



# Utah Transit Authority

## Local Advisory Council

### MEETING MINUTES - Final

669 West 200 South  
Salt Lake City, UT 84101

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**Wednesday, February 16, 2022**

**1:00 PM**

**FrontLines Headquarters**

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This meeting was held remotely via phone or video conference and broadcast live for the public via the link on the UTA Board Meetings page

<https://rideuta.com/Board-of-Trustees/Meetings>

**Present:** Chair Karen Cronin  
2nd Vice-Chair Julie Fullmer  
Council Member Leonard Call  
Council Member Mark Johnson  
Council Member Troy Walker  
Council Member Dan Peay  
Alternate Council Member Jon Larsen  
Council Member Trent Staggs

**Excused:** Council Member Erin Mendenhall

Also attending were UTA Board of Trustees, staff, and interested community members.

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

Chair Karen Cronin welcomed attendees and called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. She then yielded the floor to Jana Ostler, UTA Board Manager, who read the electronic board meeting determination into the record as required by statute. The complete electronic board meeting determination is included as Appendix A to these minutes.

Chair Cronin introduced new and current Local Advisory Council members. Board Chair Carlton Christensen introduced Jay Fox, new UTA Executive Director.

#### **2. Safety First Minute**

Jeff Acerson, UTA Board of Trustees member, delivered a brief safety message.

#### **3. Public Comment**

No public comment was given during the meeting, and no online public comment was received prior to the meeting.

#### **4. Oath of Office**

- a. **Oath of Office: UTA Local Advisory Council Members - Howard Madsen, Dan Peay, and Trent Staggs**

The oath of office was administered by Cathie Griffiths, UTA Executive Assistant to the Board Chair, to incoming UTA Local Advisory Council Members, Dan Peay and Trent Staggs.

**b. Oath of Office: UTA Local Advisory Council Alternate Members - Ellen Birrell and Jon Larsen**

The oath of office was administered by Ms. Griffiths to incoming UTA Local Advisory Council Alternate Members Ellen Birrell and Jon Larsen.

**5. Consent**

**a. Approval of November 17, 2021 Local Advisory Council Meeting Minutes**

A motion was made by Council Member Walker, and seconded by Council Member Leonard Call, that these minutes be approved. The motion carried unanimously.

**CONSULTATION WITH BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**6. Capital Projects**

**a. Utah Transit Authority Capital Projects Update**

Mary DeLoretto, UTA Chief Service Development Officer, introduced David Hancock, UTA Director of Capital Construction and Todd Provost, UTA Director of Capital Development, who gave updates on selected capital projects.

Mr. Hancock gave an update on the Vineyard Frontrunner Station project, reporting that concrete is complete on the platforms, track work is complete, and work is underway on the temporary parking and canopies. Mr. Hancock noted that the project is on schedule to open in April on change day. Mr. Hancock then reported on the progress of the 650 South TRAX Station noting that platform concrete is completed, canopies are being installed, and the plan is to open at the end of March 2022. Finally, Mr. Hancock reported on a state of good repair (SGR) project that will retrofit and rehabilitate 18 of UTA's oldest substation facilities. This rehabilitation is in the design stage and will begin construction in the summer.

Mr. Provost was joined by Mary DeLaMare-Schafer, UTA Regional General Manager Timpanogos Business Unit, and Claire Woodman, Parametrix Project Manager, regarding the South Valley Transit Study. The study evaluated high quality transit improvements from Provo to Santaquin. Ms. Woodman gave a detailed report of the engagement and public input effort regarding public transit, noting that strong support was expressed for commuter rail. In the detailed evaluation, the study looked at three main alternatives, commuter rail, bus rapid transit (BRT), and BRT design option. Ms. Woodman reported that the data outcome of the study recommended the locally

preferred alternative of commuter rail.

The Council asked about funding sources for the project and the modes included in the locally preferred alternative. Staff answered and discussion ensued.

## **7. Service Planning**

### **a. UVX Before and After Study**

Ms. DeLaMare-Schaefer gave an introduction regarding Utah Valley Express (UVX) and the study performed to analyze the transit experience before and after UVX.

Eric Rasband from Utah Department of Transportation gave a history of UVX and a project overview. Categories reviewed as part of the before and after study included traffic volume, land use, travel time, and crash rate along the UVX corridor. The study showed a reduction in vacant land, traffic volume, and crash rate, and found that travel time was minimally impacted. Mr. Rasband also reported on transit ridership, population growth, student enrollment, parking supply, and pollution levels in the UVX area. The study showed reduced pollutants and better air quality exist now with UVX in operation.

Ms. DeLaMare-Schaefer commented on the positive impact of free fare February on UVX ridership.

## **8. Discussion**

### **a. Legislative Priorities**

Shule Bishop, UTA Government Relations Director, gave an update on the legislative session, which concludes in 15 days. A few bills related to transit and UTA are making progress in the legislature, these include SB51, SB140, and HB388, which allows the UTA police force to have more authority in areas other than transit property. Mr. Bishop also reported on HB322 which moves fixed guide way capital projects to the purview of the Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT).

Chair Carlton Christensen and Jay Fox, UTA Executive Director, commented on the proposed bills and specifically mentioned HB322, noting that UTA has historically had a good working relationship with UDOT and that the bill will enhance that relationship. The Council and Trustees commented on the positive effect the bill could have as the state dedicates more funding and support for transit. Discussion ensued.

**b. Rail Apprenticeship Programs**

Kim Shanklin, UTA Chief People Officer, gave an overview of the rail maintenance apprenticeship programs. This is a key solution to low retention rates and trade profession shortages. Ms. Shanklin reported there are workforce needs due to many employees nearing retirement age. She also presented the 2022 budget approach and delivery schedule for the program, including curriculum development and training delivery.

Council members asked about factors that attract people to the apprenticeship program, partnerships with community and non-profit organizations, and the cost of the program. Staff answered. Discussion ensued.

Stacey Palacios, UTA Manager Training and Development, spoke about the success in recruiting and retention of employees that has been experienced in the existing bus apprenticeship program.

**c. Low Income Fares**

Kensey Kunkel, UTA Manager Business Development-Sales, gave background information on the low income fares programs, which were designed to serve two different under served and low-income populations. The two programs include the human service fare program and low-income fare program. Ms. Kunkel gave details on how each program functions as well as phases and next steps of the programs. Ms. Kunkle also reported on ridership numbers associated with these programs and outreach efforts to promote the programs. Council members commented on the positive effects of the programs.

**d. Open Dialogue with the Board of Trustees**

Chair Cronin invited Advisory Council members and Trustees to ask questions or engage in discussion on topics of interest to them. Beth Holbrook, UTA Board of Trustees, reminded the body which parts of UTA's service area she covers and offered to answer any questions the Advisory Council members may have. Chair Cronin asked about free fare February, airport ticket as fare, and about how Local Advisory Council members can be more help to the success of UTA? Chair Christensen and UTA Executive Director Jay Fox answered and discussion ensued. Alternate Member Jon Larsen asked about potential grant money coming from the federal infrastructure bill and how local governments can engage with UTA to maximize opportunities to bring federal money to their communities. Chair Christensen and Mr. Fox responded.

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**REPORTS AND OTHER BUSINESS****9. Resolutions****a. AR2022-02-01 Resolution Appointing Council Officers for the Year 2022**

Chair Karen Cronin introduced a resolution appointing Local Advisory Council officers for the year 2022 and took nominations from council members to appoint Julie Fullmer as Chair, Mark Johnson as Vice-Chair, and Troy Walker as Second-Vice Chair. Discussion ensued.

A motion was made by Council Member Call, and seconded by Council Member Peay, that this Resolution be approved. The motion carried unanimously.

**10. Reports****a. Agency Report**

- **Grants Update**
- **Ridership Report**

Patti Garver, UTA Manager Environmental and Grant Services, gave updates on four grants that UTA has been selected to receive.

Jay Fox, UTA Executive Director, was joined by Andres Colman, UTA Acting Light Rail General Manager. Mr. Colman gave a detailed ridership report for the year of 2021 in comparison to 2020. He discussed historical average weekday ridership back to 2008. This report showed the impact of the Covid 19 pandemic. Mr. Colman reported on UTA On Demand monthly comparisons. Mr. Fox explained how the numbers illustrate ridership return and recovery over the last several months. Mr. Colman continued to report ridership results on fixed route bus routes, light rail, and commuter rail, and also mentioned the impact of free fare days.

Jonathan Yip, UTA Senior Manager Operations Analysis and Solutions, discussed the preliminary free fare February ridership report and impacts of the free fare on the UTA system. Mr. Yip reported that ridership information is available on the UTA website. Mr. Fox also commented on the number of partners that came together to kick off the free fare February initiative.

**b. Constituent and Customer Service 2021 Annual Report**

Nichol Bourdeaux, UTA Chief Planning and Engagement Officer, was joined by Cindy Medford, UTA Manager of Customer Service. Ms. Medford reported on the customer service annual report, which included information on service alerts for riders, a new lost item recovery tracking system, and a summary of customer comments outlined by topic. Ms Medford also presented instructions on how the public and council members can give feedback.

Council member Mark Johnson posed a question regarding the time period represented in the report. Staff responded.

Chair Karen Cronin encouraged council members to share any feedback they have received from their constituents, adding that she has heard positive feedback regarding free fare February and the UTA On-Demand program. Council Member Staggs shared that his constituents have asked about the plan going forward for transit in the southwest area of Salt Lake County and requested more information on that plan. Chair Christensen agreed to help provide more information at a later date.

**c. Audit Committee Report**

Chair Cronin, who serves on the UTA Audit Committee, gave a high level report on the activities of the Audit Committee as discussed in the committee's recent meeting.

**11. Other Business**

- a. Next Meeting: Wednesday, June 1, 2022 at 1:00 p.m.

**12. Adjourn**

A motion was made by Council Member Johnson, and seconded by Council Member Call, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried by a unanimous vote and the meeting adjourned at 3:46 p.m.

Transcribed by Misti Roberds  
Board Administrator  
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/735531.html> for entire content.

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

Approved Date: 06/02/2022

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Mark Johnson

Acting Chair, Local Advisory Council

**APPENDIX A****UTAH TRANSIT AUTHORITY  
ELECTRONIC MEETING  
DETERMINATION**

Consistent with the Utah Open and Public Meetings Act, (UTAH CODE § 52-4-207 [4]), as the Chair of the Local Advisory Council ("Council") of the Utah Transit Authority ("UTA"), I hereby make the following written determinations in support of my decision to hold electronic meetings of the UTA Local Advisory Council without a physical anchor location:

Due to the resurgence of COVID -19 cases locally, conducting Council meetings with an anchor location presents a substantial risk to the health and safety of those who may be present at the anchor location.

This written determination takes effect on February 16, 2022, and is effective until midnight on March 17, 2022 and may be re-issued by future written determinations as deemed appropriate.

Dated this 8th day of February 2022.

Karen Cronin, Chair of the Local Advisory  
Council