



Salt Lake Climbers Alliance
P.O. Box 9157
Salt Lake City, Utah 84109

June 25, 2021

Utah Department of Transportation
Joshua Van Jura
Project Manager, Little Cottonwood Canyon EIS
jvanjura@utah.gov
2825 E Cottonwood Parkway, Suite 200
Salt Lake City, UT 84121

RE: Salt Lake Climbers Alliance Request for Extension of Environmental Impact Statement Draft
Formal Comment Period

UDOT Planners:

The Salt Lake Climbers Alliance (SLCA) welcomes the opportunity to provide input to UDOT's Little Cottonwood Canyon Environmental Impact Statement Draft Alternatives Development and Screening Report. **The SLCA is formally requesting an extension of the planned LCC EIS Formal Comment Period from 45 days to 60 days.**

About the SLCA

The Salt Lake Climbers Alliance is the local climbing advocacy 501(c)(3) non-profit in and around Salt Lake City, Utah. The mission of the Salt Lake Climbers Alliance is to serve as the unified voice of all climbers in the greater Wasatch region, engaging as an advocate to protect outdoor climbing access and as a steward to maintain sustainable climbing resources in the Wasatch and surrounding regions. SaltLakeClimbers.org

The SLCA has reviewed all of the publicly available materials and resources regarding the EIS and has met with stakeholders in an attempt to build partnerships and better understand the problems and solutions presented in the study. After the SLCA's initial review of the Draft Alternatives, it is clear that additional review time is necessary to assess these alternatives, coordinate with other interested stakeholders, and provide meaningful comments so that UDOT can meet its National Environmental Policy Act obligations to be fully informed on the potential impacts of the proposed alternatives. Because of the enormous level of detail involved in the EIS, and all of the associated data and information (including some not yet available, such as mapping detail and engineering specs for the proposed solutions) the SLCA believes that more

time is needed for stakeholders of Little Cottonwood Canyon to review and understand the impacts of the EIS and proposed alternatives.

The SLCA recognizes the need of the study and proposed alternatives. Safety and efficiency of roadway travel are essential for users of Little Cottonwood Canyon and also for UDOT. The EIS is the primary method to provide review and stakeholder feedback regarding any changes made to the Canyon. The SLCA is heavily invested in preserving the climbing resources and natural beauty and appeal of the canyon and finding the solution that best supports those goals. **It is essential that during this time period, before decisions are made and funding allocated, that a thorough review and understanding of all the potential impacts from a proposed alternative is completed; in order to do that effectively, 45 days is not enough time.**

Sincerely,



Julia Geisler
Executive Director
Salt Lake Climbers Alliance
Julia@SaltLakeClimbers.org

CC: Salt Lake Climbers Alliance LCC EIS Sub-committee Members

Rick Vance, SLCA Board Chair	rickvance2@gmail.com
David Carter	davidpacarter@gmail.com
Michael Mason, SLCA GIS Specialist	mjmason801@gmail.com
Mason Baker	baker.mason@gmail.com
Allen Sanderson	allen@sci.utah.edu
Jonathan Knight	jplknight@gmail.com
Tori Edwards	victoriaedwards.usa@gmail.com
Timothy Behuniak	timothybehuniak@gmail.com

CC:
adam@outdooralliance.org
jason@accessfund.org
ahowe@americanalpineclub.org
chris@csadams.net
kody@friendsofalta.org
tara@friendsofalta.org
carl@saveourcanyons.org
timb@tracyaviary.org
dgoreham@gmail.com
wendy@utahopenlands.org
ellenbirrell@gmail.com
cbramhall@kmclaw.com

CummingsMR@churchofjesuschrist.org
neilsonaj@churchofjesuschrist.org
valmiller@churchofjesuschrist.org
tadams@petzl.com
pgrewe@utah.gov
amy@treeutah.org
carly.ferro@sierraclub.org
jwheelton@cottonwoodcanyons.org
pas@patrickashea.com
sarah@trailsutah.org
chad@utahavalanchecenter.org

###