

Smart Growth for Conservatives

Fiscal and market perspectives on transportation and land use



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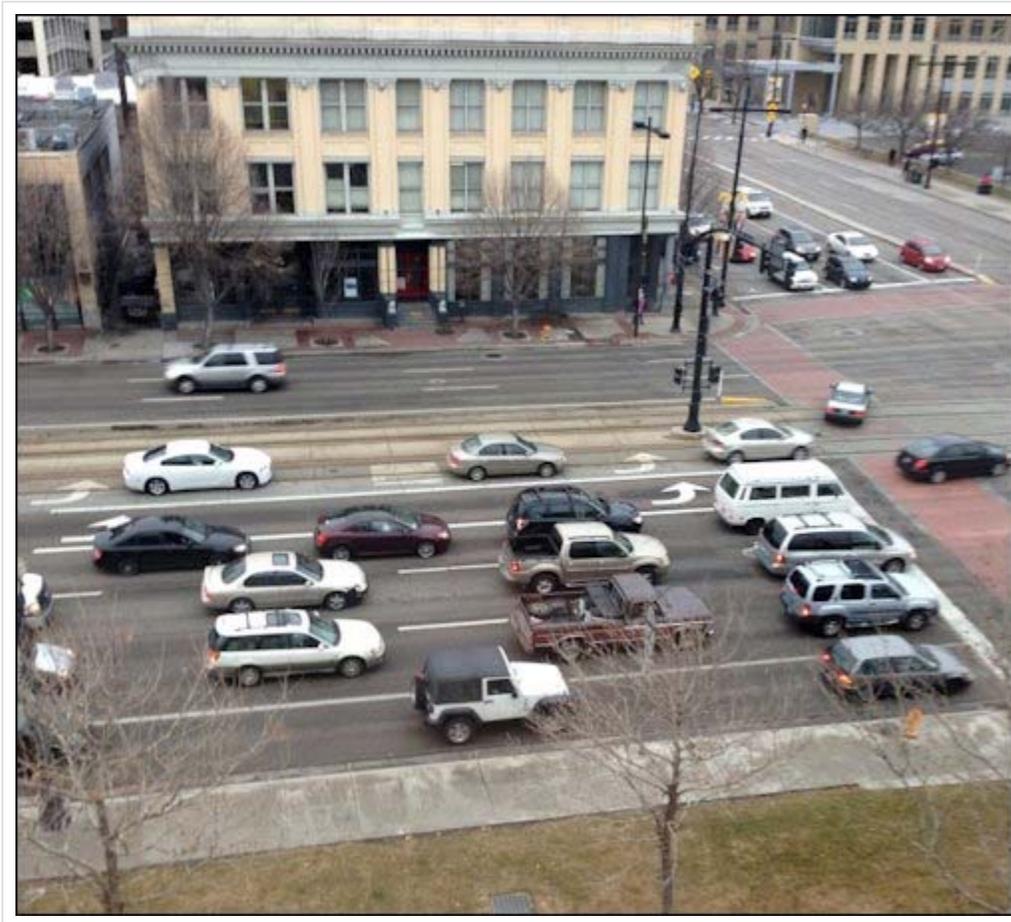
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Why Does this Street Have So Many Lanes?

Posted on [February 19, 2014](#) by [jabacon@baconsrebellion.com](#)

by Jim Dalrymple

The street in the picture below is 400 South in downtown Salt Lake City. In general, it's a massive and massively unpleasant street:



Including turn lanes, there are a full six lanes of traffic for cars *just in one direction*. Here are the reasons this is a major problem:

1. It's expensive. Maintaining this type of street is vastly more expensive than the analogous-but-smaller version of a downtown street you'd see in most cities.
2. It [encourages speeding, which problem is exacerbated by Salt Lake City's long blocks](#). That, in turn, increases the frequency and severity of accidents.
3. It's extremely unpleasant to walk on. Note the small sidewalks and the lack of a buffer between the street and the pedestrian space.
4. It reduces the economic value of the street. Fast cars aren't going to stop and even if they did complete streets have shown more economic strength than horrible stroads like this.

(Cross posted from About Town.)

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About jabacon@baconsrebellion.com

Editor James A. Bacon publishes the blog with financial support from Smart Growth America. A life-long journalist, Jim was publisher & editor-in-chief of Virginia Business magazine before launching Bacon's Rebellion, a blog dedicated to building more prosperous, livable and sustainable communities in Virginia. He is the author of "Boomergeddon: How Runaway Deficits Will Bankrupt the Country and Ruin Retirement for Aging Baby Boomers — and What You Can Do About It."

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