

Overview

Due to extensive growth and development in Davis County, there is an urgent need to institute quality growth principles in Davis County. To better understand quality growth principles in Davis County, consultants conducted a survey of County residents. Questions to identify quality growth principles and issues in Davis County were included in the survey.

1999 Planning Grant Summary

Grant Amount:	\$5,000
Matching Dollars:	\$5,000 (\$0 in-kind)
Match:	\$5,000
Project Cost:	\$10,000

Davis County Quality Growth Survey

Local Responsibility

By conducting a survey to identify quality growth principles, planners throughout the County can strategically and more efficiently regionalize and incorporate quality growth principles into local general plans. Dan Jones & Associates Inc., a full-service, independent, public opinion and marketing research firm located in Salt Lake City, was commissioned by the Davis County Department of Community and Economic Development to conduct and compile an opinion survey of 600 Davis County residents.

State Leadership

The Quality Growth Commission awarded Davis County with a grant in the amount of \$5,000.

Economic Development

Davis County residents listed employment opportunities as the second most positive aspect of growth. Shopping convenience was listed as the most positive aspect of growth. Residents tend to think that Davis County is growing too fast. Groups responsible for the growth include builders/developers, local government and homebuyers.

Infrastructure Development

Objectives of the research included the following: Assess the impact of growth on Davis County over the past five years; Identify which approach the County should take in handling growth issues; Rate public transportation in Davis County and identify ways it could be improved; and Ascertain support and opposition to the initiative for increased mass transit in Davis County. There is strong support for extending light rail to Davis County. There is also significant support for increased bus routes, building Legacy Highway and building a commuter rail/heavy rail.

Housing Opportunity

Davis County residents rate the cost of housing as one of the negative aspects of growth. An ideal community for many residents would be one that is the size they live in now or smaller. In light of this, there is significant support for establishing certain areas where new development is permitted and prohibiting new development in other areas (65% favor establishing specified areas).

Conservation Ethic

Davis County residents support the idea that cities/counties should be allowed to purchase open space. They most strongly support planning and managing growth, rather than encouraging or discouraging it.

“The County/local municipalities benefited greatly from the survey...which in turn led to better planning and a more efficient use of resources.”

Aric Jansen-Community Development Director

Implementation

The survey was used to shape regional planning policy and influenced projects such as the Davis County Shorelands Plan, Davis County Hillside Plan, and ongoing projects such as the South Davis Transit Study

Promoting Intelligent Growth

The survey gave the County leaders and staff substantiated information on which to base public policy, prioritize expenditures, and create specific area plans (as mentioned previously)

Accomplishments

The Shorelands Plan and the Hillside Plan processes are currently being implemented, while the South Davis Transit Study is in the RFP phase.

Benefits of the Planning Grant

The County/local municipalities benefited greatly from the survey by gaining a better understanding of the needs/desires/opinions of the residents of Davis County, which in turn led to better planning and a more efficient use of resources.