

Council Report

ZNP Visitor Use Management Plan

The Cooperating Agency group continued to meet to talk about possible solutions for overcrowding at Zion National Park. I feel like we're getting closer to a recommendation, but different organizations have different "wins." For example, most organizations want to encourage visitation to Zion in order to boost their economy, whereas Springdale bears the brunt of over-visitation.

UDOT Master Transportation Plan for Virgin, Utah

Jack Burns and I attended this event. While there are recommendations for slowing traffic on SR-9, the most controversial part of the Plan is connections between neighborhoods in Virgin. Some of those would cut through people's property. This is a very long-range plan, so we probably won't see much change in the next few years.

Virgin River Project

I attended a meeting of the Virgin River Project board and learned more about work that needs to be done on the Virgin River in Zion National Park. I also learned more about a plan to bring endangered species of fish to the River in Rockville and Springdale to see if they can survive above the hot springs in LaVerkin. This item will come before the Council later this year or early next year.

East Zion Discovery Project

Rick and I attended the groundbreaking ceremony for this project. It is being presented as a visitor attraction that will help disperse people from the Scenic Canyon area of the Park. ZNP has a goal of having only two-way traffic through the tunnel in about two years, and some smaller electric shuttles were on display at this event. Right now, the tunnel only allows two-way traffic for 14 minutes an hour.

Fiber Optics

Rick and I met with a representative of SC Communications (formerly South Central) to discuss their interest in bringing fiber to every residence in Springdale. They are willing to cover some but not all of the cost of installation. He will come back to us with a proposal for a "match," and we'll run it by Council. We're hoping to get ahead of the surge in demand for crews and materials after the federal money is available next year. Springdale is not eligible for grants because we're shown on the BEAD maps as having adequate coverage.