



Office of the Governor

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State of Utah

GARY R. HERBERT
Governor

SPENCER J. COX
Lieutenant Governor

April 17, 2018

Ms. Aimee Winder Newton
Salt Lake County Council
2001 S State Street, N2-200
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114

Dear Ms. Winder Newton,

During the 2018 General Session, the Utah Legislature adopted S.B. 136, Transportation Governance Amendments, which included reform of the Utah Transit Authority (UTA) Board of Trustees (Board). The purpose of this letter is to advise the county of Governor Herbert's expectations related to nominees to the Board submitted by the county.

A well-functioning transportation system is critical to a strong economy and thriving communities. While the state highway system will continue to serve as the cornerstone of Utah's transportation system, roads are only one aspect of transportation. With Utah's population projected to nearly double by 2050, we must have a robust system across all modes to support economic development and access to housing, jobs, education, recreation and commerce.

To support multimodal investment as reflected in the governor's 2019 budget proposal, S.B. 136 provides flexibility for the state to invest in public transportation. This flexibility provides the state with tools to create appropriate transportation solutions regardless of mode, helping to ensure transportation projects receive the best return on investment. Reform of the UTA Board as contained in S.B. 136 is an important component of the state's investment in public transportation, and a reflection of governance considerations necessary to rebuild confidence in administration of the state's largest transit provider.

The process to become a Board member entails each nominating county submitting two names of qualified candidates to the governor for consideration. Upon review, the governor then forwards one of those names to the Utah State Senate for confirmation. Those nominations must be submitted to Cherilyn Bradford, Director of Boards and Commissions, Office of the Governor, no later than July 31, 2018.

As required in S.B. 136, Board members must possess appropriate executive level experience and technical background to qualify for appointment. When considering nominees submitted by the county, the expectation is that nominees will be highly qualified professionals that possess one or all of the following qualifications:

- Formal education, preferably advanced education, and extensive experience in executive level business management and administration.
- Comprehensive experience and education in business development.
- Experience or formal training in large-scale asset management.

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- Formal education and significant experience in finance, economics, accounting or law.
- High-performing individuals skilled in analytical and critical thinking.
- Nominees are helped by possessing a demonstrable and comprehensive understanding of transportation's role in supporting economic growth.

Our expectation is that your county's nominee will be a transformational force to restore trust in public transportation. Nominations for candidates not meeting the above-mentioned qualifications will not be considered and will be returned with a request to resubmit.

Utah's fast growing population and economy requires innovative and multimodal solutions that can meet our expanding needs and support continued economic vitality. Our transportation future must include a pivotal role for transit. However, that will require confidence in and public trust of the UTA Board of Trustees and their administration. This is a unique opportunity to rebuild UTA governance through appointment of individuals that can lead public transportation into the next era.

Sincerely,



Justin Harding
Chief of Staff
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