



MEDIA CONTACT: David Zook
(435)890-9239

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
16 November 2021

PRESS RELEASE

Transportation Board Modernizes Operations, Seeks More Road Dollars

The Executive Council of the Cache Metropolitan Planning Organization (CMPO) met last night to consider a path forward for the organization after its long-time executive director, Jim Gass, announced his intent to retire. The CMPO Council voted to appoint Jeff Gilbert as the organization's new executive director.

"I'm looking forward to working with Jeff to address one of our community's most pressing issues, making sure our transportation network keeps up with our rapid growth," said Cache County Executive David Zook, who made a motion last night to appoint Jeff as the new executive director. "Jeff has shown us that he has the expertise to get the job done."

"I also want to thank Jim for all he has done to help us run the CMPO over the past 30 years. Jim has done so much to serve our community and Cache County is in a much better position today due to his expertise and leadership," added Zook.

Mr. Gass has served as part-time executive director of the CMPO for nearly 30 years, and Mr. Gilbert has served as the organization's transportation planner since 2005. Prior to coming to the CMPO, Jeff worked for a decade as a planner and community development director for the Bear River Association of Governments. The CMPO was organized in 1992 and serves ten communities in Cache County, from Smithfield to Hyrum. The CMPO performs long range transportation planning and helps prioritize highway, public transit and bicycle and pedestrian facility investments.

During last night's discussion, the executive council decided to fill the executive director position with a full-time employee. The CMPO will also fill the transportation planner position being vacated by Jeff. The council encouraged Jeff to look at additional hiring to bring staffing levels in line with those found in other comparably-sized communities.

"Something I've heard for years is that Cache County hasn't historically received its fair share of road funding," said Zook. "That's something we're going to change. We will do that by ensuring we have strong coordination between the CMPO, local governments, UDOT, the state legislature, governor and State Transportation Commission. Having skilled staff working for our CMPO is critical to making that happen."

A recent example of that coordination has been efforts made to ensure Logan's Main Street receives funding needed to alleviate congestion caused by increased traffic volume. County Executive David Zook joined Senator Chris Wilson, Representative Dan Johnson and Logan Mayor Holly Daines earlier this year to testify before the state transportation commission requesting funding for the project. The commission will consider allocating \$52 million for that project at its meeting this Friday in Moab.

###