



Utah Transit Authority

Board of Trustees

MEETING MINUTES - Draft

669 West 200 South
Salt Lake City, UT 84101

Wednesday, January 28, 2026

9:00 AM

FrontLines Headquarters

Present: Chair Carlton Christensen
Trustee Jeff Acerson
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 9:00 a.m.

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

In Person/Virtual Comment

No in person or virtual comment was given.

Online Comment

No online comment was received.

5. Consent

a. Approval of the January 14, 2026 Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Trustee Holbrook, and seconded by Trustee Acerson, to approve the consent agenda. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

6. Reports

a. Legislative Update and Potential Action on Proposed Legislation

Paul Ray, UTA Government Relations Director, gave a report on transit-related legislation that lawmakers have proposed during the 2026 General Legislative session now in progress.

Ray informed the Board of activities related to:

- HB 212 - County Formation Amendments from Representative Teuscher;
- SB 197 - Transportation Funding and Governance Amendments from Senator Wayne Harper;
- SB 242 - Transportation Amendments from Senator Wayne Harper (unnumbered at the time of the meeting).

The legislature has requested a 5% budget reduction review across all state agencies. Ray noted the potential impact of proposed cuts to non-medical Medicaid transportation from the Division of Services for Persons with Disabilities and proposed cuts to the Coordinated Mobility fund from the transportation budget to UTA. Ray added that he is connecting with legislators to discuss removing cuts that impact UTA.

Discussion followed. A question regarding how common it is for the legislature to ask for budget cut reviews was posed by the board and answered by Ray.

b. Executive Director Report

Jay Fox, UTA Executive Director, commented that he will be departing in the coming days as part of the Utah 2034 Olympic Observer Team - making the trip to Italy for the Milan-Cortina Olympics.

c. Strategic Plan Minute - Digital Storytelling - Building Community Support

Jay Fox highlighted UTA's "Building Community Support" strategic priority.

d. UDOT Property Acquisition Report - Q4 2025

Paul Drake, UTA Director of Real Estate & TOD, and Spencer Burgoyne, UTA Manager of Property Administration, explained that UDOT acquired six parcels in UTA's name during quarter four of 2025. The parcels are associated with the FrontRunner 2X project. Of the six parcels, four also include perpetual easements.

Discussion followed. A question regarding potential displacements of people and/or property were posed by the board and answered by staff.

7. Contracts, Disbursements and Grants

a. Contract: Ratification of Land-Use Lease and Maintenance Agreement (Utah County)

Jared Scarbrough, UTA Director of Capital Design & Construction, presented the ratification, which ratifies a prematurely executed Land-Use Lease and Maintenance Agreement. UTA staff is seeking authorization to uphold the agreement to construct and operate a park-and-ride facility in the southwest quadrant of Pony Express Parkway and Seaside Street to provide bus service along Pony Express Parkway.

Discussion followed. A question regarding the definition of "City recorded value," as noted in the contract posed by the board; staff will follow up on this question after the meeting.

A motion was made by Trustee Acerson, and seconded by Trustee Holbrook, that this ratified contract be approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

b. Change Order: Utah County Park and Ride Facilities: Change Order 1 - Phase II: Saratoga Springs (Geneva Rock)

Jared Scarbrough requested the approval of Change Order 1 for construction services with Geneva Rock to construct the second phase of the Utah County park and ride facilities plan in the amount of \$2,285,229.10. The new contract value is \$4,748,236.60.

A motion was made by Trustee Holbrook, and seconded by Trustee Acerson, that this change order be approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

8. Discussion Items

a. South Salt Lake Downtown Connect Station Area Plan

Paul Drake, was joined by Valarie Williams, UTA TOC Project Specialist I, Cherie Wood, Mayor of South Salt Lake, and Jonathan Weidenhamer, Community and Economic Development Director of South Salt Lake to discuss the proposed South Salt Lake Downtown Connect Station Area Plan. The plan will better position UTA and South Salt Lake to coordinate redevelopment of the station area. This aligned coordination will promote future transit-oriented development in an efficient and fiscally responsible manner.

Mayor Wood talked about how in 2011 they decided to build South Salt Lake downtown consisting of a vibrant community, lively districts and a connected network. There will be affordable housing, walkable areas and transit options, specifically connecting to the S-line. While transportation-related project goals will help to maximize staging and circulation, progress and improvement are evident in that area.

Discussion followed. Questions regarding the relationship between UTA's Long Range Capital Plan and the station area plan were posed by the board and answered by staff.

b. Capital Program Report - Fourth Quarter 2025

Jon Larsen, UTA Chief Capital Services Officer, was joined by Daniel Hofer, UTA Director of Capital Design & Construction and Viola Miller, UTA Chief Financial Officer, to inform the Board of Trustees on progress of the 2025 Capital Program through quarter 4. Updates included overviews of the 2025 capital budget and expenditures, project progress highlights, anticipated asset receivables, and preliminary results from 2025 which included in part:

- Multi-year projects delivered.

- 5310 Program-25 vehicles procured and delivered.
- Fare System Replacement milestones reached.

Discussion followed. Questions regarding anticipated spend amounts, travel trainer, Jordan River 2 opening, flywheel failure, and pre-fabricated operator restroom construction were posed by the board and answered by staff.

c. Bond Issuance Strategy for Potential Refinancing Opportunity

Viola Miller was joined by Brian Reeves, UTA Associate Chief Financial Officer, and Brian Baker from Zions Public Finance. Staff would like to receive strategic direction from the Board before moving a financing opportunity forward for review by the State Finance Commission and Local Advisory Council. The financing opportunity includes the potential to refinance existing debt at a lower cost, enabling the organization to capture significant savings.

Discussion followed. Questions regarding the potential to shift bonds to lower rates and if overall reductions in interest rates were posed by the board and answered by staff.

d. Amendments to the 2026 Operating Budget and 2026-2030 Five-Year Capital Plan

Viola Miller and Daniel Hofer explained that two separate amendments are being proposed: one to the 2026 operating budget and one to the five-year capital plan. Miller stated the proposed 2026 Operating Budget expenses by \$1,924,000 to add Microtransit service to Utah County. This will be funded by the Utah Department of Transportation and Utah County.

The amendment to the Five-Year Capital Plan will include an overall increase of \$42,487,000 to the total Five-Year Plan amount increasing expenditures from \$1,069,129,000 to \$1,111,616,000 to purchase 52 new CNG and Clean Diesel Buses. This increase in expenses will be offset by incorporating \$41,805,200 in new-grant funds and \$681,800 in matching UTA funds.

Discussion followed. Questions regarding the Microtransit zones and coordination between zones and if plans were already in place to finance the purchase of the 52 vehicles were posed by the board and answered by staff.

9. Other Business

- a. Next Meeting: Wednesday, February 11, 2026 at 9:00 a.m.

10. Adjourn

A motion was made by Trustee Acerson, and seconded by Trustee Holbrook to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried by a unanimous vote and the meeting adjourned at 10:37 a.m.

Transcribed by Cherilyn Bradford
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/1054929.html> for entire content. Meeting materials, along with a time-stamped video recording, are also accessible at <https://rideuta.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>.

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

Approved Date:

Carlton J. Christensen
Chair, Board of Trustees