



Utah Transit Authority

Board of Trustees

MEETING MINUTES - Final

669 West 200 South
Salt Lake City, UT 84101

Wednesday, August 9, 2023

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 9:00 a.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Attendees recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Safety First Minute

Kim Shanklin, UTA Chief People 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 July 26, 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's Report

- Team Award - S-Curve Replacement Team
- FTA Visit
- OGX - August 26 Event

Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Visit

Jay Fox, UTA Executive Director, mentioned a visit from FTA Administrator Nuria Fernandez for the Ogden Express (OGX) ribbon cutting. According to Mr. Fox, Administrator Fernandez was impressed by the work of the UTA team and said UTA is “a model to the nation of how you can get things done and get them done well.”

OGX - August 26 Event

Mr. Fox reminded attendees there will be a public grand opening event for OGX on August 26, 2023.

Team Award - S-Curve Replacement Team

Mr. Fox was joined by Jared Scarbrough, UTA Director of Capital Construction. Mr. Scarbrough summarized the work on the S-curve rail replacement state of good repair project, which was completed on the TRAX Red Line between 900 East and 1100 East earlier this summer. Mr. Fox then recognized the team participating in the project.

b. Financial Report - June 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; Alisha Garrett, UTA Chief Enterprise Strategy Officer; Nichol Bourdeaux, UTA Chief Planning & Engagement Officer; Kyle Stockley, UTA Manager of Capital Vehicles; and David Hancock, UTA Director of Capital Development.

Ms. Miller and Mr. Armstrong reviewed the financial dashboard, sales tax revenue, sales tax collections by county, passenger revenues, headcount, and operating financial results. Mr. Hofer and Mr. Andrews discussed capital spending (including spending by project type).

Discussion ensued. Questions on the impact of large events and state of good repair projects on ridership, diesel fuel prices, favorable fringe costs, nature of the 3300/3500 South MAX express optimization, variance on IT managed reserves, timeline on the Paratransit Forward study, wayfinding plan implementation delays, and number of cars left of the TRAX seat replacement project were posed by the board and answered by staff.

Staff committed to provide more information to the board on ridership for large events and state of good repair projects.

Trustee Holbrook requested an update on the S-Line extension.

c. Investment Report - Second Quarter 2023

Ms. Miller was joined by Rob Lamph, UTA Assistant Treasurer. Mr. Lamph delivered the

second quarter 2023 investment report. As of June 30, 2023, the combined yield for UTA's accounts was 3.91%. Collectively, the agency's investments were mixed in their performance against the federal funds rate benchmark but were trending upward overall.

Discussion ensued. A question on liquid asset investments was posed by the board and answered by Mr. Lamph.

7. Contracts, Disbursements and Grants

a. Contract: Purchase Five Used Bi-Level Commuter Rail Passenger Vehicles (North County Transit District)

Mr. Stockley was joined by Zachary Thomas, UTA Acting Commuter Rail General Manager. Mr. Stockley requested the board approve a \$1,000,000 contract with North County Transit District (NCTD) for the purchase of five used bilevel commuter rail passenger vehicles. Mr. Stockley noted the NCTD vehicles will need to be overhauled prior to operating in revenue service and said a request for proposals for that work is currently being drafted.

Discussion ensued. Questions on the condition of the vehicles, availability of spare fleet vehicles, and commuter rail car overhaul schedule were posed by the board and answered by Mr. Stockley.

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. Change Order: Traction Power Substations (TPSS) Rehabilitation Change Order #012 - New HVAC Systems (C3M Power Systems, LLC)

Emilio Tovar, UTA Systems Engineer, requested the board approve a \$1,651,646 change order to the contract with C3M Power Systems, LLC for HVAC replacements or repairs on 18 traction power substations and related work. The total contract, including the change order, is \$45,999,874.

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. Budget and Other Approvals

a. TBA2023-08-01 Technical Budget Adjustment for Economic Impact Study

Ms. Miller was joined by Mr. Armstrong and Annette Royle, UTA Director of Board Governance. Ms. Royle provided background information on the need for an economic impact of transit study.

Mr. Armstrong reviewed the technical budget adjustment, which increases the planning and engagement operating budget by \$275,000 for a UTA economic impact of transit study. The funds for the study will be moved from operating contingency funds

to the planning and engagement budget.

Discussion ensued. A question on the study area was posed by the board and answered by staff.

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

9. Discussion Items

a. Utah Valley Express (UVX) Zero Fare Expiration

Mr. Fox was joined by Ms. Miller; Ms. Bourdeaux; Mary DeLaMare-Schaefer, UTA Regional General Manager - Timpanogos Business Unit; and David Wilkins, Assistant Attorney General. Staff engaged the board in a dialogue on whether to (1) continue, through board resolution, offering zero fare for the UVX service, or (2) transition UVX to fare-based service.

The following considerations were reviewed as part of the conversation:

- History of UVX
- Zero fare background
- Funding zero fare
- Future UVX fare options
- Potential next steps

Discussion ensued. Questions on the nature of the understanding of zero fare on UVX with Brigham Young and Utah Valley universities, advantages of paying off the Utah County-related bond early, UVX operating and maintenance costs, and UVX demographics were posed by the board and answered by staff.

Trustee Acerson suggested holding a broader conversation on zero fare. Chair Christensen said Utah County is deserving of more transit service, but extending zero fare seems counterproductive unless the entire system shifts to zero fare (and he noted there does not seem to be a political appetite for the latter).

Chair Christensen recommended staff review bond payment options and coordinate any decision on UVX fares with the fare collection system replacement requirements.

Staff committed to provide more information on UVX/Utah County transit funding to the board.

10. Other Business

- ### **a.**
- Next Meeting: Wednesday, August 23, 2023 at 9:00 a.m.

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

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

12. 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 11:33 a.m.

13. Adjourn


A motion was made by Trustee Holbrook, and seconded by Trustee Acerson, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried by a unanimous vote and the meeting adjourned at 11:34 a.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/850397.html> for entire content. Meeting materials, along with a time-stamped video recording, are also accessible at https://rideuta.granicus.com/player/clip/246?view_id=1&redirect=true&h=d98ca349f8a201b68c2666c183bc8e10.

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

Approved Date: 8/23/2023

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Carlton J. Christensen
Chair, Board of Trustees