Planning for Community Resiliency: Looking Beyond Hazard Response

Presenters:
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Introduction
The Greater Salt Lake Municipal Services District serves 5 Metro Townships, the Town of Brighton and Unincorporated Salt Lake County.
Service Areas and the General Plan Process

Adopted  Magna
Adopted  Kearns
Adopted  Copperton
Drafted  White City
Drafted  Emigration Canyon
In Process  Town of Brighton
In Process  Sandy Hills
In Process  Granite
Resilience

The FEMA office of Resilience's Mission is to 'build a culture of preparedness' to create a 'prepared and resilient nation' (FEMA.gov 2020)

Some descriptions of resilience by FEMA include the 'ability to withstand and recover rapidly from deliberate attacks, accidents' and 'natural disasters' (dhs.gov 2021)
Resilience is the ability for **complex systems to change, adapt, and transform**, in positive ways and within a reasonable time frame, following hardships and disasters (adapted from Davoudi, 2021)
Welcome to Kearns

Population: 36,581

39.2% Residents 5+ Speak a Language Other than English

Home to the Olympic Oval, Kearns Cougars, and Site of Historic Camp Kearns

15.0 Miles to Downtown SLC
22.1 Miles to Adobe Headquarters
11.5 Miles to SLC Airport
Resilience Requires Tackling the Tough Questions

- What can a community do to address health inequities?
- Can planning improve community pride and strengthen social connections?
- How do we support a diverse population with diverse interests?
- Which groups are underserved by current systems of emergency response or disaster preparation?
- How do we ensure long-term maintenance of our physical infrastructure?
The Resilience and Infrastructure Link

- **Example)** A functioning Brick and Mortar Infrastructure System allows emergency personnel to effectively reach a site and provide services.

- **Example)** A robust digital infrastructure system means that residents can receive important notices and communications, and the community can adjust to situations that demand remote work or learning.

- **Example)** A healthy social infrastructure means that residents can age in place without feelings of isolation or disconnect.
The Approach

Assess Existing Condition

Identify Assets and Leverage Points

Collaborate with Partners

Plan for Short-Term and Long-Term Gaps
### SOCIAL

- **Assess:** availability, reach, mission of community organizations

- **Identify:** assets, such as Evidence 2 Success, active in health and safety

- **Collaborate:** by inviting organizations into the planning process and uniting shared missions

- **Plan:** by leveraging existing assets to address community challenges. Worked with Evidence2Success to obtain Healthy Utah Community Designation.
DIGITAL

- **Assess:** existing infrastructure and gaps, such as Kearns' Digital Divide

- **Identify:** programs working to expand digital access and proficiency (such as Granite School District's Wi-Fi Buses)

- **Collaborate:** with partners to address needs. MSD/SLCo partnership resulted in a grant to assess and improve digital infrastructure MSD-wide.

- **Plan:** for expansion of fiber and hotspots, additional training, and streamlined communications
BRICK AND MORTAR

- **Assess:** items such as condition, age, type, and affordability of housing.

- **Identify:** strengths to leverage, such as Kearns' comparatively low housing costs.

- **Collaborate:** with partners, including SLCo, to address challenges such as lead in homes and lack of infrastructure for ageing in place.

- **Plan:** to establish programs that improve resident self-sufficiency and housing condition, such as a tool-sharing program or revolving fund for home repair and renovation.
What are our successes?

- Increased community pride – recognition of existing assets
- More collaboration between stakeholders, and particularly between community organizations and service providers
- Generation of interest in the Kearns community
- Development of an actionable work program
- New framework for thinking about community resiliency
- Planning Commission education and discussion of difficult topics
Call Out Successes!

Be realistic about needs and challenges but lead with a message of hope and provide an actionable plan forward.
End with a Plan of Action! Address challenges identified and make it easy to track progress toward implementation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objectives</th>
<th>Actions</th>
<th>Product Type</th>
<th>2021</th>
<th>2022</th>
<th>2023</th>
<th>2024</th>
<th>2025</th>
<th>Responsible Party</th>
<th>Potential Partners</th>
<th>Cost Estimate</th>
<th>Funding Source</th>
<th>Metrics</th>
<th>Resources</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Improve Infrastructure maintenance</td>
<td>Connect residents to resources for home repair and maintenance, including energy-saving retrofits.</td>
<td>Education, Engagement, and Advocacy; Grants and Funding</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>MSD FDS; Kearns MTC; SLCo Housing and Community Development; Kearns CS</td>
<td>SLCo Engineering; Residents</td>
<td>Staff Time</td>
<td>General Fund</td>
<td>Staff updates websites and regularly shares information on home repair and retrofits.</td>
<td>Energy Star Program</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Work with MSD staff and Kearns government to assess the short-term and long-term costs of infrastructure projects. Practice fiscal responsibility by doing the math before spending on long-term maintenance liabilities. Regularly engage with and include residents in the budget-making process to understand community needs, priorities, and trade-offs.</td>
<td>Technical Support; Education, Engagement, and Advocacy</td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
<td>MSD FDS; Kearns MTC</td>
<td>SLCo Engineering; Kearns CC</td>
<td>Staff Time</td>
<td>General Fund; CDBG Funds</td>
<td>Staff regularly considers systems in need of maintenance and creates plans for addressing. Maintenance is prioritized over new construction.</td>
<td>Strong Towns Explanation of the ‘Growth’ Pomo Scheme</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>Hold monthly meetings with staff members working in Kearns to coordinate projects, share challenges and innovations, and support efficient design and funding.</td>
<td>Coordination and Collaboration</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>MSD FDS</td>
<td>SLCo Engineering; SLCo Economic Development</td>
<td>Staff Time; possible costs for food / printing / space rental</td>
<td>General Fund</td>
<td>MSD Staff puts on at least 5 community events per year.</td>
<td>Strong Towns Explanation of the ‘Growth’ Pomo Scheme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Educate residents on the risk of lead paint, lead plumbing, and radon in homes, and how to monitor and mitigate.</td>
<td>Education, Engagement, and Advocacy</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>MSD FDS; SLCo Housing and Community Development; Kearns CS</td>
<td>SLCo Engineering; Kearns CC</td>
<td>Staff Time</td>
<td>General Fund</td>
<td>Staff updates websites and regularly shares information on lead and radon exposure risk and mitigation strategies.</td>
<td>SLC0 Lead Safe Housing</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Meet with UTA to discuss the improvement of intra-community transit in Kearns, so that residents can access not only jobs and hospitals, but also community amenities and the homes of loved ones.</td>
<td>Coordination and Collaboration</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>MSD FDS; UTA</td>
<td>SLCo Engineering; Kearns Transportation Working Group</td>
<td>Staff Time; various costs depending on transit improvement strategy</td>
<td>General Fund; WPRC TLC Program</td>
<td>Staff meets with UTA to discuss community desires for intra-community transit.</td>
<td>Making the case for intra-city (vs. inter-city) transit planning</td>
</tr>
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What steps must we take to enhance our social, digital, and brick-and-mortar infrastructure so that our community is more resilient in the future?
What work is left undone?

Full inventory of physical infrastructure and condition (planned within next 3 years)

Resident education on difficult topics such as the digital divide, health inequities, or diminishing water supply (some outreach hindered by COVID)

Repetition of process in other MSD communities, and application of methodology at regional scale
Utah planners are primed to add to the national conversation on emergency management. But we give so much more to our communities when we move beyond the 'return to normal' model of traditional resiliency and instead consider long-term adaptation and community wellbeing.

Explore the Kearns Resilience + Infrastructure Element at: bit.ly/lrp-kearns
Aligning Physical, Social, and Digital Infrastructure Strategies in Community Planning
Don't plan in a vacuum!

I would like to show you a few cost-effective tools and techniques for giving context and structure to planning conversations, strategy sessions, and the overall planning process.

Issue considered on an island

Issue considered within the general thrust of the planning context
We do **lots of planning for our communities** that influence our ability to be resilient:

- General Plans
- Transportation Plans
- Hazard Mitigation
- Active Transportation
- CIP Lists
- Zoning

These plans are generated by a **variety of entities** and exist at a **variety of scales**:

- National
- State
- Watershed Based
- Association of Governments
- County
- Municipal
- District

**Community Planning and Maintenance Overload!**
How can we ensure that we are making the **Best Possible Use** of the hard work completed?
Layering

- Technique that changed the way we conducted land use planning
  - Allows us to visualize relationships existing between different elements

Pros

- Allows us to consider individual issues in the context of the greater thrust of planning completed.
- How will an action here effect our plans everywhere else?

Cons

- Resource intensive to set up and maintain
- Available skill sets required amongst staff
Why use Google Earth for Web?

- They are free!
- They are intuitive!
- They are already preloaded with all sorts of useful information!

Assign a google Earth Czar or Manager....
This gives you access to the whole suite of Google products.

Google Drive and Earth are of most interest to us..
Ask for KMZs or KMLs

- What might be available
  - Layers from your General Plan, Transportation Plan, Hazard Mitigation Plan...
  - Parcel data, building footprints, address points...

Simple way to bridge the gap between GIS and the uninitiated!

Pro Tips

Ask for a 50% transparency and visual layer categorization on all layers before export from GIS.
Record Your Ideas by Creating **New Features**

What types of features Can I create?
- Points
- Lines
- Polygons

What types of features Should I create?
- Physical Projects Ideas
- Event Locations
- Application Locations

What depth of information can I add to the features I create?
- Title
- Notes
- Pictures
- Links
Map Resiliency Infrastructure: Digital Infrastructure

Locations where the public might have access to free Digital Infrastructure hardware such as computers or software such as internet access
Open areas such as grass fields with vehicle access, centrally located, that can be used for the distribution of goods and services for citizens.
Map Resiliency Infrastructure: Long Range Road Infrastructure and Public Transportation Plans

Transportation plans have likely been made by a variety of planning entities.
Map Resiliency Infrastructure: Multi-Modal Transportation Plans

Transportation plans bike and pedestrian travel.
Map Resiliency Infrastructure: Development Wish List from your Downtown Alliance...

Or maybe map public comments received...

Whatever issues that are confronting your community
Plan with Context | Store Conversations | Solidify Ideas

This tool can especially become a planning white board for your council or community. Easily add and remove ideas and proposals so that your planning board can evolve with the context or your community.

Issue considered on an island

Issue considered within the general thrust of the planning context
Make the tool work for *Your Community*

- Open the project during planning discussions and meetings
  - Share a screen in a webhosted meeting or project a screen in physical meeting
  - Fly around the area
  - Compare with other planning efforts
  - Make notes
- Share the project with anyone!
Thank you for your time!

Please reach out to the Greater Salt Lake Municipal Services District for additional information on the Planning Strategies and Tools presented today.

*Special acknowledgements to the Kearns General Plan Steering Committee, Planning Commission, and Council, as well as our colleagues and community partners along the way.

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