



**Mayor Russ Wall**

## Mayor's Message: May 2009

### *The Forecast is for an Orange Summer*

**We have all heard the comment, in Utah the season that follows winter is the road construction season. While we endure the orange barrels and lane restrictions that accompany road construction, we rarely think about the eventual positive results.**

This year, throughout the United States, the orange barrels will be everywhere because of Federal Stimulus moneys allocated to the states and local governments. Taylorsville will also have a number of projects under various stages of design and construction during 2009 and 2010. Each project is intended to help decrease traffic congestion and increase safety. Most of the projects in Taylorsville will be joint projects between Taylorsville and UDOT.

While the inconvenience of construction drives most of us to gritting our teeth and mumbling carefully selected words, the projected outcome of the projects will solve many problems imposed upon the citizens of Taylorsville by neighboring commuters passing through our city to reach one of four freeway interchanges.

We are extremely concerned with the growing traffic gridlock in our city. We are even more concerned for the safety of our children and other pedestrians trying to navigate with ever more cars and trucks on our streets. The option of doing nothing is no longer an option; at least not an option that will leave the residents of Taylorsville in a better situation.

We believe the best action for the City is to participate with UDOT to ensure these projects 1) take into consideration the safety of our citizens, 2) impact nearby residents of the road reconstruction minimally both during construction and with the final product, and 3) not impact the convenience of those living, working and shopping in Taylorsville.

To that end, we have fought to include pedestrian bridges that remove the conflict of school children and 6200 South traffic at Calvin Smith Elementary and Bennion Jr. High School. We will be working closely with UDOT on the following intersection improvements: 6200 South Redwood Road, 5400 South Redwood Road, 5400 South Bangerter Highway, 4700 South Redwood Road and 4700 South Bangerter Highway, along with the 5400 South reversible lane project. We have insisted that plans for these projects take into consideration not only the improvement of traffic flow, but minimize impact to adjacent property owners and address access to these collector roads from neighboring subdivisions, or that alternative solutions be developed for access these collector roads.

The influx of federal money has accelerated many projects throughout the state, and the aggressive pace requires vigilance on our part to make sure we have the best projects that yield the greatest benefit to the citizens of Taylorsville. We stand ever ready to represent your voice and concerns, and urge you to participate in the public meetings and open houses for these projects. They will be hosted by the design engineers with the goal to educate residents and to solicit comments and ideas for the planned improvements.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Russ Wall". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.