



Utah Transit Authority

Local Advisory Council

MEETING MINUTES - Draft

669 West 200 South
Salt Lake City, UT 84101

Wednesday, February 19, 2025

1:00 PM

FrontLines Headquarters

Present: Chair Troy Walker
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 Mark Johnson
Alternate Council Member Jon Larsen

Excused: Council Member Erin Mendenhall
Alternate Council Member Dan Dugan
Alternate Council Member Brandon Gordon

Also attending were UTA staff and interested community members.

1. Call to Order & Opening Remarks

Chair Walker welcomed attendees and called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.
He 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

Alisha Garrett, UTA Chief Enterprise Strategy Officer, delivered a brief safety message.

4. Public Comment

An in-person comment was given by Anthony Tobler voicing support for the Rio Grande Plan.

A virtual comment was given by Alex Keller, a UVU student, who shared concerns with the FrontRunner service in terms of limited frequency and delays. Keller also voiced support for the Rio Grande Plan.

To view public comments in their entirety, see meeting video located at:

https://rideuta.granicus.com/player/clip/348?meta_id=59816

5. Consent

- a. **Approval of November 6, 2024 Local Advisory Council Meeting Minutes**
- b. **Constituent and Customer Service - 2024 Annual Report**

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

6. Capital Projects

- a. **Capital Projects Update - South Jordan Downtown 11000 South TRAX Station and Midvalley Express (MVX)**

Dave Hancock, UTA Chief Capital Services Officer was joined by Eric Callison, UTA Manager of Service Planning, who provided project updates on the South Jordan Downtown 11000 South TRAX Station, and the Midvalley Express (MVX) projects.

The South Jordan Downtown project is a new TRAX Station built on the existing red line which will provide transit access to development in South Jordan including the new baseball stadium. Hancock provided a construction update, noted funding sources, and shared photos of the project.

The Midvalley Express (MVX) project is a 7-mile express bus rapid transit (BRT) service with 1.4 miles of exclusive bus lanes servicing 15 stops across Murray, Taylorsville, and West Valley City providing a 15-minute peak service with an estimated 1,900 riders per day. Hancock provided a construction update, noted funding sources, and shared photos of the project.

Discussion ensued. Questions pertaining to project completion dates and replacement of existing bus routes, were posed by the council and answered by staff.

7. Service Planning

- a. **Service Design Standards**

Nichol Bourdeaux, UTA Chief Planning & Engagement Officer was joined by Eric Callison to provide an overview of UTA's service design standards and share how the agency conducts its planning process.

Bourdeaux turned the time over to Callison who provided detailed information on the standards including objectives, transit modes, service tiers, route/station design guidelines, and bus stop placement. He explained how each of these areas are planned and aligned with agency objectives, transit demand, and resources.

Discussion ensued. Questions pertaining to the propensity index, on time performance, display notification boards, communication for detours and disruptions, transportation network companies (TNC), and the UTA pass program, were posed by the council and answered by staff.

8. Discussion

a. FrontRunner 2X Project Update

Dave Hancock introduced Janelle Robertson, UTA Project Manager, and Brian Allen, Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT) Project Manager, to provide an update on the FrontRunner 2X project.

Robertson shared information on the current FrontRunner system, an 83-mile corridor serving 16 stations running at 30-minute peak and 60-minute off-peak times with 10 trains in service during peak hours. Due to a predominantly single track, disruptions often cause cascading service delays on the system. Increased congestion and travel time on I-15 will create higher demand for FrontRunner. The 2X project will provide 21 miles of double tracking, 10 new trainsets, track re-alignment, and maintenance facility updates for an improved, modernized FrontRunner service.

Allen talked about project benefits including increased frequency, ridership, and reliability, and mentioned costs, funding sources, and timelines.

Discussion ensued. Questions pertaining to the I-15 commute time estimates, when ridership will return to 2019 levels, employer pass program, and adding additional trains to current FrontRunner service, were posed by the council and answered by staff.

Chair Walker invited Andrew Gruber, Executive Director for the Wasatch Front Regional Council (WFRC), to speak to the federal funding being sought for this project from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) under the Capital Investment Grant (CIG).

Gruber shared his optimism that the project will move forward with federal funding since the FrontRunner 2X is recognized as a high-priority project. The project has been authorized under federal law, including funding authorization, although a fully funded grant agreement has yet to be executed. Gruber noted the strong legislative support and advocacy to ensure this project moves forward, especially with Utah hosting the 2034 Olympic Games.

Allen provided an overview of the FrontRunner Point Improvement project which will include one new station and 4 strategic double track segments to enhance connectivity, improve reliability and frequency, and provide a gateway into the Point of the Mountain development. The new station will be called the Bluffdale station.

Discussion ensued. Questions pertaining to the double tracking between Vineyard and Lehi, restroom facilities, and extended service hours, were posed by the council and answered by staff.

b. Legislative Update

Carlton Christensen, UTA Board Chair, provided a legislative update on UTA-supported bills.

HB229 Transportation Funds Amendments (Christofferson)

- Allows corridor preservation to include uses for fixed guideway public transportation facilities.

Chair Christensen stated UTA have worked closely with UDOT on several transportation bills to ensure alignment of the language used in those bills. He referenced HB229, Transportation Funds Amendments which clarifies corridor funds can be used for fixed guideways. UTA will continue to work with UDOT to align transit with roads on joint corridors.

SB26 Housing and Transit Reinvestment Zone Amendments (Harper)

- Amends the median gross income for a certain percentage of dwelling units within an HTRZ to the county's median gross income for households of the same size.

SB174 Transit and Transportation Governance Amendments (Harper)

- Clarifies and distinguishes duties of UTA's Board of Trustees and Executive Director.
- Clarifies and expands the Local Advisory Council's consulting duties, including consultation on fares.
- Establishes UDOT's oversight of all fixed guideway capital development projects, regardless of funding source.

SB195 Transportation Amendments (Harper)

- Annual comprehensive transportation amendments bill.
- Defines UDOT's responsibilities for ownership or conveyance of property for a public transit purpose.
- Requires MPO's to follow-up on certain station area plans.
- Requires UDOT & UTA to conduct a human services transportation study.

Chair Walker asked Andrew Gruber to speak to the "5th 5th" Sales Tax option.

Gruber gave a brief update on SB195 and transportation connections over canals.

Gruber drew attention to the local sales county tax option and noted this is the largest single source of funding which cities can implement for transit and transportation projects.

He reported Salt Lake County recently voted to impose a 5th 5th sales tax option which is planned to go into effect in July 2025. This increase would generate \$76 million per year, which will be divided between transportation and public safety initiatives within the county.

He mentioned that other counties can choose to impose the 5th 5th of which three quarters will be allocated to transit and transportation projects and the other quarter towards infrastructure and other projects within the county and cities.

In closing, Gruber introduced Samantha DeSeelhorst WFRC's new Transportation Planner.

c. Open Dialogue with the Board of Trustees

Chair Walker opened the floor to the council for open discussion

Council Member Johnson expressed his concern regarding the lack of transit service, (light rail and BRT), in Utah County. He mentioned several years ago, a BRT service was promised in close proximity to the Adobe campus in Lehi.

He shared additional concerns with lack of information on transit discussions including the Point of the Mountain project. He voiced strong concerns regarding the significant changes to the project including the routing and expressed his concerns over the grading.

Chair Christensen responded that several years ago the legislature assigned the governance of fixed guideways, including the Pont of the Mountain, to UDOT with UTA providing technical support. UDOT performed a number of studies with cost verifications and options with the project feeding into the Regional Transportation Plan.

Council Member Cronin mentioned she recently met with the Tooele Council of Government (COG), who were complimentary of UTA services in the county.

9. Resolutions

a. AR2025-02-01 - Resolution of the Local Advisory Council of the Utah Transit Authority Appointing Council Officers for the Year 2025

Chair Walker introduced a resolution to appoint Council Officers for the Local Advisory Council for 2025. He noted the established succession of officers for 2025 as follows:

Current Vice-Chair, Bob Stevenson, will move into the position of Council Chair. Current 2nd Vice-Chair, Natalie Hall, will move into the position of Vice-Chair. Chair Walker called for any opposition to these successions. None seen.

Chair Walker called for nominations for a new 2nd Vice-Chair.

Vice-Chair Stevenson nominated Council Member Neal Berube to the position of 2nd Vice-Chair and made a motion to approve the resolution appointing 2025 Council Officers. The motion was seconded by Council Member Cronin. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

10. Reports

a. Executive Director Report**- 2024 Ridership Report**

Jay Fox, UTA Executive Director, provided members of the council with a copy of a handout provided at UTA's recent Transit Day on the Hill, detailing the agency's accomplishments in 2024.

Fox discussed the value of transit investments and 2024 highlights which included:

- Construction on the Midvalley Express (MVX) and a \$62.8 million federal grant
- The 10-Year Capital Plan and 5-Year Service Plan that will add 9 million service miles to the UTA system
- Attained 80% FrontRunner peak ridership threshold for federal capital investment grant eligibility
- Stadler U.S. contract award to build up to 80 light rail vehicles for replacement and expansion of UTA's TRAX fleet
- Transit role for the 2034 Winter Games
- The refinancing of \$432.9M Build America bonds saving the agency \$96M over the next 10 years

Fox reviewed 2024 ridership highlights, which included:

- One million boardings on UTA's On Demand service
- One million boardings on Ogden Express (OGX) service
- 30-year historical high for the Vanpool program
- 4% increase in Ski Bus ridership which exceeded 400,000 boardings
- 57,300 riders moved in one weekend at the Warriors Over the Wasatch air show, the Arts Festival, and George Strait concert at Rice Eccles Stadium
- 6% increase in the public favorability score of UTA (from 68% to 74%)

Fox noted ridership for all UTA services was 40,478,945, up 15.5% overall. He also reviewed ridership data from 2019 through 2024, workforce stability by turnover rate, and operator headcount vs. actual trends.

Fox concluded his report by outlining 2025 ridership opportunities, which include:

- An 11% increase in ridership target
- Adding and restoring service and frequency on April 2025 Change Day
- Expanding UTA On Demand to west Provo
- Opening a new TRAX station in South Jordan at Daybreak Field
- Launching 15-minute service or faster "Go Route" buses in Salt Lake City
- Contracting for additional ski service
- A new Utah Valley Express (UVX) 900 East station on the BYU campus
- Installing new ticket and tap machines and upgrading payment technology across the system
- Improving detour processes for 2025 state of good repair projects

b. Audit Committee Report

Chair Walker noted the Audit Committee met in December 2024 and received audit report presentations and status reports.

11. Other Business

- a. Next Meeting: Wednesday, May 7, 2025 at 1:00 p.m.

12. Adjourn

A motion was made by Council Member Cronin, and seconded by Vice-Chair Stevenson, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried by unanimous vote and the meeting adjourned at 3:02 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/pmn/sitemap/notice/974043.html> for entire content.

Meeting materials, along with a time-stamped video recording, are also accessible at:

<https://rideuta.granicus.com/player/clip/348?redirect=true>

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

Approved Date:

Bob Stevenson
Chair, UTA Local Advisory Council