

## Utah Wellbeing Survey Project

### What Is It?

The Utah Wellbeing Survey tracks local perspectives on wellbeing and change in Utah cities and towns. The goal is to provide information to support local planning processes. Online surveys are conducted in partnership with city leaders who take care of advertising and promoting survey participation. Dr. Courtney Flint at Utah State University administers the survey, analyzes the data, and reports back to cities in collaboration with the Utah League of Cities and Towns.

### Why Is It Important?

Our communities are changing rapidly. Keeping a finger on the pulse of residents' wellbeing and attitudes about community issues helps to promote sound planning and decision making to support the overall quality of life in Utah's cities and towns. The survey tracks demographic characteristics, allowing transparency on the representativeness of survey participants and varying insights within communities.

With over 25 cities of different sizes and experiences participating to date, the Utah Wellbeing Project can compare wellbeing information across cities and clusters of cities. This helps city leaders and planners see how they are doing compared to other cities they see as "near peers". This can facilitate dialogue and sharing of ideas to address important issues as communities plan their futures.

### How Can It Be Useful?

Participating cities can use the data as part of their general planning processes and for capital improvement prioritization. Survey findings can be used to test assumptions about how residents are doing and to compare with other sources of information about local perspectives. Findings may help to frame and support planning recommendations. Running the survey over time can help track wellbeing in relation to plan implementation and other local changes.

#### Feedback from 2020 City Partners

**Herriman, Utah.** Planners working with Herriman City said the survey data helped to support their recommendations for planning, particularly about land use, transportation, parks and open space. The information helps to see if the city is on target in meeting the needs of residents. The Wellbeing Survey Report complemented other sources of information and provided a bigger picture of community wellbeing than typically addressed in "meat and potatoes" planning processes.

*Susie Petheram, Project Lead/Manager with FFKR. FFKR is the planning consultant working with Herriman City to update their General Plan*

**Nephi, Utah.** Nephi City plans to use the survey results to help prioritize future budget decisions and also in our efforts to update their General Plan later in 2020.

*Seth Atkinson, City Administrator for Nephi*

### How Can My City Participate?

All Utah cities are encouraged to participate! For more information, contact Dr. Courtney Flint at (435) 797-8635 or [courtney.flint@usu.edu](mailto:courtney.flint@usu.edu) or the Utah League of Cities and Towns at (801) 328-1601 or [mryan@ulct.org](mailto:mryan@ulct.org).