

CITY OF MOAB RESOLUTION NO. 44-2020

A RESOLUTION REGARDING THE CITY OF MOAB'S COMMITMENT TO FUNDING YEARS FOUR AND FIVE OF A "RECREATIONAL HOTSPOT" TRANSIT SHUTTLE PILOT PROGRAM

WHEREAS, safe, reliable and efficient transportation and transit systems create foundations for economic growth, reduced congestion, and for serving recreational activities; and

WHEREAS, the creation and maintenance of transportation infrastructure is a core responsibility of local government; and

WHEREAS, the recreation and tourism associated with Arches and Canyonlands National Parks and surrounding public lands create a significant economic impact on the Moab area; and

WHEREAS, visitation to the Moab region has risen exponentially over the past decade, increasing to more than three million visitors annually; and

WHEREAS, the dramatic increase in visitation has caused traffic and parking congestion in Moab on Highway 191 and on City of Moab streets; and

WHEREAS, parking and traffic congestion in the Moab region causes safety hazards for motorists, bicycles, and pedestrians; and

WHEREAS, parking and traffic congestion in the Moab region causes a negative economic impact due to increased travel time and increased fuel consumption and greenhouse gasses among other things; and

WHEREAS, parking and traffic congestion in the Moab area negatively impacts the quality of the visitor experience and the quality of life for residents; and

WHEREAS, the City of Moab's General Plan Element 7.4.e "encourage[s] efforts to provide a shuttle system serving downtown Moab and key tourism destinations and accommodations;" and

WHEREAS, in 2017 the Utah State Legislature passed SB 277—Highway General Obligation Bonds, which, in part, identifies \$100 million to be used by the Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT) for projects that: (1) have significant economic development impact associated with recreation and tourism, and (2) address significant needs for congestion mitigation, known as "recreational hotspots" on UDOT's Transportation Infrastructure list; and

WHEREAS, the Arches/Moab area was allocated \$10,000,000 out of this "recreational hotspot" fund for transportation projects fulfilling the statutory criteria outlined in SB 277; and

WHEREAS, UDOT has engaged a transportation consultant team (Fehr & Peers) to develop a project background, demand assessment, proposed system details, costs, benefits and financial plan for a three to five-year pilot shuttle system that would help determine the demand and viability of long-term transit for the Moab community; and

WHEREAS, UDOT has agreed to fund the entire cost of the first through third years of operation of the pilot shuttle system;

WHEREAS, the Arches Hotspot Region Coordinating Committee, Grand County Commission, and Moab City Council have recommended the transit shuttle system be included as one of the transportation projects to be submitted to UDOT for consideration by the Transportation Commission for SB 277 funding.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Moab City Council that:

1. The City of Moab is committed to the long-term success of transit in the Moab area;
2. The City of Moab supports UDOT’s development and establishment of a pilot shuttle transit system for Moab and UDOT’s operation of the system for the first through third years;
3. If the transit shuttle system is viable at the conclusion of the first three years of operation, as determined by the Moab City Council, the City of Moab will partner through a memorandum of understanding or other agreement with Grand County to provide funding for the operation of the system for years four and five of the project, up to a maximum \$500,000 per year (which funding can be a combination of grants, local match or other funding). Should the operating costs exceed \$500,000 per year for years four or five, the Moab City Council may ask UDOT to continue its support of the system to ensure continuation.

This resolution shall be effective upon adoption.

PASSED AND APPROVED by a majority of the City of Moab City Council. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon passage.

SIGNED:

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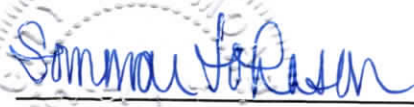
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11/11/2020

Emily S. Niehaus, Mayor

Date

ATTEST:


 Sommar Johnson, Recorder