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Deadline Story

The Sierra Club and Kennecott Land Company don't seem to have much in common, but this year on Earth Day they cooperated on a door-to-door walk to encourage support for funding the proposed East/West lines of TRAX.

Between 15 and 20 people showed up Saturday morning on a windy hill next to the information plaza at the Daybreak master-planned community west of Bangerter Highway at 11400 South. The plan was for the volunteers to walk several blocks and stop at each house to deliver post cards for the residents to sign and send addressed to Governor Huntsman encouraging more funding for the mid-Jordan spur of TRAX, which is envisioned to run from the 6400 South TRAX station to 5600 West before turning south to hit two transit stations already planned in Daybreak.

"TRAX gives people choices," said Marc Heilesen the southwestern regional representative for the Sierra Club. "More people using light rail will lower pollution and create better air quality. To use a phrase you've been hearing around lately, 'Even if you don't use it – you're using it.'"

According to the Wasatch Front Regional Council web site, the population of the northern Wasatch Front (Weber, Davis, and Salt Lake Counties) is projected to increase 61 percent from 1.3 million to 2.1 million. The existing transportation system, which is already overcrowded in many areas, will need to be upgraded.

"What we're doing today is more powerful than anything else we can do on Earth Day for our long range future and the benefit of our children," Heilesen said. "Transit is a hugely important issue."

Residents of Daybreak support building this transit line soon. Susan Lund showed up for Saturday's activity to show support of the effort to generate the funding after receiving an email from the Daybreak Home Owner's association. She doesn't always support the Sierra Club, but in this she is a strong supporter.

"I have very strong feelings about getting TRAX. I work right downtown. TRAX saves gas, and I can read while traveling," Lund said.

The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the new TRAX line is complete. The EIS is a critical step in the process of developing new light rail lines. Kennecott Land Company donated about \$400,000 toward getting the EIS completed. KLC owns the land and is developing the Daybreak community. They are very supportive of bringing in TRAX.

"There is bipartisan consensus that this is a good idea," said Joey Caputo of the Sierra Club who organized Saturday's walk. "Members of both (political) parties, the LDS Church, the Sierra Club, Kennecott Land Company, the Salt Lake Chamber of Commerce, and the community all support it."

The funding shortfall for the planned transportation expansion on the Wasatch Front is \$1.3 billion as reported on the UTA website.

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References:

Marc Heileson, Sierra Club Regional Rep., SW Region	467-9294
Joey Caputo, Sierra Club activity organizer	266-2426
Barbara Breen, Daybreak Information Plaza	446-9022
Susan Lund, Daybreak resident	253-4488

Keith Morey, President Daybreak HOA

718-6591

Wasatch Front Regional Council <http://www.wfrc.org/reports/news/Communique2.pdf>

Utah Transit Authority

www.rideuta.com