

2024 Tentative Budget Final Public Engagement Report & Comment Summary

12/04/2023

The public comment period for UTA's 2024 Tentative Budget opened November 01, 2023, and concluded December 01, 2023. This final report contains comments received by stakeholders and the public during the public comment period in reference to UTA's 2024 Tentative Budget.

Public Engagement Summary:

Public Comment Period

November 01 – December 01, 2023

Public Notice

Published in major newspapers of general circulation, including Salt Lake Tribune, and Deseret News. Additionally, the public notice was published on the Utah Public Notice Website.

Public Open House & Hearing

A public open house, followed by the official public hearing was held on the evening of November 01, 2023, at UTA Headquarters located at 669 West 200 South, Salt Lake City, UT, 84101. In-person and virtual join options were available. This hearing was live-streamed and recorded. It was made available on https://rideuta.granicus.com/player/clip/264?view_id=1&redirect=true&h=c6450216870eda37f83de0c00c129dbe.

Opportunities to Engage

Communities were encouraged to submit comments via email, phone, mail, or online via survey. Information was made available, in both comprehensive and summary formats, on rideuta.com/budget.

Public Comments

Stakeholders:

UTA provides notice to stakeholders and elected officials as part of the required Budget process; UTA requests confirmation and feedback from recipients. UTA received 9 responses from stakeholders confirming receipt of the Tentative 2024 Budget materials and/or sharing comments (signature sheets and comments can be found in Appendix 1):

1. Park City Council Member James M. Doilney - no objection
2. Utah County- no objection
3. Herriman City- no objection
4. Park City- no objection
5. Davis County- no objection
6. City of Taylorsville- no objection
7. Provo City- no objection
8. Salt Lake County- submitted comments. Please see appendix 1 to view these comments.
9. Riverton City Council Member Andy Pierucci - submitted comments. Please see appendix 1 to view these comments.

Public:

11 comments from members of the public were received regarding the 2024 Tentative Budget (as of 12/01/2023).

1	<i>Dalila Muñoz</i> I live in west valley, public transportation is pretty difficult to access. West valley traxs is not very accessible to the majority of west valley and magna residents. I'd like to know, if there are plans to expand a traxs line that goes to downtown from toole, magna , and the Airport.
2	<i>Philip Sauvageau</i> There should be more reserve real estate funds. This would allow purchase of real estate when there is a willing seller or development starts adjacent to the FrontRunner line before double track projects start.
3	<i>Gabe</i> Increase frequency of trax trains please
4	<i>A. Thorne</i> I believe implementing zero-fare transit would be highly beneficial to the public. Not only would more people be able to get where they need to, but this practice would encourage more people to use public transit, which means less traffic and less air pollution. It is more convenient/affordable to create more public transit than to create more roads for individual vehicles, and I think this is the future we need to aim for.
5	<i>Ryan Carr</i> I rode TRAX every weekday for about 17 years, so I appreciate what UTA provides, but I don't understand why trains and buses run on their regular schedules during the midday and late evening, when few people use them. Could we save money by decreasing how often they run, like having TRAX run every half hour at non-rush hour times, for example?
6	<i>Ronald Galloway</i> Where is the 509????? Over budget and under delivery UTA pride?
7	<i>Gerald Boulware</i> Stay within it as much as possible
8	<i>Johnathon Fullmer</i> Many people in Tooele commute to Salt Lake City for work, shopping, and pleasure. Due to the valley's topography, there are only three routes between the two counties: Lake Point, Parley's canyon, and the south end of the mountains. The most commonly used route is Lake point which means a lot of traffic builds up there. Public transportation would help a lot to cut down on traffic, yet it seems that UTA is not interested in expanding service for Tooele County. I have tried multiple times to be responsible and utilize UTA, but if one doesn't work a very specific schedule or plan to spend the entire day in Salt Lake it is hard to justify using UTA if you live in Tooele County. I would like to add my voice and ask UTA to consider adding more times to when the bus between Salt Lake and Tooele will run and that the UTA will consider setting up a train between Salt Lake and Tooele. I had heard of a proposition in the past called Lake Runner for such a train and I believe that it would help with traffic at the point of the mountain if public transit between the two counties was more viable.
9	<i>John Marcus</i> 1) I think we should offer raises or bonuses for ski bus operators to attract more people. 2) I think we should fund the UTA without tickets. at only ~5% of UTA income, it is not inconceivable, and would offer better service to it's users, and encourage more transit users. 3) with inflation so high, how can it be that the operations office only is receiving a 2% increase? and the People department decreasing the budget by (4.6%)? Are these not the departments which need additional revenue to continue working?

10	<i>Natalie Hall</i> There are still no bus lines in Herriman, Riverton or Bluffdale.
11	<i>Claudia Johnson</i> You haven't seen me because I have been working at a food bank and they expanded it to three times a week instead of two times, and they moved the hours up and while I'm talking about food bank, one of the things we are seeing since I'm over our group's Food Bank area, we have seen a major increase of people coming to the Food bank. We've gone from only 500 people to 900 people, 1000 people. I mean cars and vehicles for families. That's not the individuals we're up to now over 10,000 people that we actually service and that's just for one little small spot. And while I'm on that, is that because I deal with the refugees and I think you need to recruit to them to be bus drivers to be trained drivers. Whatever positions you could get, because I think a lot of times they're hesitant to come to UTA because it's a big thing and you know, it could be intimidating and a lot of these people have been driving. They have CDL's or they drive independently on their own trucks and stuff that way. And I think there's a lot of positions that you could possibly meet the needs of some of these people on the West side because rent is not going down, it's going up, food's going up, we're getting people kicked out of their apartments because good old landlords say I want more money and so they raise the rent and then they can't pay it. So that's just, that's why I've been missing this meeting. And I really enjoy it. And I do go in and watch it and stuff that way. And I want to thank everybody that that recognized me today. I appreciate it because it made me feel good that I wasn't just a bad seed, that every time I come in I make derogatory comment. But hopefully it's always comments that can be useful and of benefit. Another thing is you give out a five day. Excuse me, a five ride pass, which is awesome. The problem is, is a lot of these senior people don't ride five days in a row and it expires. And so you have to give them five or six of these cards because they go once a week to the doctor's, to the dentist and stuff. And I'm wondering if you could do a pass which is time stamped. I mean in Europe that it was you got five days and 10 days and you ride or you don't ride and stuff that way, but you've got a period of time to use that. And I'm wondering if that would be something that would be of benefit to get to educate people on using the bus and TRAX, and also to be able to just get people feeling more comfortable to coming and again to meet some of the needs of these...I shouldn't say this...us senior people. I have a car so I have no problem with that. But you know, I'm just thinking that we need to think outside the box and this is something that needs to be thought back again outside the box of how can we meet some of these needs and extend because that pass was awesome. I had people say, do you have one? Do you have one? And I'd scrounge through my desk to try and find one. And I didn't. And the next time I see a UTA person that came to a meeting I get some more. But I think we need - UTA - needs to look at that of expanding it in another way. And again I really miss this and I and I promote to anybody that is concerned or complaining about UTA or anything else, that way, it is really educational to come to the board meetings and to listen in on the board meetings so that you get a total picture of what's going on and what's happening. Because once you get a larger picture you understand more and you're also more educated to say "I don't agree." Because you've got that background and it's over 2 minutes. Thank you.

Appendix 1 – Signature Sheets

Park City Council Member James M. Doilney

DocuSign Envelope ID: E82A345B-0F8A-4694-8779-D9A2A3DF0C4C

UTA Tentative 2024 Budget - Signature Sheet

I, James M. Doilney, representing Park City Municipal
have received a copy of the Utah Transit Authority's Tentative Budget for 2024. I
have reviewed the tentative budget as required by Utah Code 17B-1-702 and
have no objection to the tentative budget as presented.

Signature: 
DocuSigned by:
8B9958EF34FD499...

Date: 10/30/2023

Printed Name: James M. Doilney

Title: City Council

Please return to UTA:

By emailing: boardoftrustees@rideuta.com

By mail: Attention: Board of Trustees
Utah Transit Authority
669 West 200 South
Salt Lake City, UT 84101

Utah County

UTA Tentative 2024 Budget - Signature Sheet

I, Brandon Gordon, representing Utah county,
have received a copy of the Utah Transit Authority's Tentative Budget for 2024. I
have reviewed the tentative budget as required by Utah Code 17B-1-702 and
have no objection to the tentative budget as presented.

Signature: 

Date: 10-30-23

Printed Name: BRANDON GORDON

Title: UTah County Commissioner

Please return to UTA:

By emailing: boardoftrustees@rideuta.com

By mail: Attention: Board of Trustees
Utah Transit Authority
669 West 200 South
Salt Lake City, UT 84101

Herriman City

UTA Tentative 2024 Budget - Signature Sheet

I, Lorin Palmer, representing Herriman City,
have received a copy of the Utah Transit Authority's Tentative Budget for 2024. I
have reviewed the tentative budget as required by Utah Code 17B-1-702 and
have no objection to the tentative budget as presented.

Signature: Lorin Palmer

Date: 11/1/2023

Printed Name: Lorin Palmer

Title: Mayor - Herriman City

Please return to UTA:

By emailing: boardoftrustees@rideuta.com

By mail: Attention: Board of Trustees
Utah Transit Authority
669 West 200 South
Salt Lake City, UT 84101

Park City

UTA Tentative 2024 Budget - Signature Sheet

I, Nann Worel, representing Park City

have received a copy of the Utah Transit Authority's Tentative Budget for 2024. I
have reviewed the tentative budget as required by Utah Code 17B-1-702 and
have no objection to the tentative budget as presented.

Signature: Nann Worel

Date: 11/7/2023

Printed Name: Nann Worel

Title: Mayor

Please return to UTA:

By emailing: boardoftrustees@rideuta.com

By mail: Attention: Board of Trustees
Utah Transit Authority
669 West 200 South
Salt Lake City, UT 84101

Davis County**UTA Tentative 2024 Budget - Signature Sheet**

I, Bob Stevenson, representing Davis County,
have received a copy of the Utah Transit Authority's Tentative Budget for 2024. I
have reviewed the tentative budget as required by Utah Code 17B-1-702 and
have no objection to the tentative budget as presented.

Signature:  _____

Date: November 28, 2023

Printed Name: Bob Stevenson

Title: Commissioner

Please return to UTA:

By emailing: boardoftrustees@rideuta.com

By mail: Attention: Board of Trustees
Utah Transit Authority
669 West 200 South
Salt Lake City, UT 84101

City of Taylorsville**UTA Tentative 2024 Budget - Signature Sheet**

I, Kristie Overson, representing City of Taylorsville,
have received a copy of the Utah Transit Authority's Tentative Budget for 2024. I
have reviewed the tentative budget as required by Utah Code 17B-1-702 and
have no objection to the tentative budget as presented.

Signature: Kristie S. Overson

Date: November 29, 2023

Printed Name: Kristie Overson

Title: Mayor

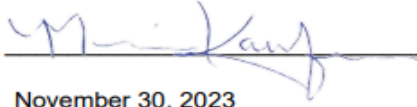
Please return to UTA:

By emailing: boardoftrustees@rideuta.com

By mail: Attention: Board of Trustees
Utah Transit Authority
669 West 200 South
Salt Lake City, UT 84101

Provo City**UTA Tentative 2024 Budget - Signature Sheet**

I, Michelle Kaufusi, representing Provo City,
have received a copy of the Utah Transit Authority's Tentative Budget for 2024. I
have reviewed the tentative budget as required by Utah Code 17B-1-702 and
have no objection to the tentative budget as presented.

Signature: 

Date: November 30, 2023

Printed Name: Michelle Kaufusi

Title: Provo City Mayor

Please return to UTA:

By emailing: boardoftrustees@rideuta.com

By mail: Attention: Board of Trustees
Utah Transit Authority
669 West 200 South
Salt Lake City, UT 84101

Salt Lake County



December 1, 2023

Jennifer Wilson
Mayor

Erin Litvack
Deputy Mayor,
County Services

Darrin Casper
Deputy Mayor,
Finance and Administration

Catherine Kanter
Deputy Mayor,
Regional Operations

Andrew Roberts
Chief of Staff

Board of Trustees
Utah Transit Authority
c/o Jolisha Branch
669 West 200 South
Salt Lake City, Utah 84101

Re: Utah Transit Authority's 2024 Proposed Budget

Dear Members of the UTA Board of Trustees:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on UTA's 2024 Tentative Budget. Salt Lake County appreciates our continued partnership with UTA, as well as our combined efforts to address existing public transit service gaps. This letter will serve as the signature sheet indicating that I have reviewed the tentative budget as required by Utah Code 17B-1-702.

We would first like to express our support and appreciation of several of UTA's efforts FY24:

1. Murray Central Station: \$10M

Additional investment and collaboration with the Federal Transit Administrations efforts to build a new bus rapid transit facility from the Murray Central Station to the SLCC Redwood Campus in Taylorsville and West Valley Central Station. This project will provide a vital transit corridor for the Salt Lake County region beyond the three principal municipalities of Taylorsville City, Murray City, and West Valley City.

2. TRAX Red Line Second Station in South Jordan: \$4.5M

Investment in a second Trax station in South Jordan will provide an additional transit connection in the rapidly growing southwest quadrant of the County to meet the increasing demand for additional transit options for our South Jordan, Herriman, Riverton (and other) residents, as evidenced by the current Trax Station servicing the area. In addition, this project will provide a regional transit opportunity for Salt Lake County residents to access and enjoy the future Daybreak ballpark.

3. Cottonwood Connect Ski Shuttle Service 2023-2024: \$320,000

UTA's partnership with Visit Salt Lake and UDOT will provide a supplemental transit option to address the ongoing reduction in service in the Cottonwood Canyons for the 2023/2024 ski season. The Cottonwood Connect Ski Shuttle delivers a comfortable, safe, and reliable way for residents and visitors to get to Alta, Brighton, Snowbird, and Solitude this winter season.

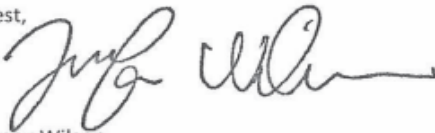
Salt Lake County continued

We would also like to bring to your attention two primary concerns with the 2024 Proposed Budget:

1. **Ongoing Reduction in Service continues for FY 2024.** We are concerned that the ongoing reduction in service for the second budget year for UTA continues to disproportionately impact communities in our County that are transit dependent, thereby creating a hardship on many families and communities for a sustained period.
2. **Extended Timeline and Limited Commitment of Funding to Electric Bus Fleet/Zero Emissions.**
We appreciate the inclusion in the Proposed Budget of approximately \$1.1M for electric bus charging infrastructure and UTA's pursuit of federal funding to purchase additional battery electric buses. However, we respectfully request that UTA make a more substantial commitment in policy and funding to accelerate its timeline for converting the bus fleet to zero emissions buses.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment. We sincerely appreciate all that UTA does for our Salt Lake County community and look forward to continuing to collaborate on addressing the future needs of the residents we collectively serve. Please feel free to reach out to me if you would like to discuss any of these comments.

Best,


Jenny Wilson

Riverton City Council Member Andy Pierucci

1. Your Name *

Andy Pierucci

2. Your Home Zip Code *

84096

3. Comments on the 2024 Tentative Budget: *

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the 2024 tentative budget. As a Riverton City Councilman, I'm hearing from residents regarding a lack of transit options in the southwest corner of Salt Lake Valley. I'm disappointed by the lack of additional funding for our community and the neighboring cities. It's having a profound negative impact on the quality of life for my constituents and it's frustrating given how much Riverton resident tax dollars go to fund UTA. I respectfully request UTA spend more equitably in the southwest corner of Salt Lake County requisite with the population in our communities.

Sincerely,
Councilman Andy Pierucci