



Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the
Local Advisory Council of the Utah Transit Authority

Wednesday, September 16, 2020, 1:00 p.m.
held remotely via phone or video conference
and broadcast live for the public via YouTube

UTA Local Advisory Council Members Participating:

Troy Walker, Chair
Karen Cronin, First Vice-Chair
Clint Smith, Second Vice-Chair
Jeff Acerson
Leonard Call
Erik Craythorne
Julie Fullmer
Robert Hale
Jennifer McGrath (alternate)

UTA Local Advisory Council Members Not Present or Excused:

Erin Mendenhall

UTA Board of Trustees members were present. Also attending were members of UTA staff, as well as outside presenters.

Call to Order & Opening Remarks. Chair Troy Walker welcomed attendees and called the meeting to order at 1:09 p.m., noting that this is an all remote electronic meeting as allowed through UTAH CODE § 52-4-207(4) due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Jana Ostler, UTA Board Manager, read the electronic meeting determination into the record as required by statute. The complete electronic meeting determination is included as Appendix A to these minutes.

Public Comment. It was noted that online comment received for the meeting was distributed to the council prior to the meeting and will be included as Appendix B to these minutes.

Safety First Minute. Sheldon Shaw, UTA Director of Safety & Security, gave a brief safety message pertaining to COVID-19.

Consent. A motion to approve the May 27, 2020 Advisory Council Meeting Minutes, with a proposed edit mentioning that the members of the UTA Board of Trustees were in attendance, was made by Member Cronin and seconded by Member Hale. The motion carried unanimously.

Audit Committee Report. Chair Walker introduced UTA's new Director of Internal Audit, Ron Ellis. Mr. Ellis gave brief introductory remarks.

2019 CAFR and Committee Update. Chair Walker informed the council that the 2019 CAFR was presented to external and independent auditors, Keddington and Christensen, who reported that their audit of UTA's financial statements resulted in an unmodified, or clean, report. There were no questions from the council.

Chair Walker reported that UTA is in the process of selecting a new external financial auditor and an update should be available by the next Local Advisory Council meeting. Additionally, UTA staff has reported on the findings of the Federal Transit Administration Triannual review for 2019 where 18 of the 21 areas were found to have no deficiencies in compliance. All deficiencies were addressed in a timely manner. There were no questions from the council.

Mr. Walker informed the council that there have been a few revisions to the 2020 audit plan to account for staffing changes.

Short discussion regarding the positive direction of the audit committee ensued.

Agency Report. Carolyn Gonot, UTA Executive Director informed the council that UTA's new CFO, Bill Greene will be starting on Monday, September 21st, and will be introduced in an upcoming meeting.

COVID Recovery Task Force Update and Ridership Report. Ms. Gonot turned the time over to Eddy Cumins, UTA Chief Operating Officer. Mr. Cumins informed the council of ridership percentages and service changes from March to September of 2020. Protective measures have been increased on buses and rail.

Ms. Gonot informed the council that the CARES Act Funding was being used against eligible operating expenses and is budgeted to be used over the next three years.

Discussion ensued. A question on time limits to use CARES Funding was posed by Member Acerson and answered by Ms. Gonot.

Via Microtransit Pilot Update. Ms. Gonot reported on the microtransit pilot program and informed the council of ridership goals and data. Protective and safety measures are being taken. An app is being looked at for future use for the program.

Discussion ensued. Questions on ridership and the future of microtransit were posed by Chair Walker and answered by Ms. Gonot and UTA staff.

Preview of Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) Work Session on October 14, 2020. Ms. Gonot reminded the council of the upcoming TOD Work Session scheduled for October 14th, and that it is an opportunity for the council to give feedback. Originally the work session was scheduled for 8:45 am but due to scheduling conflicts Ms. Gonot requested the work session be moved to 2:00 pm.

Chair Walker asked if the work session was being held "in person." Ms. Gonot replied in the affirmative. No objections were given to the time change.

Constituent Services Written Report. Ms. Gonot informed the council that this report is run by UTA's customer service department and gave details and statistics concerning UTA's interactions with customers over the previous year. The report also details the customer service employees' responsibilities.

Board of Trustees Update.

Carolyn Gonot's One-Year Review. Carlton Christensen, Chair of the UTA Board of Trustees, reported to the council that the Board of Trustees is pleased with Ms. Gonot's efforts and work and have adjusted her pay and vacation allowance accordingly per her employment contract.

2021 Budget Development. Mr. Christensen informed the council of the upcoming 2021 budget sessions and invited those of the council who were interested to participate.

Bonding Refunding Opportunity. Mr. Christensen reported that an opportunity has developed to refinance older bonds with current favorable rates. This presentation will follow on the agenda.

Ogden/Weber State Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Update. Beth Holbrook, UTA Board of Trustees, reported that the Ogden/Weber State BRT is in the final preliminary stages and is currently in final design. It is projected that ground will be broken in late fall, with a completion date of August 2022.

Chair Walker asked about the completion date, and Ms. Holbrook responded.

FrontRunner Business Plan Strategy. Kent Millington, UTA Board of Trustees, presented the FrontRunner business plan and timeline that will effectively expand FrontRunner services, including double tracking in the north part of the state.

Member Hale excused himself from the meeting at 1:54 pm.

Bond Refunding Consultation.

Potential Issuance and Sale of Sales Tax Revenue and Refunding Bonds. Troy Bingham, UTA's Comptroller, reminded the council of the goals for refinancing and then turned the time over to Brian Baker of Zions Public Finance. Mr. Baker gave a history of UTA's 2019 bond refinance, noting the cash flow savings and low interest rates that resulted. A set of bonds from 2012 were not refinanced at the time. It is now recommended that refinancing of the 2012 bonds move forward with the current interest rates and the projection of increased cash flow savings.

Chair Walker commented that it appeared to be a good time to refinance. Discussion ensued. The council did not have any questions or further comments.

Capital Development Consultation and Resolution.

AR2020-09-01 Resolution Approving the Proposed 2021-2025 Capital Plan and Recommending Approval by the Authority's Board of Trustees. Mary DeLoretto, UTA Chief Service Development Officer informed the council that this plan is a five year plan which includes new

construction including studies, state of good repair, facilities maintenance, new vehicles, safety and security items, IT projects, and major equipment purchases over \$25,000. This plan will mitigate challenges of applying a one-year budget to multi-year projects and facilitate better long-term planning. Projects are submitted annually and must be consistent with UTA's goals and financial plan. Ms. DeLoretto presented a summary of the proposed 2021 projects as well as a summary of the five-year plan for projects. Consultation and feedback from Advisory Council members on the plan was requested.

Discussion ensued. Questions on FrontRunner grants and funding for the Vineyard project were posed by the council and answered by Ms. DeLoretto.

Member Cronin moved to approve resolution AR2020-09-01. Member Call seconded the motion, and all voted in favor.

Service Plan Consultation.

2021-2025 Mobility Service Plan Update. Ms. DeLoretto turned the time over to Laura Hanson, UTA Director of Planning. Ms. Hanson reviewed the five-year mobility plan that had been in development prior to COVID-19 but was paused due to the changes of service necessitated by the pandemic. Since the changes from COVID-19, new data has been collected and researched which impact the new five-year plan. The new plan will contain many of the same ideas developed in the initial service choices process but adapts to meet the needs of the changing market. Anticipated service changes are based on the best information that is available at this time, and changes will continue to be addressed throughout the evolving phases of the plan.

There were no comments or questions from the Local Advisory Council members.

Other Business.

The next meeting will be the Transit-Oriented Development Workshop, October 14, 2020 at the adjusted time of 2:00-4:00 p.m. Council members agreed to the new time.

Chair Walker gave a reminder to complete required code of conduct and financial disclosure forms.

Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:34 p.m. with a motion by Member Call, second by Member Cronin, and a unanimous vote in favor.

Transcribed by Stephanie Withers
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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/628161.html> for entire content.

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

Approved Date:

Troy Walker

Chair, UTA Local Advisory Council

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Appendix A

UTAH TRANSIT AUTHORITY ELECTRONIC MEETING DETERMINATION

Consistent with provisions of the Utah Open and Public Meetings Act, specifically UTAH CODE § 52-4-207(4), and acting in my capacity 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 and convene electronic meetings of the UTA Local Advisory Council without a physical anchor location:

1. Conducting Council and Council Committee meetings with an anchor location that is physically accessible for members of the public to attend in person presents a substantial risk to the health and safety of those who may be present at the anchor location.
2. This determination is based upon the following facts, among others:
 - a. The COVID-19 pandemic is ongoing and significant and continued community, person-to-person transmission of the SARS-CoV-2 virus continues to occur in the state of Utah; and
 - b. Federal, state, and local health authorities have adopted guidelines for the general public and businesses which encourage institutions and individuals to take precautions, including limiting in-person interactions and recommending increased virtual interactions.

This written determination takes effect on September 16, 2020, and is effective until midnight on October 16, 2020, (no more than 30 days after the effective date of this Declaration) and may be re-issued by future written determinations of the Chair of the Council at that or any other appropriate time.

Dated this 9th day of September 2020.

DocuSigned by:

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Troy Walker, Chair of the Local Advisory Council

Appendix B
Online Public Comment
to the
Local Advisory Council of the Utah Transit Authority (UTA)
September 16, 2020

Received on September 15, 2020 from George Chapman:

I agree with the refunding of the 4% bonds to get lower rate. Since the State Bonding Commission will review and approve, this plan is reasonable.

But I emphasize that that should not give UTA the window to use billions for new projects that they have been floating. With all due respect to Mayor Walker, the idea of spending two billion on a Draper to Lehi TRAX is not efficient use of funds. In this State, good roads create better and faster economic development than rail. Draper and Lehi would both significantly benefit from using billions to build efficient high speed roads through the State Prison site, relatively quickly, with resulting better economic development benefits.

The same philosophy should deter FrontRunner projects like double tracking and electrification. Weekday ridership of less than 5000 is not reason enough to spend billions that could and should be better used for several east west freeways in the Wasatch Front. Each lane of regular road traffic can take 5000 to 10000 vehicles a day without congestion. Note also that the projected ridership on the planned BRTs is around 2000 and they take up a lane. That is not financially reasonable.

I encourage the Advisory Board to recognize that the best use of taxpayer funds is to spend it where it will be most effectively and responsibly used, on roads. When mass transit ridership improves, that can be re-evaluated. Note that the S-Line ridership is around 650 a day! The billions in development in Sugar House occurred due to open space, parks and roads, not rail!

Please focus UTA on providing service and do not accept nor encourage billion dollar projects.
