

Uncovering & Restoring Our Urban Creeks



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RE: **Rio Grande Plan – Letter of Support**

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the Seven Canyons Trust, I am pleased to support the Rio Grande Plan, a citizen-authored infrastructure project that proposes to grade-separate the railroads that cut through downtown Salt Lake City and to reactivate the historic Rio Grande Depot as the city's central train station. The Seven Canyons Trust is a nonprofit working to uncover and restore the buried and impaired creeks in the Salt Lake Valley.

Moving the rails below-grade will eliminate conflicts among trains, vehicles, pedestrians, and cyclists, and help heal Salt Lake City's east-west divide, especially along the Folsom Trail corridor. The Seven Canyons Trust is working with the Salt Lake City Redevelopment Agency to uncover City Creek and add additional improvements along the Folsom Trail from 700 West to 1000 West. The Rio Grande Plan will create additional green space in this underserved neighborhood and open opportunity for further daylighting of City Creek east of 700 West to connect The Gateway, Downtown, and City Creek Canyon to the east and the Jordan River Trail to the west. In addition, efforts will remove two at-grade rail crossings along the Folsom Trail, which make it challenging to use for commuters and recreators.

With the large amounts of capital slated for this area from the National Hockey League, the National Basketball Association, and the upcoming 2034 Winter Olympics, the Rio Grande Plan and subsequent improvements can exponentially increase the investments made in this neighborhood. Now is the time to transform the rail infrastructure in Salt Lake City and we should begin with the Rio Grande Plan. The Seven Canyons Trust supports the Rio Grande Plan and urges Salt Lake City, Salt Lake County, the State of Utah, and the US Department of Transportation to formally support this innovative and transformative grassroots project.

Thanks for your consideration of this exciting effort.

Sincerely,

BRIAN TONETTI
Executive Director



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