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UTAH LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

The Weekly Legislative Session Newsletter of RRJ Consulting
Utah's Leading Lobbying Firm



WEEK FOUR

Another week has come and gone. We hit the halfway mark this week! The Senate and House have been busy working to craft budgets and pass policies that benefit the people of Utah. Updated revenue numbers will be released next week, so we expect budget and tax cut discussions to really take off afterward. We are always grateful to be on the Hill and representing you!

FALLEN OFFICERS

Each year, the House and the Senate honor the families of law enforcement officers who have died in the line of duty. It's always a touching and sombering moment, but this year was especially notable as the Legislature passed H.B. 322, sponsored by Rep. Clancy and Sen. Bramble, which provides scholarship opportunities for children of fallen officers. We are so thankful for the sacrifices so many make to keep us safe.

APPROPRIATIONS

The Executive Appropriations Committee met Thursday and Friday to listen to and review appropriations subcommittee recommendations for new funding items. The Executive Appropriations Committee will now consider the recommendations and work to craft the final state budget.

Requests for new funding come from several different sources – state agencies, legislators, and from legislative staff recommendations. A single funding request is usually vetted through several channels and the EAC stands as a final filter.

The final budget will be passed before the session concludes on March 3.

Each subcommittee's recommendations can be viewed [here](#).

POLICY HIGHLIGHT

S.B. 185 TRANSPORTATION AMENDMENTS

S.B. 185, sponsored by Sen. Wayne Harper, makes several changes to Utah's transportation and infrastructure policies and funding including creating an Active Transportation Investment Fund, creating a State Infrastructure Bank, adjusts the way the Road Usage Charge is split between the state and local governments, and extends the deadline for local governments to impose the "5th 5th option."

Active Transportation Investment Fund (ATIF)

One aspect of S.B. 185 that we are particularly excited about is the creation of the Active Transportation Investment Fund, or ATIF. If passed, each year, 5% of funds will be transferred from the Transportation Investment Fund (TIF) into the ATIF – equal to about \$44.1 million in FY 2024. These funds will be used for planning, design, construction, maintenance, reconstruction, or renovation of active transportation projects, such as trails, walkways, and other pedestrian, non-motorized transportation areas.

Active transportation is an important part of how Utah grows. We are passionate about building an active future and creating ways for Utahns to get around, aside from driving and transit.

Road Use Charge (RUC)

The transition to electric vehicles has left a gap in Utah's ability to pay for roads and other transportation needs, as most of that is funded through the gas tax. To help address this, a Road Usage Charge (RUC) has been piloted. S.B. 185 would make adjustments to how the funds are divided between the state and local governments by mirroring the motor fuel tax (70% to UDOT and 30% to local governments through the B&C road fund distribution).

S.B. 185 has great policies that we are excited about. We will be watching closely and working with the bill sponsors to ensure Utah continues to grow and develop in a smart and efficient way.

