



**SPECIAL MOAB CITY  
COUNCIL / GRAND COUNTY  
COMMISSION JOINT MEETING  
ARCHES HOTSPOT REGION  
COORDINATING JOINT MEETING**

**Held virtually on Zoom  
Moab, Utah**

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**MINUTES  
30 October, 2020**

The Moab City Council and Grand County Commission met jointly with the Arches Hotspot Coordinating Committee on 30 October, 2020. Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, the meeting was streamed/attended electronically. It was also broadcast on YouTube and saved for future viewing.

**1. Call to Order and Roll Call Arches Hotspot Region Coordinating Committee**

Curtis Wells called the meeting to order at 12:33 pm. Other Arches Hotspot Region Coordinating Committee members in attendance were Wes Shannon, Mike Duncan, Karen Guzman-Newton, Curtis Wells, Kalen Jones, and Evan Clapper. Jaylyn Hawks was absent.

**Motion by** Karen Guzman-Newton to approve the minutes from the last Arches Hotspot Coordinating Meeting.

**Motion Seconded** by Kalen Jones

Discussion (none at this time)

**Motion passes** 6-0

Adjourn at 12:34 pm.

**Motion by** Evan Clapper to table and move to item 3 on the Agenda

**Motion seconded** by Curtis Wells

**Motion passes** Unanimously

**2. (3) Call to Order and Roll Call Attendance – Grand County Commission (Moved up in order)**

Chair McGann called the meeting to order at 12:36. Grand County Commission members in attendance were Mary McGann, Evan Clapper, Curtis Wells, Gabriel Woytek, and Jaylyn Hawks. County staff in attendance were County Administrator Chris Baird, Assistant County Administrator Mallory Nassau, Planning and Zoning Department Head Mila Dunbar-Irwin, County Attorney Christina Sloan, and Clerk/Auditor Quinn Hall.

**3. (2) Call to Order and Roll Call Attendance – Moab City Council**

Mayor Emily Niehaus called the meeting to order at 12:37. Moab City Council Members in attendance were Tawny Knuteson-Boyd, Kalen Jones, Karen Guzman-Newton, Rani Derasary, and Mike Duncan. Staff

present were Recorder Sommar Johnson, Assistant City Manager Carly Castle, Engineer Chuck Williams, City Attorney Laurie Simonson, and City Communications Director Lisa Church. Also in attendance was Monte Aldridge from the Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT).

#### **4. Citizens to Be Heard**

Reed Pendleton commented the shuttle may not get much use from the accommodations sector. Worried about congestion with proposed parking. Supports the bypass.

Neal Clark noted he lives in the Mountain View subdivision. Is frustrated by the bypass option. Noted traffic is likely the result of over-promotion.

Katherine Holyoak submitted an email. Curtis Wells clarified the issue for her.

Melanie Snow commented against the proposed bypass. Suggested the proposed bypass would negatively impact residents.

Kim Kirks wondered if pollution and wildlife impact had been considered with regards to the bypass.

#### **5. Presentation of Arches Hotspot Region Coordinating Committee Public Engagement Efforts (Lisa Church)**

Lisa discussed the public engagement efforts, public meetings, and social outreach to engage the community in the planning process.

Lisa noted the results of the survey could be discussed at a later time, and the comments are posted on the website. Carly noted the results were presented, and the committee members were aware of the results of the survey. Lisa noted the presentation of the results is available on YouTube.

#### **6. Presentation of Concept Package and Transportation Project Prioritization List (Commissioner Wells and Assistant City Manager Carly Castle)**

Curtis discussed the concept package and how the committee scored and ranked proposed projects. Noted that adding parking options downtown was a priority. Discussed parking options and cost per stall and total project cost. Curtis also discussed the shared-use pathway along Spanish Valley Dr. Curtis discussed the shuttle transit concept plan.

Chair McGann read a letter of support from the Grand County Commission and Moab City Council and the Arches Regional Hotspot Committee expressing thanks for UDOT's involvement and support to the community. Noted recent projects and work by UDOT has been invaluable to the county and city.

Curtis thanked committee, commission, and council members for their support and work on this issue.

Monte Aldridge discussed the transit plan outline and the financial commitment from the city and county before the process could proceed.

Tawny noted some discomfort with the disclaimer – and the supposed completeness of the plan and would like further clarity on the details of the plan. Carly noted the request for proposal (RFP) would be complete once the county and the city are committed to the financial obligations. Monte noted the difference between transit and shuttle, and suggested the shuttle could potentially morph into a more comprehensive transit

system. Federal funding is not available for a shuttle system, but is available for a transit system, and a shuttle system would lay the foundation for a more comprehensive transit system.

Rani noted the need for American with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessible parking spots in the plan.

Curtis discussed the challenges of the committee finding a balance and appropriate use of the funding. Noted some landscaping concerns. Noted the budget for aesthetics on this project is higher than on other projects.

Gabriel noted concern about the potential lack of funding for aesthetics.

Evan noted UDOT funds are prohibited from being used for beautification, but that doesn't stop local government from funding those aspects of the project.

Karen noted the committee was focused on safety first and view many of the potential upgrades as priorities for safety.

Rani noted the importance of shade and benches. Kalen noted that any beautification should qualify as economic development. Mike noted the ongoing beautification will almost certainly need to be planned for by future city councils. Evan noted the importance of private business involvement and cooperation.

Tawny asked if maintenance costs of the shared pathway had been considered. Evan suggested this project was already in the discussion phase before the hotspot funding came into play, and was already something the county was looking to budget for at some future point.

Carly discussed the ranking criteria and ranking results.

Mayor Niehaus asked if anyone was in disagreement with the rankings. Mike suggested congestion is the most important factor – and wondered if the council may disagree with the rankings in relation to how much they would reduce congestion. Karen suggested that congestion could be a catalyst to come up with solutions.

Rani asked for clarification on the viability assessment of the transit system at the beginning of the county/city funding point. Curtis noted the city and county would likely determine long-term feasibility.

Karen noted we should seek grant funding for years 4 and 5, and that there may be some grant funding available.

Evan asked where potential county funding would come from. Chris noted the transportation sales tax may be used. The Transient Room Tax (TRT) is already allocated at 100%, but that given enough time and political will we could likely fund the proposed project.

## **7. Action to Approve the Arches Hotspot Region Coordinating Committee's Recommended Transportation Project Concept Package and Prioritization List (Commissioner Wells)**

### **a. Moab City Council**

**Motion by** Mike Duncan to approve the Arches Hotspot Region Coordinating Committee's Recommended Transportation Project Concept Package and Prioritization List.

**Motion seconded by** Karen Guzman-Newton

**Roll Call Vote:** Mike Duncan, yes. Karen Guzman-Newton, yes. Tawny Knuteson-Boyd, no. Rani Derasary, yes. Kalen Jones, yes.

**Motion passes 4-1**, Knuteson-Boyd opposed.

b. Grand County Commission

**Motion by** Curtis Wells to approve the Arches Hotspot Region Coordinating Committee's Recommended Transportation Project Concept Package and Prioritization List

**Motion seconded by** Evan Clapper

**Discussion:** Evan thanked Curtis for being invested in the process.

**Roll Call Vote:** Curtis Wells, yes. Gabriel Woytek, yes. Evan Clapper, yes. Mary McGann, yes, Jaylyn Hawks, yes.

**Motion passes 5-0**

**8. Discussion Regarding Resolutions Committing to Funding Years Four and Five of the Transit Shuttle Pilot Project (Commissioner Wells)**

(not ready for action yet – Carly suggested each body discussing funding separately. Mayor Niehaus suggested the motion passed already provides implicit direction to staff)

**9. Discussion of a Potential Resolution in Support of a Bypass (Mayor Emily Niehaus and Commissioner Wells)**

Mayor Niehaus expressed regret if this discussion item took anything away from the Arches Hotspot Committee – but it's an important item. Mayor Niehaus noted there is no proposed resolution about the bypass, but noted this is simply a discussion about whether or not there is community support for any sort of bypass at this time.

Curtis noted a bypass is a potential solution to some of the congestion and that to formally proceed with any project consideration there needs to be a formal expression of support. Noted that both entities need an alignment of goals to proceed. Noted the yearly increase in traffic, and suggested the increase is likely to continue. Noted the traffic issue is real, and will likely only get worse with time. We need to have a firm decision about whether or not we can locally support a bypass.

Tawny asked how many times we have to say no to the bypass. Suggested the options provided do not bypass town at all.

Rani suggested that this being on the agenda derailed the work of the Arches Hotspot Committee. Karen noted she was upset to see the bypass on the agenda. Noted that the bypass was never a priority of the Arches Hotspot Committee, but that congestion is real, and is an issue that needs to be resolved.

Mike suggested he felt sideswiped to have this on the agenda. Noted the only way forward would be to have a giant tunnel on the west side of the valley. Noted the unlikely feasibility of a tunnel.

Evan Clapper noted the importance of getting feedback, and noted most of the feedback seems negative. Suggested no real need to move forward with public hearings at this time.

Mary suggested that if we truly don't want a bypass, that we should look to other solutions to mitigate the congestion.

Kalen noted he's not in favor of pursuing a bypass.

Jaylyn suggested not walking away from the bypass as it's better to keep options open.

Curtis noted the county commission has never taken a firm stance on the bypass, but that if we want to consider any options at all we do need to decide at least to look at the alternatives. Noted congestion will continue to be an issue.

Rani acknowledged the traffic problems, but suggested the bypass is not an appropriate mitigation measure. Noted that she can't support anything that the majority of the community doesn't support.

Wes Shannon noted there isn't really a consensus of support among the downtown businesses.

Gabriel noted he doesn't support the concepts presented.

Christina noted UDOT likely does not have the funds for this project.

Jaylyn noted the bypass is not currently scheduled to be built, and there is time for further public input/process.

**Motion by** Kalen Jones to adjourn.

**Motion Seconded** by Rani Derasary

**Motion passes 5-0**

## 10. Adjourn

GRAND COUNTY COMMISSION:

ATTEST:



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Mary McGann, Chair



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Quinn Hall, Clerk/Auditor

<b>TITLE</b>	Minutes 10-30 JOINT CITY COUNTY ARCHES HOTSPOT
<b>FILE NAME</b>	Minutes - 30 OCT ...oved Unsigned.pdf
<b>DOCUMENT ID</b>	46b18b66813134bea2283213e02dab2f15f9631a
<b>AUDIT TRAIL DATE FORMAT</b>	MM / DD / YYYY
<b>STATUS</b>	● Completed

## Document History

 SENT	<b>11 / 18 / 2020</b> 18:40:05 UTC	Sent for signature to Mary McGann (mmcgann@grandcountyutah.net) and Quinn Hall (qhall@grandcountyutah.net) from mnassau@grandcountyutah.net IP: 67.22.163.196
 VIEWED	<b>11 / 18 / 2020</b> 18:40:13 UTC	Viewed by Mary McGann (mmcgann@grandcountyutah.net) IP: 209.222.82.234
 SIGNED	<b>11 / 18 / 2020</b> 23:38:05 UTC	Signed by Mary McGann (mmcgann@grandcountyutah.net) IP: 174.247.116.4
 VIEWED	<b>11 / 18 / 2020</b> 23:38:17 UTC	Viewed by Quinn Hall (qhall@grandcountyutah.net) IP: 209.222.82.234
 SIGNED	<b>11 / 19 / 2020</b> 00:09:24 UTC	Signed by Quinn Hall (qhall@grandcountyutah.net) IP: 67.22.163.196
 COMPLETED	<b>11 / 19 / 2020</b> 00:09:24 UTC	The document has been completed.