

## UTAH TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION MEETING

Friday, September 26, 2025 at 8:30 a.m.

Kanab City Council Chambers - 26 North 100 East, Kanab

[youtube.com/UtahDOT](https://youtube.com/UtahDOT)

The September 26, 2025 meeting of the Utah Transportation Commission was called to order at 8:31 a.m. by Chairman Jim Evans. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, and introductions of Commission members, UDOT staff and others were made and included the following:

Jim Evans, Chairman  
Natalie Gochmour, Commission  
Kevin T. Van Tassell, Commissioner  
Brad Dee, Commissioner  
Bruce Adams, Commissioner  
Tom Jacobson, Commissioner  
Paul Borup, Commissioner  
Carlos Bracerias, UDOT Executive Director  
Ben Huot, UDOT Deputy Director  
\*Bob Pelly, UDOT STIP Coordinator  
Heather Barthold, Commission Assistant  
Ivan Hartle, UDOT Programming Director  
Jordan Lee, UDOT Communications  
Keriann Noble, UDOT Communications  
Andrew Gwynn, UDOT Region Three  
Boyd Humpherys, UDOT Region Three Deputy Director  
Cameron Gay, UDOT Region Four Program Manager  
Chris Hall, UDOT Region Four  
Cody Marchant, UDOT Region Four  
Eric Buell, UDOT Trails Division  
Eric Rasband, UDOT Region Three  
Jared Beard, UDOT Region Four Deputy Director

Jeff Albrecht, UDOT Region Four  
\*Jodi Howick, Assistant Attorney General, Counsel to UDOT  
Kirk Thornock, UDOT Region Four Director  
Leif Elder, UDOT Policy and Legislative Services Director  
Rob Clayton, UDOT Region Three Director  
Rob Wight, UDOT Region One Director  
Robert Stewart, UDOT Region Two Director  
Stephanie Tomlin, UDOT Trails Division  
Tiffany Pocock, UDOT Program Development Director  
Tracy Munson, UDOT Region Four  
Ivan Marrero, FHWA Utah Division Administrator  
\*Austin Pritchett,  
Celeste Meyeres, Kane County Commissioner  
Gwen Brown, Kane County Commissioner  
Jamie Evans, Evans Grader  
Kris Peterson, Horrocks  
Myron Lee, Dixie MPO Director  
Patty Kubeja, Kane County Commissioner  
\*Rebecca Dilg, Utah Broadband Center  
\*Tate Murphy

*\*indicates virtual participation*

### LOCAL AREA PRESENTATION

Kirk Thornock, UDOT Region Four Director welcomed the group and thanked them for attending the previous day's tour to hear what is happening in Kane county. Cameron Gay, UDOT Region Four Program Manager, reported on recently completed, current and upcoming projects in the area. Since 2015, \$123,789,631 and 40 projects have been allocated to Kane County, along with \$131,773,398 and 45 projects to Garfield County. Chris Hall, UDOT Region Four Planner, reported on [Zion Area Roads to Recreation](#).

### PUBLIC COMMENTS

Land owner [Austin Pritchett](#), who spoke for himself and Tate Murphy, commented on the Sharp Tintic Connector Rail. He said a decision needs to be made and things just get more expensive the longer it gets delayed. He said developers want to put a bunch of money into that land, but he knows UDOT needs it. He also commented on access issues.

### Kirk Thornock read an emailed comment from Landry Heaton who wrote:

Thank you for your time and consideration. Between 1985 and 1987, the Utah Department of Transportation considered submitting applications to extend the U.S. Route 163 (US-163) designation west from Kayenta, Arizona to Interstate 15 (I-15) between Hurricane and St. George via Page, Kanab, Fredonia, Colorado City, and Hildale using existing highways. Even 40 years later, this US-163 plan has relevance to the traffic flow for Southern Utah and the Arizona Strip.

This would better clarify and unify a singular east-west route for long-distance or large-vehicle drivers to use going east from I-15, the latter of which will soon be unable to drive through Zion National Park due to the

tunnel restrictions. This would also help boost and diversify economic activity in a region that is heavily reliant on tourism, which can be heavily affected by the damage caused by natural disasters, as we have witnessed this summer on the North Rim of the Grand Canyon.

I have provided [a link to a map](#) illustrating this plan, as well as documents from 1987, 1969, and 1930. This idea is not a new one. I won't keep you all day, but I have attached snippets of these documents to check out later, or you can reach me for further clarification. Again, thank you for your time.

Carlos Braceras, UDOT Executive Director, commented that it is an interesting idea and asked the Commission members what their thoughts were, if it was something they think would benefit the State and if they'd like to see UDOT pursue working with Arizona and the Federal government. A discussion took place. Commissioner Dee said he doesn't understand why anything is needed. Commissioner Jacobson asked about the costs, benefits and detriments. Commissioner Adams shared his perspective. Carlos said this wouldn't be high on the priority list but thought it was a good idea and said he would talk to the Arizona DOT Director to see if they would be interested or see any benefit.

[Kane County Commissioner Celeste Meyeres](#) said Kane County is working on a transportation connector to get people from the east side of Zion who may become stranded in oversized vehicles once restrictions begin next June to the center of the park to catch the existing shuttle, but they are lacking sufficient funds, even as they have pulled from various sources. Carlos Braceras said Region Four will continue to work with the County and park to explore solutions.

## **UDOT SCOREBOARD**

Ben Huot, UDOT Deputy Director of Planning and Investment, reported on UDOT's construction program. Commissioner Van Tassell thanked the UDOT construction crews, and commented on the significant part of Utah's economy they generate and being a reason why Utah works the way it does.

Patrick Cowley, UDOT Traffic and Safety Director, gave the safety report. A discussion took place about accident data is reported, specifically fatalities that happen in the Navajo Nation. Patrick also reported on the 100 Deadliest Days and an increase in suspected serious injuries. Carlos Braceras said that nationwide, 94% of all crashes are attributed to 5 behaviors - driving under the influence, speeding, and drowsy, distracted and aggressive driving - and to people making bad decisions. A discussion on seatbelt users took place as well.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

Commissioner Van Tassell moved to approve the items on the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Gochnour seconded the motion. Commissioner Borup abstained from voting, and the items were approved.

*In favor: Commissioners Van Tassell, Gochnour, Dee, Adams, Jacobson, Evans*

*Abstained: Commissioner Borup*

*Opposed: None*

## **PROGRAMMING**

### **2025 STIP Amendment #8**

#### **I-15; 1800 North Interchange and Corridor Widening - Scope Addition**

Region One and the Structures Division requested approval to add scope to the I-15; 1800 North Interchange and Corridor Widening project to include the replacement of the existing bridge carrying SR-126 over the Davis Weber County Canal Company's (DWCCC) canal. DWCCC is currently converting sections of its canal from an open channel to a canal enclosed in a buried concrete box culvert. Adding this portion under Main Street during the current project will provide a seamless connection between the sections, lower long-term maintenance and improve forward compatibility as DWCCC continues to enclose the canal. Additionally, replacing the bridge with a box culvert will allow for the adjacent roadway realignment, as well as the addition of sidewalks and shoulders and widening of Main

Street in the future. Commissioner Dee moved to approve the request and Commissioner Borup seconded the motion. The request was unanimously approved.

*In favor: Commissioners Van Tassell, Gochnour, Dee, Adams, Jacobson, Borup, Evans*

*Opposed: None*

#### US-91 at SR-23 RCUT - Funding Addition

Region One requested approval to add \$2,424,000 of Transportation Solutions funds to the RCUT on US-91 at SR-23 project to accommodate left turn lanes off of US-91, which requires additional pavement widening and Right of Way. Commissioner Borup moved to approve the request and Commissioner Dee seconded the motion. The request was unanimously approved.

*In favor: Commissioners Van Tassell, Gochnour, Dee, Adams, Jacobson, Borup, Evans*

*Opposed: None*

#### Big Cottonwood Canyon Environmental Study - Funding Addition

Region Two requested approval to transfer \$700,000 of Cottonwood Canyons Hot Spot funds from the Enhanced Bus, Tolling, Mobility Hub and Bus Stops project to the Big Cottonwood Canyon Environmental Study. The cost to complete the study has increased due to additional environmental review and coordination with the United States Forest Service, Salt Lake City, Salt Lake County and others, as well as additional legal review. Commissioner Gochnour moved to approve the request and Commissioner Van Tassell seconded the motion. The request was unanimously approved.

*In favor: Commissioners Van Tassell, Gochnour, Dee, Adams, Jacobson, Borup, Evans*

*Opposed: None*

#### I-15; Bangerter Highway to 14600 South Southbound Auxiliary Lane - New Project

Region Two requested approval to add a new \$14,000,000 Transportation Solutions project to the current STIP. The I-15 Southbound Auxiliary Lane from Bangerter to 14600 South project will reduce congestion on the Bangerter on-ramp and improve merging distances for traffic. Commissioner Evans moved to approve the request and Commissioner Gochnour seconded the motion. The request was unanimously approved.

*In favor: Commissioners Van Tassell, Gochnour, Dee, Adams, Jacobson, Borup, Evans*

*Opposed: None*

#### I-80 Eastbound to US-40 Ramp Widening - Scope and Funding Addition

Region Two requested approval to add scope and \$12,000,000 of Transportation Solutions to the I-80 Eastbound to US-40 Eastbound Ramp Widening project. The new, additional scope will carry an auxiliary lane from Kimball's Junction all the way to the new off-ramp lane from the original scope. This lane will serve to reduce backing along I-80 due to the high volumes of vehicles exiting to US-40. It will also better facilitate the merging that occurs on I-80 between Kimball's Junction and US-40. Commissioner Van Tassell moved to approve the request and Commissioner Jacobson seconded the motion. The request was unanimously approved.

*In favor: Commissioners Van Tassell, Gochnour, Dee, Adams, Jacobson, Borup, Evans*

*Opposed: None*

#### I-215; 700 North to I-80 Southbound Auxiliary Lane - New Project

Region Two requested approval to add a new \$9,000,000 Transportation Solutions project to the current STIP. The I-215 Southbound Auxiliary Lane from 700 North project will serve to increase the merging distance of oncoming traffic between 700 North and I-80, and will also include ramp metering to help create gaps to reduce merging conflicts created by vehicles entering the on-ramp. Commissioner Gochnour moved to approve the request and Commissioner Borup seconded the motion. The request was unanimously approved.

*In favor: Commissioners Van Tassell, Gochnour, Dee, Adams, Jacobson, Borup, Evans*

*Opposed: None*

#### Region Two Tooele Valley Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Projects - New Projects

Region Two requested approval to add two new CMAQ projects to the current STIP. The \$117,804 Erda Shared Use Path project will install a 10-foot wide paved path, 1200 feet in length, to connect SR-36 and a future subdivision with two charter schools along Erda Way. The \$482,000 NTFD Replacement Fire Truck project will replace a 1989 fire engine with a 2011 used ladder truck that produces significantly fewer emissions. Commissioner Dee moved to approve the request and Commissioner Van Tassell seconded the motion. The request was unanimously approved.

*In favor: Commissioners Van Tassell, Gochnour, Dee, Adams, Jacobson, Borup, Evans*

*Opposed: None*

#### Springville Sharp/Tintic Railroad Connection - Funding Addition

Region Three requested approval to add \$35,000,000 of TTIF funds to the Springville Sharp/Tintic Railroad Connection project to address increases in Right of Way and other project costs including the reconstruction of an existing box culvert at Dry Creek. The original concept assumed utilizing the existing box culvert. Commissioner Jacobson moved to approve the request and Commissioner Van Tassell seconded the motion. The request was unanimously approved.

*In favor: Commissioners Van Tassell, Gochnour, Dee, Adams, Jacobson, Borup, Evans*

*Opposed: None*

#### Price Canal Box Culverts Replacement - Scope and Funding Addition

Region Four requested approval to add \$180,755 of local funds to the Price Canal Box Culverts Replacement project to address the significant changes in project costs. Price City approached the Joint Highway Committee (JHC) to request reducing the scope of the project to only construct one of the box culverts. The JHC has reviewed and recommended the scope change with no additional state or federal funds being approved for the project. Price City will provide the additional funds for the new scope. Commissioner Adams moved to approve the request and Commissioner Van Tassell seconded the motion. The request was unanimously approved.

*In favor: Commissioners Van Tassell, Gochnour, Dee, Adams, Jacobson, Borup, Evans*

*Opposed: None*

#### FY2026 Region Four Sign Improvement Program - New Project

Region Four requested approval to add a new \$400,000 Transportation Solutions project to the current STIP. The FY26 Region Four Sign Improvement Program project will improve signage at various locations throughout Region Four on I-15, SR-14, US-89 and I-70. The sign additions and upgrades will provide proven countermeasures to help reduce crashes and improve safety throughout the Region. Commissioner Adams moved to approve the request and Commissioner Jacobson seconded the motion. The request was unanimously approved. A discussion on reporting issues as they are seen on the roadway took place.

*In favor: Commissioners Van Tassell, Gochnour, Dee, Adams, Jacobson, Borup, Evans*

*Opposed: None*

#### US-50; Fiber Optics - New Project

Region Four requested approval to add a new \$4,000,000 ARPA project to the current STIP. The US-50 Fiber Optics project will install new fiber optics along US-50 from the Scipio UDOT Maintenance Station, connecting to an ongoing project on US-50 near SR-260. The new fiber optic installation will provide connection from the I-15 backbone to the US-89 corridor, improving network resiliency and supporting UDOT operations, public communications and emergency services. Commissioner Adams moved to approve the request and Commissioner Dee seconded the motion. The request was unanimously approved.

*In favor: Commissioners Van Tassell, Gochnour, Dee, Adams, Jacobson, Borup, Evans*

*Opposed: None*

#### US-89; Mt. Carmel Junction to Orderville - Funding Addition and Scope Change

Region Four requested approval to add \$1,000,000 of TIF funds to the US-89; Mt. Carmel Junction to Muddy Canyon Passing Lane project, and change the scope of the Utah Trail Network: US-89 Trail, Mt. Carmel Junction to Orderville project to combine the trail in the overlapping portion of the passing lane to result in more streamlined schedules, cost savings and a reduced construction impact on the traveling public in the area. Commissioner Van Tassell moved to approve the request and Commissioner Jacobson seconded the motion. The request was unanimously approved.

*In favor: Commissioners Van Tassell, Gochnour, Dee, Adams, Jacobson, Borup, Evans*

*Opposed: None*

#### Utah Trail Network: Trail Counter Case Study - New Project (For Information Only)

Approved by the Deputy Director authority given in the Utah Transportation Commission Policy 01-01, the \$195,000 Utah Trail Network: Trail Counter Case Study project will fund a comparison study that will install and evaluate different trail counter systems and then make recommendations for their potential use within the UTN. As new UTN projects are funded, the Trails Division will use a counter system to measure usage, allowing for more informed programming. The scope of the study will take place over 16 months, focusing on counter accuracy, installation procedures, data management software and maintenance requirements.

#### Utah Broadband Center BEAD Award List Presentation (For Information Only)

Ivan Hartle, UDOT Programming Director, gave an update on the Utah Broadband Center's, which has completed the application period for the Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment (BEAD) Program, known as Utah's Broadband Infrastructure Grant (BIG), met with representatives from the Federal National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) and is now ready to publish the list of selected awardees. Ivan reviewed next steps, which include posting for a 7-day public comment period, submitting to NTIA for the 90 day review and curing, followed by approvals, awards, contracts, and up to 4 years to complete projects. He shared summaries of potential awardees by project areas and providers. He navigated to the Broadband Center website, [connecting.utah.gov](https://connecting.utah.gov), where the Utah BEAD Program Final Draft Proposal will be available for public comment.

#### US-191 REALIGNMENT NEAR SIMPLOT ABANDONMENT

Rob Clayton, UDOT Region Three Director, requested approval to abandon the existing 2.48-mile segment of US-191 and move to new alignment. Commissioner Van Tassell moved to approve the request and Commissioner Evans seconded the motion. The request was unanimously approved, and the resolution was signed.

*In favor: Commissioners Van Tassell, Gochnour, Dee, Adams, Jacobson, Borup, Evans*

*Opposed: None*

#### ADMINISTRATIVE RULE REVIEW

##### R940-1: Establishment of Toll Rates

Leif Elder, UDOT Policy and Legislative Services Director, reviewed proposed changes to Commission Rule R940-1: Establishment of Toll Rates, which establishes procedures for setting toll rates for the HOV lane. One minor proposed change would clarify that the Department submits a methodology, rather than a schedule, to the Commission to approve. The Department uses the approved methodology to determine the optimal toll rates for the HOV lane. Other proposed changes to the rule are technical corrections, deletions of redundant language, or changes made to conform with the rulewriting manual.

##### R926-9: Establishment, Designation and Operation of Tollways

Leif Elder reviewed changes to Department Rule R926-9: Establishment, Designation and Operation of Tollways, which provides the procedure for the Department to establish, designate and operate tollways. One change adds a provision allowing the Department to consider converting an existing highway to a tollway. Remaining changes are technical corrections, deletions of redundant language, or changes made to conform with the rulewriting manual.



## INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

### Committee Reports

Commissioner Gochnour reported on WFRC's workshops for the Regional Transportation Plan. [Commissioner Adams](#) reported on the Community Impact Board (CIB). [Commissioner Van Tassell](#) thanked UDOT and its contractors for the work they do. He shared the struggles he saw on a recent road trip that other states have with their secondary roads and interstates. He said the State of Utah is in a great position and it takes a lot of money to keep it that way. [Chair Evans](#) reported on the HTRZ committee.

Carlos Braceras thanked the Commission members for their time and invited them to attend the Utah Transportation Conference next month.

### **Upcoming Transportation Commission Meetings**

- November 13-14, Moab
- December 11-12, UDOT Complex
- February 19-20, Salt Lake County
- March 19-20, UDOT Complex
- May 14-15, UDOT Complex
- June 25-26, Layton
- August 13-14, Orem
- September 24-25, Summit County
- November 5-6, St. George
- December 10-11, UDOT Complex

Commissioner Jacobson moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:49 a.m.



---

Heather Barthold, Commission Assistant