Cities should pay for trail costs

There’s good news for Leg- on Parkway trail users. The city and most of the cities that comprise the trail have reached an agreement to maintain the trail. It’s about the time the Utah Depart- ment of Transportation fulfilled its part by maintaining the 14-mile trail until last year. After 18 months, there has been no official maintenance agreement. UDOT will maintain responsibility for the quality of overpasses and lighting, but as monuments, benches, signage, etc. is the responsibility of Davis County. Under the maintenance agree- ment, Davis County and four Davis County cities will maintain the areas of this trail. This article was written by Craig Fortier, Lacey Fortier, Preston Fortier, Debra Fortier, and Chad Fortier.

Salt Lake, which is still in the pro- cess of working out issues with UDOT before signing the mainte- nance agreement, will pay for maintenance for the 14-mile trail each government will be billed.

We urge West Bountiful to also sign the maintenance agreement. Frankly, any city that fails to be a part of this deal is being ungrateful. The Legacy Parkway trail, which runs from Farmington to North Salt Lake, adds beauty and value to residents of Utah. Davis County. UDOT is not respon- sible for its maintenance. It has been. It is the responsibility of Davis County government to make sure that the trail remains an attractive, healthy, outdoor activity.

The Legacy trail will eventually join with other trails and allow users to journey from Roy to North Salt Lake. That’s absolutely amazing, and worth a maintenance contribution from Davis County and its cities.

Letters to the editor

On Friday, Weber State University will conduct its 137th commencement ceremony. In 1896, the first year WSU conferred degrees, 21 students received diplomas. That number has grown to slightly more than 100. In 2011, WSU will confer more than 4,000 degrees.

Acceptances and denials. He accepts e-mail from readers at mgvaughan@weber.edu.

It is also worth noting that the contribution international students bring to the campus does not cost Utah taxpayers a dime. By state law, international students must pay the full cost of their education with no subsidy from taxpayers. This means that the cost of tuition for international students is more than double what it is for Utah residents, while enriching the learning experience for all campus students.

As the New York Times columnist Thomas Friedman incessantly reminds us, the 21st century, and for the better part of the 20th century, virtually all of the research and scientific advances by universities and colleges worldwide were sponsored or substantially subsidized by the federal government. In fact, most degrees were not conferred by public universities such as Weber State University before state law, international students' contributions to the universities have enhanced Utah's reputation in the classroom, laboratory, and concert hall. This year at WSU, students from those countries who have earned a degree will pay $10,500. A student from Nigeria, who studied economics alongside students from Ogden. Science students from Box Elder County did field work with a student from Idaho. These experiences have enhanced Utah students' capabilities in music, business, and the sciences. It is also worth noting that international student contributions not only bring the campus dollars, it helps the colleges and students.

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