to providing a pristine water supply for our community, City Creek Canyon is enjoyed by many for biking, walking, running, dog walking, wildlife viewing, and picnicking.

Due to ever increasing traffic by many different users, Public Utilities began a process to seek public input to identify issues and opportunities to improve recreation access and enjoyment while maintaining safety on City Creek Canyon Road.

This plan and corresponding recommendations are based upon extensive public input, the operational needs of SLCPU and analysis by the SLC Trails Coordinator, a transportation engineer. Public input period for this phase lasted for over six months, starting in September of 2009 and ending in May 2010. During this time, the public provided direction in the form of written comments and focus groups with local citizen groups composed of people who regularly visit City Creek Canyon.

Phase I and Phase II recommendations have been made by SLCDPU and public comment is requested March 14 – April 2011 on them. These recommendations are based on the initial round of public feedback and the operational needs of SLCDPU in City Creek Canyon.

# Project Timeline

1. Initial Public Comment Period (complete)
  - September 2009 – May 2010
2. March 14, 2011 - Project Open House  
SLC Main Public Library, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room 6pm
- 3. Second Public Comment Period**
  - **March 14 – April 15, 2011**
  - **Comments needed on Phase I and Phase II recommendations**
4. Project Implementation starts Spring/Early Summer 2011

# Background on Initial Public Comment Period

(For comments received September 2009 – May 2010)



## Public Input Obtained:

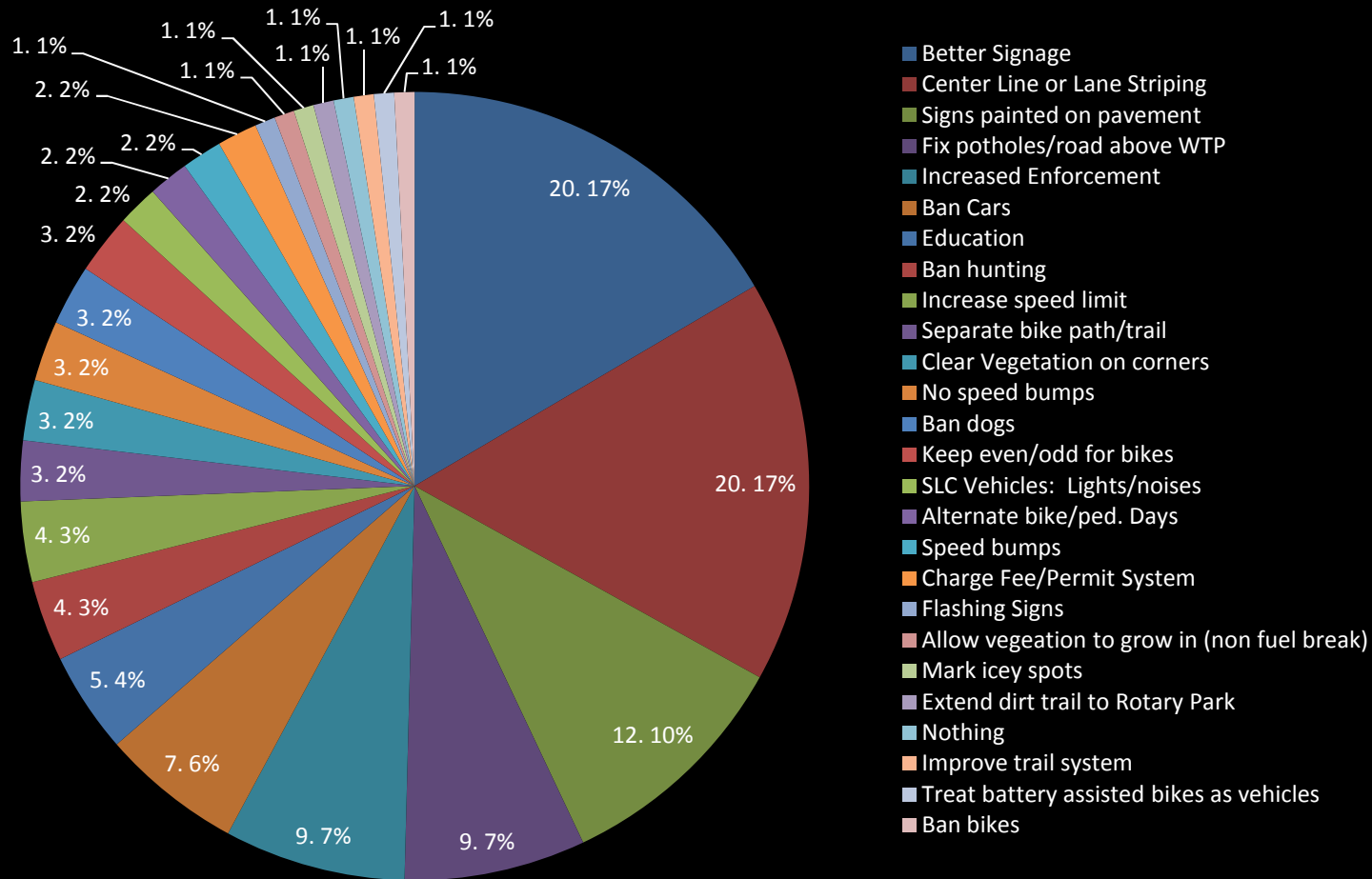
- Five focus group meetings with regular City Creek Canyon users
- Over 60 online comments

## Public Comment Requests:

- Signage at area businesses, parks and in City Creek Canyon.
- SLC Mayor's Bicycle Advisory Committee
- Capitol Hills Community Council
- Greater Avenues Community Council
- <http://www.slcgov.com/utilities/roadwaysafety.htm>

# Summary of Public Feedback

(During initial public comment period September 2009 – May 2010)



# Phase I Recommendations

The majority of public comment during the initial public comment period (September 2009 to May 2010) indicated that the existing rules worked well when followed by all the users in the canyon. As a result, there will be no changes to these rules, which are as follows:

## **Maintain existing rules for recreational usage in City Creek Canyon:**

- 1. Uphill Recreational Traffic**
  - Bicycles, pedestrians, etc. travel on the stream side of the road
- 2. Downhill Recreational Traffic**
  - Foot traffic stay to the creek side of the road
  - All other downhill traffic will be on the hill side of the road
- 3. Dogs must be kept on a maximum 6ft. length leash** at all times as per SLC ordinance
- 4. 15mph Speed Limit**

Additional recommendations, suggested by the responding canyon users, are for the entire canyon above Bonneville Boulevard and are proposed to be implemented spring 2011. Automobiles will adhere to existing posted regulations.

# Phase I Recommendations (contd.)

## Enhance Existing Signage

### **(Public Comment needed on the recommendations below)**

The clearest trend in public feedback was that the existing rules work when followed by users, but related signage was inadequate and needs enhancement.

**Based upon this trend, SLCPU proposes the following:**

1. Increase frequency of roadway rule signage
2. Place warning signs on blind corners
3. Create new educational signage explaining rules just above Guard Shack & Gate and at Water Treatment Plant
4. Place signs to remind canyon users which side of road to stick to

# Signage Examples

DRAFT Main Rules Sign – To be placed at mouth of canyon and at water treatment plant

Example 1



Example 2





# Signage Examples (contd.)

- Follow Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) guidelines
- Operational need to apply to pedestrians, automobiles & wheeled recreationists (cyclists, long boarders, etc.)



# Phase I Recommendations (contd.)

## Improve the Roadway & Enforce the Rules

### (Public comment needed on the recommendations below)

With multiple user groups on the roadway travelling at different speeds, several modifications could be made to create a better balance. **As such, SLCPU proposes:**

1. Brush back blind corners and the roadway in general
2. Fill potholes in upper canyon and roadway in general
3. Brush back areas with thick vegetation where users are pushed into the middle of the road
4. Fix drainage issues and culverts where possible
5. Enforce existing rules, especially speed limit rules

# Phase II Recommendations

To be initiated only if Phase I implementation does not achieve desired results.

## Delineate where recreationists should be via icons & striping on pavement

### (Public comment needed on the recommendations below)

1. Install non – slip center line on curves and blind corners (17%)
2. Paint non-slip icons on the pavement to show where recreationists should be (10%)

At present, SLCDPU has decided to wait on implementing these public recommendations in order to assess the success of the Phase I Recommendations.

# Additional SLC Actions



**In addition to Phase I and Phase II Recommendations, SLCDPU staff will:**

- Investigate minimization where possible of SLC vehicle usage & related projects on bike/odd days
- Educate external SLC staff and contractors as to bike/odd day concerns
- Begin bicycle patrols on no-car days during even/odd season

# Remaining Project Timeline

## **Public Comment:**

Comment needed on Phase I & II

March 15 – April 15 2011

## **Project Implementation:**

Spring 2011 – Phase I Signage Installation

Summer 2011 – Phase I Roadway Repairs to begin

# Comments Accepted:

March 14 – April 15, 2011

Online:

<http://www.slcgov.com/utilities/roadwaysafety.htm>

Fax:

(801) 483-6753

Mail:

Salt Lake City Department of Public Utilities  
Attn: City Creek Roadway Comments  
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Salt Lake City, Utah 84115

# Questions?

## **Project Contact:**

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