02-20 10:36 S.B. 310

1

## **Transportation Utility Fee Amendments**

## 2025 GENERAL SESSION STATE OF UTAH

## **Chief Sponsor: Brady Brammer**

House Sponsor: 2 3 **LONG TITLE** 4 **General Description:** 5 This bill deals with a city's ability to impose a transportation utility fee. 6 **Highlighted Provisions:** 7 This bill: 8 defines terms: 9 provides that a city may impose and collect a transportation utility fee under certain 10 circumstances; 11 • describes the notice and public hearing requirements to establish a transportation utility 12 fee; 13 requires a city to establish different rates within a transportation utility fee for different 14 classifications of users, if the rates and classifications have a reasonable basis; 15 requires a city to exempt a religious organization with nonprofit status from a 16 transportation utility fee; and 17 • provides that if a city has a transportation utility fee that is not in compliance with 18 statutory requirements, the city shall modify or repeal the transportation utility fee by 19 July 1, 2027. 20 **Money Appropriated in this Bill:** 21 None 22 **Other Special Clauses:** 23 None 24 **Utah Code Sections Affected:** 25 **ENACTS:** 26 **10-6-134.5**, Utah Code Annotated 1953 27

- 28 Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:
- 29 Section 1. Section **10-6-134.5** is enacted to read:
- 30 10-6-134.5. Transportation utility fee.

S.B. 310 02-20 10:36

31	(1) As used in this section:
32	(a) "Transportation fund" means a fund described in and established under Subsection (6).
33	(b) "Transportation system" means:
34	(i) traffic and pedestrian safety infrastructure, including:
35	(A) a sidewalk;
36	(B) curb and gutter;
37	(C) a safety feature;
38	(D) a traffic sign;
39	(E) a traffic signal; or
40	(F) street lighting; and
41	(ii) streets, alleys, roads, highways, and thoroughfares of any kind, including
42	connected structures.
43	(c) "Transportation utility fee" means a fee imposed on the public at large or on a user
44	segment to generate revenue to pay for costs associated with developing,
45	constructing, maintaining, operating, repairing, upgrading, or replacing a
46	transportation system or any component of a transportation system.
47	(d) "User segment" means a segment of the city's population based on a classification
48	established under Subsection (5).
49	(2)(a) A city may impose and collect a transportation utility fee as described in this
50	section.
51	(b) A city may impose a transportation utility fee to provide funding for any number of
52	transportation systems or components of transportation systems but may not have
53	more than a single transportation utility fee in effect at a time.
54	(3)(a) Subject to Subsection (3)(b), before adopting an ordinance imposing or increasing
55	a transportation utility fee, the governing body shall comply with the notice and
56	public hearing requirements established in Sections 10-6-113 and 10-6-114.
57	(b)(i) The governing body of a city that proposes to impose or increase a
58	transportation utility fee shall, in addition to the notice required under Section
59	10-6-113, provide notice of the proposed fee and the public hearing:
60	(A) in a notice with the city's monthly utility bill, if the city mails or emails
61	residents a monthly utility bill; or
62	(B) through another primary means of communicating with residents, if the city
63	does not provide residents a monthly utility bill.
64	(ii) The public hearing required for a proposal to impose or increase a transportation

02-20 10:36 S.B. 310

65	utility fee may be held in conjunction with a budget hearing under Section
66	10-6-114 but shall be separate and distinct from the budget hearing.
67	(4)(a) A transportation utility fee may be imposed or increased only by an ordinance
68	adopted by the city's governing body.
69	(b)(i) Subject to Subsection (4)(b)(ii), the governing body may adopt an ordinance
70	imposing or increasing a transportation utility fee at the same meeting in which
71	the public body adopts the city budget.
72	(ii) The governing body vote on the imposition or increase of a transportation utility
73	fee shall be separate from the governing body vote on the city budget or any other
74	item.
75	(c) The amount of a transportation utility fee for the city's population or for any user
76	segment shall be reasonably related to the services provided to, benefits received by,
77	or need created by those within the city's population or user segment who pay the
78	transportation utility fee, as determined in accordance with this section.
79	(d)(i) Revenue from a transportation utility fee may not supplant existing general
80	fund appropriations that the city has budgeted for transportation systems or
81	components of transportation systems as of the date the transportation utility fee
82	becomes effective.
83	(ii) The limitation under Subsection (4)(d)(i) does not apply to a designated
84	transportation facilities capital or reserve account established before the effective
85	date of a transportation utility fee under this section.
86	(5)(a) A city shall establish different rates within a transportation utility fee for different
87	classifications of users of a transportation facility if the rates and classifications have
88	a reasonable basis.
89	(b)(i) A reasonable basis under Subsection (5)(a) may include:
90	(A) different levels of benefit received by users of a transportation utility fee;
91	(B) different impacts on or usage of transportation facilities by those who pay the
92	transportation utility fee;
93	(C) a difference in the cost of providing a transportation facility to different
94	classifications of users;
95	(D) a difference in levels of risk to the operation of a transportation facility for
96	different classifications of users;
97	(E) differing contributions that different classifications of users make, separate
98	from a transportation utility fee, to the cost of constructing, maintaining, or

S.B. 310 02-20 10:36

99	operating a transportation facility; and
100	(F) distinguishable differences in the needs or conditions of different
101	classifications of users based on economic, public policy, or other identifiable
102	elements.
103	(ii) A reasonable basis under Subsection (5)(a) does not include:
104	(A) whether a user resides inside or outside the city boundary; or
105	(B) a consideration of the age of development within areas with the same zoning
106	designation.
107	(c) A city shall exempt a person from payment of a transportation utility fee established
108	under this section if the person is a religious organization with nonprofit status.
109	(6)(a) A city that imposes a transportation utility fee shall establish a fund as provided in
110	this Subsection (6).
111	(b) A city shall deposit into the transportation fund all revenue from a transportation
112	utility fee.
113	(c) A city may not:
114	(i) deposit into or commingle with a transportation fund any money from any other
115	source; or
116	(ii) use money in a transportation fund for any purpose other than to pay for the cost
117	of:
118	(A) the development or construction of a new transportation system or component
119	of a new transportation system;
120	(B) upgrading or replacing an existing transportation system or component of an
121	existing transportation system;
122	(C) the maintenance, operation, or repair of an existing transportation system or
123	component of an existing transportation system; or
124	(D) reasonable administrative costs associated with the transportation fund or with
125	activities described in Subsections (6)(c)(ii)(A), (B), and (C).
126	(d) Notwithstanding Sections 10-6-124, 10-6-125, and 10-6-135.5, a city may not
127	transfer money into a transportation fund to any other fund or to a separate account.
128	(7)(a) A city that imposes a transportation utility fee shall conduct an annual review of
129	the transportation utility fee as provided in this Subsection (7) and prepare a written
130	report of the annual review.
131	(b) In an annual review under Subsection (7)(a), the governing body shall:
132	(i) review the balance of the transportation fund;

02-20 10:36 S.B. 310

133	(ii) review the current amount of the transportation utility fee;
134	(iii) demonstrate that there is still a reasonable relationship between the amount of the
135	transportation utility fee and the transportation services provided to, benefits
136	received by, or need created by those who pay the fee;
137	(iv) consider other possible revenue sources that the city could use for transportation
138	facilities instead of a transportation utility fee;
139	(v) ensure that Subsection (6)(d) is being complied with; and
140	(vi) demonstrate that revenue from the transportation utility fee continues to be
141	needed to provide a transportation system that the city could not otherwise provide
142	from other existing revenue sources.
143	(c)(i) A city shall submit a copy of the written report under Subsection (7)(a) to the
144	state auditor.
145	(ii) A city may fulfill the requirement of Subsection (7)(a)(i) by submitting the
146	written report as part of the city's annual financial reports submitted to the state
147	auditor under Section 10-6-150.
148	(8)(a) A transportation utility fee imposed under this section expires 10 years after the
149	effective date of the ordinance imposing the transportation utility fee.
150	(b) The 10-year period in Subsection (8)(a) begins again with any subsequent adoption
151	of any ordinance imposing a transportation utility fee after the initial adoption of an
152	ordinance imposing a transportation utility fee.
153	(9) A city that, before May 7, 2025, imposes a fee to pay for a transportation system shall,
154	no later than July 1, 2027:
155	(a) ensure that requirements of this section have been complied with for the fee that the
156	city imposes; or
157	(b) repeal the fee.
158	Section 2. Effective Date.
159	This bill takes effect on May 7, 2025.