

TRANSPORTATION STORIES IN THE WASATCH FRONT

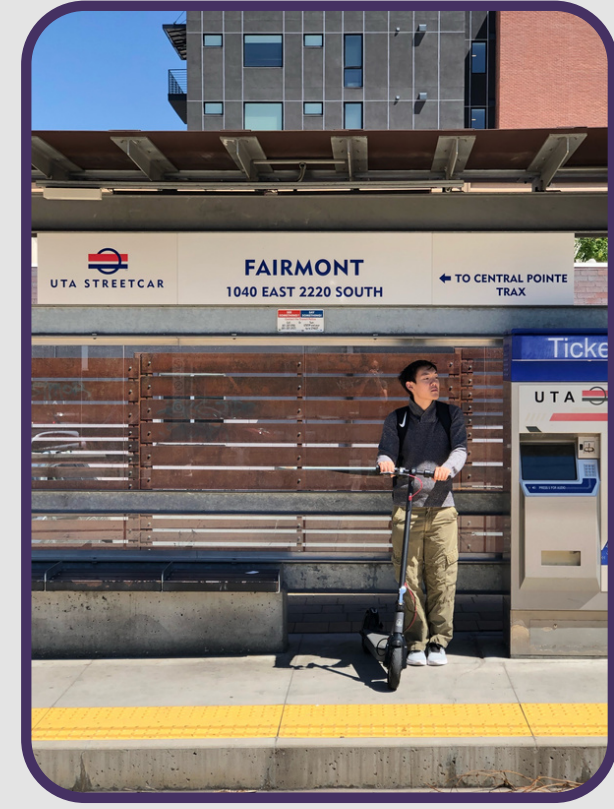


Utah's Wasatch Front encompasses many communities and where the majority of the state's population resides. Through the transportation narratives project, personal stories were collected to share how real people lived and got around the region. Storytelling is a powerful way to share lived experiences. By incorporating the experiences of people using our transportation system in planning processes and documentation, it makes the connections to how different users may be shaped by transportation decision-making, and how we can continue to engage with different people to make our transportation system better, safer, and more connected.

Storytellers were offered a small sum for their interview and photos. These were incorporated into the Wasatch Front Regional Council's (WFRC) 2023-2050 Regional Transportation Plan and Utah's Unified Transportation Plan. These are a collection of a few narratives.

MEET DANIEL

Ching Yang Lin, who goes by Daniel, is a flight student attending Utah Valley University in Orem City.



He quickly became familiar with the Utah Transit Authority network and now uses more bus routes after learning a bit more about the routes.

To get to school, he uses the Frontrunner train to travel from Orem to Provo, then gets on Bus Route 833 to reach the Provo Airport.

As a student without a car, he uses his e-scooter to complement his transit trips, helping with first-mile/last mile trips.



As a student pilot he must also consider his weekly schedule because Sunday remains a day where he is unable to do much with lack of service, and must make sure activities take place on other days of the week.

Daniel suggests that in the future, Sunday service should be created and expanded across the region, especially for the Frontrunner train.

MEET ANNIE

Annie lives in Salt Lake City with her family. They are a family of five with one vehicle.



Annie has encouraged her children to use transit as a way to get around, including to extra curricular classes in downtown Salt Lake and to West High School.

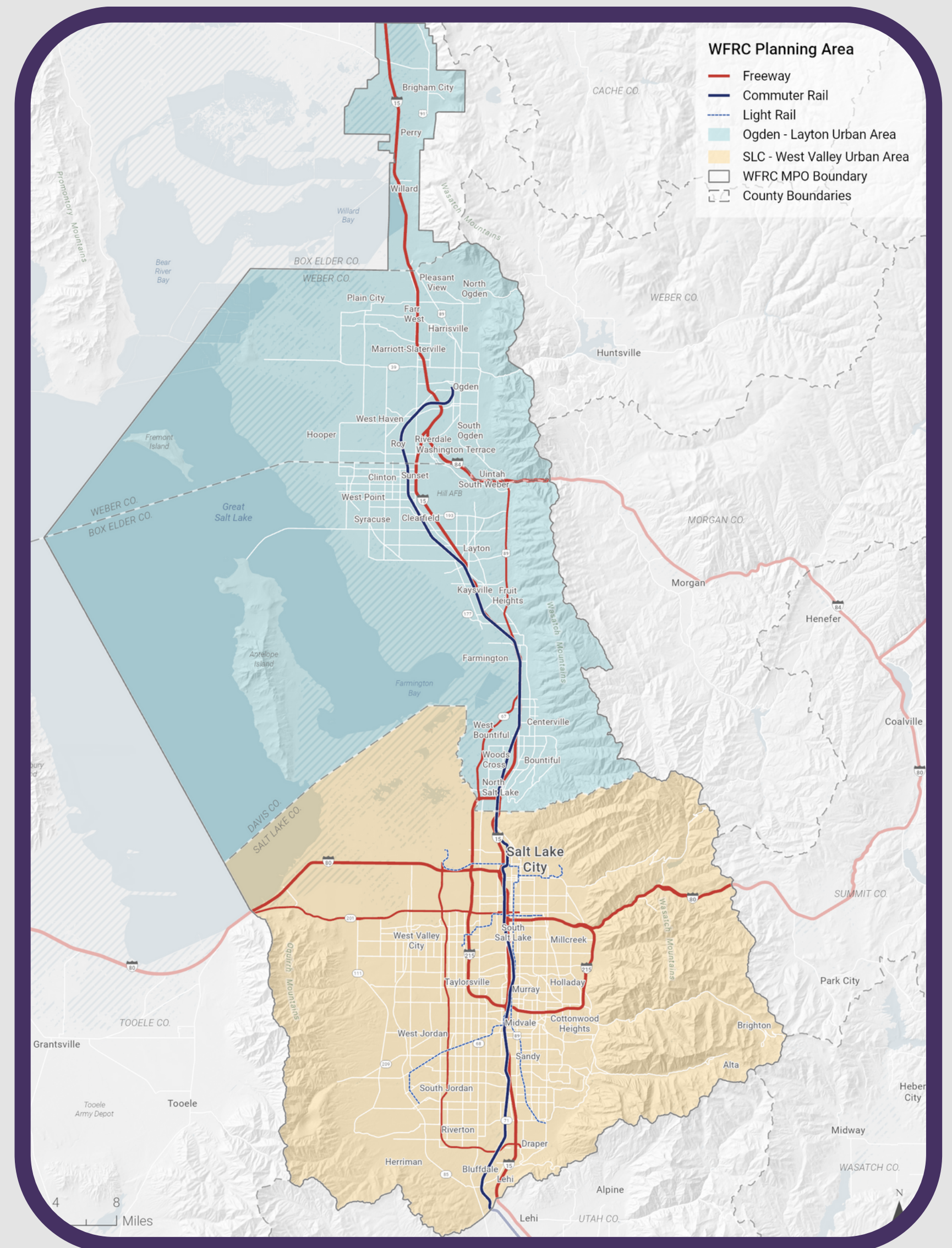
In addition to taking the bus, Annie's family often rides bikes everywhere

She'll often accompany her son on bike to school, allowing them to skip the queue of parents lining dropping off/picking up their kids.

Annie is very concerned about the overall safety of her local streets, being very particular about the routes they take, especially while biking.



WASATCH FRONT REGIONAL COUNCIL PLANNING BOUNDARY IN NORTHERN WASATCH FRONT, UTAH

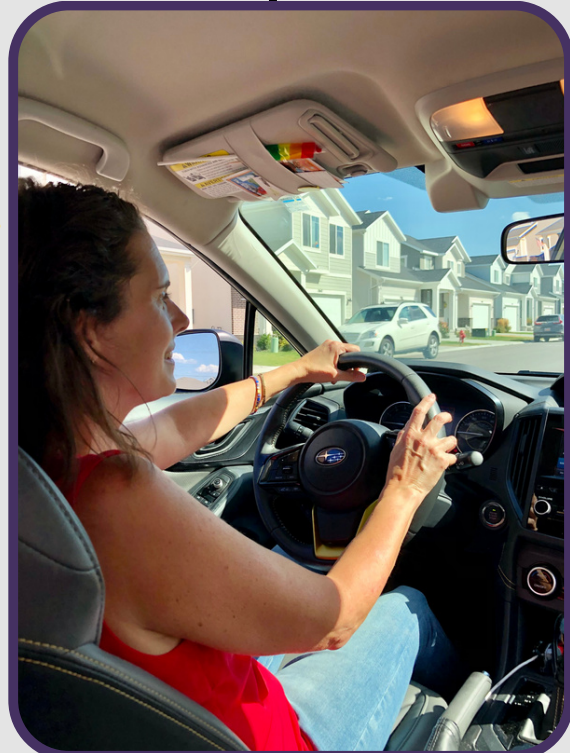


MEET BETH

Beth has been in Herriman City for nearly 20 years.

To get from point A to point B, Beth loves riding her scooter.

She appreciates how much fun it is, spicing up her commute and putting her in a great mood.



It takes twice as much time for Beth to get to work in Taylorsville on her scooter, so when she finds herself time constrained, she'll choose her Subaru Crosstrek for a quicker commute

She'll work from home on those inversion days in order to help minimize her role when there's bad air quality.

An issue that has influenced her choice to travel is the inversion in the Salt Lake Valley.

Beth will also use the Frontrunner to visit a friend in Ogden, which removes a long and unpleasant drive, while providing a viable regional option full of pleasant downtime on the journey.

While Annie's son made a full recovery and they're all biking together again, bike and pedestrian safety continues to be a top concern of hers.

Her fears were realized a few years ago when her 6-year-old son was hit and injured by a driver while biking to a park.

She also continues to cultivate positive associations with biking and transit, like trips to the donut shop so this positive view can be instilled in her family.

He would also like solutions to address some of the difficulties associated with transit use, such as stops without seating facilities or trips forcing inefficient transfers that require riders to unnecessarily withstand freezing temperatures.

MEET ANDRES

Andres is a 25 year old resident of Taylorsville.



Having moved from Venezuela he is currently studying sociology at the University of Utah.

For his job, he takes taking one of two bus routes that operate in the evening and then snags one again the next morning after the end of his shift.

He also works full time at Amazon on night shifts, which are a set of 12 hour shifts over the weekend that allow him to attend class on the weekdays.



He notes that the warehouse sites are a difficult place for pedestrians to navigate due to the large spacing and lack of infrastructure on many of the streets.

Andres is lucky to have a bus stop right next to his workplace, but many other sites do not, forcing workers to walk across grass (and in the winter, snow) to access their jobs.