

RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SALT LAKE COUNTY COUNCIL AND THE SALT LAKE COUNTY MAYOR SUPPORTING A COMMON-SENSE SOLUTIONS APPROACH TO THE UTAH DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION'S LITTLE COTTONWOOD CANYON ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

WHEREAS, Little Cottonwood Canyon (“LCC”) is a treasured natural resource; and

WHEREAS, the Utah Department of Transportation (“UDOT”) has been conducting an Environmental Impact Statement related to transportation improvement alternatives for State Route (S.R.) 210 in and near LCC for over 4 years (the “LCC EIS”); and

WHEREAS, Salt Lake County (the “County”) has served as a participating agency for the LCC EIS, and members of County leadership and staff have actively engaged in the LCC EIS process since its inception; and

WHEREAS, UDOT recently issued a Final LCC EIS (the “Final EIS”), in which it identified Gondola Alternative B (the “Gondola Alternative”), with proposed phasing, as the preferred alternative to improve transportation in LCC; and

WHEREAS, UDOT is conducting a 45-day comment period for the Final EIS prior to its issuance of a separate Record of Decision (the “ROD”); and

WHEREAS, the Gondola Alternative: i) will cost taxpayers at least \$550 million in initial construction costs, together with ongoing operational expenses; ii) will make stops at only 2 private ski resorts; iii) will remove only 30% of vehicular traffic from the canyon road; iv) will entail the construction of 22 high-rise hotel sized gondola towers along the canyon road; and v) has limited flexibility to pivot in the event of changing circumstances; and

WHEREAS, the Final EIS failed to adequately and effectively consider alternate transportation modes, such as electric (or other sustainable) buses and different options for tunneling technology; and

WHEREAS, an alternate common-sense solutions approach (the “Common-Sense

Solutions Approach”) exists that has the potential to adequately address the transportation needs highlighted in the LCC EIS, but through more practical and less invasive transportation strategies, such as parking management technologies and policies, multi-passenger vehicle incentives, traction device requirements and regionally placed mobility hubs; and

WHEREAS, the Salt Lake County Council and the Salt Lake County Mayor wish to articulate their joint position on the proposed alternative identified in the Final EIS.

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Salt Lake County Council and the Salt Lake County Mayor recommend that the Gondola Alternative be eliminated from consideration in the final ROD, and, instead, UDOT adopt the Common-Sense Solutions Approach, which is a more fiscally conservative and environmentally sound option; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Salt Lake County Council, acting as the legislative body for Salt Lake County, and the Salt Lake County Mayor, acting as the executive body for Salt Lake County, intend to continue to support the Common-Sense Solutions Approach as the recommended solution for the transportation issues related to S.R. 210 in and near LCC.

APPROVED and ADOPTED this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2022.

SALT LAKE COUNTY COUNCIL

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Laurie Stringham, Chair

SALT LAKE COUNTY MAYOR

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Jenny Wilson

