

February 2, 2024

Surface Transportation Board
Attn: Docket No. EP 774 (Sub-No. 1)
395 E Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20423-0001

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
February 1, 2024
Part of
Public Record

RE: Nomination of Jay Fox to the Passenger Rail Advisory Committee
Docket No. EP 774 (Sub-No. 1)

Dear Members of the Surface Transportation Board:

I write to nominate Mr. Jay Fox to the Surface Transportation Board's (STB) newly formed Passenger Rail Advisory Committee (PRAC), specifically for one of the two vacant committee positions reserved for commuter rail operator (CRO) representatives. Mr. Fox's current role as the Executive Director of the Utah Transit Authority (UTA), his previous experience with Amtrak, the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority (SEPTA), and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), and his general industry knowledge qualify him for a CRO position on PRAC where I am certain he will serve ably and make important and immediate contributions.

As UTA's Executive Director, Jay oversees all transit operations including UTA's commuter rail FrontRunner service, which traverses eighty miles along Utah's Wasatch Front, providing public transportation for 3.7M regional customers in 2023. FrontRunner shares its corridor with the Union Pacific Railroad (UP), who hosts Amtrak's long-distance, California Zephyr service along the Provo, UT to Salt Lake City, UT segment of that shared corridor. The Utah Railway, a class III railroad, also operates over that same corridor.

Given this intersection between commuter rail, freight rail operations, and hosted Amtrak operations, Mr. Fox oversees relationships with all rail entities utilizing the corridor, ensuring well-maintained shared facilities, commuter rail on-time performance, and passenger service at UTA's Salt Lake Central and Provo stations. Those stations provide connectivity to UTA's light-rail and bus operations, as well as Amtrak intercity passenger service at both locations.

Jay's previous experiences provides him with a unique working understanding of these relationships. At SEPTA, Mr. Fox served as Deputy General Counsel for Corporate Matters, and was responsible for the complex legal interactions between SEPTA's commuter rail service, Amtrak's intercity passenger service, and freight service on the Northeast Corridor (NEC). Similarly, Jay served as the Federal Transit Administration's Regional Counsel for Region 3 (as part of his 15 years of service at the United States Department of Transportation), providing legal oversight for federal investments in commuter rail NEC operators - SEPTA, the Maryland Transit Administration's MARC service, and the Virginia Railway Express.

And, as Amtrak's Senior Director of Host Railroads, Mr. Fox managed thirty (30) host railroad operating and performance agreements with commuter, terminal, and freight railroads, including agreements with all Class I freight operators. While in this position, Jay regularly engaged with both the STB and the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA). And during his tenure, he led Amtrak's New Orleans, LA to Mobile, AL passenger rail service restoration team, coordinating with the FRA, the Southern Rail Commission, the Gulf Coast Working Group, and the Association of American Railroads.

In response to the specific nomination requirements set forth in the document, please take note of the following for Mr. Fox:

- 1) Jay Fox, Executive Director
Utah Transit Authority
669 West 200 South
Salt Lake City, UT 84101
801-236-4708
jfox@rideuta.com
- 2) He will service as a representative for commuter rail operators.
- 3) His experience and qualifications are stated above and represent 23 years of public transportation service.
- 4) Mr. Fox has represented to me that he is willing to service as a member of PRAC.
- 5) Mr. Fox has stated to me that he agrees to serve in a representative capacity.

I have also attached letters of support from Utah Governor Spencer Cox, United States Senator Mitt Romney, and United States Representative Burgess Owens.

Thank you for your consideration of Jay Fox's service on STB's Passenger Rail Advisory Committee. His knowledge and experience enable him to provide important advice and recommendations to the Board on issues relating to passenger rail service.

Sincerely,



Beth Holbrook
Trustee - Utah Transit Authority

w/Attachments



State of Utah

SPENCER J. COX
Governor

DEIDRE M. HENDERSON
Lieutenant Governor

Office of the Governor

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As UTA's executive director, Jay oversees all transit operations including UTA's commuter rail FrontRunner service. FrontRunner shares its corridor with the Union Pacific Railroad (UP), which hosts Amtrak's long-distance, California Zephyr service along the Provo, Utah, to Salt Lake City, Utah, segment of that shared corridor. The Utah Railway, a class III railroad, also operates over that same corridor. His experience with this level of coordination is a strong fit for the PRAC.

Utah understands the importance of robust passenger and freight rail service to the state's economy. I believe Jay is uniquely positioned to serve the interests of commuter railroads across the nation because he understands how other railroads operate and can help translate that knowledge into recommendations to the STB.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Spencer J. Cox
Governor

United States Senate

January 30, 2024

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Jay's previous experiences provides him with a unique working understanding of these relationships. At SEPTA, Mr. Fox served as Deputy General Counsel for Corporate Matters, and was responsible for the complex legal interactions between SEPTA's commuter rail service, Amtrak's intercity passenger service, and freight service on the Northeast Corridor (NEC). Similarly, Jay served as the Federal Transit Administration's Regional Counsel for Region 3 (as part of his 15 years of service at the United States Department of Transportation), providing legal oversight for federal investments in commuter rail NEC operators - SEPTA, the Maryland Transit Administration's MARC service, and the Virginia Railway Express.

And, as Amtrak's Senior Director of Host Railroads, Mr. Fox managed thirty (30) host railroad operating and performance agreements with commuter, terminal, and freight railroads, including agreements with all Class I freight operators. While in this position, Jay regularly engaged with both the STB and the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA). And during his tenure, he led Amtrak's New Orleans, LA to Mobile, AL passenger rail service restoration team, coordinating with the FRA, the Southern Rail Commission, the Gulf Coast Working Group, and the Association of American Railroads.

Thank you for your consideration of Jay Fox's nomination to PRAC. I urge your full and fair consideration of his nomination. If you have any questions, please contact my state director, Mande Grant, at Mande_Grant@romney.senate.gov.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mitt Romney". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mitt" and last name "Romney" clearly distinguishable.

Mitt Romney
United States Senator

BURGESS OWENS
4TH DISTRICT OF UTAH



EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE
COMMITTEE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
HIGHER EDUCATION AND
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
CHAIRMAN

COMMITTEE ON
TRANSPORTATION
AND INFRASTRUCTURE

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

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Transit Administration's MARC service, and the Virginia Railway Express. And, as Amtrak's Senior Director of Host Railroads, Mr. Fox managed thirty (30) host railroad operating and performance agreements with commuter, terminal, and freight railroads, including agreements with all Class I freight operators. While in this position, Jay regularly engaged with both the STB and the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA). And during his tenure, he led Amtrak's New Orleans, LA to Mobile, AL passenger rail service restoration team, coordinating with the FRA, the Southern Rail Commission, the Gulf Coast Working Group, and the Association of American Railroads.

Thank you for your consideration of Mr. Jay Fox's nomination to PRAC. I urge your full and fair consideration of his nomination. If you have any questions, please contact Devon Murphy on my staff at Devon.Murphy@mail.house.gov.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "B. Owens", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Burgess Owens
Member of Congress (UT-4)