

News Advisory

April 11, 2008

City Council to Take Comment on Airport Light Rail Line

The Salt Lake City Council will hold a public hearing Tuesday, April 15, on a proposed interlocal agreement between the City and the Utah Transit Authority to build a light rail line between the downtown and Salt Lake City International Airport.

The hearing will start at 7 p.m. in the City Council Chamber (Room 315) of the City & County Building, 451 South State Street. The hearing is a continuation of a hearing held December 11, 2007. The Council that night continued the hearing until a later date. The City Council tentatively is scheduled to make a final decision on the agreement in May.

The final version of the proposed agreement would outline responsibilities between the City and UTA in the construction of a light rail line to the airport. A copy of a draft of the agreement can be obtained via the Internet at www.slccgov.com/council/agendas/#April. Paper copies also are available at the City Council office, Room 304.

The draft agreement says the City and UTA “have agreed to the Basic Alignment for the Airport Extension described in Exhibit A attached hereto.” The exhibit has yet to be fleshed out, but a brief description of the exhibit plus a scope of services attached to the document indicate that the “Basic Alignment” involves:

- A line extending from the Arena Station on South Temple northward on 400 West Street to North Temple Street
- A new light rail viaduct north of the North Temple Street overpass to 600 West
- Between 600 West and 2400 West on North Temple Street the track will run in the center of the street with two auto lanes in each direction on each side and six-foot-wide bicycle lanes on each side.
- Stations would be located at: 450 West North Temple (on a new viaduct as a transfer station); the west side of the intersection of North Temple and 800 West; next to the State Fair Park and the Jordan River; the west side of the Garside Street intersection; the east side of the Winifred Street intersection; and the west side of the 2200 West intersection.
- At the intersection of North Temple and 2400 West the light rail line would “then proceed to the Airport in a location to be determined by final

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planning and environmental consideration but will generally be along the UDOT (Utah Department of Transportation) I-80 right of way to the boundary of the airport at the Surplus Canal.”

- Within the airport the light rail line would “cross the southern boundary of the Airport property on the east side of Bangerter Highway then proceed north and northeast along the east side of Terminal Drive to a location adjacent Terminal One.
- The final location would be determined “as part of the Airport reconstruction environmental documentation process.”

However, the draft document would allow the City to change the alignment of the east end of the line from 400 West Street to 600 West Street – if the City requests the change. Under the proposed document, UTA would consider the 600 West alignment as part of the “baseline project.” As that, the alternate would not be considered a “betterment” paid solely by the City. The cost of any other changes east of 2400 West Street would require the City to bear the costs.

Before the meeting the City Council and other public officials will tour the proposed route by bus. The tour will start at the traffic circle east of the City & County Building at 2 p.m. When the light rail tour ends the City Council will tour Fire Station No. 14 at 1560 South Industrial Road (1900 West) and the Public Safety Building at 315 East 200 South.

For more information, please contact Russell Weeks at 535-6206 or Jennifer Bruno at 535-6295.