

CITY OF MOAB RESOLUTION NO. 25-2021

A RESOLUTION REGARDING THE CITY OF MOAB'S COMMITMENT TO FUNDING 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 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 up to \$1,500,000 for the operation of a pilot shuttle system as part of the Recreational Hotspot Program;

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.

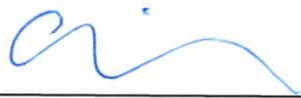
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Moab City Council that:

1. The City of Moab is committed to the long-term success of transit in the Moab area;
2. The City of Moab supports the establishment of a pilot shuttle transit system developed by UDOT through the Hotspot Funding Program;
3. The City of Moab will partner through an interlocal agreement or other agreement with Grand County to provide funding for the operation of the system up to a maximum \$1,000,000 (which funding can be a combination of grants, local match or other funding).

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:



Emily S. Niehaus, Mayor



Date

ATTEST:



Sommar Johnson, Recorder