



Utah Transit Authority

Board of Trustees

MEETING MINUTES - Draft

669 West 200 South
Salt Lake City, UT 84101

Wednesday, July 12, 2023

9:00 AM

FrontLines Headquarters

Present: Chair Carlton Christensen
Trustee Beth Holbrook

Excused: Trustee Jeff Acerson

Also in attendance were UTA staff and interested community members.

1. Call to Order and Opening Remarks

Chair Christensen welcomed attendees and called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. and noted Trustee Jeff Acerson was excused. He announced this is an in-person, recorded meeting, with live viewing available online and live public comment available in-person and via Zoom.

My BeUTAHful Community Student Art Competition

Chair Christensen referred to the My BeUTAHful community student art competition and announced one winning piece of artwork will be showcased at each Board meeting. Today's piece is "The Future of Transportation" by Ben Landon, a 9th grade student.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Attendees recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Safety First Minute

Jay Fox, UTA Executive Director, provided a brief safety message.

4. Public Comment

No in-person public comment was given.

Chair Christensen reported no written or online comments were received for the meeting.

5. Consent

a. **Approval of June 28, 2023 Board Meeting Minutes**

b. **Approval of July 5, 2023 Board Meeting Minutes**

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

6. Reports

a. **Executive Director's Report**

Mr. Fox reported the Red Line TRAX service has re-opened following several weeks of

construction. He commended all involved for their efforts to complete the project in a safe and timely manner.

b. Financial Report - May 2023

Viola Miller, UTA Chief Financial Officer, was joined by Brad Armstrong, UTA Director of Budget & Financial Strategy, and David Hancock, Director Capital Development, to present the agency's Financial report for May 2023. Ms. Miller turned the time over to Mr. Armstrong to discuss the sales tax revenue deficit.

Mr. Armstrong referred to the 2023 Sales Tax YTD variance chart - budget versus actuals. April shows a negative return although YTD revenue remains above budget. He attributed the deficit to a slowdown on taxable revenue over the last several months but remains confident the numbers will even out for the remainder of the year, if not, adjustments can be made to the budget.

Questions on sales tax forecasts, propulsion, and CNG costs were posed by the board and answered by staff.

Ms. Miller continued the financial report which included passenger revenue, FTE statistics, and the overall expense report.

Discussion ensued. Questions on recruiting, administrative position vacancies, budget variance, and parts increases, were posed by the board and answered by staff.

Mr. Hancock was joined by Greg Andrews, UTA Senior Financial Analyst, to present the Capital Projects report. Mr. Hancock drew attention to several categories within capital projects that identified large variances on planned versus actual expenditure. He noted these are attributed to funding planned but not yet expended, late invoicing, accelerated project progress, and overspend in some areas. He then proceeded to review each project and associated variance.

Discussion ensued. Questions relating to delivery of new buses, lighting efficiencies, supply chain issues, Tech Link Corridor Study project, and FrontRunner Camera project, were posed by the board and answered by staff.

7. Resolutions

a. R2023-07-01 - Resolution Authorizing the Executive Director to Execute Grant Agreements for Specified Projects

Tracy Young, UTA Grants Director, was joined by Gregg Larson, UTA Manager of Grant Services, to request approval for a resolution authorizing execution by the Executive Director for various grant awards.

Ms. Young provided a summary of the 12 grants requiring approval which total \$14.9 million. She mentioned these grants are included within the agency's budget.

A question regarding draw down or advancement of funds was posed by the board and answered by Ms. Young.

A motion was made by Trustee Holbrook, and seconded by Chair Christensen, that this resolution be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Chair Christensen, and Trustee Holbrook

Absent: Trustee Acerson

b. R2023-07-02 - Resolution Adopting Free Fare on the Ogden Express Line (OGX) through August 2026

Kensy Kunkel, UTA Manager of Fare Strategy, presented a resolution to adopt Free Fare on the Ogden Express Line (OGX), to run from August 2023 - August 2026.

Ms. Kunkel announced the OGX service will open in August 2023 and \$1.2 million has been received in grant funding to offset operating costs which will allow UTA to forego fare collection and offer this free fare service.

A motion was made by Trustee Holbrook, and seconded by Chair Christensen, that this resolution be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Chair Christensen, and Trustee Holbrook

Absent: Trustee Acerson

c. R2023-07-03 - Resolution Approving Davis-Salt Lake City Community Connector Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA)

Patti Garver, UTA Manager - Environmental & Grant Services, presented a resolution to approve the Davis-Salt Lake City Community Connector Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) .

Ms. Garver shared background information on the LPA, a 26-mile corridor bus rapid transit service between Farmington and Salt Lake City which will include 12 new stations, utilize 18 new battery electric busses, and draw an estimated 5,800 riders per day.

Ms. Garver outlined the project status and next steps including working with the various partnerships and local agencies and cities, drafting of a capital project plan, submittal of grant applications, and a Federal Transit Administration (FTA) funding opportunity. Ms. Garver also noted the recent approval and recommendation by the UTA Local Advisory Council.

Questions relating to ridership, discretionary funding, and service integration on current routes, were posed by the Board and answered by Ms. Garver.

A motion was made by Trustee Holbrook, and seconded by Chair Christensen, that this

resolution be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Chair Christensen, and Trustee Holbrook

Absent: Trustee Acerson

8. Service and Fare Approvals

a. Fare Agreement: Education Pass Agreement (Salt Lake Community College)

Ms. Kunkel presented an Education Pass Agreement between Salt Lake Community College (SLCC) and UTA, to provide students, faculty, and staff, with premium transit passes. The current agreement expires July 31, 2023, and both parties wish to continue this partnership. The value of the proposed two year contract is \$758,000. If approved, the agreement will run from August 1, 2023 - July 31, 2025.

A motion was made by Trustee Holbrook, and seconded by Chair Christensen, that this fare agreement be approved. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

b. Fare Agreement: Pass Purchase and Administration (Salt Lake City Corporation)

Ms. Kunkel presented a Pass Purchase Agreement between Salt Lake City Corporation (SLC Corp.), and UTA to provide SLC Corp. employees with a transit pass benefit. SLC Corp. receives a 5% discount on their monthly invoice from UTA calculated on the number of trips taken in the previous contract year. This discount is based on a tiered matrix through the ECO Trip Rewards Program.

The current contract expired on June 30, 2023, and both parties wish to continue this partnership. The value of the proposed contract is approx. \$82,000 - \$90,000 and if approved, the agreement will run from July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024.

A motion was made by Trustee Holbrook, and seconded by Chair Christensen, that this fare agreement be approved. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

c. Complimentary Fare: Special Events Agreement (Craft Lake City)

Ms. Kunkel proposed UTA enter into a Special Event Agreement with Craft Lake City for their arts festival taking place August 11 - August 13, 2023, to provide ticket as fare to event attendees. The contract value is estimated at \$5,500. In exchange for the forgone fare revenue, Craft Lake City will provide UTA with a marketing package valued at \$15,000.

A discussion ensued concerning marketing packages offered to UTA by various organizations and how these can be reviewed and analyzed to track the actual value and benefit to UTA. Mr. Fox said he will discuss this with the communications team.

A motion was made by Trustee Holbrook, and seconded by Chair Christensen, that this fare agreement be approved. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

9. Discussion Items

a. Senate Bill 125 - ASPIRE Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Overview

Hal Johnson, UTA Acting Director - Innovative Mobility Solutions, was joined by Regan Zane, ASPIRE Center Director to present an overview of Senate Bill 125 and the ASPIRE Electric Vehicle Infrastructure program.

Mr. Zane provided background information on the bill, the ASPIRE program, and associated partnerships.

Advancing Sustainability through Powered Infrastructure for Roadway Electrification (ASPIRE), a National Science Foundation Engineering Research Center housed at Utah State University, received \$2.1 million in ongoing funding through Senate Bill 125, Transportation Infrastructure Amendments.

ASPIRE conducts vital research to pave the way for real-world deployment of electrified transportation systems and partners with the University of Utah, Brigham Young University, and eight other universities across the world. Its research is supported by industry partners, and research grants from the Departments of Energy and Transportation

Details of the grid impact of electric buses, the many electrification projects at UTA, which span across buses, light rail, and facilities, in addition to grant applications and research studies, were shared by Mr. Johnson and Mr. Zane. It was noted, innovative charging solutions could bring down the cost of infrastructure, transportation, and utilities, through coordinated grid management systems and partnerships with public and private sector entities.

Mr. Johnson touched upon UTA's partnership and projects with Rocky Mountain Power who has a vested interest in vehicle electrification and grid management and the desire to provide high power public charging.

A short video clip from a news segment on Fox 13 News titled "all charged up", was shared.

Next steps were outlined and include the formation of a steering committee to include primary stakeholders such as UDOT, Rocky Mountain Power and others. An Advisory Board will also be created and an action plan to determine needs, a gap analysis, and setting priorities, will be completed by these groups.

Discussion ensued. Questions and comments relating to propulsion costs, utilization of energy savings within UTA's buildings, grid security and investment, and emphasizing the impact on air quality control, were posed by the board and answered by Mr. Johnson and Mr. Zane.

b. Education Pass Agreement with the Salt Lake School District, Salt Lake Education Foundation and Salt Lake City

Ms. Kunkel was joined by Julianne Sabula, Salt Lake City, and Dan Dugan, Salt Lake City

Council, to discuss the Education Pass Agreement with Salt Lake School District, Salt Lake City, and the Salt Lake Education Foundation. \$379,000 of funding was provided by these entities in the 2022-23 school year, providing 24,000 students, faculty, and staff with unlimited transit passes.

Ms. Kunkel outlined the benefits of the free passes which has provided many mobility options including transit for students to attend school during inclement weather, after school activities, internships and jobs, and other opportunities. It has also resulted in less absenteeism. Ridership data comparing 2021 to 2022, indicates a 700% increase which can be largely attributed to the free pass program.

Ms. Kunkel announced the partners wish to expand the pass agreement in the 2023-24 school year and include an additional transit pass for one parent/guardian per household. The contract value will increase to \$493,648 with the additional funding provided by Salt Lake City Council.

Ms. Sabula and Mr. Dugan expressed gratitude for the partnership which has made a tremendous impact in the lives of the students, teachers, and parents. The new pass agreement, which will include a parent/guardian pass, will provide the opportunity for more family trips and fill other transit needs for these families.

Questions regarding interest expressed by other school districts and the impact of the program in reducing the need for schools to provide bus transportation were posed by Chair Christensen and answered by Ms. Kunkel and Mr. Dugan.

Mr. Fox and the Board thanked Ms. Kunkel and the partners for their work and dedication in putting together the agreement and providing transit opportunities, increased mobility, and cost savings for teachers who utilize the passes.

10. Other Business

- a. Next Meeting: Wednesday, July 26, 2023 at 9:00 a.m.

11. Closed Session

- a. **Strategy Session to Discuss Collective Bargaining**

Chair Christensen announced there were no matters requiring a closed session. Item 11.a. was tabled and the meeting moved directly to adjournment.

12. Open Session

13. Adjourn

A motion was made by Trustee Holbrook, and seconded by Chair Christensen, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried by a unanimous vote and the meeting adjourned at 10:42 a.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 and audio located at <https://www.utah.gov/pm/sitemap/notice/844769.html> for entire content.

Meeting materials along with a time-stamped video recording may also be accessed at https://rideuta.granicus.com/player/clip/242?view_id=1&redirect=true&h=60d1436d68042a8f464b800f606163f7

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

Approved Date:

Carlton J. Christensen
Chair, Board of Trustees