

*What's Next***Real Crowds and REAL Salt Lake: Fairpark's Future?**

To answer this question, the State commissioned a study by CRSA Architecture to develop, and evaluate, possible scenarios for the Fairpark's future. The scenarios ranged from the *status* continuing the Utah State Fair at the Fairpark, to upgrading existing structures and constructing new ones to enhance the Fairpark's attractiveness as a venue for events throughout the year. The study also looked at moving the annual Utah State Fair to another location and putting the Fairpark property to other uses; e.g., new Utah government office buildings or selling the property to developers for the construction of new retail and office space.

Each scenario has a price tag that is not insignificant. Just leaving the Fairpark as it is, with necessary upgrades and maintenance, could cost nearly \$40 million; expanding the scope of facilities to attract events throughout the year could exceed \$80 million. Moving the Utah State Fair to another location and building new facilities would, most likely, exceed \$160 million.

The response of the Utah State Fair's Board of Directors to REAL Salt Lake's offer to build a new stadium has been positive, with the Board seeing the new stadium as a major component of plans to make the Fairpark the site of year-round events. Other components include enlarging and improving the rodeo grounds and the construction of a new exposition building.

Despite the enthusiasm of the Utah State Fair's Board for these plans, final decisions on the Fairpark's future will be made by the Utah State Legislature.

- \* Will the Legislature be willing to give REAL Salt Lake a 50-year lease for the property on which the stadium will be built?
- \* Will the Legislature (and future Legislatures) be willing to appropriate the funds needed to enlarge and improve the rodeo grounds (a project that, at one time, was to have been completed in the 1980s)?
- \* The proposed projects will take away most of the Fairpark's onsite parking. How will this be replaced? Can TRAX meet the need or will plans for the Fairpark's future require the construction of a parking garage?

The whole parking issue is going to be defined by what the State decides to do with the White's Ball Field – the barren clay and gravel expanse of property across North Temple from the Fairpark. Currently, White's Field is considered part of the Utah Fairpark, providing overflow

parking during the Utah State Fair. If the State decides to develop this property, how will this parking area be replaced?

These questions, and many others, will come before next year's Utah State Legislature. Fairpark Community residents need to understand that no single committee, no single report, will make the decision on the Fairpark's future. It is, and will continue to be, an ongoing Legislative process that requires the attention and involvement of Fairpark Community residents. Stay involved by attending the monthly Community Council meeting and speaking with our Legislative representatives.