



To Whom it May Concern,

The Central City Neighborhood Council in Salt Lake City fully supports the Rio Grande Plan, a citizen-authored infrastructure project that proposes to grade-separate the railroads that divide downtown Salt Lake City and to reactivate the historic Rio Grande Depot as the city's central train station. We support this initiative because moving the rails below-grade will eliminate conflicts among trains, vehicles, pedestrians, and cyclists; increase the efficiency of passenger rail across the entire Utah network; and help heal Salt Lake City's east-west divide. Additionally, utilizing the Depot will more closely integrate the hub of the greater state rail network into the core of downtown and the Utah Transit Authority TRAX network servicing the greater Salt Lake region.

The Central City neighborhood of Salt Lake City (zip codes 84111 and 84102) is a mixed-use, transit-connected neighborhood just east of downtown. Our neighborhood takes pride in its walkability and accessibility to most amenities, with most services in walking, biking, and transit distance, providing options for our residents to get around how they choose. According to the 2022 US Census, of our 7,200 residents, 24% do not have access to a motor vehicle, and 48% have access to a single motor vehicle in their household. For many here, driving is not an option, and existing train services like the TRAX and FrontRunner are essential for more regional trips. The Rio Grande Plan would make train travel a core part of our transportation system. It will provide a central hub for our community and its visitors to connect to more regional destinations and lay the groundwork for additional and faster service. A convenient transportation hub with frequent bus and train options would also alleviate traffic and local pollution in the city.

Additionally, the city is going to see exponential growth and development over the next 10 years due to the 2034 winter Olympics and recently approved Capital City Revitalization Zone. Implementing the Rio Grande Plan will only make the city more accessible to residents and set the stage for Salt Lake City to be a world-class destination for both residents and visitors around the globe.

The Central City Neighborhood Council 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.

Sincerely,

Rhianna Riggs, Chair, Central City Neighborhood Council

Troy Saltiel, Transportation Committee Lead, Central City Neighborhood Council