

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**WEST BENCH TRANSPORTATION COALITION ANNOUNCES PLAN TO
ACCELERATE LIGHT RAIL TO THE WEST BENCH**

The cities of South Jordan, West Jordan and Midvale have joined forces with Kennecott Land and UTA to expedite Light Rail to the West Bench.

The unique public/private partnership was announced Wednesday after being approved in city council meetings Tuesday night. A fifth partner, the city of Murray is expected to join the partnership later this month. Each partner is contributing financially to the completion of a \$3.2 million Environmental Impact Statement and preliminary engineering on the Mid-Jordan line of light rail.

The Mid-Jordan Line is a planned light rail transit extension that connects to the existing UTA north/south TRAX line at Murray's 64th South Station and runs southwest through the cities of Midvale, West Jordan and South Jordan ending in Kennecott Land's Daybreak community. The line utilizes the existing Union Pacific Bingham Branch rail line corridor.

The project has gone through the draft environmental impact process and has a proposed locally preferred alignment and station locations. But without the \$3.2 million needed to move to the next development phase, the project's future was uncertain.

Kennecott Land and the three cities organized quickly and offered to generate half the needed money from city and corporate coffers if UTA would match their investment.

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According to Mayor Money of South Jordan, the visible growth and projected population figures for the southwest part of the valley was all the incentive necessary to get involved.

“I can tell you that the Mid-Jordan Line is a vital part of our regional transportation plan,” said Money. “It is critical to quality growth in the southwest portion of the valley.”

The Mid-Jordan Line is designed as a 10-mile line beginning in Murray and ending in Kennecott Land’s Daybreak community. There are 10 proposed stops including Gardner Village; West Jordan City Center at Redwood Road; Bangerter Highway serving Jordan Valley Hospital and Salt Lake Community College; and two stops in Daybreak, a master-planned community that will eventually include more than 13,000 homes and major office, commercial and retail space. The Mid-Jordan Line’s expected ridership is 8,000 people a day at its opening.

According to Peter McMahon, president of Kennecott Land, the Mid-Jordan Line is an integral part to his company’s plans to build enduring communities on the West Bench.

“The new line will provide a transportation alternative to the automobile fulfilling our promise that Daybreak will be a sustainable, walkable community.”

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