

Keith Steurer, MS, PE, LEED AP  
PO Box 187  
Manti, UT 84624  
11-20-2023

RE: Letter of Support for Bike Trail Spine in Sanpete County, UT

This letter is to offer my support and excitement for a possible bike trail spine through Sanpete County where I live and work. I have been an avid biker in the past, including road cycling and triathlon competitions in year's past. Since moving to Utah almost a decade ago, I have not cycled much, in part due to the lack of safe places to cycle. We used to live in Iowa, and there is a network of county roads across the state in almost a grid. This means that there are hundreds of farm roads, some paved, with very little vehicle traffic, and cyclists enjoy setting off for a 20-mile ride with almost no vehicle interactions along the way. Here in Utah, the majority of roads extending more than 20 miles are state highways, or municipal arterial roads.

The local roads here in Sanpete county are no exception. The risks associated with cycling alongside cars travelling at high speeds, including double semi-trailers, with little to no shoulder to ride on is too great for me to feel comfortable to ride. I live just 7 miles from my work, and HWY 89 is a straight shot from home to work, but the fear of being run off the road by a vehicle is too much for me to jump on my bike for my commute. I would love to commute by bicycle, but it simply isn't a safe alternative.

A bike trail spine along HWY 89 would be a game changer for me and all the citizens of our county. It would provide a *SAFE* route for travel for cyclists and pedestrians. It also provides options for non-vehicle travel in the county and reduces our carbon footprint in the county and in the state. Those options currently do not exist. It also provides a very low-cost recreation option, with bicycles being easily accessed at local stores, online, and through used bike sellers on KSL, etc.

Active transportation is a recreational activity that can be enjoyed by people of all ages, including families. It also offers active transportation opportunities with the associated health benefits of exercise, and helps to reduce chronic health disease in the county, and reduce the state's costs for health care.

Lastly, it would offer an alternative transportation option for students attending Snow College, where I work. Many students are low-income, and/or first-generation students, where transportation to college each day can actually be a barrier to accessing higher education.

If state or federal funding is available to get the bike trail spine project built, this will benefit many citizens. I hope you will take my suggested benefits in mind and consider funding trails in our county, for our citizens, our children, and our healthy future. It would be a great addition to regional recreation options and will complement the State's commitment to fun family activities that are inexpensive and accessible to all!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'K. Steurer', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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Keith Steurer, MS, PE, LEED AP