

# Salt Lake Light Rail Goes to the Airport



**Paul O'Brien – Rail Service General Manager**

**June 15, 2007**



# Utah Transit Authority

- **Public Transit District**
- **Linear Geographic Area - 130 miles by 20 miles (1400 square miles)**
- **Currently Employs: 1700+**
- **Operates 650+ Buses and 55 LRV'S**
- **Carries 38,000,000+ Passengers Per Year**



# What is the Utah Transit Authority?

**UTA is a Multi-Modal Transit Agency currently providing service with:**

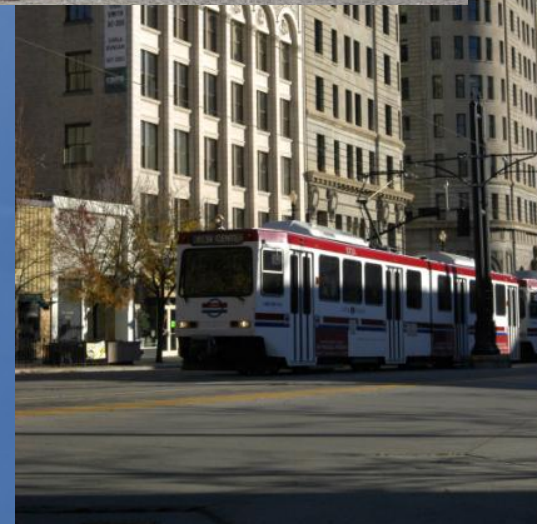
- **Fixed Route Buses**
- **Express Bus Service**
- **Light Rail Transit**
- **Paratransit**
- **Vanpool**
- **...Regional Rail and Bus Rapid Transit coming soon**



# What is the Utah Transit Authority?

## Rail Service:

- 2 Light Rail Lines
- 55 Light Rail Cars
- Operates 19.5 Light Rail miles
- 24 Light Rail stations
- Operate Special Events Service on 70% of all service days



# About UTA TRAX Light Rail

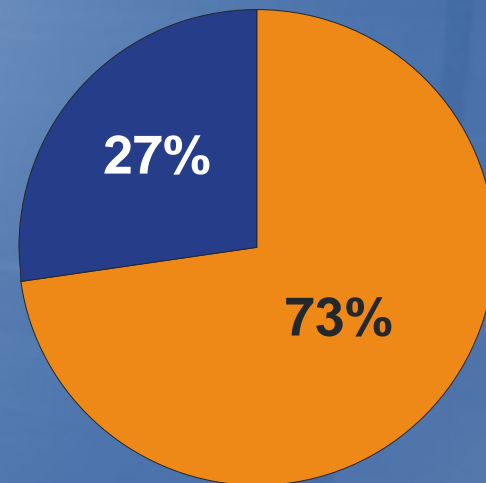
- **TRAX is a great success**
  - Two lines; 19.5 miles
  - Three projects built in five years
  - Completed ahead of schedule, under budget
- **Ridership is more than double projections**
  - Projected ridership of 21,000 trips a day; have reached 55,000
  - Carrying 1+ million trips a month
  - Seeing record increases each year
    - 13.5% increase in 2005
    - 26% increase in 2006



# The Need

## Growth in Population

- Another one million people along the Wasatch Front by 2030
  - 88,000 new residents in 2005, a 4% growth rate
- One of the fastest-growing states in the nation
  - U.S: 13.2%
  - Utah: 29.6%  
*(1990 – 2000)*
- Most growth is coming from within



Internal Migration

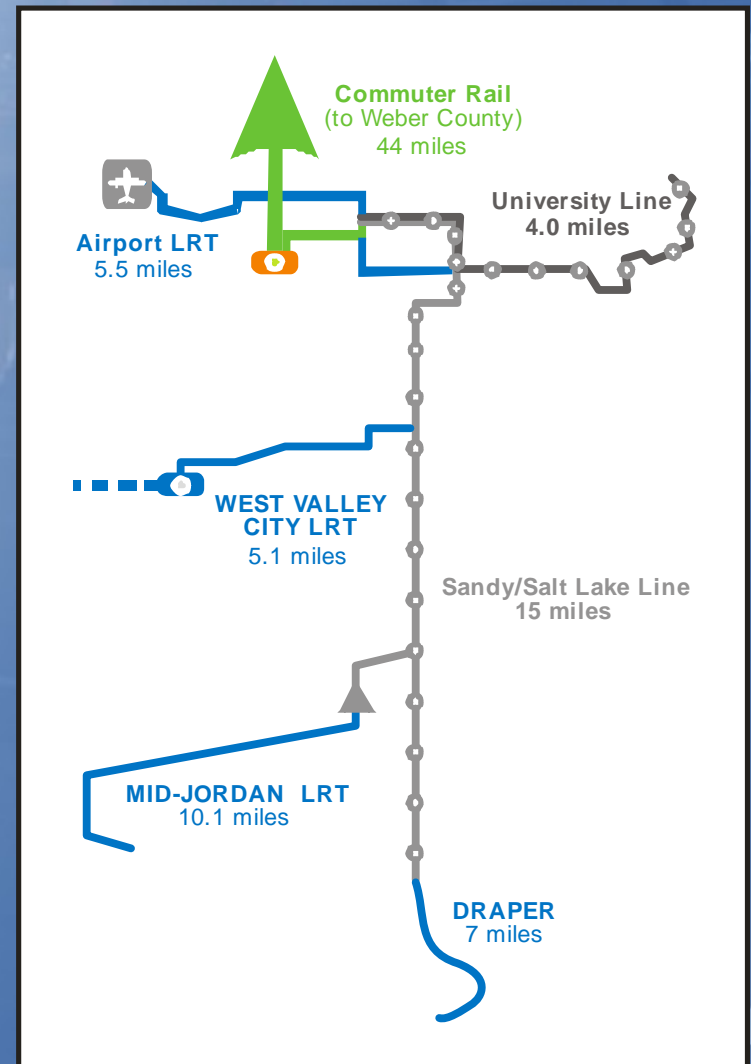
# Expanding Transit in Salt Lake

## Complete Network

- 27 new miles of light rail, more than double the current system
- 70% of Salt Lake County residents will be within 3 miles of a rail line
- Bus routes will be redesigned as rail projects are built

## Jobs

- Every \$100 million in federal funding creates about 3,000 new jobs\*

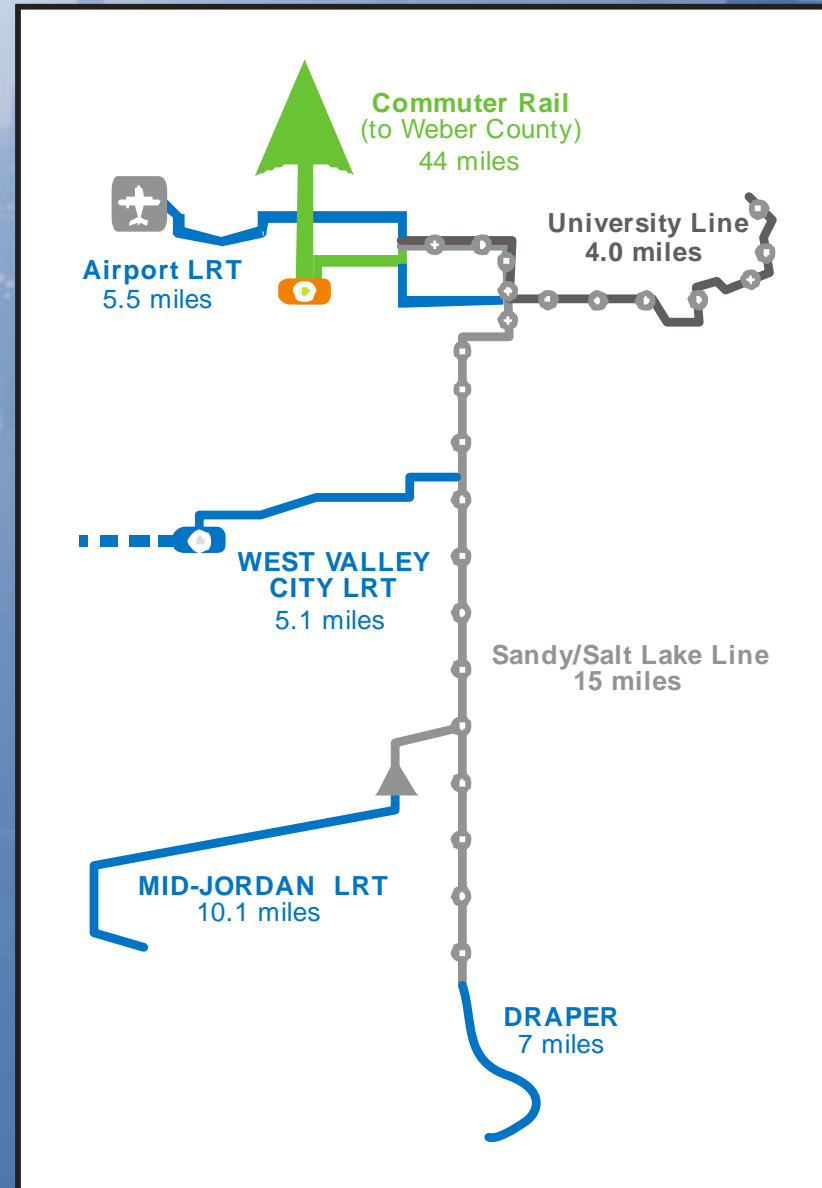


\* Sources: BEBR, APTA

# Transit 2015 Plan

**The Airport Light Rail Line is part of the 2015 Plan that includes:**

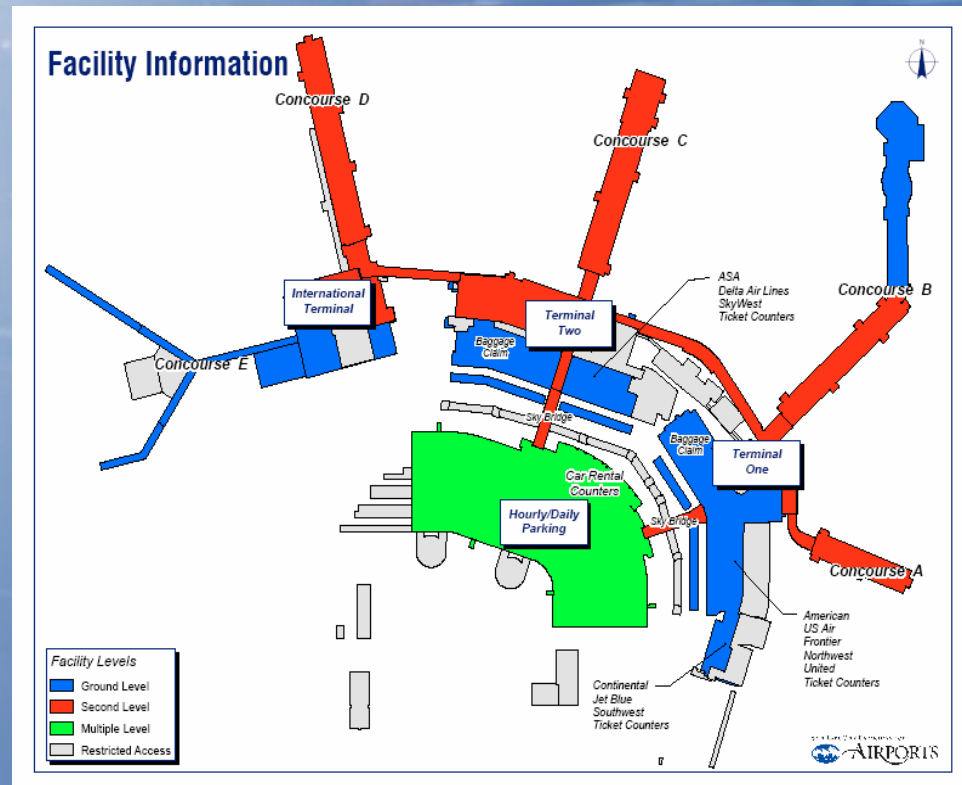
- Airport LRT Line
- Mid-Jordan LRT Line
- West Valley LRT Line
- Draper LRT Extension
- Intermodal LRT Extension
- UTA Regional Rail System (88 miles)
- Implementation of BRT
- Bus system redesign



# About the Airport

## Salt Lake International Airport

- Currently has 1 million sq. ft. of passenger space in two terminal facilities and five concourses
- 90 Aircraft Gates
- 2<sup>nd</sup> busiest hub for Delta Airlines
- The Airport served 21.5 million passengers in 2006
- The Airport was the 25<sup>th</sup> busiest in the U.S. in 2005.



# About the Airport

## Salt Lake International Airport

- Currently serves 16 airlines
- In 2005 ranked first in the U.S. for on-time departures and second for on-time arrivals
- Major redesign and expansion of airport expected in the next 10 years
- Passenger volume is expected to increase by about 50% by 2025
- SLIA is Utah's 5<sup>th</sup> largest employment site with 13,500 employees

SALT LAKE CITY INTERNATIONAL



AIRPORT



# History of Airport Line

## Project History

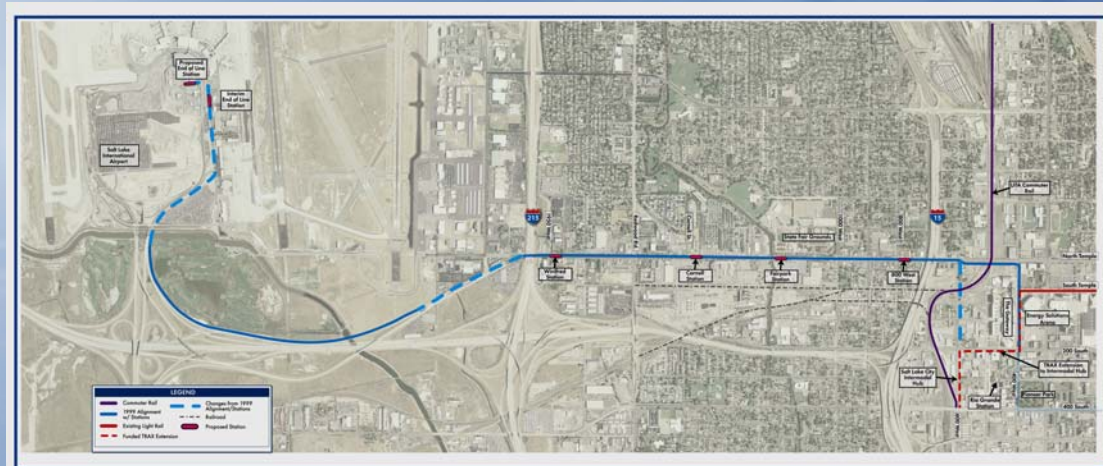
- Project originally was part of 11 mile East/West light rail line.
- Originally planned to have line completed for the 2002 Olympic games
- Project size was reduced as lack of funding and construction timeline issues arose
- In November 2006 Salt Lake County residents pass Proposition 3 - Transportation funding



# Airport Line

## Project Overview

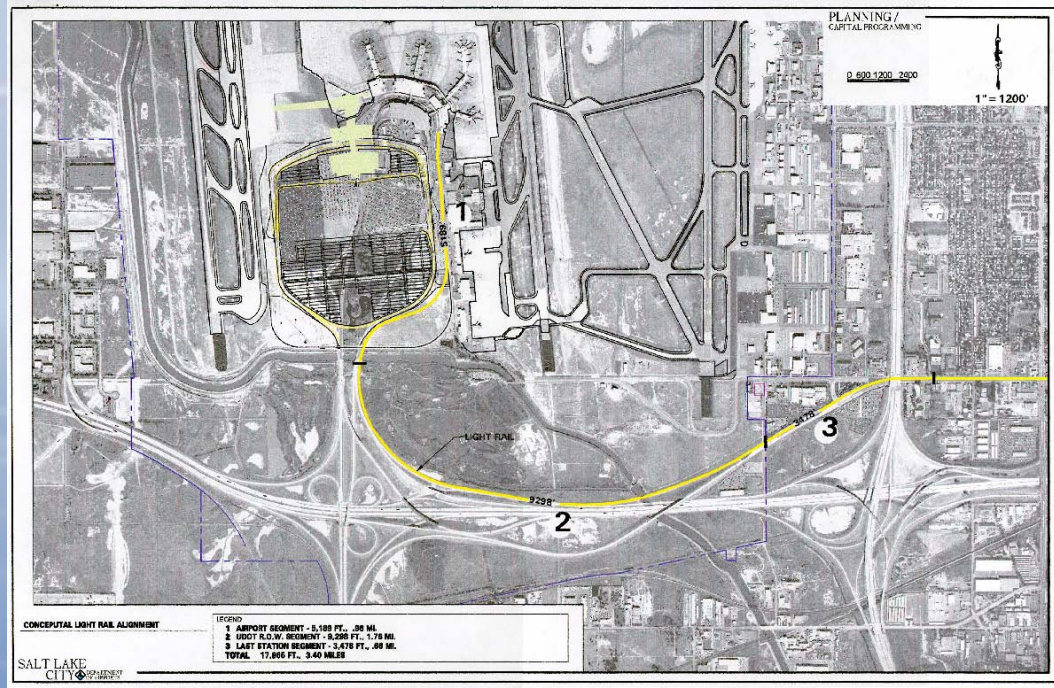
- Projected opening in 2013
- 5.9 miles
- Five proposed stations
- Extends from Energy Solutions Arena to Salt Lake International Airport



# Airport Line

## Project Overview

- Will update the original EIS that was completed in 2001
- Will operate at 15-minute headways when opened
- Projected ridership of 8,800 on opening day
- Estimated running time from downtown to Airport - 16 minutes



# Airport Line

## Project Overview

- About ½ street running in mixed business district
- Construction could begin in 2008
- UTA has the support of businesses along corridor
- UTA will purchase low floor vehicles for Airport line



# Airport Line

## Project Overview

- The system will be part of an integrated four line light rail system in the Salt Lake valley
- UTA will provide bus and regional rail connections to light rail service
- The line will provide a short connection between the Airport, downtown Salt Lake, and suburbs
- Will provide connection to airport from most of the Salt Lake valley for employees working at the airport

# Project Overview

# Airport Line

- Currently evaluating two options for connection downtown:

## 400 West Connection:

- Original route planned prior to Olympics
- Connection to Regional Rail system on north side of downtown
- Faster connection from downtown to Airport with fewer station stops

Downtown to Airport Corridor Re-Evaluation



# Airport Line

## Project Overview

- Currently evaluating two options for connection downtown:

### 600 West Connection:

- Connects with multi-modal hub
- Doesn't require building an additional regional rail station
- Passes through a redevelopment area of downtown

Downtown to Airport Corridor Re-Evaluation



# In Conclusion

## **The Airport line will:**

- **Be part of an integrated light rail system extending throughout the Salt Lake valley**
- **Provide a fast connection between the Airport and downtown Salt Lake**
- **Serve major employment centers**
- **Provide service to multi-modal transfers for regional transportation system**



# Salt Lake Light Rail Goes to the Airport



**Paul O'Brien – Rail Service General Manager**

**June 15, 2007**