



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

Wednesday, Nov. 20, 2019, 11:00 a.m.  
Utah Transit Authority (UTA) Headquarters  
669 West 200 South, Salt Lake City, Utah  
Golden Spike Conference Rooms

**UTA Advisory Council Members Present:**

Jeff Acerson	Karen Cronin
Jacqueline Biskupski	Robert Hale
Leonard Call	Dan Peay (Alternate for Clint Smith)
Erik Craythorne	Troy Walker

**Advisory Council Members Excused/Not in Attendance:**

Julie Fullmer  
Clint Smith

Also attending were members of UTA staff, as well as interested citizens and members of the media.

**Welcome and Call to Order**

Chair Acerson welcomed attendees and called the meeting to order at 11:02 a.m. Following Chair Acerson's opening remarks, the advisory council and meeting attendees recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Safety First Minute**

Chair Acerson yielded the floor to Kent Muhlestein, UTA Safety Admin - Transit System, for a brief safety message.

**Public Comment Period**

Claudia Johnson expressed frustration that UTA's buses are not able to fully pull-up next to curbs and serve customers properly due to cars parking such that buses must stop within traffic lanes and wait for patrons to walk in-between the parked cars. Having researched the matter, Ms. Johnson reported finding each municipality is responsible for painting the curbs within their community and encouraged them to do so rapidly as snow mounds are in the foreseeable future and this is a safety issue.

**Approval of September 25, 2019 Advisory Council Meeting Minutes**

A motion to approve the September 25, 2019 Advisory Council Meeting Minutes was made by Member Walker and seconded by Member Craythorne. The motion carried unanimously.

**Board of Trustees Report**

Carlton Christensen, UTA Board of Trustees Chair, informed the council that the board will be presenting jointly with the Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT) at the Transportation Interim Committee meeting on January 15, 2020. He provided an overview on the study regarding UTA becoming a state

entity; noting final completion and presentation to legislators will occur in late-Spring 2020. He also conveyed the results of the Pension Study that was presented to legislators last month and advised copies will be provided to the council members. He pointed out since the Board Fare Policy was adopted in July 2019, an evaluation of UTA's Fare Policy has initiated, staff is collaborating to conduct a fare pilot, and it is anticipated a new policy will be presented to the board in early 2020. Chair Christensen then informed the council the board had approved an interlocal agreement with the Central Wasatch Commission to increase financial resources and streamline services. He also reported notification was received that UTA has been awarded a Federal Department of Transportation grant.

Member Biskupski arrived 11:18 a.m.

Trustee Christensen concluded by recognizing Mayor Biskupski for her service to the Local Advisory Council and presented her with a gift of appreciation.

### **Agency Report**

Carolyn Gonot, UTA Executive Director, introduced Bob Biles, UTA Chief Financial Officer. Mr. Biles provided an update of the Bond Refunding and New Money Issuance. Ms. Gonot then introduced Jaron Robertson, UTA Director of Innovation, and Andrea Packer, UTA Communications Director; together, they summarized the VIA launch project and event. Member Walker suggested notifying specific businesses of the event.

Discussion ensued. Questions regarding the type of outreach efforts that were performed, what projections staff has for ridership, what will determine the success of the project, and what the deciding factors were for the area selected were posed by the council and answered by staff.

### **Audit Committee Report**

Chair Acerson and Member Troy Walker reported on the October 28, 2019 Audit Committee meeting and provided an overview of items discussed therein. They also reviewed requirements of State statute; as well as, duties and responsibilities of the Audit Committee.

**Advisory Council Chair Report. Local Advisory Council Duties and Responsibilities, 2019 Outcomes, and 2020 Activities.** Chair Acerson explained the purpose of this item is to help the council members understand their roles, responsibilities, and decision-making authority, and determine what they would like to do differently or areas they would like to focus on more.

Discussion ensued. Members commented regarding the council's ability to support the board with added representation and connections in their respective Councils of Government and other meetings they routinely attend and advised on the value they feel it provides. They conveyed that citizens look at UTA differently due to the work of the council and their ability to communicate with colleagues regarding the new structure and operations, and noted that it is building trust in the authority. They also discussed that the council has an obligation to continue sharing and answering questions through the various meetings they sit in. It was also suggested that council members can help clarify and correct misrepresentations of the authority that may appear in the media. It was also reported that Tooele appreciates having a fast track way to get their concerns communicated and appreciates having a closer connection. There were no suggestions or changes proposed.

**AR2019-11-01 Resolution Setting 2020 Advisory Council Meeting Schedule.** Chair Acerson reviewed the proposed meeting schedule. Discussion ensued regarding whether to move the November meeting as it is scheduled on Veteran's Day.

Member Cronin moved to change the November meeting to November 18, 2020 at 11:00 a.m. and approve the remaining schedule as outlined in the packet. Member Hale seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**Consultation: UTA Tentative 2020 Budget.** Ms. Gonot and Mr. Biles reviewed changes to the Tentative 2020 Budget and anticipated changes to the Final 2020 Budget. They also reminded the council the Final Budget will be reviewed at the December 11, 2019 Board of Trustees meeting with adoption proposed at the December 18, 2019 meeting.

Member Walker moved to approve the tentative 2020 budget as presented. Member Cronin seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **Other Business**

The next meeting of the advisory council will be February 19, 2020 at 1:00 p.m.

Chair Acerson thanked Mayor Biskupski for her service and support of transit. She described how one bus route has allowed students in her city, who are bused from the westside to East High School, to stay later than 4:00 p.m. She reported that the impact of this opportunity has been significant for the students and their families. She expressed gratitude to both her team and the partnership with UTA in making it happen.

#### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:20 p.m. with a motion by Member Walker, second by Member Craythorne, and a unanimous vote in favor.

Transcribed by Angie Olsen  
Executive Assistant to the Board  
Utah Transit Authority  
[aolsen@rideuta.com](mailto:aolsen@rideuta.com)  
801.287-2581

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