

**GACC General Meeting Minutes**  
**3 May 2023**, Sweet Branch Library, 6:00 p.m.  
Merrilee Morgan, 2023 GACC Chair presiding, Pg. 1

Welcome by Chair.

Bus 209 Proposal Discussion item: Jim Jenkin

“Good evening all. Tonight I've been asked to lead the discussion of a proposal to reduce late night and early morning transit activity in the Avenues that are negatively impacting the quality of life of Avenues residents. We generally think of more transit as better transit, but is that so if it disturbs your sleep? If buses straining up a steep grade rattle your home? I will briefly describe the background for this proposal, after which I will invite your comments. By Rule, this is a discussion item only, and a vote on the proposal will not occur until next month's meeting.

In August of last year UTA discontinued the routes 3 and 6 which served the Avenues, downtown, and the University. Replacement service above 3rd Ave was provided by the extension of the 209 through the Avenues on its runs from downtown along 9th East to Southcenter. Because of the needs of the commercial centers along this route, the 209 runs at a frequency of every 15 to 30 minutes, from the hours of 4:30 in the morning to 12:30 at night. In addition, the route chosen for the 209 includes some of the steepest hills in the Avenues. As a result Avenues residents are being subjected to the noise and vibration of 14 ton standard buses pushing themselves up a hill, at hours when they and their families would normally be asleep.

Here's what I've learned since this topic was introduced to the Board: in excess of 50 Avenues residents have written to UTA and elected officials in protest of these conditions [by show of hands, how many of those are here tonight].

Avenue residents have documented noise levels in and around their homes in excess of 75 decibels, and reported vibration sufficient to rattle their homes. [PDF UTA 209 Outbound] We know from analysis of UTA ridership data by Dr. Terry Musci, that Avenues ridership of these buses generates few riders per bus during the day, and averages less than one in the early morning and late evening hours. We know that the proposed UTA changes for this August, as presented to the UTA Board, do not address this issue.

UTA retains management of buses, and we trust they will eventually find a long term solution, but those future solutions are not relevant to the current proposal. The requested action is within UTA's capacity to grant and runs of the 209 are regularly omitted for other reasons. Nor does the current proposal seek to move the problem elsewhere, but rather to provide partial relief to those impacted the most. The affected residents have petitioned the GACC to request to UTA to curtail late night and early morning operations by the 209 in the Avenues. I invite your comments and questions, and that you keep such brief, polite and to the topic. The goal of this discussion is to help develop a resolution for a vote at the next meeting.”

Discussion:

Several residents spoke of the impacts on late night early-morning bus operations on their quality of life, including shaking of homes and suggested possible remedies. The community is generally in favor of smaller buses, but none have been offered.

One transit rider spoke that she was dependent on 209 transport and sometimes used it in the late evenings, and that the proposed curfew would affect her.

Several residents spoke in general support of transit, UTA and the Route 209; most did not address the specifics of the proposal. There was some confusion about the Avenues specificity of the proposal.

A local politician accused the GACC of not following proper process. I (JJ) note that this topic has been under general discussion for a year, and the proposal has been discussed in 2 previous public meetings and discussed in at least two newsletter articles.

Captain Meyers:

FD will hire every six months. CPR training is available (slcfire.com). Fires in natural areas are more common. Evacuation routes being developed for foothills neighborhoods "Ready-Set-Go".

Electric bike fires an issue. Well prepared for flooding.

Lisa Romney, RMP, Foothills Wildfire Wildfire mitigation project:

Medical to Research completed and in restoration. Next section W of JCC and along 11th to just west of Virginia. 5 weeks of construction including new dirt roads to access poles. 1 additional pole and increase in pole height about 10 feet. Heavy equipment will be involved, possibly helicopters.

Public Utilities Deputy Director: Flood control preparation is looking good. They are prepared for twice the anticipated flow, and debris removal is common. Relevant piping all replaced since the 1983 flood.

Marie Stuart, Police liaison: 133 calls for service. Uptick in vehicle burglaries near UU addressed with resident help. Loud Party Card results in automatic fine to utility bill. Two residents complain of excessive speed.

David Berg/ Keith Reynolds: Rank choice voting: Reduces cost to County and the candidates. Increases likelihood voters will compare candidates. Some Municipalities will use and others may not.

For 2023: Mayor and 3 Council Districts will be ranked choice. [See Wikipedia for explanation of RCV.]

Chris Wharton: Council will be working on 1.5 Billion City Budget.

His priorities: accountability on tax spending. Foothills Masterplan operations. Traffic Calming measures. Affordable Housing. Tenant Resources. Flooding emergency funding extended.

D.Berg: endorses UTA ride on demand program.

Mary, Library: New Art Show to be hung next week, reception on Sat. Summer Reading Challenge coming up on the 22nd.

Brandy Lee: There will be an American Red Cross Blood Drive at LDS Hospital Monday, May 8 from 9:30am-2:30pm. There are about 15 spots available.

We'll also host a wayfinding event for the hospital Thurs, May 18 at 5:30pm. We're inviting the community to join us and help give consumer feedback on how to navigate the hospital. If you're interested, please send me an email. I'll also get a sign-up link to the Community Council.

Brandy Lee - Brandy.Lee@imail.org

LDS Hospital, PR  
Open forum:

David: Tree planting Saturday in Cemetary starting at 9 or 1 Treeutah.org to sign up.

Tom - SLFD Emergency preparedness coordinator. Big shout out to the Firewise Program. Working on evacuation plan. Please opt in to emergency notices on cell phones.

Bim Oliver, Preservation Utah, Historic Home Tour May 20th 10-4. 7 homes \$30 plus 2 in Sponsor category (\$100) which will include small guided tours. Preservationutah.org to register. Also S Temple tour available this Saturday.

Homeowner in upper Aves has been denied home insurance, due to fire risk. [Firewise program could help with this, per Shane Carlson.]

Motion to adjourn.