



www.scic-utah.org

Seven County Infrastructure Coalition
294 East 100 South
Price, UT 84501
(435) 637-1203

March 26, 2020

Uintah Basin Standard | Vernal Express
60 East 100 North
Vernal UT, 84078
(435) 938-7112

To Whom It May Concern:

The Seven County Infrastructure Coalition wishes to provide insight from the Coalition Board Members with regard to a recent article published on the [Uintah Basin Standard | Vernal Express website](#). The article stated several inaccuracies involving the Uinta Basin Railway project, the agencies and partners involved, as well as the intent of the decisions voted upon during our recent Board Meeting.

To begin, the headline and lead sentence of the article are factually incorrect. The Coalition is *not* seeking a new firm to take over procurement and commercialization of the Uinta Basin Railway. HDR, Inc. is mentioned as the firm leading the procurement and commercialization process on-behalf of the Coalition; this is also incorrect.

HDR, Inc. remains the lead engineering firm for the project. They have been tasked with identifying and assessing the potential environmental consequences of the proposed railway to support the Coalition during the Surface Transportation Board's (STB) NEPA process. HDR, Inc. will continue to support the Coalition, as needed in this process, and is committed to minimizing and mitigating impacts where possible to meet all federal, state, and local environmental regulations.

The Coalition's private partners- Drexel Hamilton Infrastructure Partners, L.P. and Rio Grande Pacific- will also be continuing forward in their responsibilities, which is to procure and commercialize the railway. This public-private partnership creates a unique opportunity for collaboration to fund, build and operate critical infrastructure projects, like the [Uinta Basin Railway](#).

R.L. Banks and Associates is not being contracted to replace any of the existing agencies and partners. Rather, the Board voted to utilize the firm as a third-party financial consultant throughout the public-private partnership negotiations.

We continue to collaborate with all of our partners and work diligently toward a common goal: build a railway that will enable economic stability, promote sustainable communities, and enrich quality of life.

Given this information, we hope that you consider clarifying the article as a service to your readers and our constituents. Please visit the [Uinta Basin Railway website](#), or the [STB's Uinta Basin Railway Project website](#) if you are seeking additional information. We are available for further questions, if needed.

Sincerely,

Board & Staff,
Seven County Infrastructure Coalition
(435) 637-1203