

Key Transit District Restructuring Questions

From the Minutes of the Transportation Planning Task Force, October 1, 2003

Sen. Valentine asked Mr. Njord (UDOT Executive Director) how he would organize the restructure of UDOT to maintain a seamless transportation department, if he now had responsibility for mass transit.

Mr. Njord responded that he would ask the following questions if UDOT were to include transit responsibility:

- What is the purpose?
- What is the problem we are trying to fix?
- What is the issue we are trying to address?

Mr. Njord said once that issue has been identified, the following questions should be asked:

- Who is the decision making body in the new organization?
- Would it be the Transportation Commission and would they have that responsibility in the future?
- What would be the responsibility of the current UTA board and the other boards that are involved with transit authorities across the state?
- If this is a good organization for the UTA, what about the other transit authorities?

Mr. Njord said once the policy making body has been determined, the following questions should be addressed:

- What is their jurisdiction?
- Would the jurisdiction of this new body be over the design, construction, maintenance, and operation of transit authorities across the state, or just one?
- Would the new body have the ability to prioritize projects and to look at transit projects and highway projects simultaneously and would they have the ability to shift funding from one to another?
- Would the Legislature want the Transportation Commission, if that is the body selected to have that decision making authority, to have the ability to take state gas tax funds and shift them towards transit projects?
- What types of projects should they be involved with? Should they be involved with the construction of rail corridors? Should they be involved with the acquisition of buses?
- Would the Transportation Commission, or other entity selected to be the decision making authority, have the ability to have jurisdiction over taxes that are collected on a local level?
- Can a statewide body have jurisdiction over a local tax as opposed to a statewide tax and can a statewide tax be applied for a local transportation project?