

Service

We provide a high-quality transit network that meets the needs of our customers.

UVX Soft Opening

The Utah Valley Express (UVX) Bus Rapid Transit (BRT), which provides frequent service between destinations in Provo and Orem and UTA FrontRunner stations, began service in Utah County on Monday, August 13. The route is starting in order to be of service to students, staff, and faculties at the two universities this semester, though construction will continue for some time, likely through the end of the year. It includes stops at Brigham Young University and Utah Valley University and commercial centers and entertainment venues in between. There is no fare on the UVX through 2021 thanks to a Federal Highway Administration Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement grant.



Paratransit Program Celebrates 30 Years of Service

UTA’s paratransit program recently celebrated its 30-year anniversary. The program started on July 5, 1988, more than two years before public transit agencies were required to provide service to the disabled under the Americans with Disabilities Act. That first year, the program (known then as Flex Trans) served 263 riders. Today UTA’s paratransit program provides over 409,000 rides to 4,082 registered riders and covers more than 3.6 million miles annually.

The paratransit service provides curb-to-curb transportation for riders who are unable to use general UTA services. Paratransit buses operate across the same geographic area and during the same days and hours as the rest of the UTA system.

Box Elder County Corridor Preservation

UTA and the Utah Division of Water Resources (DWR) have been discussing the development of a multi-use utility corridor in Box Elder County. The agencies drafted an agreement to share corridor acquisition costs and efforts to preserve a multi-use corridor adjacent to the existing Union Pacific railroad line. Under the agreement, the agencies would equitably share the cost of right of way acquisition as well as any needed survey and appraisal work. (Any future projects would still be subject to National Environmental Policy Act requirements.) UTA intends to apply funds from the second quarter of sales tax to support this right of way acquisition. DWR and UTA believe this will be a mutually beneficial effort, minimizing future impacts to citizens by preserving right of way ahead of development, thereby saving taxpayers money.

Support of LoveLoud Festival

UTA teamwork was on full display during the late-July LoveLoud Festival at Rice Eccles Stadium as service planners, TRAX and FrontRunner personnel, transit officers, and other UTA personnel stepped up to ensure festival goers got to and from the venue safely. Many concert goers opted to ride UTA to take

advantage of a ticket-as-fare promotion and avoid searching for a place to park near the stadium. Extra cars on trains, extended service hours, free water and platform personnel aided in making LoveLoud a great success and promoting UTA as a true community partner.

People

Employees are our most valuable resource.

Teamwork Saves over \$3.5 Million

A decision to use in-house expertise on two camera installation projects created a budget savings of over \$3.5 million. The first project was designed to install high definition cameras and a WiFi DVR on 40 SD100 and SD160 light rail vehicles. These older light rail vehicles did not have camera systems. The initial concept was to have the work performed by an outside vendor, but after doing some research, it was determined that UTA would save money, improve the installation schedule, and provide a higher quality end product by performing the work using its own resources. A savings of \$1.2 million was realized using this approach. The second project upgraded the onboard cameras and DVR recording systems on 77 S70 vehicles. Employees again performed the work in-house, saving approximately \$2.31 million over using external contractors.

UTA Hosts Public Transit Leaders

Public transit industry leaders gathered in Salt Lake City in mid-July to tour UTA facilities and discuss issues impacting public transit agencies nationwide. Leadership APTA, a group of 26 individuals from agencies across the United States and Canada, visited UTA's Warm Springs FrontRunner facility and explored a transit-oriented development as part of their capstone session.



This is the first time in the program's 21-year history that the capstone session has been held in Salt Lake City. Doran Barnes, executive director of Leadership APTA and executive director of Foothill Transit in West Covina, CA, said the organization wanted to see UTA's multimodal operations at work. Many of the participants come from agencies that only operate a single mode of transportation and were eager to see how UTA coordinated commuter rail, light rail, and bus service.

"We're here to see how all the modes operate and how everything works," Barnes said. "It's been a wonderful and welcoming experience."

Environment

We are leaders in improving our environment.

UTA Reduces NOx Pollutants

UTA is doing its part to reduce unhealthy nitrogen oxide (NOx) emissions by using diesel bus technology and a no-idling policy on its buses. Over the last 10 years, the bus fleet has removed 242 tons of NOx emissions from the Wasatch Front – the equivalent of 21,000 cars emitting NOx for an entire year. UTA's NOx emissions are currently at 98 tons annually and the agency is continuing to explore ways to further reduce them.

Community

We connect communities.



UTA Part of Canyon Traffic Solution

UTA participated in the Central Wasatch Commission's (CWC) tour of Little Cottonwood Canyon on July 26, which included providing a bus to transport federal congressional staff, elected state and local officials, and other stakeholders in the canyon. CWC's new executive director, Ralph Becker, presented a background on the canyon's history, the need to solve its growing traffic and parking issues, and new legislation and funding impacting the area. One of CWC's

objectives includes identifying transportation solutions focused on transit, walking, and biking that supports the recreational, environmental, and transportation needs of the central Wasatch Mountains.

New GREENbike Station Opens

There is a new GREENbike station within walking distance of UTA's FrontLines Headquarters. The GREENbike Artspace Bridge Projects Station at 230 S. 500 West is just steps from the Old Greek Town TRAX Station. GREENbike, which has 34 stations throughout the downtown Salt Lake City area, gives public transit riders an efficient, eco-friendly way get from their homes or offices to UTA rail stations and bus stops.



Stewardship

We are responsible with the resources entrusted to us by the public.

Presentations on the Hill

UTA representatives spent time with legislators on Capitol Hill talking about the history of and future opportunities for transit in Utah. Steve Meyer presented to the Transportation and Tax Review Task Force in July on the history of transit policy and funding, including a discussion on financing alternatives. He covered UTA from its early beginnings to how the transit district has grown over the last 49 years. Meyer also presented to the Transportation Interim Committee with Trustee Andrew Jackson. They shared future plans for transit corridors along the FrontRunner line expanding north and south, Point of the Mountain transit opportunities, and current corridor preservation efforts. In addition, Meyer spent time in August with the Transportation and Tax Review Task Force reviewing public private partnerships as well as possibilities for simplification of local option sales taxes.

Awards

GFOA Distinguished Budget Presentation Award

The Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA), a major trade association for more than 19,000 state and local government officials and finance professionals, presented UTA with its Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for the 20th time. The GFOA announced the award in early July. To be recognized, an entity must meet guidelines in four areas. Each is designed to assess how well an organization's budget serves as (1) a policy document, (2) a financial plan, (3) an operations guide, and (4) a communications device. The Chicago-based organization announced, "Award recipients have

pioneered efforts to improve the quality of budgeting and provide an excellent example for other governments throughout North America.”