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HIGHLAND AIMS TO CREATE MASTER PLAN FOR ROADS CONNECTING AREA'S CITIES

By Dallas Scholes, Staff Writer

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Summary

As northern Utah County experiences growing pains from new development, at least one city hopes to avoid future confusion by creating an areawide master plan for major roads connecting the different communities.

"One city cannot act unilaterally as far as planning where those major roads are going to intersect," said Highland City Councilman Glen S. Thurgood. The idea is to coordinate intercommunity development off all roads that don't stop at city limits.

As northern Utah County experiences growing pains from new development, at least one city hopes to avoid future confusion by creating an areawide master plan for major roads connecting the different communities.

"One city cannot act unilaterally as far as planning where those major roads are going to intersect," said Highland City Councilman Glen S. Thurgood. The idea is to coordinate intercommunity development off all roads that don't stop at city limits. "What we would like to see is all of the affected communities in the northern part of Utah County get together and work to develop a plan on what to do. The first thing we have to do, however, is agree that we have to do it," Thurgood said.

According to Highland Planning Commission member Al Schellenberg, the best way to organize such a coalition is to work through Mountainlands Association of Governments, a non-profit organization that provides technical and planning assistance to elected officials in Utah, Wasatch and Summit Counties.

One road proposal that would require intercommunity cooperation is the proposal to cover the Murdock Canal and turn that into a roadway, Schellenberg said.

"It would be safer, more efficient in retaining water, and we already have a right of way," he said.

But Thurgood, a civil engineering professor at Brigham Young University, said it is too early to decide if building a road over the canal is the best move for Utah County.

"It is an attractive possibility, especially since we already have right of way, but I think there will be problems. It's just too early to say," Thurgood said.

Another attraction to covering the Murdock Canal would be the creation of a new connector road running

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east and west in Highland.

For several years now, Highland has been looking for a major arterial road to connect the east and west sides of the city. Without the east-west road Highland and Alpine residents are forced to travel through American Fork every time they need to drive south.

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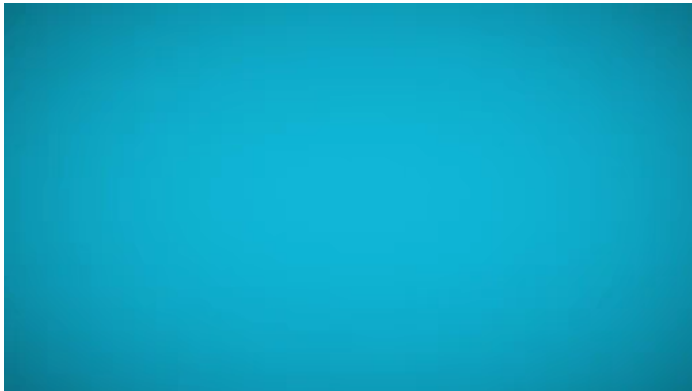
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