

# Ex-Chicago official to head up transportation agency

By CATHY MCKITRICK  
The Salt Lake Tribune

The Wasatch Front Regional Council tapped a former Chicago transportation leader Thursday as its new executive director.

Andrew Gruber, 40, will step into the agency's head spot, starting July 1, when Chuck Chappell retires.

Since 2002, Chappell steered long-range road and transit planning for northern Utah's most populous metropolitan areas.

Gruber, an attorney who most recently served as the Chicago Regional Transportation Authority's senior deputy executive director for legal and governmental affairs, moved to Utah earlier this year with his wife, Tracy, and two children.

For more than a decade, the family visited relatives in the Beehive State, Gruber said, discovering the state's "wonderful people, livable communities and unparalleled natural beauty."

"So what went from a place to vacation," Gruber said, "quickly became an idea as a place to live."

A national search for Chappell's replacement took place this spring, netting 26 applicants. Four went through the interview process.

Gruber is noted for successfully drafting significant transit funding and reform



LEAH HOGSTEN | The Salt Lake Tribune

Andrew S. Gruber, right, newly named executive director of Wasatch Front Regional Council speaks with Chuck Chappell, left. Chappell will retire from the agency's head spot in June.

legislation. Illinois lawmakers approved the measure in 2008, boosting transit funding by \$500 million a year.

Chicago's mass-transit

system ranks as the nation's second largest, Gruber said, and some parts are more than 100 years old.

"Utah's is somewhat smaller

## About Andrew Gruber

- » New York City native.
- » Earned law degree from Northwestern University.
- » Served as senior deputy executive director of legal and governmental affairs for Chicago Regional Transportation Authority.
- » Worked as an attorney with Chicago-based Mayer, Brown, Rowe & Maw.
- » Was a former legislative and budget analyst for the Illinois Senate.

and newer," Gruber said, "but the systems in both places play an essential role as part of a balanced transportation network."

"We're very excited to have Andrew on board," said Salt Lake County Councilman Michael Jensen, who heads the 25-member, transportation-planning council.

The agency's work is 93 percent federally funded, spokesman Sam Klemm said. The executive director serves for extendable five-year terms.

Chappell was paid an annual salary of \$129,000. Gruber's pay is still being negotiated, Klemm said, but is expected to be similar.

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# Future U.S. challenges require civility

Politics » Former congressman takes "Civility Tour" to Utah Humanities Council.

By BEN FULTON  
The Salt Lake Tribune

Vice President Aaron Burr mortally wounded former Secretary of State Alexander Hamilton in a duel. A South Carolina representative bludgeoned a Massachusetts senator nearly to death on the U.S. Senate floor.

American history is rife with examples of leaders and elected representatives abandoning all precepts of mutual respect to plunge headlong into barbarity, said Jim Leach, chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities and a former GOP member of the U.S. House Representatives from Iowa.

Given our mounting national debt coupled with national and international challenges facing the United States, however, Leach said America's trend toward divisiveness and incivility will cost us future strength and cohesion.

Leach spoke Thursday night at the Salt Lake City Main Library auditorium, near the end of the Utah Humanities Council's 2010 Human Ties Awards, which also marked the council's 35th anniversary.

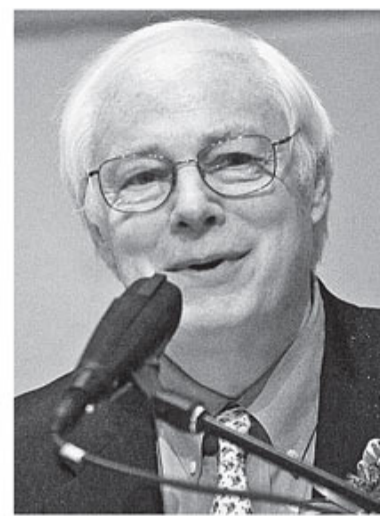
Leach said that after 30 years of service in the U.S. House of Representatives he noticed a growing "sense of superficiality" pervading politics. The study of history, literature and philosophy that form the fundamental disciplines of the humanities were no longer thought relevant to the current conditions of human life.

During his years in Congress, Leach served as senior member of the House Committee on International Relations and chaired the House Committee on Banking and Financial Services, where he played a key role in the Whitewater investigation.

Before his appointment as NEH chairman by President Barack Obama last August, Leach served in both visiting professor and interim director positions at Princeton University and Harvard University, respectively.

Leach's political career embodied his message of bipartisanship and civil disagreement. As a Republican who lost his seat to a Democrat in 2006, Leach broke ranks with his party to support stem cell research. He also voted against the authorization of force against Iraq in 2002 and against President George W. Bush's 2003 tax cut.

Partly as a result of observing debate and protest in the run-up to Congress' vote on health care reform, and noticing a media atmosphere



PAUL FRAUGHTON | The Salt Lake Tribune

Jim Leach, chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities, speaks Thursday at the Utah Humanities Council's Human Ties Awards at the Salt Lake Main Library.

charged with polarization, Leach launched a 50-state "National Civility Tour." Salt Lake City marked the tour's 21st stop.

Sporting an aqua-blue lapel pin advertising the tour's namesake, which he hands out in each city he visits, Leach said the U.S. Constitution was designed with civility as a chief goal. By separating executive, legislative and judicial powers with checks and balances, Leach said the government constrained people's baser instincts.

"Our government is based on an understanding that individuals are neither omnipotent nor infallible," he said. "Therefore, perhaps it's wise to listen to someone else in a manner of serious engagement."

Leach said he was alarmed by critics who labeled their political opposition "fascist" or "communist." Out of all the name-calling, however, one word shocked him the most.

"That word was 'secession,'" he said. "All of these are words that summon people to war."

Leach said people who find no harm in unwarranted hyperbole would do well to remember words retain meaning despite the manner in which they are used. "The medium is the message," he said, invoking Canadian scholar and media theorist Marshall McLuhan.

Leach also recalled an episode from Thucydides' *The History of the Peloponnesian War*, in which even the cultured state of Athens murdered, enslaved and colonized the people of the island Melos for refusing to help fight Sparta.

"The lesson is that even great nations sometimes lose their way," he said. "We're going to have to think about whether or not we remain one country that moves together, but can also accommodate a wide variety of views."

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## Nevada man drowns in Panguitch Lake

A Las Vegas man has drowned while fishing in south-central Utah's Panguitch Lake.

Kenneth Medberry, 52, was fishing about noon Wednesday with a friend and went

overboard when the line of an anchor he threw into the lake became tangled and caused their boat to capsize, said Garfield County sheriff's spokeswoman Becky Bronson. Both men ended up in the 40-degree water, Bronson said.

Medberry's friend made it to shore, but Medberry was overcome by the frigid water

and drowned, Bronson said. Paramedics were unable to revive him.

The victim's companion was treated for hypothermia at Garfield Memorial Hospital and released.

The men had life vests in the boat, but neither was wearing one at the time of the accident, deputies said.

## Robbers shock woman with Taser

Robbers held a Draper woman at gunpoint for an hour and shocked her with a Taser when they broke into her house early Thursday, police said.

Three men broke into the house, near 13000 South and Saddle Villa Way, and chased the woman, 38, into the garage, said Draper police Sgt. Pat Evans. There they shot her with a Taser.

For about an hour, the three men kept the woman at gunpoint and forced her to go

with them through the house as they ransacked it for electronics.

The woman's roommate came home at 1 a.m. and was greeted by the robbers, who pointed a gun at him, Evans said. At that point, the woman escaped by jumping out of a second-floor window, Evans said.

The men fled, stealing a motorcycle as they went.

Police have leads on the three robbers, Evans said.

— Erin Alberty

## Drag race in Ogden Canyon ends in fatality

A 16-year-old girl died in a crash during an illegal drag race Thursday in Ogden Canyon, investigators say.

"It was a very high rate of speed, based on preliminary findings," said Weber County sheriff's Lt. Philip Howell.

The girl, whom police did not identify, was a passenger in an Acura that was racing a red Honda passenger car west on Highway 39 about 3:30 p.m. near Pineview Dam, Howell said.

Both drivers tried to pass a westbound van, one on each side, Howell said. The Acura tried to pass the van on the right, and the driver, a teenage male, lost control and crashed the car into a tree on the road's south side.

The 16-year-old girl was

thrown from the car and died at the scene. The driver suffered serious injuries. He was extricated from the car and flown to a hospital. He and two other teenage girls in the car were recovering from their injuries.

The Honda left the scene, Howell said. Detectives are looking for its driver and passengers.

Others who knew the occupants of the Acura had pulled over at the scene, Howell said, but it isn't clear whether those friends were with the cars' occupants when the race started.

The van was not connected to the race, Howell said. The van's driver pulled over and tried to help the victims in the crash.

— Erin Alberty

## Police seeking bank robber

Police are looking for a shotgun-wielding robber who held up a bank Thursday in West Jordan.

The robbery occurred at 2:35 p.m. at Key Bank, 1435 W. 9000 South.

The robber wore all black clothing, including pants, jacket, hat and mask. He carried a black shotgun and may have left in a white GMC sport utility vehicle, model SLT.

Police describe the man as white and about 6 feet tall with a muscular build.

Police also are seeking a woman in connection with the robbery. She is white with brown hair and a rose



Courtesy of West Jordan Police

This is a photo of a person of interest in the Thursday robbery of Key Bank at 1435 W. 9000 South in West Jordan.

tattoo on her left arm. She was wearing a black cap with a design printed on the left side.

Anyone with information may call the FBI tip line, 801-579-1400, or West Jordan police, 801-840-4000.

— Erin Alberty

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