

7

**Executive Summary**  
*context for recommendations*

11

**Utah, the State of Quality Growth**  
*selected indicators*

31

**Achievements of the Quality Growth Commission**  
*mandates, members, principles, and policies*

37

**Quality Growth Communities**  
*program and partners*

41

**County Resource Management Planning**  
*program overview*

45

**21st Century Communities**  
*program, participants, and Circuit Rider Planners*

49

**Community Planning Grants**  
*program and projects*

55

**LeRay McAllister Critical Land Conservation Program**  
*program and selected projects*

63

**Municipal Infrastructure Planning & Cost Model**  
*project overview*

67

**Appendix**  
*sources, listing of letters of support*

### ***Legislative Funding Recommendations***

**Priority #1: \$250,000** for GOPB to Provide Technical Support for Local Planning

*(Current FY Funding: \$0)*

**Priority #2: \$250,000** for Local Planning Grants

*(Current Funding: \$0)*

**Priority #3: \$2,750,000** for LeRay McAllister Critical Lands Fund

*(Current Funding: \$482,600)*



*“Planning reforms and smart growth provide long-term savings by eliminating inefficiencies causing by inconsistent and uncoordinated planning. There is growing awareness, too, that poorly planned development is a hidden tax on citizens and communities alike.”*

Planning for Smart Growth: 2002 State of the States

## ***Planning is a key to how and when we get out of the economic slump***

The American Planning Association reports:

As more states face deficit budgets, questions about the cost and efficiency of smart growth are more important than ever. Increasingly, the fiscal implications of unmanaged growth and change facing metropolitan areas, suburbs and neighboring towns are becoming an important catalyst to reform outdated planning and zoning laws. Planning reforms and smart growth provide long-term savings by eliminating inefficiencies causing by inconsistent and uncoordinated planning.

*Planning for Smart Growth: 2002 State of the States*

Several programs have leveraged State funds effectively through planning:

- Governor’s Office of Planning and Budget (*see pg.47-48*)
  - 21<sup>st</sup> Century Communities
  - Circuit Rider Planners
- Local Planning Grants (*see pg.49*)
- LeRay McAllister Critical Land Conservation Program (*see pg.55*)
- Rural Smart Sites (*see pg.18*)
- Municipal Infrastructure Planning and Cost Model (*see pg.63*)

Two new programs are being developed to improve efficient use of State funds and local economies:

- Quality Growth Communities (*see pg.37*)
- County Resource Management Planning (*see pg.41*)

## ***Funding Recommendations***

In January of 2001, the Quality Growth Commission recommended:

The State must allocate additional monies for state and local planning. ... The Commission firmly believes that quality growth in this state will not happen by accident or chance, but rather will require purposeful thinking about and careful preparation for the future. Additional money is needed for state and local government to do this, including data collection, mapping, locally driven planning processes, and tool development.

*Implementing a Policy to Achieve a Net Gain of Private Land*

Unfortunately, we have less today than we did in 2001. All state funding for local planning has been cut. The LeRay McAllister Critical Land Conservation Fund has been reduced by over 82%. By not adequately funding these programs, the State is leaving federal matching funds on the table and using its own funds inefficiently.

The Quality Growth Commission respectfully requests that the Legislature and the Governor restore funding to historical levels.

Priority #1: \$250,000 for GOPB to Provide Technical Support for Local Planning

(Current FY Funding: \$0)

This program has demonstrated success by providing local planning support through the Circuit Rider Planner Program and the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Communities Program. Restoring funding will assure continuation of these programs and also be the delivery system for implementing the Quality Growth Communities program and the County Resource Management Planning Initiative.

Priority #2: \$250,000 for Local Planning Grants

(Current Funding: \$0)

Planning grants have been awarded to communities that have demonstrated a desire to preserve their quality of life and plan for the future. There is no one right way to achieve the goals established by a community. Many communities have developed statutorily required general plans and housing plans. Other projects included downtown revitalization plans, performance zoning plans, water conservation plans, open space conservation plans, and transit-oriented development plans.

Priority #3: \$2,750,000 for LeRay McAllister Critical Lands Fund

(Current Funding: \$482,600)

This fund has preserved over 30,000 acres of land *critical to local communities* and the state. It effectively leverages federal farmland protection, federal forest legacy, non-profit, and local funds at a ratio of 1 to 5. The demand for preservation of critical lands is as great in rural Utah as in urban areas. Due to lower land values, more acreage can be preserved in rural areas. This meets the legislatively mandated criterion for cost-effective use of the funds.

*“Contrary to some opinions, rural Utah needs and wants these programs as much as urban Utah does.”*

Wes Curtis  
State Planning Coordinator

History of Legislative Appropriations



