

**Date: August 28, 2015**

**To: ULCT membership**

**From: Cameron Diehl and ULCT staff**

**RE: 500 WORD AND NEUTRAL ENCOURAGEMENT TRANSPORTATION TEMPLATE**

**I) Background and equal access requirement**

As described in ULCT's legal memo and summary (located at <http://www.ulct.org/legislative-wrap-up/>), counties are required to provide a 500 word statement in support of the ballot proposition (Proposition 1). Cities do not have this requirement because cities are not imposing the local option. You may provide factual information about the potential impact of Proposition 1. We recommend that you provide the factual information in a 500 word package and follow the same guidelines that the Transparency of Ballot Propositions Act provides for the county. Those guidelines also include the potential opportunity for a 250 word rebuttal and counter-rebuttal

If you as a city/town post 500 words of factual information that support Proposition 1, you must provide equal access for opponents of Proposition 1. The county must post 500 words in opposition from a voter within the county. You could use the county submission or you could seek 500 words of opposing factual information from a voter within your jurisdiction. You may also include links to organizations that support or oppose Proposition 1 so long as you provide equal access to both organizations. It is also acceptable to provide a brief statement of support. In everything, make sure you comply with the equal access requirement. The objective behind the state law is to inform voters about the potential impact of the ballot proposition.

If you choose not to post 500 words of factual information, you may still neutrally encourage your voters to vote in November. You can do so via the utility bill, city newsletter, or other means of communication. The neutral encouragement need not also provide equal access.

Finally, the templates below are meant as guidance only. You need not use the templates word for word. **There are gaps provided for your city/town's name and to include specific projects or types of projects.** The UTA component does not apply to every jurisdiction. **We strongly encourage you to adapt the below framework to best explain the transportation needs and potential improvements in your community.**

As always, if you have questions, please contact ULCT Director of Government Relations Cameron Diehl at 801-328-1601 or [cdiehl@ulct.org](mailto:cdiehl@ulct.org).

**II) 500 word transportation template (currently 388 words)**

\_\_\_\_\_ City wants our children and grandchildren to enjoy a wonderful quality of life now and in the future. \_\_\_\_\_ City faces a growing population, deteriorating roads, incomplete trails and transit service, and a budget that can't keep up with street and sidewalk maintenance costs.

Proposition 1 is a sales tax dedicated to local transportation. For one cent of every four dollars spent—excluding food purchases—\_\_\_\_\_ City can maintain neighborhood roads, improve air quality, and reduce traffic so we spend less time in our cars and more time with our families.

\_\_\_\_ City believes the cost of doing nothing is higher for our families than the cost of Proposition 1. The current road disrepair costs the average Utahn over \$600 more a year in added fuel use, tire wear, and car maintenance (according to TRIP, a transportation research nonprofit, July 23, 2015). Meanwhile, Proposition 1 would cost the average Utahn \$40 a year. For every dollar we invest now in infrastructure, we save \$6 in future repair and \$10 in reconstruction work. While slurry seals, chip seals, and overlays cost money to keep roads in good shape, they are less expensive than skipping maintenance and rebuilding a road later. Choosing to maintain our roads today is the financially responsible and fiscally conservative approach for Utah families.

Prop 1 is dedicated exclusively to *local* transportation. \_\_\_\_ City would receive approximately 40% of the local option revenue and must, by state law, invest the new revenue exclusively into neighborhood transportation improvements. \_\_\_\_ County will receive approximately 20% and the Utah Transit Authority will also receive 40% of the revenue. The UTA Board of Directors changed UTA leadership this year and committed that Proposition 1 funds would only be spent on increased bus and rail service. Transit use already reduces 344,000 tons of emissions annually and Proposition 1 would result in more service, more ridership, and more clean air.

Here in \_\_\_\_ City, we will invest Prop 1 funds into the following types of projects: (roads, active transportation, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_. \_\_\_\_ City will be accountable to you for how Prop 1 funds will be spent.

Local governments and the business community stand together to support Proposition 1. The Salt Lake and \_ (local) \_\_\_\_\_ Chambers of Commerce support Proposition 1. Over 110 cities and towns passed resolutions supporting Proposition 1, including \_\_\_\_ City.

### **III) Neutral Encouragement to Vote**

\_\_\_\_ City encourages you to vote on Proposition 1 and the city council races. For more information about Proposition 1, please visit the (county website or city website if your city chooses to post information) at \_\_\_\_\_. For more information about council candidates, please visit \_\_\_\_\_.