



ENVISION UTAH HOW WE GROW MATTERS

ANNUAL REPORT | 2021

2021 HIGHLIGHTS:

Your Utah, Your Future
Creating Communities Guide
Blueprint Jordan River Refresh
Inclusivity In Planning

Disaster Resilience
Early Learning
Education

Spring Virtual Luncheon
Quality Communities Academy
Common Good Awards
Your Utah, Your Future Podcast

| INTRODUCTION | 2021

2021 was a notable year for Envision Utah. Despite the ongoing pandemic, with the generous support and contributions of our partners, Envision Utah engaged with thousands of community members and leaders across the state to move forward projects focused on the top issues facing our state.

Envision Utah's success stems from our nationally recognized visioning process, in which stakeholders and residents learn together and then go forth to implement. The conversation itself leads to forward-thinking policies and changes in public opinion. This was true of the Your Utah, Your Future Vision for 2050, which was the culmination of more than two years of collaborative efforts between hundreds of local experts and leaders, as well as input from more than 52,000 Utahns. Since the vision was first released in 2015, it has guided state and local growth decisions, led to innovative policies, and shaped public opinion. Most importantly, those who participated in the process found common ground and moved forward to make Utahns' hopes and dreams a reality, resulting in remarkable progress on issues like water, air quality, transportation, education, and economic prosperity.

In the more than six years since Your Utah, Your Future was completed, much has changed. Utah has improved on many fronts—and struggled on others, like housing affordability. The pandemic has accelerated many trends that will impact future planning, our population has grown faster than anywhere in the country, and Utahns now feel more apprehensive about growth than at any other time in Envision Utah's history.

In light of all this, we are working with key partners on an effort to again engage Utahns in a conversation about growth, so that residents and decisionmakers together can commit to taking the right steps that will preserve what we all love about this state, despite our nation-leading population growth. This statewide conversation will form a key part of renewing and refreshing the Your Utah, Your Future vision. As a first step, we recently completed an updated values study to help us understand Utahns' hearts and minds. We can't wait to share that with you soon.

Through the original Your Utah, Your Future process, the years since, and the coming refresh, our work has and will be focused on engaging Utahns to meet the challenges of growth. Rather than asking if or how much we should grow, the question that really matters is how we grow. We can meet the challenges of growth and still keep Utah a great place to live.

In this report, you will see highlights from our key vision implementation projects of 2021 as we work to meet those challenges. Thank you again for all you've done to make Envision Utah's work possible.



Ari Bruening
Envision Utah President & CEO

YOUR UTAH, YOUR FUTURE IN REVIEW

The Your Utah, Your Future vision is the culmination of more than two years of collaborative efforts to help Utah residents envision our own future. More than 400 experts throughout the state worked together to identify critical choices across 11 topics related to the future, and over 50,000 Utahns weighed in on those choices. The result is a shared vision that establishes a clear context, framework, and direction for policy decisions and actions to achieve the future Utahns want.



I ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Envision Utah's work in 2021 was diverse, and our projects covered topics from community planning to education to disaster resilience and more. Here is a snapshot of some of our key accomplishments from the last year:



In partnership with the Utah Seismic Safety Commission, Envision Utah published a report with five key seismic recommendations and mitigation actions to address the most urgent vulnerabilities in the event of an earthquake.



We created the Your Utah, Your Future Podcast to help Utahns understand key issues related to the Your Utah, Your Future vision. One of our most-streamed episodes educates listeners about on-road mobile sources and the steps they can take to reduce emissions when it comes to driving their cars.



We released *Creating Communities: A Guide to Walkable Centers*, an informative tool for city staff, officials, planners, and the general public to learn more about creating centers (a walkable, mixed-use location in a region, city, or neighborhood that provides a variety of amenities and services) as a strategy to accommodate Utah's growing population while maintaining our high quality of life.



We surveyed over 7,000 Utah high school students to help educational and state leaders understand the barriers that prevent our upcoming generation from pursuing post-secondary education and identify potential strategies for overcoming these barriers.



Envision Utah has increased our number of partners across the state to introduce Vroom and early learning techniques to help more Utah parents and caregivers have a better understanding of how to build their children's brains.



Envision Utah also worked with experts and stakeholders to compile a new vision for the Jordan River that's based on input from over 7,000 Utahns.

IMPACTS

As decision-makers participate in Envision Utah processes, they learn about issues, find common ground, and understand public values and desires. As a result, they go forth to make Utahns' visions a reality. Here are some of the impacts of recent Envision Utah work:



State leaders and policymakers are significantly more focused on improving Utah's long-term resilience to major disasters like an earthquake—a direct result of Envision Utah's efforts to raise this as a key priority for the future.



All but one major refinery in Utah is now producing cleaner Tier 3 Fuel after the importance of Tier 3 fuel was identified as a priority by the Envision Utah-led Clean Air Action Team. The Provo and Salt Lake areas are now in attainment with federal PM2.5 standards.



Development planning for "The Point" has followed the key principles and priorities from the Envision Utah-led Point of the Mountain visioning process with support from local stakeholders and the public who were involved in that process.



Addressing Utah's teacher shortage has become a top education priority. State education leaders and local school districts—as well as state and local budgets—have been focused on making teacher compensation more effective to attract great teachers and keep our best teachers in the classroom.



The Utah Valley Chamber of Commerce has convened committees of local business leaders and elected officials to implement strategies that came from the Valley Visioning process.



The state water strategy is being implemented in both state and local water decisions with development of watershed councils, water banking, and expanded secondary water metering, among other strategies.

CREATING COMMUNITIES: A GUIDE TO WALKABLE CENTERS

During the 4th Annual Quality Communities Academy in September 2021, Envision Utah launched *Creating Communities: A Guide to Walkable Centers*. The guide is a one-of-a-kind resource for local governments, developers, and the public to create live, work, play, and learn communities in Utah and is the culmination of years of stakeholder and working group engagement.

A center is a walkable, mixed-use location in a region, city, or neighborhood that provides a variety of amenities and services. Centers provide the opportunity to support Utah's growing population while maintaining our high quality of life. For example, centers support a variety of housing types near jobs, transportation, and other daily needs, which contributes to affordability. Additionally, many of our historic communities were built as centers with a walkable Main Street located at the center of town.

The guide outlines key considerations when planning and developing a center including transportation, design elements, regional benefits, and examples throughout Utah. The guide also includes practical tools and resources that can assist in the planning process.

BENEFITS OF CENTERS



More options for clean, efficient, and convenient travel.



Increased availability of housing options close to jobs, recreation, amenities, and transportation.



Enhanced public health and improved air quality.



Better fiscal sustainability within cities.



Revitalization of neighborhoods and cultivation of local identity.



Well planned neighborhoods and conservation of agriculture and open space.

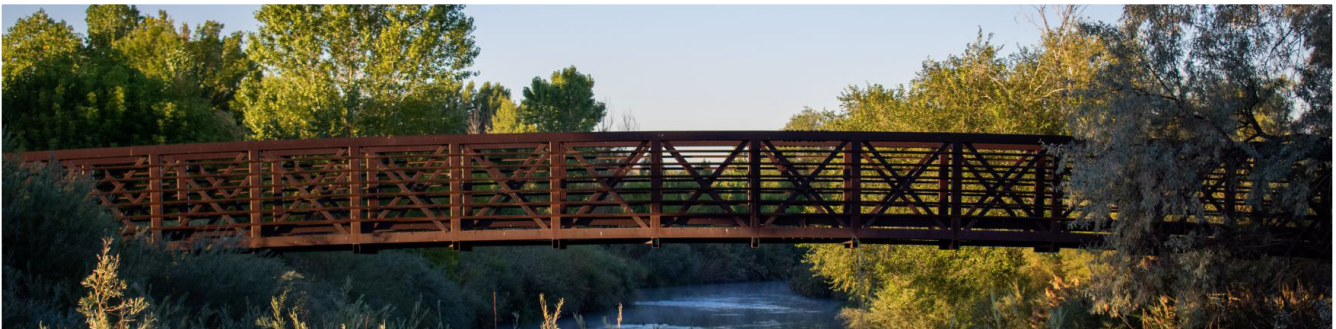


| BLUEPRINT JORDAN RIVER

The new Blueprint Jordan River is a comprehensive and action-oriented vision for Utah's longest urban parkway, updated to address new and emerging opportunities and challenges. Building off extensive public and stakeholder engagement in 2020, Envision Utah worked with local experts to develop an action plan with hundreds of targeted strategies to meet eighteen priority goals across seven topics. A few of the goals include:

- Protect and preserve natural open spaces.
- Enhance the hydrological function of the river.
- Enhance opportunities for recreational uses and active transportation throughout the parkway.
- Improve access to the parkway and enhance the parkway's role as a regional transportation corridor.
- Use communications and messaging to improve visitor experience, wayfinding, point of interest identification, and education.

The much-anticipated release of the Blueprint is scheduled for spring 2022, following adoption by the Jordan River Commission Governing Board and Interlocal Agency Council.



INCLUSIVITY IN PLANNING

Through many visioning efforts, Envision Utah has found that certain communities are less likely to participate in planning efforts than others. Further, Envision Utah has recognized gaps in designing, planning, and developing the built environment in a way that equitably serves all Utahns. Recognizing these shortcomings and related opportunities, we embarked on an inclusivity in planning project in the Summer of 2021.

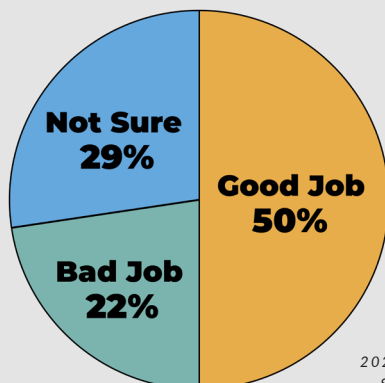
Before launching into the project, Envision Utah interviewed key stakeholders and experts, reviewed literature on the subject, and convened a steering committee of community leaders, planners, developers, transportation experts, political leaders, and other stakeholders to share their unique perspectives on incorporating inclusivity within Utah's communities.

In October, we also facilitated an online focus group composed of Utahns of color, Utahns with a disability and/or chronic illness, LGBTQIA+ Utahns, gender nonconforming Utahns, and Utahns with low incomes to explore their perceptions of and interactions with the built environment, planning, and local government.

The project aims to learn from groups that are typically least heard during the planning process. Using those experiences and insight, Envision Utah will create a guide to inclusive communities. The guide will highlight key planning challenges faced in underrepresented communities and include guidance to help improve public engagement. This guide will not only be utilized by Envision Utah, but will also be a community resource for planners throughout Utah.



How is Utah doing with respect to welcoming and including everyone?



2021 Values Study
Survey Results

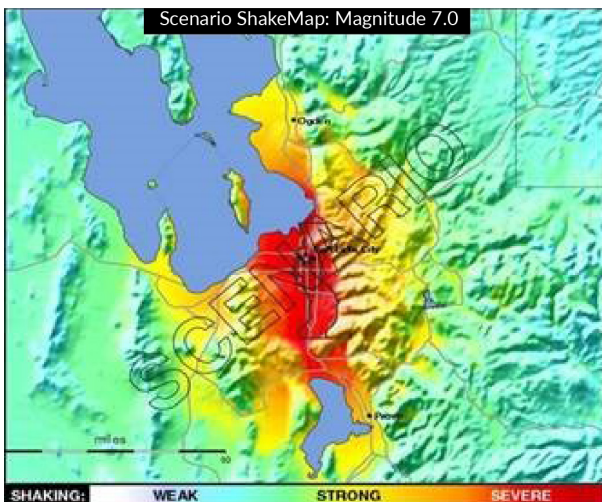


DISASTER RESILIENCE

Since launching the Disaster Resilience project, Envision Utah has convened three expert working groups focused on lifeline infrastructure, homes and buildings, and development planning to discuss the best strategies to improve Utah's ability to withstand a major disaster. Strategies cover Utah's greatest risks including wildfire, earthquake, and flooding. A final report with disaster resilient strategies is expected to be released in 2022.

Envision Utah has partnered with the Utah Seismic Safety Commission to present seismic recommendations during the 2022 Legislative Session to address the most urgent vulnerabilities. The recommendations are:

1. Invest in seismic improvements for the four major aqueducts that bring water to the Wasatch Front.
2. Significantly limit the danger to tens of thousands of Utah children who attend school in seismically unsound buildings.
3. Increase the public awareness of the high risk from Utah's 140,000 URM buildings.
4. Ensure adequate building code enforcement for large/important buildings.
5. Invest in a feasibility study for an Earthquake Early Warning System.



EARLY LEARNING

Envision Utah has worked over the last six years on a collaborative effort to empower caregivers and parents as they engage in more purposeful and intentional interactions with their children. This year, some of that work included the following:

- We expanded our pilot project with Intermountain Healthcare to include nine hospitals along the Wasatch Front to reach parents of newborns via hearing screenings.
- We increased our partnerships to include over 60 organizations and stakeholders to help us empower parents to become better brain-builders across Utah.
- We launched a visioning effort around what early childhood should look like in Utah, which includes over 30 stakeholders, including partners in healthcare, education, childcare, government, nonprofits, and the business community. Our goal is to create a shared vision of how we can work together across the community to give every child a great start. Our group has created several scenarios for what the future ought to look like.
- We have been entrusted to continue to share Vroom® and other tools from the Bezos Family Foundation to help parents become better brain-builders to their children for another three years.
- We expanded our team to streamline our communication and improve our work with partners, increase our bandwidth, and boost our reach into rural Utah and marginalized communities.

WOOOSH!

Did you know?
Your baby's brain grows the fastest from now until age five.

Have you tried
Chatting, singing, laughing, and cuddling together every day?

It's science!
Babies are born ready to learn and you have what it takes to help them.

The infographic features a woman in a pink dress pushing a green baby stroller. A baby in a blue outfit is being held up by the woman. A lightbulb icon is next to the 'Have you tried' section, and a brain icon is next to the 'It's science!' section.



| EDUCATION

Since 2016, Envision Utah has been working with a committee of Utah’s top education, state, and community leaders to implement strategies in the Your Utah, Your Future vision and improve education for all Utahns. Working with these leaders, we have helped shape education priorities and policies at the state and even local levels, and we have helped the public understand some of the most urgent education concerns and support the most important strategies for improving education.

Helping students pursue post-secondary education

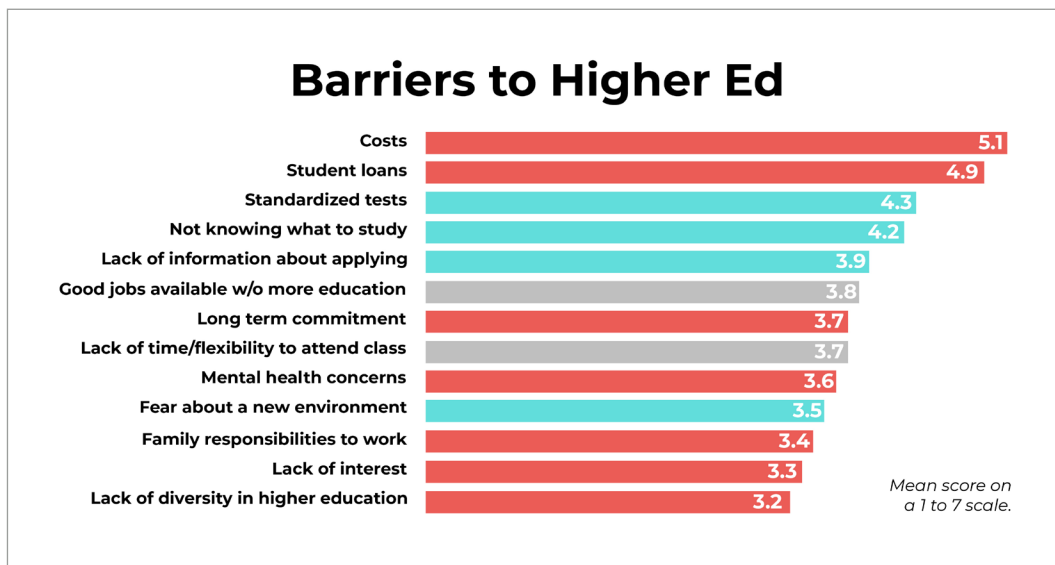
In early 2021, we completed a survey of more than 7,600 Utah high school students about their plans for post-secondary education and the barriers that might prevent them from pursuing post-secondary education. We worked with our committee to identify potential strategies for overcoming these barriers. Then we presented our findings and some of our recommendations to the Board of Higher Education and other state education leaders. We also launched a survey of Utah adults and parents to complement this research. We expect results from that in early 2022.

Public outreach

We continued our My Education, Our Future outreach campaign to help Utahns understand and unify around the most important strategies for improving education. This outreach, along with our work and the work of our partners over several years, has helped Utahns support specific strategies for improving education and even helped Utahns feel more favorably about education than they did several years ago.

Attracting and supporting world-class educators

Our “Vision for Teacher Excellence” has established a benchmark for effective compensation that affected state education funding and local education policies this last year. It continued to be a top priority for Envision Utah, and we have worked with state leaders to find pathways to implement the vision.



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The Envision Utah team works with the public and numerous stakeholders to maintain strong relationships and collaborate to make Your Utah, Your Future a reality. The following represent the highlights of those efforts.

SPRING BREAKFAST

This year over 400 people tuned into our 2021 Spring Virtual Luncheon. At the event we asked an important question: What will Utah's post-pandemic future look like? To answer that question, we hosted a panel of local and national experts who helped us peer into Utah's future. The panelists answered viewers' questions focused on five key topics: **recreation, housing, transportation, climate change, and economy.**

Our panelists included Natalie Gochnour, Associate Dean, David Eccles School of Business and Director, Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute at the U of U; Nico Larco, Professor of Architecture and Urban Design at the University of Oregon; Taylor Mammen, Chief Executive Officer with RCLCO Fund Advisors; and Brad Wilson, Speaker of the Utah House of Representatives.

QUALITY COMMUNITIES ACADEMY

Envision Utah celebrated the 4th annual Quality Communities Academy with the release of *Creating Communities: A Guide to Walkable Centers*. The long-awaited guide is a resource for creating live, work, play, and learn communities in Utah. At the Quality Communities Academy, Envision Utah staff presented an overview of the guide, and guest speakers led three breakout sessions: **Myths & Public Engagement, Centers in Different Settings, Implementation First Steps.**

COMMON GOOD AWARDS

Once a year, Envision Utah recognizes individuals and organizations who are doing great things to help make our communities a better place. This year's Common Good Awards went to **Utah Refugee Connection** and **WCF Insurance.**

We also heard from two special guests: Seth Arens from Western Water Assessment, who gave an informative presentation on the data and impacts of climate change in Utah, and Representative John Curtis of Utah's Third Congressional District, who sat down with Doug Wright for a discussion on climate stewardship and the Conservative Climate Caucus. Over 300 community members tuned into the event and nearly 100 have streamed it online.

YOUR UTAH, YOUR FUTURE PODCAST

This year we premiered the Your Utah, Your Future Podcast—Envision Utah's podcast that focuses on the top issues impacting our state and how we make sure Utah is a great place to live both now and for decades to come.

In episodes 1-3 we sit down with the experts for a series on **air quality** and the science behind air pollution and steps we can take to clean the air. Episodes 4-6 are part of our series on **water** where the experts walk us through the science of Utah's hydrologic cycle and the steps we can take to ensure enough clean and affordable water to sustain our state in the future.





PRESS COVERAGE

Envision Utah media outreach helps shape local issues in a regional context and elevates the discussion on topics like air quality, education, water, and a myriad of other issues related to the Your Utah, Your Future vision.

Some of our highlights from this year include:

- Gaining nearly 5 million impressions across TV, YouTube, and Google Ads. We also reached 700,000 Utahns through Instagram and Facebook ads.
- Organizing four virtual events that engaged hundreds of Utahns statewide.
- Gaining Envision Utah social media and newsletter contacts through Your Utah, Your Future focused outreach.
- Engaging thousands of state and local leaders, stakeholders, and residents in our various processes.
- Presenting on five different growth-related topics in a week-long ABC4 series on growth.
- Presenting on over 200 occasions to various stakeholders and residents on growth-related challenges.
- Premiering the Your Utah, Your Future Podcast which has a five-star rating on Apple Podcasts and nearly 1,000 listeners have tuned in across the state and beyond.

DONORS

Envision Utah is grateful for the ongoing support from the **George S. and Dolores Doré Eccles Foundation** and many other generous supporters:

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THANK YOU

Envision Utah credits its success to the great public and private partnerships forged over the last two decades.

We sincerely thank you for believing in our mission of helping residents create communities that are rich in opportunity and defined by unparalleled quality of life. As Envision Utah continues to move forward, we are appreciative of the monumental community support for the Envision Utah process that brings people together to find common ground and maintain the exemplary quality of life in this region now and for generations to come.



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We are deeply grateful for the support we receive from visionary Utahns across the state. Your friendship, guidance, and generosity makes our work possible—thank you!

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