



State of Utah

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Lieutenant Governor

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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Executive Director

LISA J. WILSON, P.E.
Deputy Director of Engineering and Operations

BENJAMIN G. HUOT, P.E.
Deputy Director of Planning and Investment

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February 5, 2024
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Public Record

February 2, 2024

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

Dear Members of the Surface Transportation Board:

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

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 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 serve 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 serve as a member of PRAC.
- 5) Mr. Fox has stated to me that he agrees to serve in a representative capacity.

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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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Carlos M. Braceras', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Carlos M. Braceras, P.E.
Executive Director