



Cedar City

10 North Main Street • Cedar City, UT 84720
435-586-2950 • FAX 435-586-4362
www.cedarcity.org

Mayor

Garth O. Green

Council Members

Terri W. Hartley
Craig E. Isom
R. Scott Phillips
Tyler Melling
Ron Riddle

City Manager

Paul Bittmenn

NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Danny Stewart
Economic Development Director
dans@cedarcity.org
(435) 865-5115

New Iron Springs Inland Port to Bring New Investment and Employment to Southern Utah

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 4, 2023

CEDAR CITY, UT – As Cedar City celebrates a century since the arrival of the Union Pacific Railroad in our community, we reflect on the tremendous impact this valuable asset has had on our community and our economy for a hundred years. The coming of the railroad forever changed Cedar City’s economy and its character, and it continues to be a major factor to our economy. The creation this month of Utah’s first rural inland port once again puts the economic spotlight on Cedar City’s railroad connection.

The arrival of the Union Pacific initially boosted the local iron ore and livestock industries, and it greatly contributed to the expansion of the tourism industry in southern Utah. In addition to constructing the depot, the Union Pacific Railroad became fully involved in the tourist industry by purchasing hotels, buses, and building lodges at Zion, Bryce Canyon and Grand Canyon National Parks.

While the railroad’s tie to tourism was replaced mainly by automobile travel, our local economy continues to rely heavily on the railroad. Today, a dozen manufacturing companies are directly connected to the railroad and trains supply raw materials that are processed into numerous products then shipped by truck throughout the western U.S.

Our connection to the rail and our location within one day's trucking to seaports and the west's largest markets have been key to successful mining and manufacturing development in Cedar City. GOEX and American Packaging are the newest members of our manufacturing community. Both of these companies chose Cedar City largely due to these factors.

The newly announced Utah Inland Port project area, officially announced on Tuesday, April 4th, 2023, includes nearly 1,000 acres of industrial property just west of Cedar City. New development in the new Inland Port project area will include BZI Steel's 820-acre Commerce Crossroads Logistics Park, including a new trans-loading facility that will be operated by RailSync, a subsidiary of BZI. Additionally, Savage Services, which operates 50 trans-loading facilities throughout North America will build Savage Railport – Southern Utah on 74 acres.

These two facilities will allow companies that are not connected to the rail to load materials and products onto and off of rail cars, which will greatly increase the value of our railroad asset throughout the entire region. Instead of limiting rail service only to those companies connected to the rail, many businesses from throughout southwestern Utah will now benefit from this service.

The creation of the Iron Springs Inland Port as part of the statewide Utah Inland Port system will help fund and support these new developments and will help attract new industry to the community. The industrial and manufacturing sector currently employs one in ten of Iron County workers and is one of the highest paying sectors in our economy. A major purpose of this Inland Port project area is to provide solid employment opportunities for our own children and our rapidly growing population.

###

About Cedar City, UT - Cedar City encompasses nearly 35 square miles and is located 250 miles south of Salt Lake City and 52 miles north of St. George on Interstate 15, with a current population of over 38,000 residents. Information regarding the City and the many programs and services provided to the community can be found at www.CedarCity.org, as well as via Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

Administration
586-2953

Building and Zoning
865-5117

Economic Development
586-2770

City Engineer
586-2963

Leisure Services
865-9223

Public Works
586-2912