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Media Release

Seven County Infrastructure Coalition granted remaining funding for Uinta Basin Railway study

Railway to bring economic stability while maintaining environmental regulations

Uinta Basin, Utah (June 14, 2019) – The Utah Permanent Community Impact Fund Board approved a \$21.4 million grant to the Seven County Infrastructure Coalition to fund the remaining planning expenses of the Uinta Basin Railway through the regulatory review and permitting process.

The Coalition is the public partner of the proposed railway that will provide new infrastructure to connect the Uinta Basin's various industries to the national rail network. The Uinta Basin Railway will provide a safe and efficient alternative to freight transportation in the region, which is currently only offered through trucking.

"The critical need for the Uinta Basin Railway to drive economic stability and quality of life for our community cannot be overstated, and we appreciate the support from the Community Impact Board by approving funding to continue our progress in making this a reality," said Mike McKee, executive director of the Seven County Infrastructure Coalition.

The state grant will enable the Coalition to move forward with the project's regulatory review, including the U.S. Surface Transportation Board's preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement. The private partner, Drexel Hamilton Infrastructure Partners, LP, will finance construction of the railway, and has formed a joint venture with Rio Grande Pacific Corporation for operation and maintenance of the railway. The Coalition and Drexel Hamilton are also continuing discussions with the Ute Indian Tribe as a potential equity partner to the project.

"We're travelling all over the country talking to producers about how this railway will meet their needs and the marketplace is eager to have additional options for access to the unique commodities being produced in the Uinta Basin," said Mark Michel, Managing Partner, Drexel Hamilton.

The Uinta Basin Railway will provide economic stability to communities in the Uinta Basin by creating well-paying jobs and increasing opportunities for the Basin's main industries: oil and gas, agriculture and livestock, and mining. The goods produced by these industries play a critical role in the U.S. economy, providing fuel for automobiles, plastics for medical supplies, and feed for livestock throughout the U.S.

Learn more about the Uinta Basin Railway project at uintabasinrailway.com.

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Seven County Infrastructure Coalition: The Coalition was formed in 2014 in an effort to promote cooperative regional planning, increase economic opportunities, and implement sustainable infrastructure projects. Member counties include Carbon, Daggett, Duchesne, Emery, San Juan, Sevier, and Uintah. Visit SCIC-utah.org

Drexel Hamilton Infrastructure Partners, LP: Drexel Hamilton Infrastructure Partners, LP (“DHIP”) is an independent infrastructure investment fund that combines deep industry and political expertise with best operational practices honed during years of military service. DHIP makes equity investments in the energy, transport, utilities, water, and waste sectors where we possess deep industry knowledge and access to a network of proprietary relationships. DHIP provides custom tailored financing solutions across a spectrum of capital needs for greenfield and brownfield projects, including acquisition financing, growth capital, co-investments, restructuring and secondaries. Please visit www.drexelhamiltonip.com for more information.

Rio Grande Pacific Corporation: Rio Grande Pacific Corporation (RGPC) is a privately held, Texas-based holding company for regional freight railroads and railroad related firms. RGPC rail subsidiaries serve hundreds of domestic customers, including many Fortune 500 firms, and move a diverse mixture of commodities in the agricultural, chemical, energy, forest products, mineral and recycling and steel industries. The firm’s portfolio of wholly owned subsidiaries includes international rail consulting, railway signal design and engineering, specialty railroad equipment re-manufacturing, third party train dispatching and commuter/transit O & E services.