

## TRANSPORTATION ACHIEVEMENT AWARD — COMPLETE STREETS

## Salt Lake City and Avenue Consultants for the 300 West: 900 South to 2100 South Transformation Project



Salt Lake City and Avenue Consultants have received a 2024 Transportation Achievement Award in the Complete Streets Category for their 300 West: 900 South to 2100 South Transformation Project. The Transportation Achievement Awards recognize excellence in the advancement of transportation to meet human needs, by entities concerned with transportation, such as governmental agencies, Tribes, legislative bodies, consulting firms, industry partners, and other organizations. Awards are presented in five categories: Complete Streets, TSMO, Safety, Planning, and Traffic Engineering.

The 300 West project, led by Salt Lake City and Avenue Consultants, went far beyond a mere street restoration. The scope of the project included repaving, upgrading old utilities, and fixing sidewalks. However, the true transformation lay in redesigning the corridor to prioritize all users—pedestrians, cyclists, transit riders, and motorists. The project team's year-long engagement with the community, which included thousands of interactions with residents, commuters, shoppers, and business owners, was crucial in shaping a street that meets the diverse needs of its users.

**Application of Innovative Concepts.** The most prominent feature of the 300 West reconstruction project is Utah's first-of-its-kind, two-way bikeway. Designed with features such as a 10-foot bike path and a separate six-foot sidewalk, the bikeway provides a safe and comfortable experience for all users. Unique elements like protected intersections with raised curbs, green-colored thermoplastic pavement striping, dual-radius intersection corners, and bike lean rails at intersections enhance safety and convenience. The incorporation of bioswales in park strips captures stormwater for the plants and trees, demonstrating an innovative approach to environmental sustainability.

**Implementation of a Challenging Transportation Project.** The team encountered numerous challenges, including managing the flat profile of 300 West, which created drainage issues. To make space for the bikeway, the curb and gutter were relocated into the roadway, which required meticulous CAD modeling and independent edge of roadway profiles. Despite these challenges, the team's perseverance and detailed planning ensured the successful implementation of the project.

**Significant Effect on Transportation.** The project has had a profound effect on transportation in Salt Lake City. The two-way bikeway has become a crucial part of the city's infrastructure, encouraging alternative modes of transportation, and reducing reliance on cars. The bikeway has been recognized nationally, ranking as the No. 3



## 2024 Excellence in Transportation Awards

Best New U.S. Bike Lane of 2023 by the People for Bikes Coalition. The enhanced infrastructure supports year-round use, with the bikeway designated as a Tier 1 asset for snow removal.

**Multi-Faceted Transportation Project.** The project integrated numerous innovative and well-applied concepts, focusing on moving people rather than just cars. This required attention to elements supporting bicyclists, pedestrians, and other corridor users. A Mobility Tour with individuals who are visually impaired or use wheelchairs provided the team with first-hand knowledge to support the transportation needs of all users. This inclusive approach ensured the project's design catered to a diverse range of needs.

**Efficiency and Economy of Transportation.** A key focus of the project was to create a space that supports all modes of transportation, making it easier and safer for people to navigate the community. The transformation of the area from industrial to residential and commercial necessitated infrastructure that aligns with the evolving needs of the community. The project achieved this by enhancing accessibility and promoting active transportation, contributing to a more efficient and economical transportation system.

**Safety Implications for All Users.** Safety was a paramount consideration in the project's design. Features such as the protected bikeway, continuous sidewalks, planted park strips, raised medians, and additional mid-block crossings significantly enhance the safety and predictability for all users. The project successfully closed 24 driveways and eliminated 39 parking stalls that backed over sidewalks, reducing potential hazards and creating a safer environment for pedestrians and cyclists.

## **Acknowledgements:**

Salt Lake City: Jeff Gulden, P.E. (M), Transportation Engineer; Will Becker, P.E., Transportation Planner; Dan Bergenthal, P.E. (M), Transportation Engineer; and Kurt Larson, P.E., PTOE (F), Transportation Engineer

Avenue Consultants: Blake Unguren, P.E., Transportation Engineer; Blair Tomten, Active Transportation Engineer; and Stacee Adams, Communication and Public Engagement Leader





Visit <u>here</u> for more information on ITE's Awards Program. For more information on this project, please watch the video using the link below.