



Utah Transit Authority

Board of Trustees

MEETING MINUTES - Draft

669 West 200 South
Salt Lake City, UT 84101

Wednesday, January 10, 2024

9:00 AM

FrontLines Headquarters

Present: Chair Carlton Christensen
Trustee Beth Holbrook
Trustee Jeff Acerson

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 9:01 a.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Attendees recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Safety First Minute

Chair Christensen delivered a brief safety message.

4. Public Comment

In Person/Virtual Comment

Public comment was given by Tim Jahn; Henry Sokolski; Richard Hale; Dea Theodore, Salt Lake County Councilmember; and Green Choi. Councilmember Theodore and Choi joined the meeting virtually.

Tim Jahn spoke about the suspension of route 953 bus service. He said UTA's mission "We Move You" does not happen when bus service is eliminated. He addressed quality of life issues that are impacted by transit, specifically:

- Public safety - public safety is improved when fewer cars are on the road
- Air quality - too many cars increase pollution
- Red snake (referring to tail lights from vehicles traveling slowly in a snaking line due to traffic in the Big and Little Cottonwood canyons)
- Public good
- Saving money

Henry Sokolski said he would like the same service provided to ski resort employees to be provided to the public, and added it is not enough to treat transportation in the canyons as a

service for tourists. He said he would like UTA to do better and would like route 953 service to be restored.

Richard Hale introduced himself as a UTA Light Rail Operations Supervisor and asked the board not to ratify the collective bargaining agreement with the Teamsters Local 222. He said the Teamsters misrepresented contract terms to UTA rail operations supervisors. He opined the changes to the supervisor position contemplated in the agreement will affect the effectiveness of UTA service. He spoke about supervisor responsibilities, then implored the board not to approve the contract.

Councilmember Dea Theodore recommended reinstating route 953. She acknowledged the challenges involved in balancing priorities and thanked the board and operators for their service.

Green Choi expressed frustration with the agency's decision to discontinue use of the Go Ride mobile ticketing app. He opined the Transit app is an "abysmal" alternative. Choi said the Go Ride app was easily identifiable with UTA's logo. He asked the board to create a sustainable strategy for a better mobile ticketing app to seamlessly connect all Utahns.

Online Comment

No written online comment was received.

(To view public comment in its entirety, see the meeting video located at https://rideuta.granicus.com/player/clip/276?view_id=1&redirect=true&h=d3ff3de36700a658dbd5e118383db7db.)

5. Consent

a. Approval of December 20, 2023 Board 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. Executive Director Report

- **UTA Commendations**
- **Ski Update**
- **Trolley and Morgan County Contracts Update**
- **Recognition of Mary DeLoretto**

UTA Commendations

Jay Fox, UTA Executive Director, expressed appreciation to the maintenance of way team for restoring service after a tree fell on the TRAX catenary wire during a snow squall.

He then took a moment to read comments from Ben Chapman, whose son was recently memorialized in the UTA Memorial Grove.

Following his initial remarks, J. Fox was joined by Cheryl Beveridge, UTA Chief Operating Officer; Camille Glenn, UTA Regional General Manager - Mt. Ogden Business Unit; Michelle Wallace, UTA Operations Manager; and Marie Gallegos, UTA Operations Supervisor. Glenn recognized Marie Bisel, UTA Operator, and Ray Barreno, UTA Operator, for organizing the donation of 100 bundles of winter items for distribution to riders in need.

Recognition of Mary DeLoretto

J. Fox expressed appreciation to Mary DeLoretto, who is retiring from the agency after more than 18 years of service. DeLoretto filled various roles during her tenure at the agency, including chief capital services officer and interim executive director. J. Fox described personal characteristics he admired in DeLoretto. He invited Dave Hancock, UTA Chief Capital Services Officer, to talk about DeLoretto's leadership.

J. Fox then asked DeLoretto to highlight some of her favorite projects at UTA, which included participating in the historic impact mitigation on the TRAX Blue Line in Draper and wetland mitigation on the FrontRunner alignment at the Hobble Creek site. DeLoretto also spoke about her participation in the development of the Denver and Rio Grande Rail Trail.

The board thanked DeLoretto for her service, particularly for her work as interim executive director.

Ski Update

J. Fox was joined by Andres Colman, UTA General Manager - Salt Lake Business Unit. Colman provided an update on ski bus service in Big and Little Cottonwood canyons, and mentioned UTA:

- Has an experienced operations team and dedicated mobile maintenance team assigned to ski service
- Has a positive working relationship with resorts and the Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT)
- Is utilizing 40-foot buses to increase capacity
- Has staged a spare bus near the canyons
- Is carrying moderate passenger loads in Little Cottonwood Canyon and heavy passenger loads in Big Cottonwood Canyon
- Is running an average of 10 extra daily trips (on Friday, Saturday, Sunday, and holidays)

Colman also noted:

- Preliminary daily ridership is higher the same time frame last season
- Bypass service has not been needed
- Cottonwood Connect (a service provided by Visit Salt Lake) started on

December 22, 2023

- Brighton and Solitude resort employee shuttles have begun operating

Discussion ensued. Questions on meeting demand for surge service and operational adjustments for the current ski season were posed by the board and answered by staff. Chair Christensen mentioned the resort employee shuttles were implemented to increase capacity on UTA buses.

Trolley and Morgan County Contracts Update

J. Fox noted the trolley agreements in Ogden, Layton, and Farmington expired on December 31, 2023. He said UTA intends to continue service until the new agreements are finalized and the risk to the agency will be negligible since the new agreements will include a reimbursement provision for the interim service between contracts.

J. Fox indicated internal responsibility for the managing the contracts will be centralized moving forward. Chair Christensen encouraged proactive contract management and expressed a strong desire to avoid circumstances in which ratification is required.

b. Financial Report - October 2023

Viola Miller, UTA Chief Financial Officer, was joined by Brad Armstrong, UTA Director of Budget & Financial Strategy; Daniel Hofer, UTA Director of Capital Assets & Project Controls; Gregory Andrews, UTA Senior Financial Analyst; and Dave Hancock.

Staff reviewed the following:

- Financial dashboard
- Sales tax revenue
- Sales tax collections by county
- Sales tax history
- Sales tax growth and passenger revenues
- Full-time equivalent (FTE) staffing
- Operating financial results
- Capital spending, including spending by project

Discussion ensued. Questions on sales tax growth trends, objectives of the Paratransit Forward study, and remodel of the new maintenance training facility were posed by the board and answered by staff.

7. Contracts, Disbursements and Grants**a. Contract: Utility Relocation for Midvalley Bus Rapid Transit Project (Dominion Energy Utah)**

Andrea Pullos, UTA Project Manager III, requested the board approve a contract with Dominion Energy in an amount not-to-exceed \$750,000 for relocation of utility equipment associated with the Midvalley Bus Rapid Transit project.

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

b. Contract: Public Way Lease Agreement for Midvalley Bus Rapid Transit Project (Salt Lake Community College)

Andrea Pullos requested the board approve a public way lease agreement with Salt Lake Community College (SLCC) for portions of the bus corridor and a bus hub for the Midvalley Bus Rapid Transit project. The lease has a value of \$2.245 million for Federal Transit Administration reporting purposes, but no actual funds will be exchanged between UTA and SLCC. The contract has a 50-year term plus a 50-year automatic renewal clause.

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

8. Budget and Other Approvals**a. UTA Policy - UTA.04.02 Additional Service Requests**

Nichol Bourdeaux, UTA Chief Planning & Engagement Officer, was joined by Russ Fox, UTA Director of Planning. Bourdeaux summarized the policy, which complies with the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) guidelines for public transit charter service, and defines roles, responsibilities, and criteria for evaluating additional service requests from businesses, external organizations, and government and community agencies.

Discussion ensued. Questions on how UTA is working with longstanding partnerships to communicate potential impacts were posed by the board and answered by staff. Trustee Holbrook requested a future update on the agency's progress in communicating the policy requirements to partners.

J. Fox noted a minor typo in the policy that requires correction (i.e., "form" should be "forms").

A motion was made by Trustee Holbrook, and seconded by Trustee Acerson, that this policy be approved with the correction to change the word "form" to "forms" as discussed. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Chair Christensen called for a recess at 10:31 a.m.

The meeting reconvened at 10:42 a.m.

9. Discussion Items

a. Fare Revenue

Viola Miller was joined by Monica (Morton) Howe, UTA Fares Director. Howe reviewed UTA's fare revenue program by fare revenue source type, historical shifts in fare media, tap and inspection behavior, trends in ridership and revenue, current challenges, and future outlook.

Discussion ensued. Questions on fare revenue trends, demographics for paper pass holders, potential for eliminating paper passes, tap behavior and related statistics, fare collection system and compliance considerations, and correlation between fare inspections and fare payment were posed by the board and answered by Howe. Trustee Acerson requested an update on the planned public education campaign on fare payment.

b. Community Outreach and Events Update

Megan Waters, UTA Community Engagement Director, was joined by Cristobal Villegas, UTA Community Engagement Specialist. Villegas summarized community engagement efforts in 2023 and outlined anticipated efforts in 2024. In 2023, the team participated in resource fairs and other events, established a community engagement internship program, expanded outreach to community-based organizations, and facilitated public engagement campaigns for a variety of initiatives. In 2024, the team plans to establish a community-based organization partnership platform with associated agreements, develop an engagement plan with community-based organizations, create a visual asset map of events along the Wasatch Front, form an agency-wide event steering committee, and continue outreach activities.

Discussion ensued. A question on the option to adjust the five-day pass to better meet rider needs was posed by the board and answered by staff. Chair Christensen requested an update on the shared outreach plan, and the trustees expressed interest in increasing their participation in outreach activities.

c. Constituent and Customer Service - 2023 Annual Report

Cindy Medford, UTA Manager of Customer Service, reported on customer service statistics, including service alerts, reconnections provided, and customer comments by source, category, and type.

Discussion ensued. Questions on the service ambassador program and customer service software implementation status were posed by the board and answered by Medford.

10. Closed Session**a. Strategy Session to Discuss Collective Bargaining**

Chair Christensen indicated there were matters to be discussed in closed session relative to collective bargaining. A motion was made by Trustee Acerson, and seconded by Trustee Holbrook, for a closed session. The motion carried by a unanimous vote and the meeting convened in closed session at 11:40 a.m.

11. Open Session

A motion was made by Trustee Acerson, and seconded by Trustee Holbrook, to return to open session. The motion carried by a unanimous vote and the meeting reconvened in open session at 11:52 a.m.

12. Resolutions**a. R2024-01-01- Resolution Authorizing Execution of a Collective Bargaining Agreement with International Brotherhood of Teamsters Local Union No. 222**

Kim Shanklin, UTA Chief People Officer, provided background on the bargaining process and summarized the major terms of the collective bargaining agreement with the Teamsters Local Union No. 222. She highlighted adjustments to UTA's organizational structure and spoke about base wage rates, future raises, time off provisions, health care benefits, and retirement provisions in the agreement.

Shanklin noted a \$2,684,155 total estimated impact to the five-year financial plan (2024-2028). She said \$688,301 of the total cost is included in the five-year financial plan and the remaining \$1,995,854 will be absorbed within projected fund balances without significant fiscal impact.

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

Aye: Chair Christensen, Trustee Holbrook, and Trustee Acerson

13. Other Business

a. Next Meeting: Wednesday, January 24th, 2023 at 1:00 p.m.

14. 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 12:07 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/883727.html> for entire content. Meeting materials, along with a time-stamped video recording, are also accessible at https://rideuta.granicus.com/player/clip/276?view_id=1&redirect=true&h=d3ff3de36700a658dbd5e118383db7db.

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

Approved Date:

Carlton J. Christensen
Chair, Board of Trustees