

HISTORY

In 1968, Salt Lake City Lines, the struggling private company that had been providing transportation to the public, announced it would discontinue service. As a result, Salt Lake City Corporation entered into a two-year agreement with Union Street Railway to provide public transportation to residents.

In 1969, Salt Lake City Corporation, Union Street Railway and Salt Lake County successfully lobbied the Utah State Legislature to pass a bill allowing individual localities to address transportation needs in their communities by forming local transit districts.



UTA's Beginnings

The Utah Transit Authority (UTA) was founded on March 3, 1970 after residents from Salt Lake City and the surrounding communities of Murray, Midvale, Sandy and Bingham voted to form a public transit district. For the next 30 years, UTA provided Wasatch Front residents with public transportation in the form of bus service. During this time, UTA also expanded its operations to include express bus routes, paratransit service, and carpool and vanpool programs.

Light Rail and Streetcar

Initial planning for a light rail system began in the 1980s, and UTA's first light rail line, TRAX, opened in December 1999. A second TRAX line, between downtown Salt Lake City and the University of Utah opened in 2001, and UTA extended that line from the university's stadium to its medical center in 2003. In 2011, UTA added the Mid-Jordan and West Valley TRAX lines, and in 2013 UTA opened TRAX extensions to Draper and to Salt Lake City International Airport. Also in 2013, the agency opened the S-Line, Utah's first modern streetcar line between South Salt Lake and Salt Lake City's Sugar House district.

Commuter Rail

In 2005, UTA began construction on its first commuter rail system, FrontRunner. FrontRunner opened in April 2008 and originally offered high-speed rail service along a 44-mile stretch between Weber County and downtown Salt Lake City. In 2012, UTA expanded the FrontRunner system to serve Utah County for a total of 89 miles of commuter rail.

UTA Today

Today, with more than 1,400 square miles, UTA has one of the largest coverage areas of any public transportation agency in the country. UTA provides public transportation to 80 percent of Utah residents and serves 75 cities in six counties. Each day, UTA's team of more than 2,000 bus and rail operators, maintenance personnel and administrative employees keep the agency on the road to Utah's public transportation future.

