

Bill: SB 174 – Transit and Transportation Governance Amendments

Sponsor: Senator Wayne A. Harper

Floor Sponsor: Undeclared

UASD Position: Support

This Bill amends provisions related to the governance of public transit districts.

Discussion: Senator Harper stated that in 2017 and 2019, the Legislature ran Bills reorganizing the Utah Transit Authority (“UTA”), creating full-time Trustees, and transforming the Local Council into the Local Advisory Council. Since then, the Legislature has been observing how UTA operates. Senator Harper believes the changes made to UTA’s governance structure have been beneficial. Toward the end of last year, a study was conducted to reassess UTA’s structure. The study found that 67% of responsibilities were assigned to the Trustees, 10% to the Executive Council, and 9% to the Executive Director. The sponsor explained that this Bill clarifies roles and strengthens the Local Advisory Council’s position within the organization. Senator Riebe asked whether the Bill eliminates an executive director, specifically referencing line 174. The sponsor assured that the Bill does not eliminate that position. Senator Kwan inquired about lines 340 and 341, questioning the deletion of a section on safety and security. The sponsor clarified that the section was not removed but relocated to another portion of the Bill. The Chair of the UTA Board of Trustees, the UTA Executive Director, and the Government Affairs Manager of the Wasatch Front Regional Council spoke in favor of the Bill.

Yeas: 5

Nays: 0

N/V: 3

Outcome: SB 174 passed out of the Committee with a favorable recommendation.