

KEY FACTS ABOUT UTAH'S INTERSTATE HIGHWAY SYSTEM

The Dwight D. Eisenhower National System of Interstate and Defense Highways, which has been called the most ambitious public works project built since the Roman Empire, is the most critical link in Utah's transportation system.

- Utah has 940 miles of Interstate routes running the length of the state and connecting the state's major urban areas.
- Utah's Interstate system, which includes five percent of all roadway lane miles in the state, carries 36 percent of all vehicle travel in the state.
- Since funding of the Interstate system was approved in 1956, vehicle miles of travel in Utah have increased by 645 percent, the state's population has nearly tripled, increasing by 195 percent, from 810,000 to approximately 2.4 million and the number of vehicles in Utah has increased by 489 percent.

The state's Interstate Highway System saves the average Utah resident \$2,941 per year -- \$7 billion statewide -- in reduced accident costs such as medical expenses and lost productivity, the value of saved time and fuel, and reduced apparel, food, housing and transportation costs.

- By reducing travel times, the Interstate system saves each Utah resident 104 hours of travel time annually – 248 million hours statewide.
- Utah's Interstate system annually reduces statewide motor fuel consumption by 118 million gallons.
- Consumer costs have been significantly lowered by the Interstate Highway System. The cost of transporting goods has been reduced because the time it takes to make trips has been decreased.
- The following chart indicates the total annual savings per person and statewide of the Interstate system.

	Per Person	Statewide (millions)
Safety	\$132	\$316
Time and Fuel	\$1,667	\$3,982
Reduced Consumer Costs	\$1,142	\$2,728
Total	\$2,941	\$7,026

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Traffic levels on Utah's Interstate highways are increasing as travel growth outpaces the addition of new lanes.

- Between 1990 and 2004, vehicle travel on Utah's Interstates increased by 68 percent, while lane miles on the system increased by four percent.
- Between 1990 and 2004, the average annual amount of travel per Interstate-lane-mile in Utah increased by 63 percent.

Travel on Utah's Interstate highways is safer than travel on all other roadways in the state. Utah's Interstates provide travelers with a network of highways with a variety of safety designs that greatly reduce the likelihood of serious accidents.

- Utah's Interstate highways have saved approximately 2,500 lives in Utah since 1956. This estimate is based on assuming that, if there were no Interstates, traffic would be carried by other major roads in the state, which have higher traffic fatality rates.
- The features that make Interstates safer than non-Interstate routes include: a separation from other roads and rail lines, a minimum of four-lanes, gentler curves and often paved shoulders, median barriers and rumble strips to warn drivers when they are leaving the roadway.

The Interstate system is the backbone of the Utah economy and has played a critical role in improving business productivity in the state.

- Every year, \$62 billion in goods are shipped from sites in Utah and another \$62 billion in goods are shipped to sites in Utah, mostly by truck.
- Seventy-four percent of the goods shipped annually from sites in Utah are carried by trucks and another 13 percent are carried by courier services, which use trucks for part of the deliveries. Similarly, 72 percent of the goods shipped to sites in Utah are carried by trucks and another 14 percent are carried by courier services, which use trucks for part of their deliveries.

Data from the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT), the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), the U.S. Census Bureau was compiled and analyzed by TRIP, a nonprofit transportation research group based in Washington, D.C. Information is the latest available.

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