

**FrontRunner Commuter Rail: How Will It Serve Davis County?**

Next spring, the FrontRunner Commuter Rail will open for riders who wish to travel between Pleasant View and Salt Lake City and to several points in Davis County. In conjunction with the Legacy Highway, due to be completed in the Fall of 2008, FrontRunner is the first step in relieving congestion along I-15 for Davis County drivers.

In reality, transit rail is nothing new to some old time residents of Davis County. As the future of transportation progresses, it is an indication of how history can and often repeats itself.

In the 1890's, the Salt Lake and Ogden Railroad served many communities in the county and led to the development of Lagoon. In fact, numerous old articles from the Davis County Clipper recount the stories and the growth of the railway, which later became the Bamberger Railroad. The Bamberger family ran the railway for many years until its final run in 1952. After all the years that have passed, obvious spots of the old railway are still visible throughout the county. It is unfortunate that the railway was removed, but as automobiles became more affordable, local governments opted to use the land for other developments.

Throughout the 21<sup>st</sup> century, Davis County will continue to progress as well as problems attributed to our growth. Obviously, transportation will continue to be our biggest problem. Legacy Highway and FrontRunner without a doubt will help our congested roads, but many are wondering why it took so long.

Sorry, no one can blame those liberals in Salt Lake for delaying Legacy. That highway, then labeled the West Davis Highway, was discussed decades ago. And more than twenty years ago, most Utahns were asking for commuter and light rails. Now we have them and we are paying a price for those "feet-dragging" elected Republicans who were more interested in cutting programs.

Ironically, in a head scratching way, they now want to raise our taxes to pay for future transportation corridors. In spite of this, we do need all of the alternative transportation plans if we want to enjoy our way of life in Davis County.

In the rush to complete the commuter rail, however, another controversy has emerged. In the Woods Cross Station, UTA has decided to build on top of a contaminated site where the EPA has found plumes from the ground water. Remember the plumes from about 10 years ago? They have not gone away and unfortunately, they are spreading. UTA claims that putting a liner beneath the rail station will contain the plumes. However, the plumes are now moving in a horizontal direction and are threatening the drinking water of Woods Cross residents. Someone should be asking when and who will be cleaning up the underground mess. We desperately need the FrontRunner, but is the bottom line more important than the health of those who live west of I-15?

Let's hope that someday, we can all work together on future transportation solutions.

Be informed and vote next Tuesday, November 6<sup>th</sup>.

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