

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in support of a dedicated bicycle / pedestrian pathway through Sanpete County. Initially a pathway from Fairview to Gunnison would create a major North to South route connecting many of the towns along highway 89. In addition other spurs such as a pathway from Fountain Green to Mount Pleasant could tie those towns into the trail network. This is desperately needed as the current option for riding / walking is along the roadways.

I have been riding bikes since childhood and have enjoyed using bikes for commuting to school and work as well as for exercise and recreation. Sharing the roadway with cars has always felt a little hazardous especially through Sanpete where roads have narrow travel lanes with very little shoulder space. Over the past several years we have seen a tremendous increase in automobile / pedestrian accidents. I have experienced some very close calls myself even though I am an experienced rider. How can we expect to keep our children safe? Whether this increase in accidents is due to distracted drivers, higher speeds or simply more cars than ever on the roads, we need to have a safer option for commuting and exercising in and through our county.

When this path is built, I know that it will become heavily used and enjoyed by thousands. I have used paths in Salt Lake and Utah Counties that are wonderful! They provide safe travel and bring the community closer through personal interaction that you simply do not get when traveling at high speed inside a car. Thousands of people use and enjoy those trails just as they will in Sanpete.

There is a feeling of being in the moment and in touch with your surroundings when riding. It's a sensory experience that's very refreshing. Both physical and mental health are enhanced by the experience. Bike / pedestrian pathways are going to allow people the freedom to exercise and explore this great place that we live in. It's going to bring personal health and community connection to those that use it and it will bring many that are currently not getting out to exercise because they don't feel safe on the roads.

We are at a pivotal point in the development of our county as more and more people move in and developments are created. If human-centric infrastructure is designed in from now on, we can be less reliant on cars for all of our transportation needs. I urge you to consider making pathways as high of a priority as our roadways. Let's make this happen!

Thank you for your consideration,
Eric Millsap
Moroni, Utah