



# Utah Transit Authority

## Board of Trustees

### MEETING MINUTES - Draft

669 West 200 South  
Salt Lake City, UT 84101

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**Wednesday, November 1, 2023**

**5:30 PM**

**FrontLines Headquarters**

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#### **Public Hearing - 2024 Tentative Budget**

**Present:** Chair Carlton Christensen

Trustee Jeff Acerson

**Excused:** Trustee Beth Holbrook

Also attending were UTA staff and interested community members.

#### **1. Call to Order and Opening Remarks**

Chair Carlton Christensen welcomed attendees and called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

#### **2. Pledge of Allegiance**

Attendees recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### **3. Safety First Minute**

Catherine Bhaskar, UTA Senior Financial Modeling Analyst, delivered a brief safety message.

#### **4. Budget Overview**

##### **a. UTA Tentative 2024 Budget Overview**

Viola Miller, UTA Chief Financial Officer, provided an overview of the 2024 operating budget, including expenses by category, office, and full-time equivalents (FTEs), along with summary of the 2024 capital budget. She then outlined the budget approval process.

#### **5. Public Comment**

Megan Waters, UTA Community Engagement Director, provided information on the public comment period on the tentative budget. The public comment period opens today, November 1, 2023, and ends December 1, 2023. Comments are welcome and can be submitted through 5:00 p.m. on December 1 through any of the following ways:

- Email: [hearingofficer@rideuta.com](mailto:hearingofficer@rideuta.com)
- Phone: 801.743.3882
- Mail: Utah Transit Authority, c/o Jolisha Branch, 669 W 200 S, Salt Lake City, UT

84101

- Website: [www.rideuta.com/budget](http://www.rideuta.com/budget) <<http://www.rideuta.com/budget>>

**In Person/Virtual Comment**

In person comment was given by Claudia Johnson. A transcript of Ms. Johnson's comments is included in Appendix A to these minutes.

**Online Comment**

No online comment was received for today's hearing.

**6. Adjourn**

A motion was made by Trustee Acerson, and seconded by Chair Christensen, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried by a unanimous vote and the meeting adjourned at 5:47 p.m.

Transcribed by Cathie Griffiths  
Executive Assistant to the Board Chair  
Utah Transit Authority

This document is not intended to serve as a full transcript as additional discussion may have taken place; please refer to the meeting materials, audio, or video located at <https://www.utah.gov/pmn/sitemap/notice/867867.html> for entire content. Meeting materials, along with a time-stamped video recording, are also accessible at [https://rideuta.granicus.com/player/clip/264?view\\_id=1&redirect=true&h=c6450216870eda37f83de0c00c129dbe](https://rideuta.granicus.com/player/clip/264?view_id=1&redirect=true&h=c6450216870eda37f83de0c00c129dbe).

This document along with the digital recording constitute the official minutes of this meeting.

Approved Date:

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Carlton J. Christensen  
Chair, Board of Trustees

**Appendix A****From Claudia Johnson:**

You haven't seen me because I have been working at a food bank and they expanded it to three times a week instead of two times, and they moved the hours up and while I'm talking about food bank, one of the things we are seeing since I'm over our group's Food Bank area, we have seen a major increase of people coming to the Food bank. We've gone from only 500 people to 900 people, 1000 people. I mean cars and vehicles for families. That's not the individuals we're up to now over 10,000 people that we actually service and that's just for one little small spot. And while I'm on that, is that because I deal with the refugees and I think you need to recruit to them to be bus drivers to be trained drivers. Whatever positions you could get, because I think a lot of times they're hesitant to come to UTA because it's a big thing and you know, it could be intimidating and a lot of these people have been driving. They have CDL's or they drive independently on their own trucks and stuff that way. And I think there's a lot of positions that you could possibly meet the needs of some of these people on the West side because rent is not going down, it's going up, food's going up, we're getting people kicked out of their apartments because good old landlords say I want more money and so they raise the rent and then they can't pay it. So that's just, that's why I've been missing this meeting. And I really enjoy it. And I do go in and watch it and stuff that way. And I want to thank everybody that that recognized me today. I appreciate it because it made me feel good that I wasn't just a bad seed, that every time I come in I make derogatory comment. But hopefully it's always comments that can be useful and of benefit.

Another thing is you give out a five day. Excuse me, a five ride pass, which is awesome. The problem is, is a lot of these senior people don't ride five days in a row and it expires. And so you have to give them five or six of these cards because they go once a week to the doctor's, to the dentist and stuff. And I'm wondering if you could do a pass which is time stamped. I mean in Europe that it was you got five days and 10 days and you ride or you don't ride and stuff that way, but you've got a period of time to use that. And I'm wondering if that would be something that would be of benefit to get to educate people on using the bus and TRAX, and also to be able to just get people feeling more comfortable to coming and again to meet some of the needs of these...I shouldn't say this...us senior people. I have a car so I have no problem with that. But you know, I'm just thinking that we need to think outside the box and this is something that needs to be thought back again outside the box of how can we meet some of these needs and extend because that pass was awesome. I had people say, do you have one? Do you have one? And I'd scrounge through my desk to try and find one. And I didn't. And the next time I see a UTA person that came to a meeting I get some more. But I think we need - UTA - needs to look at that of expanding it in another way. And again I really miss this and I and I promote to anybody that is concerned or complaining about UTA or anything else, that way, it is really educational to come to the board meetings and to listen in on the board meetings so that you get a total picture of what's going on and what's happening. Because once you get a larger picture you understand more and you're also more educated to say "I don't agree." Because you've got that background and it's over 2 minutes. Thank you.

