

Heard in the Transportation Interim  
Committee on 11/19/2025

1 **Transportation Commission Amendments**

2026 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor:**

Sponsor:

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2 **LONG TITLE**

3 **General Description:**

4 This bill adds study items for the Department of Transportation.

5 **Highlighted Provisions:**

6 This bill:

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- 8 ▶ requires the Department of Transportation to study the composition of the transportation
- 9 commission;
- 10 ▶ requires the Department of Transportation to study the necessary qualifications of the
- 11 executive director;
- 12 ▶ adds a repeal date for the studies; and
- 13 ▶ makes technical changes.

14 **Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

15 None

16 **Other Special Clauses:**

17 None

18 **Utah Code Sections Affected:**

19 **AMENDS:**

20 **63I-1-272 (Effective 05/06/26)**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapter 391

21 **72-1-217 (Effective 05/06/26) (Partially Repealed 07/01/29)**, as last amended by Laws of

22 Utah 2025, Chapter 452

23 **72-1-301 (Effective 05/06/26)**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2023, Chapter 219

24 **72-1-303 (Effective 05/06/26)**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapter 512

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25 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

26 Section 1. Section **63I-1-272** is amended to read:

27 **63I-1-272 (Effective 05/06/26). Repeal dates: Title 72.**

28 (1) Subsection 72-1-217(4), regarding highway reduction strategies within Salt Lake City,

29 is repealed July 1, 2029.

31       (2) Subsections 72-1-217(5), (6), and (7) regarding study items, are repealed January 1,  
32       2027.

33       [(2)] (3) Section 72-2-134, Transportation Infrastructure General Fund Support Subfund, is  
34       repealed July 1, 2028.

35       [(3)] (4) Title 72, Chapter 4, Part 3, Utah State Scenic Byway Program, is repealed January  
36       2, 2030.

37       [(4)] (5) Title 72, Chapter 10, Part 13, Spaceport Exploration Committee, is repealed July 1,  
38       2027.

39       Section 2. Section **72-1-217** is amended to read:

40       **72-1-217 (Effective 05/06/26) (Partially Repealed 07/01/29). Department of**

41       **Transportation study items.**

42       (1) The department shall carry out transportation studies described in this section as  
43       resources allow.

44       (2)(a) The department shall study items related to advanced air mobility as described in  
45       this Subsection (2).

46       (b) The department shall study vertiport locations and infrastructure, including:

47           (i) identification of suitable locations for vertiport infrastructure and parking  
48           infrastructure for vertiports in metropolitan areas;

49           (ii) identification of commuter rail stations that may be suitable for vertiport  
50           placement; and

51           (iii) identification of underutilized parking lots and parking structures for vertiport  
52           infrastructure placement.

53       (c) The department shall study best practices and implementation of advanced air  
54       mobility technologies, including:

55           (i) seeking input through community engagement;

56           (ii) state and local regulations;

57           (iii) unmanned aircraft system traffic management; and

58           (iv) weather reporting and monitoring for advanced air mobility safety.

59       (d) The department shall study unmanned aircraft traffic management infrastructure,  
60       including:

61           (i) unmanned aircraft system traffic management development, implementation,  
62           procedures, policies, and infrastructure; and

63           (ii) obtaining a full understanding of unmanned aircraft system traffic management,  
64           including:

65 (A) designation of airspace for advanced air mobility;  
66 (B) creation of geographic categorical areas;  
67 (C) identifying the appropriate number and location of advanced air mobility  
68 sensors; and  
69 (D) other state specific details regarding unmanned aircraft system traffic  
70 management.

71 (e) The department shall study the creation of an advanced air mobility sandbox,  
72 including:  
73 (i) potential locations for the sandbox testing area and desirable attributes of a  
74 suitable sandbox location;  
75 (ii) requirements to create a geographical advanced air mobility testing area and the  
76 parameters for the types of technology that may be utilized in the testing area; and  
77 (iii) testing and studying different types of advanced air mobility transportation of  
78 manned and unmanned aerial vehicles, including:  
79 (A) aerial vehicle size;  
80 (B) aerial vehicles that carry cargo, including medical cargo;  
81 (C) commercial aerial vehicles; and  
82 (D) public transportation aerial vehicles.

83 (f) On or before September 30, 2023, the department shall provide a report to the  
84 Transportation Interim Committee of the department's findings from the study items  
85 described in Subsections (2)(b) through (2)(e).

86 (g) The department may only use existing funds to cover the expenses incurred from the  
87 study of items described in Subsections (2)(b) through (2)(e).

88 (3)(a) The department and a large public transit district shall jointly study programs  
89 offered by government entities related to human services transportation, including:  
90 (i) coordinated mobility services;  
91 (ii) paratransit services;  
92 (iii) nonemergency medical transportation;  
93 (iv) youth transportation programs, excluding school bus transportation; and  
94 (v) other similar fare-based or fee-based programs provided or coordinated within the  
95 boundary of the large public transit district, including those involving the  
96 department, a large public transit district, local governments, or other government  
97 agencies and nonprofit entities that provide similar services.

98 (b) The study shall evaluate strategies to consolidate the transportation services

99 described in Subsection (3)(a) to improve efficiency and service.

100 (c) The department and large public transit district shall:

101 (i) provide a preliminary report on the study to the Transportation Interim Committee  
102 on or before November 1, 2025; and

103 (ii) prepare and present recommendations to the Transportation Interim Committee  
104 on or before November 1, 2026, for the consolidation of the services described in  
105 Subsection (3)(a).

106 (4)(a) As used in this Subsection (4):

107 (i) "City" means Salt Lake City.

108 (ii) "Highway reduction strategy" means any strategy that has the potential to  
109 permanently decrease the number of vehicles that can travel on an arterial or a  
110 collector highway per hour, including:

111 (A) reducing the number of motorized vehicle travel lanes on an arterial or  
112 collector highway;

113 (B) narrowing existing motorized vehicle travel lanes on an arterial or collector  
114 highway; or

115 (C) any other strategy that when implemented may increase congestion or impede  
116 traffic flow for motor vehicles driving on an arterial or collector highway.

117 (iii) "Mobility and environmental impact analysis" means a study that assesses the  
118 impacts within the study area of implementing a highway reduction strategy on  
119 arterial or collector highways, including the impacts to other state and local  
120 highways, mobility, traffic flow, pedestrian and nonmotorized vehicle flow, the  
121 economy, public health, quality of life, air quality, maintenance, and operations.

122 (iv) "Study area" means the area within Salt Lake City that is west of Foothill Drive,  
123 north of 2100 South, east of I-15, and south of 600 North.

124 (b)(i) Except as described in Subsection (4)(c), a city may not implement or begin a

125 project as part of a highway reduction strategy on an arterial or a collector  
126 highway within the study area unless the project is part of a mobility plan  
127 approved by the department as described in this Subsection (4)(b).

128 (ii) For a mobility plan described under Subsection (4)(b)(i), the city shall:

129 (A) assess the alternate routes for traffic and impacts on surrounding highways  
130 due to any lane reduction;

131 (B) evaluate impacts to vehicle trip time;

132 (C) evaluate impacts to air quality;

133 (D) evaluate the cumulative multimodal and safety impact of the proposed  
134 highway reduction strategies, including the cumulative impact from previous  
135 highway reduction strategies implemented over the previous five years;  
136 (E) provide options to mitigate negative impacts to vehicle traffic, vehicle trip  
137 time, air quality, or adjacent travel routes;  
138 (F) in collaboration with the department, assess impacts to state highways;  
139 (G) proactively seek out and consult with relevant stakeholders, including  
140 business owners, commuters, and residents impacted by the mobility plan and  
141 each proposed project within the mobility plan;  
142 (H) present the plan in an open and public meeting, including public comment;  
143 (I) provide an open house or other event to allow public interaction and feedback  
144 regarding the impacts of the mobility plan;  
145 (J) present the plan to the membership of the city's chamber of commerce and  
146 other business groups; and  
147 (K) provide the plan to the department for the department's review.

148 (iii)(A) After the department receives a complete mobility plan as described in  
149 Subsection (4)(b)(ii), the department shall determine if the mobility plan and  
150 each project included in the mobility plan meet the requirements of this section  
151 and shall approve or reject the plan within two months of receiving the  
152 mobility plan.

153 (B) As part of the mobility plan, the city shall demonstrate to the department the  
154 manners in which the city involved and received input from the business  
155 community, the public, and other stakeholders as required in Subsection  
156 (4)(b)(ii).

157 (c)(i) The city may begin or continue construction on an arterial or collector highway  
158 project related to any reduction strategy within the study area if the project has  
159 been advertised on or before February 25, 2025.

160 (ii)(A) For a project related to any highway reduction strategy that was  
161 programmed by the department on or before July 1, 2024, but has not been  
162 advertised on or before February 25, 2025, the department may conduct an  
163 expedited review of the project.

164 (B) If the department approves a project after an expedited review as described in  
165 Subsection (4)(c)(ii)(A), the city may begin or continue construction on the  
166 project.

167 (d) The department shall, in partnership with the city, conduct a mobility and  
168 environmental impact analysis to determine the impacts of highway reduction  
169 strategies within the study area that the city has implemented on or after July 1, 2015,  
170 or has plans to implement on or before July 1, 2035.

171 (e) As part of the mobility and environmental impact analysis, the department shall:  
172 (i) assess the cumulative impact of each highway reduction strategy within the study  
173 area that the city has implemented or has plans to implement between July 1,  
174 2015, and July 1, 2035; and  
175 (ii) consult with relevant stakeholders, including business owners, commuters, and  
176 residents impacted by the highway reduction strategy.

177 (f) A city subject to a mobility and environmental impact analysis under this Subsection  
178 (4) shall provide to the department any information the department determines  
179 necessary for conducting the mobility and environmental impact analysis, including  
180 any plans that city has adopted or discussed with regards to a highway reduction  
181 strategy.

182 (g)(i) The department shall provide the mobility and environmental impact analysis  
183 to the Transportation Interim Committee on or before October 15, 2025.  
184 (ii) The city shall provide a response to the mobility and environmental impact  
185 analysis to the Transportation Interim Committee on or before November 1, 2025.

186 (h)(i) As provided in Section 63I-1-272, this Subsection (4) is subject to a sunset  
187 review by the Transportation Interim Committee during the 2028 interim.  
188 (ii) The Transportation Interim Committee may also evaluate the mobility plan  
189 process described in this Subsection (4) during the 2027 interim.

190 (5)(a) In conjunction with applicable stakeholders, the department shall study items  
191 related to the efficiency of the commission and the commission's ability to meet the  
192 future needs of the state as described in this Subsection (5).

193 (b) In conjunction with applicable stakeholders, the department shall study the  
194 composition of members of the commission, including:  
195 (i) the distribution of members;  
196 (ii) the number of members; and  
197 (iii) the efficiency of the commission in light of the factors described in Subsections  
198 (5)(b)(i) and (ii).

199 (c) The department shall report the findings of the studies described in Subsections (5)(a)  
200 and (b) to the Transportation Interim Committee on or before November 1, 2026.

201 (6)(a) In conjunction with applicable stakeholders, the department shall study the  
202 geographic regions created by the department, including:  
203 (i) the geographic composition of each region;  
204 (ii) the number of regions;  
205 (iii) the efficiency of the regions; and  
206 (iv) the use of resources of each region.

207 (b) The department shall report the findings of the study described in Subsection (6)(a)  
208 to the Transportation Interim Committee on or before November 1, 2026.

209 (7)(a) In conjunction with applicable stakeholders, the department shall study the office  
210 of executive director of the department and the required qualifications of the  
211 executive director position.

212 (b) The department shall report the findings of the study described in Subsection (7)(a)  
213 to the Transportation Interim Committee on or before November 1, 2026.

214 Section 3. Section **72-1-301** is amended to read:

215 **72-1-301 (Effective 05/06/26). Transportation Commission created -- Members,**  
216 **appointment, terms -- Qualifications -- Pay and expenses -- Chair -- Quorum.**

217 (1)(a) There is created the Transportation Commission which shall consist of seven  
218 members.

219 (b) The members of the commission shall be residents of Utah.

220 (c) The members of the commission shall be selected on a nonpartisan basis.

221 (d) [The] Except as provided in Subsection (1)(e), the commissioners shall, in  
222 accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 24, Part 2, Vacancies, be appointed by the  
223 governor, with the advice and consent of the Senate, for a term of six years,  
224 beginning on April 1 of odd-numbered years.

225 (e) A commissioner appointed after May 6, 2026, shall serve for a term of four years.

226 [(e)] (f) The commissioners serve on a part-time basis.

227 [(f)] (g) Each commissioner shall remain in office until a successor is appointed and  
228 qualified.

229 (2)(a) Subject to the restriction in Subsection (2)(c), the selection of commissioners shall  
230 be as follows:

231 (i) four commissioners with one commissioner selected from each of the four regions  
232 established by the department; and

233 (ii) subject to the restriction in Subsection (2)(b), three commissioners selected from  
234 the state at large.

235 (b)(i) At least one of the three commissioners appointed under Subsection (2)(a)(ii)  
236 shall be selected from a rural county.  
237 (ii) For purposes of this Subsection (2)(b), a rural county is a county of the third,  
238 fourth, fifth, or sixth class.  
239 (c) No more than two commissioners appointed under Subsection (2)(a) may be selected  
240 from any one of the four regions established by the department.  
241 (3) A member may not receive compensation or benefits for the member's service, but may  
242 receive per diem and travel expenses in accordance with:  
243 (a) Section 63A-3-106;  
244 (b) Section 63A-3-107; and  
245 (c) rules made by the Division of Finance in accordance with [pursuant to] Sections  
246 63A-3-106 and 63A-3-107.  
247 (4)(a) One member of the commission shall be designated by the governor as chair.  
248 (b) The commission may select one member as vice chair to act in the chair's absence.  
249 (5) Any four commissioners constitute a quorum.  
250 (6) Each member of the commission shall qualify by taking the constitutional oath of office.  
251 (7) Each member of the commission is subject to the conflict of interest provisions  
252 described in Title 63G, Chapter 24, Part 3, Conflicts of Interest.  
253 (8) For the purposes of Section 63J-1-504, the commission is not considered an agency.  
254 Section 4. Section **72-1-303** is amended to read:  
255 **72-1-303 (Effective 05/06/26). Duties of commission.**  
256 (1) The commission has the following duties:  
257 (a) determining priorities and funding levels of projects and programs in the state  
258 transportation systems and the capital development of new public transit facilities for  
259 each fiscal year based on project lists compiled by the department and taking into  
260 consideration the strategic initiatives described in Section 72-1-211;  
261 (b) determining additions and deletions to state highways under Chapter 4, Designation  
262 of State Highways Act;  
263 (c) holding public meetings and otherwise providing for public input in transportation  
264 matters;  
265 (d) making policies and rules in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah  
266 Administrative Rulemaking Act, necessary to perform the commission's duties  
267 described under this section;  
268 (e) in accordance with Section 63G-4-301, reviewing orders issued by the executive

269 director in adjudicative proceedings held in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 4,  
270 Administrative Procedures Act;

271 (f) advising the department on state transportation systems policy;

272 (g) approving settlement agreements of condemnation cases subject to Section  
273 63G-10-401;

274 (h) in accordance with Section 17B-2a-807, appointing a commissioner to serve as a  
275 nonvoting member or a voting member on the board of trustees of a small public  
276 transit district;

277 (i) in accordance with [Section] Sections 17B-2a-808 and 17B-2a-808.1, reviewing, at  
278 least annually, the ~~[short-term and long-range public transit plans]~~ plans submitted by  
279 small and large public transit districts;

280 (j) determining the priorities and funding levels of public transit innovation grants, as  
281 defined in Section 72-2-401;

282 (k) approving grant awards administered by the Utah Broadband Center in accordance  
283 with Section ~~[17-19-301]~~ 72-19-301; and

284 (l) reviewing administrative rules made, substantively amended, or repealed by the  
285 department.

286 (2)(a) ~~[For projects prioritized with funding provided under Sections 72-2-124 and~~  
287 ~~72-2-125, the]~~ The commission shall annually report to the Transportation and  
288 Infrastructure Appropriations Subcommittee:

289 (i) a ~~[prioritized]~~ list of the new transportation capacity projects in the state  
290 transportation system and the funding levels ~~[available]~~ or shortages for those  
291 projects; and

292 (ii) the unfunded highway construction and maintenance needs within the state.

293 (b) The Transportation and Infrastructure Appropriations Subcommittee shall:

294 (i) review the ~~[list]~~ information reported by the Transportation Commission; and

295 (ii) make a recommendation to the Legislature on:

296 (A) the amount of additional funding to allocate to transportation; and

297 (B) the source of revenue for the additional funding allocation under Subsection  
298 (2)(b)(ii)(A).

299 (3) The commission shall review and may approve plans for the construction of a highway  
300 facility over sovereign lakebed lands in accordance with Chapter 6, Part 3, Approval of  
301 Highway Facilities on Sovereign Lands Act.

302 (4) One or more associations representing airport operators or pilots in the state shall

303 annually report to the commission recommended airport improvement projects and any  
304 other information related to the associations' expertise and relevant to the commission's  
305 duties.

306       **Section 5. Effective Date.**

307       This bill takes effect on May 6, 2026.