

John M. English

Biography



John English has worked in the transportation industry for more than 35 years. With an engineering background, Mr. English began his career in 1970 as a systems planning engineer for the Utah State Highway Department. In August 1997, the Utah Transit Authority, (UTA) Board of Trustees appointed John English as the general manager for the Authority. Under his leadership, Mr. English has garnered national and worldwide recognition for its transportation systems.

Accomplishments during his tenure as UTA general manager include:

- **Securing \$250 million in federal funds** to build the \$312.5 million Sandy to Salt Lake TRAX light rail line and completing the 15-mile TRAX line **one-year ahead of schedule and under budget.**
- **Securing \$94.8 million in federal funds** to build the \$118.5 million University TRAX light rail line that connects the state's two largest traffic generators, downtown Salt Lake City and the University of Utah and completing the line **ahead of schedule and under budget.**
- **Securing \$489 million in federal funds** to build the \$611 million FrontRunner commuter rail line that connects Salt Lake, Davis and Weber counties. Construction on this high-speed commuter rail system began in 2005 and will be complete in mid-2008. Primarily a single track system, FrontRunner will operate throughout the day carrying 38-percent of its projected 10 thousand daily passengers in a reverse commute to downtown Ogden in Weber County.
- **Gaining the public's trust** by successfully going to the voters for increased funding to first build the region's long range transportation plan and then to

expedite that plan. Recently votes in Salt Lake and Utah Counties overwhelmingly passed referendums to expedite the building of 70 miles of commuter and light rail. This additional funding will allow UTA to extend its light rail an additional 30 miles and commuter rail 44 miles.

- Successfully **negotiated and purchased the largest railroad corridor land acquisition** by a transit agency in the United States – **175 miles of Union Pacific Railroad Corridor cutting through the heart of the Wasatch Front urban area.**
- **Managing one of the nation's most successful light rail systems** that average as many as 58,000 riders per day—25,000 riders more than originally projected.
- **Successfully providing the transportation system for the 2002 Winter Olympic Games.** During the 17-day event, 1.4 million spectators rode the TRAX light rail system, 800,000 riders used the UTA-managed Olympic Shuttle Bus System and 1.8 million riders on UTA's regular fixed-route bus system.

Mr. English is internationally recognized for his transit expertise and his ability to make transit projects a reality. He also sits on the board of governors for the Salt Lake City Downtown Alliance and the Salt Lake Chamber of Commerce. He serves as Chair of the American Public Transit Association's Transit Platform Intelligent Vehicles Initiative Committee, Co-Chair of the Committee on Shared Railroad Corridors, Co-Chair of the International Rail CEO's Committee, and is an Intelligent Transportation Society Rocky Mountain Chapter State Senator. Mr. English has also recently been named as the Public Transportation Forum Chair for ITS America.