



**Minutes of the Meeting
of the
Board of Trustees of the Utah Transit Authority (UTA)
held at UTA FrontLines Headquarters located at
669 West 200 South, Salt Lake City, Utah
March 11, 2020**

Board Members Present:

Carlton Christensen, Chair
Beth Holbrook
Kent Millington

Also attending were members of UTA staff.

Call to Order, Opening Remarks, and Pledge of Allegiance. Chair Christensen welcomed attendees and called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. Following Chair Christensen’s opening remarks, the board and meeting attendees recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Safety First Minute. Chair Christensen yielded the floor to Sheldon Shaw, UTA Director of Safety & Security, for a brief safety message.

Public Comment Period. No in-person public comment was given. It was noted that online comment received for the meeting was distributed to the board prior to the meeting and will be included as an appendix to the minutes of the meeting.

Consent Agenda. The consent agenda was comprised of:

- Approval of February 26, 2020 Board Meeting Minutes

A motion to approve the consent agenda was made by Trustee Millington and seconded by Trustee Holbrook. The motion carried unanimously.

Government Relations and Legislative Priorities Report. Shule Bishop, UTA Government Relations Director, stated the agency is following Senate Bill 150, which is currently on its third substitute. The agency is also monitoring appropriations related to opportunity zones and a Point of the Mountain transit study.

Agency Report.

UTA Happenings and 50th Anniversary. Carolyn Gonot, UTA Executive Director, spoke about UTA's 50th anniversary celebration and associated events, including Transit Day on the Hill, an employee service project through the Gail Miller Homeless Service Center in Salt Lake City, and an employee appreciation event that will take place in the summer. She also mentioned community engagement events such as a customer appreciation pop-up event held in Salt Lake City and presentations that were given at the West Jordan Senate Academy, West Valley Senate Academy, and the Newbridge School in Ogden.

Coronavirus Update. Ms. Gonot was joined by Eddy Cumins, UTA Chief Operating Officer, and Nichol Bourdeaux, UTA Chief Communications & Marketing Officer. Ms. Gonot stated the agency is reviewing and revising its response plan for the COVID-19 (coronavirus) outbreak in accordance with updates from the Center for Disease Control and the Utah State Department of Health. Mr. Cumins added that UTA trains and buses are being cleaned every night and that hand and grab rails, vehicle floors, and operating facilities are being cleaned daily with disinfectant.

Discussion ensued. Questions on additional costs associated with the more stringent cleaning procedures and communication of processes to the general public were posed by the board and answered by staff.

Bonding Update. Ms. Gonot was joined by Bob Biles, UTA Chief Financial Officer. Mr. Biles summarized the recent bond refunding, an effort which was authorized last fall as part of an approval to refund up to \$470 million in bonds. In the fall, a decision was made to delay a portion of the refunding until more favorable market conditions existed. The market has since shifted, and last week UTA refunded over \$216 million. The refunding resulted in more than \$17.4 million in savings, which will reduce the agency's debt service in years 2027-2036.

Financial Report – January 2020. Bob Biles, UTA Chief Financial Officer, reviewed the January 2020 financial report, including the financial dashboard, sales tax collections by county, expense

variance by mode, expense variance by chief officer, and expense variance by type. Discussion ensued. Questions on treatment of “4th quarter” funds (i.e., sales tax revenue from the 4th quarter tax percentage allocated to transit) and impact of COVID-19 on revenues were posed by the board and answered by Mr. Biles.

Resolutions.

R2020-03-01 Resolution Authorizing Executive Director to Execute Grant Agreements for Specified Projects. Mary DeLoretto, UTA Acting Chief Service Development Officer, was joined by Alma Haskell, UTA Grants Development Administrator. Ms. DeLoretto explained the resolution, which grants the executive director authority to execute a number of pending grants. Discussion ensued. A question on the total number of grants included in the resolution were posed by the board and answered by staff.

A motion to approve R2020-03-01 was made by Trustee Millington and seconded by Trustee Holbrook. The motion carried unanimously, with aye votes from Trustee Millington, Trustee Holbrook, and Chair Christensen.

Contracts, Disbursements, and Grants.

Grant Application: FTA FY 2020 Bus and Bus Facilities Grant Application for On-Board Mobile Data Devices. Ms. DeLoretto was joined by Mr. Haskell. Ms. DeLoretto indicated the agency is seeking funding from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), Wasatch Front Regional Council, and Mountainland Association of Governments for an on-board mobile data devices project. The project cost is approximately \$4 million with a \$1 million match. Discussion ensued. Questions on cost advantages for internal development and timeline for development and implementation were posed by the board and answered by staff.

Grant Application: FTA FY 2020 Low or No Emission (Low-No) Grant Application for Ogden/WSU Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Project. Ms. DeLoretto was joined by Mr. Haskell. Ms. DeLoretto stated the project partners on the Ogden/Weber State University (WSU) BRT project have expressed a preference for electric buses. The grant would fund some of the costs for those vehicles.

Grant Application: CMAQ/STP/TAP MAG Concept Report Submittals for the Provo/Orem Urbanized Area (Utah County). Ms. DeLoretto was joined by Mr. Haskell. Ms. DeLoretto explained the application, which applies for funding on multiple projects:

- Bus stop improvements
- On-board technology, mobile data devices
- Historic Utah Southern Railroad Trail feasibility study

In addition, the Utah Department of Transportation is submitting a request for the Utah County Central Corridor environmental study for which UTA has committed to a local match contribution of \$203,100, and Orem City is submitting a request for funding to construct a parking structure at the Orem Intermodal Center for which UTA has committed to help identify local match funding opportunities.

Discussion ensued. A question on the rail trail application was posed by the board and answered by staff.

Pre-Procurement. Todd Mills, UTA Sr. Supply Chain Manager, was joined by Kyle Stockley, UTA Manager of Vehicle Overhaul & Bus Support. Mr. Mills indicated the agency intends to procure the following:

- i. Light Rail Auxiliary Power Supply (APS) Overhaul

Discussion ensued. Questions on the ability to do the overhaul work in-house and projected lifespan of auxiliary power supplies relative to the lifespan of the vehicles were posed by the board and answered by staff.

Service and Fare Approvals.

Tickets for Transit Pilot for General Conference (The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints). Monica Morton, UTA Fares Director, explained that the “tickets for transit” pilot is intended to inform pricing and parameters for future initiatives.

This particular initiative incentivizes General Conference attendees to take transit to the event by using subsidized tickets (which double as transit passes). The tickets will be paid for by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The final contract amount will be based on ridership during the event, and it is estimated it will generate \$30,000 in fare revenue.

Discussion ensued. The board asked whether there were other entities that have approached UTA to participate in a “tickets for transit”-type initiative, to which Ms. Morton responded in the affirmative. She mentioned the agency has participated in previous ticket-as-fare initiatives with the University of Utah and the Ogden Twilight Series concerts. The board posed additional questions on the effects of current passholders on ridership numbers, pricing by mode, and the availability of Sunday FrontRunner service. Ms. Morton indicated Sunday FrontRunner service is currently not available, though the agency is working to identify the cost of running limited ad hoc

Sunday service paid for by event sponsors. The board further inquired about third-party payment for the service, availability to other event sponsors, and consistency in calculating subsidized fares. Ms. Morton responded the pilot would provide data to create a consistent pricing model for other entities wishing to sponsor fares for events.

A motion to approve the ticket for transit pilot as described was made by Trustee Holbrook and seconded by Trustee Millington. The motion carried unanimously.

Promotional Fare Request – Youth Rider’s License. Ms. Morton indicated staff is requesting approval of a promotional \$49 three-month pass from June through August for youth riders. Discussion ensued. Questions on the number of passes sold last year, usage data from last year, and marketing efforts through schools were posed by the board and answered by Ms. Morton.

A motion to approve the promotional fare request was made by Trustee Holbrook and seconded by Trustee Millington. The motion carried unanimously.

Other Business.

Next Meeting. The next meeting of the board will be on Wednesday, March 25, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.

Closed Session. Chair Christensen indicated there was a need for a closed session to discuss collective bargaining. A motion for a closed session was made by Trustee Millington and seconded by Trustee Holbrook. The motion carried unanimously. Chair Christensen called for a break at 10:02 a.m. and indicated closed session would begin at 10:10 a.m.

Open Session. A motion to return to open session was made by Trustee Holbrook and seconded by Trustee Millington. The motion carried unanimously and the board returned to open session at 10:26 a.m.

Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 10:27 a.m. by motion.

Transcribed by Cathie Griffiths
Executive Assistant to the Board Chair
Utah Transit Authority
cgriffiths@rideuta.com
801.237.1945

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/593193.html> for entire content.

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

Appendix

Online Public Comment
to the
Board of Trustees of the Utah Transit Authority (UTA)
Board Meeting
March 11, 2020

Received March 9, 2020 from George Chapman:

Please consider not buying the type of BRT bus that is on 35Max. In an accident, all passengers will go flying unrestrained and injuries could be great. Anytime there is a chance that the bus is not protected from traffic (cross traffic or even next lane), potential for an accident rises.

The BRT buses are like the shuttles recently taken out of service for similar safety reasons.

Regular buses generally keep most passengers in their seat aisle in a crash.

Received March 10, 2020 from Chris Line, Staff Attorney, Freedom from Religion Foundation:

It is our understanding that the Board will be discussing and approving its "Tickets for Transit" program for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints General Conference on March 11, 2020.

We sent a letter regarding this matter to Mayor Mendenhall (please find attached), but we understand that the actual implementation of this program will be done by the UTA. We write to request that the Board consider the potential legal ramifications of implementing a discriminatory program for the benefit of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and its members. We will be submitting a GRAMA request to UTA in order to better understand all of the parameters of the partnership between UTA and the Church, but this program

appears to be discriminatory towards non-Mormons by offering a benefit solely to members of the Church in order to attend a religious event.

We understand that the Church will be partially subsidizing this program, but it appears that a majority of the cost to provide this benefit to members of the Church will come in the form of taxpayer dollars and/or state and federal funding.

While expanding transit accessibility and affordability for Salt Lake City residents is an admirable endeavor, extending this benefit to members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in order to facilitate their attendance at a church event shows favoritism to Mormons and excludes the nonreligious and members of all other religions. This is a clear violation of the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment. This discrimination based on religion is also a violation of both federal and state civil rights law.

This program will deny non-Mormon citizens the right to “full and equal” enjoyment of UTA’s transportation services, and we urge you to reject this discriminatory program in order to comply with the Establishment Clause, the Civil Rights Act, and respect the constitutional rights of all Salt Lake City residents.
