

Cache County CONNECTION

APRIL 2024



FROM YOUR COUNTY EXECUTIVE

One of the most important responsibilities of counties is to establish and maintain functional public works facilities, including things like roads and storm drains. Reading through my family history, I learned about some of my ancestors who were part of efforts to build roads and drainage facilities in the early days of our county. One of those ancestors, William Hendricks Lewis, after whom Lewiston is named, served as the first bishop of that area. But it wasn't always called Lewiston. The first name used to refer to that community was Poverty Flats. The joke was that, if you tried to farm there, you would likely end up in poverty due to the muddy conditions of the area. Therefore, a community effort was undertaken to install drains, and build roads so that residents and farmers could access and use the fertile land there.

Today, our responsibility to build and maintain infrastructure continues. We need that infrastructure to support our economy, so that families and individuals can thrive. We need it so students can get to school. And we need it so emergency workers can get to you if you need help.

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MEET THE CACHE COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Hi! My name is Matt Phillips, and I am the Public Works Director for Cache County. I joined the County in 2019 as the County Engineer. Before that, I worked for Red Plains Professional and Cache Landmark Engineering. Both are professional engineering companies that provided me with an opportunity to work on a wide range of projects that gave me a great foundation and valuable experience for the work I now do as Director of Public Works.



I graduated from Cal Poly Pomona with a Bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering and I am a Licensed Professional Engineer in eight states including Utah. I was born and raised in Cache County and am proud to be a Sky View High School graduate. I have a wonderful wife, four awesome children, and one adorable grandson. On behalf of the entire Public Works Department, I am excited to be a part of the county's newsletter, and hope that, over time, it will be a resource to introduce you to our team of professionals and let you know what we do.

WHAT IS PUBLIC WORKS?



Hyrum Public Works and Cache County Fire District Facility

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Today, we are working on a variety of transportation projects and safety improvements, ranging from getting cell towers installed in Logan Canyon, to building a new bypass road west of 10th West, to improving Main Street and other major roads across our valley. Many of these projects require partnerships with UDOT, our local cities, and regional transportation organizations like the Cache Metropolitan Planning Organization and Cache County Council of Governments. But at the foundation of Cache County's transportation efforts, you will find a dedicated team in our county public works department. These men and women are the ones who keep our roads clear in snow storms, who help us deal with flooding, who make sure we can access mountain roads, who ensure our roads get the maintenance they need to help them last, and who help to construct and improve our road network. If you see these crews out working on our roads this summer, one way you can express your appreciation for them would be to drive safely around their construction zones. They have dozens of construction and maintenance projects they will be working on this summer. Please join me in thanking our hard working public works staff!



Paving of Birch Canyon



Benson Bridge Repair

According to the American Public Works Association, "Public Works is the combination of physical assets, management practices, policies, and personnel necessary for the government to provide and sustain structures and services essential to the welfare and acceptable quality of life for its citizens."

Although our Public Works Department closely affects everyday life for everyone in the county, the work its employees perform can go largely unnoticed...unless the work doesn't get done.



Chip and Seal on a county road

The responsibilities of the Public Works Department include planning, constructing, and maintaining county roadways and bridges, providing engineering and surveying services for the County, coordinating all construction work on county roads and within the right-of-ways, managing storm water and floodplains, and noxious weed monitoring and management, to name a few. Public Works is also an essential member of the emergency management team. When the infrastructure is threatened, Public Works is prepared to take a comprehensive and collaborative role with other first responders in emergency management. In this role, we are prepared and equipped to safeguard lives and reduce or repair damaged critical infrastructure.



Flooding in Amalga



Oakdell Egg Farm Fire

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600 South Pipe Project

SOME PUBLIC WORKS NUMBERS

32 full-time employees

24 part-time employees

5 Divisions:

- Administration
- Engineering and Surveying
- Storm Water
- Roads
- Vegetation Management

1400 traffic signs

1000 culverts

655 miles of roads

46 bridges

8 gravel pits

2 facilities (Hyrum & Richmond)

1 website

<https://www.cachecounty.gov/public-works/>

MAJOR CACHE VALLEY TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS

The Cache County Council of Governments provided \$7 million for the following road projects:

- **Logan** 1000 North; 50 East to 200 West - \$1.5M
- **Nibley** 1200 West - \$1.2M
- **North Logan** 600 East from 2200 North to 2400 North - \$300,000
- **Hyde Park** 700 East (AKA 1200 East) Gap Road Construction \$3M
- **Richmond** 400 West / 150 North (by new Lee's Marketplace) \$900K

Representative Blake Moore helped Cache County secure \$2 million to start working on the Western Bypass

Working with UDOT to finalize a comprehensive study to identify solutions for Main Street (Nibley to Hyde Park)

UDOT just released the Hwy 89/91 study identifying long-term improvements to US 89/91 from Brigham City to Logan

SR 30 expansion underway