



Utah Department of Transportation
State Safety Oversight Program
Annual Report to Salt Lake County – FFY 2020

Pursuant to the interlocal agreement between Salt Lake County and the Utah Department of Transportation, we hereby present this Annual Report of rail transit State Safety Oversight program activities. This report outlines the financial information with regard to the Salt Lake County match funding, an update about audit and other report activities, and an accident report for the period of FFY 2020. Please do not hesitate to contact me at any time should you have questions or wish to discuss the program.

Respectfully:

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Financial Information from FFY 2020

For Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2020 the requested amount of match funding for the UDOT – State Safety Oversight (SSO) Program was \$80,000.00. Total expenditures for the SSO Program are shown below:

SSO Program - 4FA18
FFY 2020 - October 1, 2019 - September 30, 2020

Phase	Total Funds Expended	Federal Grant	SL County Match
10H - SSO Labor	\$101,515.43	\$81,301.97	\$20,213.46
11H - SSO Training	\$1,161.26	\$929.01	\$232.25
12H - SSO Consultant Support	\$173,592.20	\$138,873.77	\$34,718.43
Totals	\$276,268.89	\$221,104.75	\$55,164.14

While the total for the SL County Match funds for the 2020 report is under the \$80,000.00 that was requested last year, part of this is due to the pandemic that has affected the transit industry. As mentioned later in this report, there is an FTA expectation that the money spent toward the SSO program will keep up with the Federal Grant. If things return to normal, we would anticipate spending more in the coming year and so the \$80,000.00 request seems appropriate.

During the FTA Audit of the UDOT – SSO Program conducted in July/August of 2019, FTA recommended a spending plan to more fully utilize the federal grant money provided each year. UDOT’s Triennial Audit of UTA is planned to be conducted in early 2021 and will certainly result in increased costs for the coming year. UDOT will request the same \$80,000.00 to cover the match funding for FY 2021 and then we can revisit totals at the end of FFY 2021.

Triennial Audit of the UDOT-SSO Program by FTA – July/August 2019

From July 30th through August 1st, 2019, UDOT hosted FTA for a Triennial Audit of the UDOT-SSO Program. Utah was only the second state audited by the FTA under the new 49 CFR Part 674 rulemaking procedures, and we are still awaiting the final report. FTA has stated that this final report will be provided by the end of 2020 and will be available upon request from the county if desired. The current COVID-19 Pandemic has also affected the timing of this report. UDOT has reviewed the draft report, and we do not anticipate any significant findings.

Hours of Service (HOS) Audit of UTA – October 2020

Due to issues dealing with the pandemic, the UDOT-SSO completed the annual Hours of Service (HOS) Audit virtually in October of 2020. This is a requirement of the waiver that UTA has with the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) for the shared track section of UTA rail. Once again this audit went very well with only one finding related to tracking operator and supervisor training. UTA continues to perform exceptionally well with respect to this topic.

Accident/Incident Report for FFY 2020

For consistency with this annual report, budget numbers are provided for the federal fiscal year. For simplicity, UTA accident numbers will also be reported for FFY 2020. If different dates or specific event information is desired, that can be requested from the SSO Program Manager at any time.

During the period of FFY 2020, there were a total of 46 events. The SSO investigated 23 events as accidents. Individual reports for any of these accidents are available upon request. In the same time period, during 2019, there were 66 events with 44 of those investigated as accidents. The effects of the pandemic clearly are shown here.

There were two fatalities on the TRAX system this past year, and both of those were determined to be intended deaths. There were 12 serious injuries due to accidents, but eight of those were in just one accident when a large SUV with an intoxicated driver hit the train. Another of the serious injuries was an attempted suicide where the quick reaction from the TRAX operator prevented this from being a fatality.

Program Highlights from FY 2020

The year 2020 will be remembered for the COVID-19 Pandemic and the overall effect it has had on our society. The transit industry has experienced significant losses in ridership and for a good portion of the year was operating at less than capacity. This is shown in the lower numbers of accidents and also has resulted in less money spent toward the SSO program.

The UDOT-SSO Program Manager continues to monitor progress for the UTA TRAX light rail extension at Salt Lake City International Airport. With the opening of the new terminal, the construction of the new airport station for TRAX is underway. A bus bridge currently serves TRAX passengers going to the airport, but it is anticipated that construction on the new station will be finished in the summer of 2021.

For further information, please feel free to contact the UDOT SSO Program Manager, whose contact information is contained on the cover page of this report.