

Monthly Board Meeting – November 2022

Sunday, December 11 , 2022 – 12:00 PM

Location: Virtual – A recording of the meeting can be [found here](#)

Minutes

In Attendance

Voting Members:

Mike Christensen, Chris Stout, John Pearson

Excused Voting Members:

Zach Adams

Unexcused Voting Members:

Randy Atkin, Bre Clementine

Non-Voting Members:

Curtis Haring

Meeting Called to Order at 12:10 PM

Agenda

Approval of November Minutes – All

(No Discussion)

Chris motions to approve the November Minutes

John seconds motion

Motion passes: 3-0 (John Absent)

Executive Director activities report/Membership Update – Curtis Haring

General Updates:

Curtis worked 13.75 hours since the last meeting and, starting this month, he will be donating a portion of his income back into UTRU. This will allow him to put more time in without having a drastic impact on UTRU finances.

Media and Outreach

Over the past month Curtis met with Sweet Streets, the West Side Coalition regarding I-15 expansion. In addition Curtis also met with Turner Bitton regarding a partnership with the Utah Center for Civic Improvement and HEAL Utah regarding the Citizen Advocacy for Transit Training (CATT) program. Finally, Curtis met with Rod Dunn of the Amalgamated Transit Union as a way to introduce UTRU to ATU.

This month we published the Women on Transit Safety Survey which did initially have issues with being spammed. Curtis feels that this was probably due to the fact that he initially advertised that one person would win a gift card, suspecting that Google pings basically drove everyone to the survey and giving us junk data. This has since been corrected and more realistic numbers have been produced. Curtis intends to keep the survey up until the quarterly membership meeting.

UTRU has also received an initial media strategy from Gray Thomas that he would like the board to review; Curtis forgot to send the document over, but will be sure to send it outⁱ.

Fundraising

Curtis started by asking Chris if he has heard anything about the Smiths donation program. Chris stated that something was sent to the “donations inbox” of UTRU sent on 12/7; Curtis will follow up.ⁱⁱ

Curtis also submitted a grant application to Intermountain Healthcare and is currently working on an application to Rocky Mountain Power. Curtis also had a technical question to AARP asking if our program might qualify for a grant since they don’t give grant money to lobby lawmakers, but, since our goal is to teach people how to lobby – he is waiting to hear back.

Networking

Curtis and Mike both met with the Wasatch Front Regional Council. During the meeting Curtis made a connection with the United Way and introduced UTRU and the advocacy program to them. This is in very early stages, but could turn into something.

In addition, Curtis is still building relationships with the Hinckley Institute of Politics, the University Neighborhood Partners, and HEAL Utah.

Upcoming Activities

Curtis will be on the Red Line Podcast to basically complain and talk about transit.

Numbers

- 536 Twitter followers, +33 from last month.

- 8 TikTok followers, +6 from last month.
- 6 YouTube followers, +2 from last month.
- 16 mailing list only (non-member) members, +1 from last month.
- 146 members, +16 from last month.
- 5 dues paying members for 2022-23, no change from last month.

Board Member Recruitment – All

Curtis continued to discuss the necessity for board members to recruit other board members to the UTRU board. Our bylaws stated that we are to have nine board members in total and, until then, we are in an emergency state. Curtis added that, when he comes in contact with someone who seems to have a particular interest in UTRU, he talks about the possibility of UTRU board membership.

Prior to the start of the call, Curtis and Chris were talking about the possibility of UTRU changing its bylaws in order to better match recruitment efforts. Curtis will review the bylaws to see if an amendment could be made during a quarterly meeting. ⁱⁱⁱ

John has been pushing UTRU membership at his work, but would like to see individuals outside of the Wasatch Front and who might be in a position to donate to UTRU as well^{iv}.

Chris brought up the idea that UTRU needs a larger goal and mission that people can attach themselves too in order to really drive engagement. His proposal was that we start to advocate for a 24/7/365 system with good frequency and that we start pushing the transit map that he put together some time ago but that the problem is that UTA doesn't have enough drivers to handle such a proposal. Chris also reminded the group of the transit map he put together some time ago that could also start to bring this vision together^v.

Curtis expanded upon this by saying that we start to push a 24/7/365/15 model to allow for higher frequency and talking about what this actually means: more drivers, more vehicles, more access, and so on. He can start working on what this can actually look like as far as a document is concerned and how partnerships, advocacy, and on issues (such as I-15 expansion) slot into this overarching goal^{vi}.

John is looking for UTRU to make a comprehensive plan that focuses on what a transit would look like in a comprehensive way, and he feels that this would be something that would be grant-worthy. He is envisioning a 500 to 1,000 hour project and vision for the Wasatch Front. Chris adds that the project really needs to focus on "what does it mean for me?" in order to create a product that people would actually be interested in and focus on things such as cost savings, gas savings, economic benefits, and social benefits. In addition, John feels that we should tap into graduate students in order to achieve this goal^{vii}.

The group landed on the name "Transit: Imagined"

Review of I-15 letter - Curtis

Curtis sent to the group a draft letter on behalf of UTRU regarding I-15 expansion and is seeking approval to send the letter to lawmakers who are along the I-15 corridor expansion in particular along with those who sit on legislative transportation committees. Modifications may be made to the letter so that it could be sent to all lawmakers.

As the full board did not review the letter, Curtis will start an email chain regarding the letter to allow for any edits prior to submission. If anyone is particularly opposed to their name being on the letter, they will not be added^{viii}. John would like to see bullets at the start of the letter with highlights and a greater emphasis on maintenance, induced demand, and reduction of choice.

February Quarterly Membership Meeting Planning – Chris

Chris suggested that we reach out to Representative Joel Briscoe to come in and talk about free fare legislation^{ix}.

Chris would also like to see if we can get someone from UTA to come in and talk about bus driver shortages and what it means for future change days^x.

UCAIR Grant Update – John

John provided an update regarding the UCAIR grant and the fact that the project to improve van pools to the University of Utah Hospital. He was awarded the grant and feels that UTRU's role is to educate riders about transit and both John and Curtis will be working together to come up with a what that actually looks like, though he is envisioning transit advocacy manuals as a possible response to this.

It is John's hope that this will increase our ability to interface with potential new members and to start to put together the pieces of the transit riders manual that could be used for future items as well.

The timeframe is January 1 to December 31, 2023. This may be pushed out since John is still waiting on specific information from UCAIR regarding the grant, but he hopes the check will be in the mail within the next few weeks. In addition, we will need to onboard UTRU into the University of Utah's system to allow for payments to UTRU as a vendor.

Curtis added that he feels that 80-85% of what we produce as part of this grant will be universal and that we will be able to use many of the materials after the grant has completed.

Open forum – All

John added a link into the chat regarding Houston's reimagining projects (<https://humantransit.org/2014/05/houston-a-transit-network-reimagined.html>) to help provide an example of what they were able to put together as an example. John added that he would like to see a budget put together to see what it would be like to actually create the Transit: Imagined

project become reality. With this information, he feels that we would have something that we really could push to potential donors and foundations in order to fund.

Curtis announces that the next meeting will be on January 8, 2023.

Adjourn

-
- ⁱ Curtis to send draft media survey to board members.
 - ⁱⁱ Curtis to find and respond to Smiths donation email.
 - ⁱⁱⁱ Curtis to review bylaws to see if we can amend during a quarterly meeting.
 - ^{iv} John to follow up with contacts about board membership and donations.
 - ^v Chris to share map with the group about transit routes.
 - ^{vi} Curtis to begin work on Transit: Imagined
 - ^{vii} Curtis to begin working on compiling list of possible grant sources for Transit: Imagined
 - ^{viii} Curtis to start email chain regarding approval of I-15 letter.
 - ^{ix} Curtis to contact Representative Briscoe about free fare legislation.
 - ^x Curtis to contact UTA to find someone to talk about driver shortages