



# Utah Transit Authority

## Local Advisory Council

### MEETING MINUTES - Draft

669 West 200 South  
Salt Lake City, UT 84101

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**Wednesday, November 6, 2024**

**1:00 PM**

**FrontLines Headquarters**

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**Present:** Vice Chair Bob Stevenson  
2nd Vice-Chair Natalie Hall  
Council Member Neal Berube  
Council Member Dirk Burton  
Council Member Karen Cronin  
Council Member Julie Fullmer  
Council Member Erin Mendenhall  
Alternate Council Member Dan Dugan

**Excused:** Chair Troy Walker  
Council Member Mark Johnson  
Alternate Council Member Brandon Gordon  
Alternate Council Member Jon Larsen

Also attending were UTA staff and interested community members.

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

Vice Chair Bob Stevenson welcomed attendees and called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. He announced he is conducting the meeting on behalf of Chair Troy Walker who is unable to attend. Alternate Council Member Dan Dugan is sitting in for Troy Walker as a Salt Lake County representative. Council Member Mark Johnson is excused.

Vice Chair Stevenson announced this is an in-person, recorded meeting with live streaming available online. Live public comment is available in person or via Zoom.

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

Attendees recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

David Hancock, UTA Chief Capital Services Officer, delivered a brief safety message.

#### **4. Public Comment**

To view public comments in their entirety, see meeting video located at:  
[https://rideuta.granicus.com/player/clip/331?meta\\_id=55160](https://rideuta.granicus.com/player/clip/331?meta_id=55160)

In-person comment was given by Zach Scriven voicing support for the Rio Grande Plan.

Virtual comments, voicing support for the Rio Grande Plan, were given by Bailey Van Valkenburgh, Oscar Arvizu, Alex Keller, and Anthony Tobler.

## 5. Consent

### a. Approval of August 28, 2024 Local Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

### b. Board Policy Revision

- Board Policy 1.3 Executive Relationships and Meeting Protocols
- Board Policy 3.3 Capital Development Project Implementation

A motion was made by 2nd Vice-Chair Hall, and seconded by Alternate Council Member Dugan, to approve the consent agenda. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

## 6. Discussion

### a. Economic Value of Transit Study

Jay Fox, UTA Executive Director, was joined by Heather Barnum, UTA Chief Communications Officer, and Alex Beim, UTA Long Range Strategic Planning Manager. Fox provided a high level overview of the study including purpose, economic return statistics, and key findings, which included:

- How UTA benefits Utah's economy
- Public Sentiment of UTA's Value to the State
- UTA return on Investment - every \$1 invested in UTA generates \$5.11 in economic return
- The benefit of transit to non-users
- Visible examples of economic impact

Fox mentioned the study will be shared with the community including on UTA's website, social media campaigns, presentations at conferences, and at meetings with local stakeholders.

Discussion ensued. Questions pertaining to key performance indicators, how the study will be shared with local legislators, how expansion of transit could impact UDOT construction projects, and the financial impact on UTA's budget if bus service headways were increased, were posed by the council and answered by staff.

### b. 2023 Geographic Economic Model

Jay Fox was joined by Vi Miller, UTA Chief Financial Officer, to present the 2023 Geographic Economic Model (GEM).

Fox introduced the GEM as a financial model that demonstrates the historical trend of transportation revenue versus service and capital investment by county within UTA's

service area.

Miller provided further information on the model and highlighted how the GEM focusses on the importance of a regional system and identifies historical revenues and expenditure within the system. She noted the growth of inter-county trips over the past few years where trips originate and terminate in different counties.

UTA monitors the revenues received from and the level of service or capital investment provided to each county. The GEM is one of the data tools used to inform UTA's long-term strategic work. Data on all transit modes is collected and analyzed in UTA's GEM and independently verified by a third party consulting firm.

A historical analysis of data in each county from 2001 - 2023 was presented by Miller summarizing the cumulative capital and operating revenues and expenses per county.

Fox noted at the end of the year, UTA will be compiling the HB430 utilization report for all municipalities which will compare tax revenue by ridership use from where the tax revenue originated.

## 7. Service Planning

### a. **AR2024-11-01 - Resolution Approving the Proposed 2025-2029 Five-Year Service Plan and Recommending Adoption by the Authority's Board of Trustees**

Nichol Bourdeaux, UTA Chief Planning & Engagement Officer, was joined by Russ Fox, UTA Director of Planning, and Eric Callison, UTA Manager of Service Planning.

Staff presented the proposed UTA 2025-2029 Five-Year Service Plan including objectives, timeline, process, and proposed phasing for April change days throughout the plan's five year duration. The presentation identified adjustments made to the plan as a result of public feedback.

Each service area was reviewed for each year of the plan with new services, discontinued services, and changes to existing routes highlighted.

Discussion ensued. Questions pertaining to the frequency of the 5600 line, implementation of the new 256 route before 2028 and frequency, the number of route headway increases (over the plan years), and UTA police resources, were posed by the council and answered by staff.

A motion was made by Council Member Mendenhall, and seconded by 2nd Vice-Chair Hall, that this resolution be approved. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

## 8. Capital Projects

### a. **AR2024-11-02 - Resolution Approving the Proposed 2025-2029 Capital Plan and Recommending Adoption by the Authority's Board of Trustees**

Dave Hancock, UTA Chief Capital Services Officer, was joined by Dan Hofer, UTA Director of Capital Program & Support, and Greg Andrews, UTA Senior Financial Analyst.

Staff provided an outline of the 2025-2029 Five-Year Capital Plan including noteworthy accomplishments over the past year, plan drivers, ridership trends, 2025-2029 capital plan yearly summary, 2025 capital budget summary, major milestones, state of good repair plan, and next steps.

Key project highlights and anticipated deliverables were shared including the 5600 West Bus Route, the Mid-Valley BRT Project, and the SD100 - SD160 Light Rail Replacement.

The total cost of the proposed 2025-2029 Capital Plan, financed by various sources, is \$1,199,568,000.

A motion was made by Alternate Council Member Dugan, and seconded by Council Member Cronin, that this resolution be approved. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

## **9. Budget and Investments**

### **a. Consultation on Agency's Tentative 2025 Budget**

Jay Fox was joined by Vi Miller to present the Agency's Tentative 2025 budget.

Fox shared 2025 budget highlights including service additions, rail vehicle procurements, and the continuation of the TRAX Ambassador program.

Miller provided an overview of the 2025 budget, including expenses by category, mode, and full-time equivalents (FTEs), along with a summary of the 2025 capital budget. The 2025 tentative budget includes \$462 million in operating expenses and \$330 million in capital investments.

Miller further outlined tentative to final operating budget changes which include additional staffing requests and electrical rate increases. Miller noted, due to a reduction in sales tax revenue, UTA's fund balance will be utilized to balance the budget for 2025.

Discussion ensued. Questions concerning the fund balance, revenue sources, revenue decreases, and budget adjustments were posed by the council and answered by staff.

Council Member Mendenhall requested information regarding UTA's fund balance projections in addition to information on future revenue streams.

## **10. Transit Oriented Development**

**a. Salt Lake Central Station Redevelopment**

Paul Drake, UTA Director of Real Estate and TOD was joined by Sean Murphy, UTA Facility Development Supervisor, to present an overview of the Salt Lake Central Station Redevelopment.

Drake reported in 2019 the Local Advisory Council approved, and the Board adopted, a Station Area Plan for Salt Lake Central Station. The plan envisioned the district as a vibrant transit-oriented development community, anchored by the historic Rio Grande Building to the east and a new, mixed-use office tower on the west, positioned between the light and commuter rail platforms. The new development and building could accommodate long-term administrative facilities for UTA and provide significant improvements to the transit rider environment.

The Salt Lake Central Station redevelopment will provide support for other community development efforts including the Rio Grande district development, the TechLink TRAX Study, the downtown entertainment district, and the Granary district redevelopment. Funding strategies are being considered to utilize transit-oriented development assets, explore alternative funding sources, avoid impact to UTA operations, and provide a return to UTA.

Murphy talked about the design elements and shared visuals of the renderings, conceptual designs, and site utilization.

Discussion ensued. Council Member Mendenhall expressed concern with the size, shape, and location of the building, and its effect on public access. She feels the design isn't permeable or welcoming and presents potential safety concerns.

Drake acknowledged Council Member Mendenhall's comments and stated he will connect with her team to review the designs and look at additional opportunities and considerations, including permeability.

Additional discussion took place. Questions pertaining to the building design, concepts, modifications, UTA service hours and public access, building integrity and adaptability, and Amtrak operations, were posed by the council and answered by staff.

**11. Discussion****a. Open Dialogue with the Board of Trustees**

Discussion items included:

- The 2024 Annual Utah Transportation Conference (UTA participated on several panels).
- Salt Lake County confirmed funding for the Davis-Salt Lake City Connector.
- Vice Chair Stevenson was nominated to serve as Chair of the National Association

of Regional Councils (NARC).

## 12. Reports and Other Business

### a. **AR2024-11-03 - Resolution Giving Notice and Setting Regular Meeting Dates for the Authority's Local Advisory Council for Calendar Year 2025**

Vice Chair Stevenson called for a motion to approve the 2025 Local Advisory Council meeting calendar.

A motion was made by Council Member Cronin, and seconded by Alternate Council Member Dugan, that this resolution be approved. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

### b. **Executive Director Report**

- **Operator Recruitment Update**
- **Light Rail Vehicle Contract**
- **Ridership Update**
- **Quiet Zone Status**
- **Chief of Staff - Kim Shanklin**

Jay Fox reported on operator recruitment efforts which have resulted in 100% operator staffing. He announced ridership is up by 16.5% year-over-year and on target to achieve 40 million customers in 2024. He noted the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) recently released a report on post-pandemic transit agencies and ranked UTA fourth in the nation for ridership recovery.

Fox provided a status report on quiet zones and how UTA is working to support the cities of Woods Cross and Lehi to reinstate these zones. There are two areas in Salt Lake and North Salt Lake that require additional work to be compliant and those cities are applying for a waiver from the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA). In addition, congressional leaders are working directly with the FRA administrator to negotiate the restoration of quiet zones.

Questions regarding the estimated completion time of the work for the cities to be in compliance and the waiver process was posed by Mayor Fullmer and answered by Fox.

In concluding his report, Fox introduced Kim Shanklin, UTA's new Chief of Staff.

### c. **Audit Committee Report**

Vice Chair Stevenson provided a brief summary of the UTA Audit Committee meeting held on September 23, 2024.

- The revised Internal Audit Charter was reviewed and approved.
- Reports were received on the status of the 2024 Internal Audit Plan and open issues or findings for past audits.
- Presentations were given on three audit projects including findings and recommendations and remediation efforts were discussed.

d. Next Meeting: Wednesday, February 19, 2025 at 1:00 p.m.

**13. Adjourn**

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:25 p.m.

Transcribed by Hayley Mitchell  
Executive Assistant to the Board  
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 or audio located at:  
<https://www.utah.gov/pm/sitemap/notice/950305.html> for entire content. Meeting video is accessible at: [https://rideuta.granicus.com/player/clip/331?view\\_id=1&redirect=true](https://rideuta.granicus.com/player/clip/331?view_id=1&redirect=true)

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

Approved Date:

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Troy Walker  
Chair, UTA Local Advisory Council