

**Wayland, Joshua**

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**From:** Matthew Cazier <mcazier@uintah.utah.gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 09, 2019 2:23 PM  
**To:** Wayland, Joshua  
**Subject:** Fwd: DOCKET NO. 36284  
**Attachments:** UINTAH COUNTY COMMENTS.pdf

Mr. Wayland, please find attached comments from the Uintah County Commission in regard to Docket No. FD 36284, Seven County Infrastructure Coalition Railroad Project. Please let me know if you have any questions or need any further information.

Thanks,

**Matt Cazier, AICP**  
**Community Development Director**  
**Uintah County, Utah**  
**Phone 435-781-5336**  
**Fax 435-781-5352**

----- Forwarded message -----

From: [mcazier@uintah.utah.gov](mailto:mcazier@uintah.utah.gov) <[mcazier@uintah.utah.gov](mailto:mcazier@uintah.utah.gov)>  
Date: Thu, May 9, 2019 at 10:54 AM  
Subject: DOCKET NO. 36284  
To: <[mcazier@uintah.utah.gov](mailto:mcazier@uintah.utah.gov)>

Reply to: [mcazier@uintah.utah.gov](mailto:mcazier@uintah.utah.gov) <[mcazier@uintah.utah.gov](mailto:mcazier@uintah.utah.gov)>  
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**UINTAH COUNTY**  
**STATE OF UTAH**  
**152 EAST 100 NORTH**  
**VERNAL, UTAH 84078**  
**435-781-0770**

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Joshua Wayland  
Surface Transportation Board  
c/o ICF  
9300 Lee Highway  
Fairfax, VA 22031

May 8, 2019

**Re:** Docket No. FD 36284, Seven County Infrastructure Coalition Proposed Railroad Project

Mr. Wayland,

Uintah County would like to thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Seven County Infrastructure Coalition proposed railroad project. Uintah County recognizes the importance of this project for our citizens and businesses. The three proposed routes will pass through portions of Uintah County making our county and residents major stakeholders in this project. Below are our comments for this project.

**Permits**

There are no required land use permits for this project. Per County Ordinance Floodplain Development Permits would be required for each crossing of FEMA flood zones. These permits are intended to ensure that construction of the rail line does not obstruct flows within the floodplain. The Uintah County Floodplain Administrator can be reached at 435-781-5336.

Building permits will be required for any building that will be associated with the project. The Building Office can be reached at 435-781-5336.

Road Encroachment permits will be required at each location where the railroad crosses or encroaches on any county road. These permits are approved and issued by the Uintah County Road Department. The Road Department can be reached at 435-789-1070.

**Threatened, Endangered and Sensitive Species**

Uintah County and the State of Utah have designated sage grouse habitat on the north side of Highway 40 between Vernal and Ballard. It is our understanding that the route runs south of Highway 40 in this area, which should not affect the designated habitat.

Uintah County is also aware of Black Footed Ferret Reintroduction Projects south of Highway 40 between the Green River and Dinosaur Colorado. These areas are managed by the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources.

**Air Quality**

Winter time ozone is the major air quality issue facing our region. Elevated ozone levels generally occur during the winter months when there is snow on the ground and a temperature inversion. Emissions from vehicles and other sources can have an effect on ozone levels during these times. We believe that this project could help to reduce emissions by decreasing the number of large trucks hauling goods and resources into

and out of the area.

### Resources

Uintah County Zoning Code- This can be found online at:

[https://library.municode.com/ut/uintah\\_county/codes/code\\_of\\_ordinances?nodeId=TIT17ZO](https://library.municode.com/ut/uintah_county/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=TIT17ZO)

Uintah County General Plan- This can be found online at:

[http://co.uintah.ut.us/document\\_center/CommunityDevelopment/Uintah%20Resource%20Management%20Plan%20-%20FINAL%20Updated%2012-17-2018.pdf](http://co.uintah.ut.us/document_center/CommunityDevelopment/Uintah%20Resource%20Management%20Plan%20-%20FINAL%20Updated%2012-17-2018.pdf)

Uintah County Resource Management Plan- This can be found online at:

[http://co.uintah.ut.us/document\\_center/CommunityDevelopment/Uintah\\_Resource\\_Management\\_Plan\\_FINAL\\_Web\\_File.pdf](http://co.uintah.ut.us/document_center/CommunityDevelopment/Uintah_Resource_Management_Plan_FINAL_Web_File.pdf)

FEMA Floodplain Map- This can be found online at:

<https://hazards-fema.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=8b0adb51996444d4879338b5529aa9cd&extent=-109.61187623904685,40.42311909848126,-109.44570802615645,40.48842826531093>

### Conclusion

Uintah County's economy is heavily dependent on the extremely cyclical natural resource extraction industry. Our goal has been to soften the ups and downs in the economy and we understand that diversification of our economy and the transportation of natural resources are essential parts of the equation. The highway systems, US Hwy 40 and US Hwy 191, that serve our community are burdened with heavy truck traffic. Over the road trucking is currently the only way to transport goods into and out of our area. Construction of the proposed rail line would help ease heavy truck traffic and allow for the moving of more goods and natural resources into and out of our area. For these reasons Uintah County supports the Seven County Coalitions Railroad Project.

We appreciate the opportunity that we have to comment on this project and look forward to continued participation during the environmental review process. Please contact Uintah County Community Development Department at 435-781-5336 for any assistance. You can also email Matt Cazier, Community Development Director at [mcazier@uintah.utah.gov](mailto:mcazier@uintah.utah.gov).

Sincerely,



William Stringer, Chairman



Brad Horrocks



Bart Haslem

Uintah County Commissioners

Matt Cazier, AICP  
Community Development Director