

# Northern Corridor

## Needs, Benefits, Justification

### Background

- Traffic projections for 2040 and 2050 indicate that an East-West road is needed between Interstate 15 and State Route 18 north of two bottlenecks or “pinch points” in the St. George area.
- Northern Corridor (as a 4.25-mile-long roadway connecting Snow Canyon Parkway with Washington Parkway across the Red Cliffs Desert Reserve) would carry 25,000 vehicles per day.
- The Corridor would allow surface traffic to bypass two roadway bottle necks in the St. George area (1. River Road at St. George Boulevard and 2. Bluff Street at Sunset Boulevard). These bottlenecks exist because of geographic constraints within the St. George Urbanized Area.
- The Roadway would accommodate anticipated traffic demand and would reduce traffic delays by 300,000 hours per year beyond 2040.

### Demand

- Population in Washington County is projected to increase from 174,000 in 2018 to 390,000 in 2050. The new growth will nearly double the east-west travel demands between I-15 and State Route 18. Under today’s conditions, existing east-west travel on Red Hills Parkway, I-15, Bluff Street and St. George Boulevard experience periods of congestion and do not have the reserve capacity necessary to meet the future travel demands.
- **Average travel time** between Sunset Boulevard and I-15 North of Exit 16:
  - **Without** Northern Corridor:
    - 30 minutes per vehicle
  - **With** Northern Corridor:
    - 13 minutes per vehicle
- **Overall System Delays** due to congestion:
  - **Without** Northern Corridor:
    - Overall system delays begin to increase in 2025 and grow to 300,000 hours of delay every year by 2050.
- The Northern Corridor’s area of influence includes 70 intersections and the roadways between them.

### Benefit

In order to help manage congestion levels and provide better east/west access throughout the Urbanized Area, local transportation planners for years have recommended the Northern Corridor. In 2040 the Corridor is expected to accommodate more than 30,000 vehicles per day. Corridor would realize the following transportation benefits:

- **Annual** vehicle delay is reduced by ~300,000 hours.
- Bluff Street traffic between Sunset and SG Blvd is reduced by 10% (6,000 vehicles) with peak hour travel times reduced by 15%.
- St George Blvd traffic between Bluff Street and Red Cliffs Drive is reduced by 10% with peak hour travel times reduced by 15%.
- Red Hills Pkwy between Bluff Street and 1000 East traffic is reduced by an average of 30%-35%.
- Traffic on I-15 between exits 8 and 13 is reduced by 5% in the NB and SB direction.

Decreasing congestion has also been shown to significantly reduce accidents and improve air quality.