

DRAFT

Joint Policy Advisory Committee

MOUNTAINLAND ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
UTAH DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
DIXIE METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION



WASATCH FRONT REGIONAL COUNCIL
UTAH TRANSIT AUTHORITY
CACHE METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Thursday September 3, 2026
WFRC office, 41 N Rio Grande St and via Zoom
Gathering and Lunch: 11:30-11:45am
Meeting: 11:45am-1:30pm

CACHE MPO		
Kathleen Alder*	Mayor, Providence City	yes
Jeff Gilbert*	Director, Cache MPO	yes
Todd Beutler	Director, Connect Transit	yes
DIXIE MPO		
Gil Almquist*	Commissioner, Washington County	no
Myron Lee*	Director, Dixie MPO	yes
Darin Bushman	Executive Director, Five County AOG	yes
MAG MPO		
Bill Wright*	Mayor, Payson City	no
Amelia Powers Gardner*	Commissioner, Utah County	yes
Carolyn Lundberg*	Mayor, Lindon City	no
Marsha Judkins*	Mayor, Provo City	yes
Carla Merrill*	Mayor, Alpine City	yes
LaNiece Davenport*	Director, MAG MPO	no
Michelle Carroll	Executive Director, MAG	no
Kevin Feldt	Transportation Planning Manager, MAG MPO	yes
UDOT		
Carlos Braceras	Executive Director, UDOT	no
Ben Huot*	Deputy Director, Planning and Investment, UDOT	yes
Tiffany Pocock	Director, Program Development, UDOT	yes
Andrea Olson	Director, Planning, UDOT	yes
Elizabeth McMillan	Manager, Strategic Communications, UDOT	yes
Leif Elder	Director, Policy and Legislative Services, UDOT	no
Peter Asplund	Analyst, Policy and Legislative Services, UDOT	yes
UTAH TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION		
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UTA		
Jay Fox*	Executive Director, UTA	yes
Nichol Bourdeaux	Chief Planning and Engagement Officer, UTA	yes
Alex Beim	Manager, Long Range and Strategic Planning, UTA	yes
Chandler Beutler	Manager, Government Relations	no
WFRC		
Lee Perry*	Commissioner, Box Elder County	no
Mark Shepherd*	Mayor, Clearfield	yes
Bob Stevenson*	Commissioner, Davis County	no
Steve Gale*	Mayor, Morgan City	no
Raelene Blocker*	Commissioner, Morgan County	yes
Natalie Hall*	Mayor, Bluffdale City	yes
Dirk Burton*	Mayor, West Jordan City	yes
Dawn Ramsey*	Mayor, South Jordan City	yes
Ross Romero*	Councilmember, Salt Lake County	yes
Andy Pierucci*	Councilmember, Riverton City	yes
Dave McCall*	Councilmember, Tooele City	yes
Jared Hamner*	Councilmember, Tooele County	no
Janet Wampler*	Mayor, Ogden Valley City	yes
Sharon Bolos*	Commissioner, Weber County	yes
Andrew Gruber	Executive Director, WFRC	yes
Ted Knowlton	Deputy Director, WFRC	yes
Miranda Jones Cox	Manager, Government Relations, WFRC	yes
FHWA		
Ivan Marrero	Division Administrator, Utah, FHWA	yes
Brigitte Mandel	FHWA	yes
Kelly Lund	FHWA	no
* 2026 Voting Member		

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Kimberly Brenneman, MAG Kendall Willardson, MAG Michelle Larsen, UTA Paul Ray, UTA	Colby Oliverson, GOPB Ryan Leavitt, Barker Leavitt Beth Holbrook, GTI
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1. Welcome and Introductions / Approval of Minutes (00:00:06)

The meeting was called to order at 11:44 AM. Introductions were conducted for attendees in the room and online. The agenda order was adjusted to address the Advanced Air Mobility update before the Unified Transportation Plan discussion.

ACTION: The June 4, 2026 meeting minutes were approved via a motion by Mayor Mark Shepard and a second by Mayor Natalie Hall.

3. Advanced Air Mobility (AAM) Update (00:06:18)

Matt Moss from the UDOT Division of Aeronautics provided an update on Utah's position as a national leader in Advanced Air Mobility. UDOT has established a testing sandbox utilizing Sprinter command vehicles and a 30-foot mast for sensors to test drones and eVTOLs (electric vertical takeoff and landing) in real-world scenarios. Utah is a lead participant in the FAA's eVTOL Integration Pilot Program (EIPP), which will initially focus on cargo delivery, emergency medical response, and firefighting support before advancing to urban air taxis.

A community outreach toolkit has been launched to help local governments understand and plan for AAM integration into their transportation systems and land use planning. Infrastructure funding for aircraft charging stations has been awarded to four airports: Logan, Bountiful Sky Park, Provo, and Heber. It was clarified that initial larger aircraft operations will be piloted and integrated into the national airspace, rather than being fully autonomous.

2. Utah's Unified Transportation Plan - 2027-2055 Themes (00:25:57)

Andrew Gruber, WFRC Executive Director, led the discussion on which focus areas or themes the 2027-2055 Unified Plan should emphasize for policymakers and the public.

Theme 1: Unified is Broader Than Transportation (00:32:39)

Bert Granberg, WFRC Analytics Director, presented a commuter flow web map illustrating how land use heavily impacts transportation demand. In many cities, approximately 90% of workers commute outside their city of residence. Regional modeling demonstrated that enabling just 10% of outgoing commuters to work within their home city could reduce overall system delay by 23%. The committee discussed viewing economic development, high-speed internet expansion, and jobs-housing balance as highly effective transportation strategies.

Theme 2: Value and Return on Investment (ROI) (01:04:01)

Ted Knowlton, WFRC Deputy Director & Chief Planner, presented on measuring the economic impact of transportation investments through efficiency (time/money saved), construction spending, market access, and job creation. Historical data showed the Unified Transportation Plan yielded a 2.5 times multiplier effect, meaning the economic return significantly outweighed the project expenses. Committee members emphasized the importance of illustrating these ROI figures to taxpayers through specific local examples.

Theme 3: Impact of Inflation (01:15:52)

Ben Huot (UDOT) and Jay Fox (UTA) discussed how the national highway construction cost index has spiked, tripling in recent years relative to general inflation. This has widened the gap between identified project needs and anticipated revenues. UTA noted that capital maintenance costs have increased from roughly 55% of the capital budget to near 70% just to maintain a state of good repair. The committee agreed on the necessity of managing public expectations, prioritizing projects tightly, and communicating that new infrastructure cannot entirely eliminate congestion.

General Discussion on Themes and Audience (01:26:40)

The primary audience for this messaging includes state legislators, local elected officials, the business community, and the general public. Multiple local leaders stressed that messaging must balance the unique needs of fast-growing areas (e.g., Eagle Mountain, Tooele) with those of rural communities aiming to preserve their character (e.g., Morgan County).

4. Other Updates

No additional updates were discussed due to time constraints.

5. Adjournment (01:54:03)

The next JPAC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 3, 2026. The meeting was adjourned following a motion by Mayor Mark Shepard and a second by Jay Fox, UTA.