

Mayor Becker Announces New Shared Lane Marking Experiment for Salt Lake City

Salt Lake City is One of Few Cities Nationwide to Participate in Program

SALT LAKE CITY - Salt Lake City has joined a small number of communities nationwide that are piloting an experimental pavement marking system intended to help better accommodate bicyclists and vehicles on narrow roadways. The system is approved by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA).

The experiment involves a dramatic painting of green street markings on 200 South between State and Main Street to remind motorists that bicyclists can lawfully ride in the center of a travel lane. The road is only 12 feet wide and not large enough to add a separate bike lane; this move is intended to increase safety for everyone.

The City will conduct the experiment for one year and submit a report to the FHWA in the fall of 2009. If the results of the experiment are positive, the City intends to request the FHWA consider making the markings permanent. This federal approval process could take years but the markings will be left in place during that time.

Today's announcement complements many ongoing efforts the Becker Administration has been advancing to make Salt Lake City more bicycle friendly. The issue has been something Mayor Becker has been addressing since the beginning of his administration, but has taken on new significance as the number of cyclists on the road in Salt Lake City have dramatically increased in the face of high gas prices.

"Making Salt Lake City more friendly to non-motorized modes of transportation is good for everyone. It helps keep our air cleaner, promotes a healthier lifestyle for our residents and keeps us all safer," remarked Mayor Becker.

In addition to the new pilot program, Mayor Becker announced today the City has appointed Dan Bergenthal to fill a newly created trails coordinator position to help advance this and other trail and bikeway projects in Salt Lake City.

Dan Bergenthal Appointed as New Trails Coordinator

SALT LAKE CITY –Salt Lake City announced today that Dan Bergenthal has been appointed to the newly created Trails Coordinator position. Bergenthal, an avid cyclist, has served as an engineer in the Transportation Division of Salt Lake City Corporation since 1998.

During that time, he has worked to develop bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure within the city including applying and receiving funding for over \$3 million dollars for federal grants. Bergenthal has been involved with the planning, design and construction of

numerous bicycle related projects in the city including, most recently, 200 South Shared Lanes, Emigration Canyon Bike Lanes and Beck Street Bicycle Lanes. He also served as the City's project manager for the development of the 2004 SLC Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan and represents Salt Lake City on the Mayor's Bicycle Advisory Committee.

His pedestrian safety activities have included overseeing the city's pedestrian safety program and implementation of various pedestrian safety projects throughout the city. Bergenthal initiated and managed the city's Adopt-a-Crosswalk orange flag program, and installation of pedestrian countdown timers, pedestrian overhead flashing warning lights, LOOK symbols and crosswalk approach stripes,

Mayor Becker remarked, "We are pleased to find someone with Dan's expertise in developing pedestrian and bicycle related infrastructure right here in our midst. His enthusiasm towards new cycling initiatives and involvement in Salt Lake City's cycling community also make him our top choice."

Bergenthal brings more than 17 years of engineering and planning experience to the new position. Prior to serving as a City transportation engineer, Bergenthal worked as an engineer for the City of West Jordan and for Parsons Engineering Science Inc. Bergenthal holds a Bachelor's Degree in Civil Engineering and a Masters of Engineering Management from Brigham Young University.

In accepting the new position, Bergenthal commented, "I love trails and the outdoors. I'm very excited about this opportunity to work on enhancing the city's trails system. I want SLC to be known as a walkable and bikeable city – a place where people want to live because of the availability of recreational trail opportunities close to home and because it's easy to get around without a car."

Bergenthal will be responsible for working on behalf of Salt Lake City to oversee trails and bikeways. He will also develop, implement, and promote new cycling programs and initiatives.

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