

GUNNISON VALLEY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

MEETING MINUTES

November 4, 2022

Crested Butte

A. INTRODUCTION

Janet Farmer called the meeting to order at 8:06 am

Board members in attendance: Janet Farmer, Boe Freeburn, Jason MacMillan, Roland Mason, Anna Fenerty, Steve Morris, Liz Smith (via ZOOM),

Also present: Scott Truex, Leia Morrison, Kent Myers, Jeff Moffett, Rick Lamport, John Norton (ZOOM), Tasha Cifuentes, and community members

CONSENT AGENDA

B. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

C. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

1) Approval of September 16, 2022, meeting minutes

D. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S FINANCIAL REPORT

E. CORRESPONDENCE

F. OLD BUSINESS

1) Air program reports

2) Bus program reports

Jason MacMillan ***moved to approve the consent agenda as presented.*** Boe Freeburn seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**REGULAR AGENDA**

F. OLD BUSINESS

3) Airport Update - Rick Lamport

Rick Lamport reported that the grand re-opening of the Gunnison Regional Airport will be on December 9th at 4:00 pm and will be open to the public. All of the major construction is complete. Tyler Yocum, who has been hired as the airport's Operations Manager, was introduced to the board.

4) Tourism Association Report - John Norton

John Norton reported that the holiday bookings are "soft" right now, potentially because of Christmas and New Year's falling on a weekend this year. Vail is reporting that they sold approximately 10% fewer EPIC passes this year than last year. The decrease in the number of airline seats may also be a contributing factor to the soft booking numbers. TAPP is marketing to skiers across the United States, particularly in the state of Texas. Norton expressed his support for the JSX continued service this winter.

5) Bus service update - Scott Truex

Scott Truex reported that Alpine Express is set to start the winter schedule in the next few weeks. They will be bringing drivers out of Montrose from their CDL school. Jon Galle moved to the Crested Butte condo that the GVRTA purchased. Tasha Cifuentes reported that the GVRTA townhomes in Gunnison should be filled within the next couple of weeks. Ridership for September was up 44%, and October ridership was up 41%. Employment ads are out, and compensation plans are being adjusted to encourage new bus drivers. Tasha reported that they will move their Montrose drivers to Gunnison to drive for the RTA. A new wage package is coming out soon. Three drivers are relocating from Montrose, and a fourth driver is also interested. Tasha stated that a total of 24 drivers would be the perfect amount. Tasha said she would like closer to 32 so there is enough for overflow.

6) Update on Bus Purchase - Scott Truex

Scott Truex reported that the scope of work for the grant has been discussed with CDOT. GVRTA is still on track to receive two buses in February.

7) Air Command Report - Scott Truex

All major Air Command topics will be discussed further at this meeting.

8) Airport Survey Results - Kent Myers and David Becher

David Becher presented the results of the 2,200 surveys completed between July 9 and September 25. Highlights include: Texas and California are the top visitor's states of residence; a mix of repeat and first-time visitors, with only 59% being repeat summer visitors; 44% have visited in the winter. The results showed that 38% considered using other airports, including Denver, Montrose, and Grand Junction. The location was the key reason why people chose Gunnison. 49% of respondents reported that they have used other airports in the past 12 months, with heavy use in Denver and Montrose. Reasons for using other airports include cost factors and more convenient flight schedules. Diversity of locations for where visitors stayed with a variety of lodging types. There was a decrease in short-term rental usage and an increase in staying with family and friends. The average length of stay was 9.5 nights. The likelihood to recommend the Gunnison/CB area resulted in a net promotor score of 68%.

9) 2022-2023 Winter Air Service - Kent Myers

Kent Myers reported that even with the increase in seats, we are still 9% down in available seats (American coming out of DFW has decreased). We lost a total of 4500 seats.

10) Bus Storage Facility Construction - Scott Truex & Leia Morrison

Scott Truex reported that the structure is up, and some roof is installed. There have been some issues with concrete that was poured that needs to be torn out in the spring and replaced. It is not structural but is part of the parking lot. We are still on schedule to occupy the building in February.

G. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

No one here for public comment

## H. COMMENTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS AND STAFF

Boe Freeburn spoke about the new Gunnison Library, asking the board to consider allocating funds towards a park improvement near the bus stop. Scott Truex said he will ask our attorney for clarification regarding if that would be a legal use of GVRTA funds.

### New Business

1) Deposit Agreement with Fading West Development, LLC depositing \$380,000 with Fading West for the possible 2023 purchase of a five-plex on West Denver Avenue in Gunnison. Scott Truex referred to the agreement which was in the packet. The project's anticipated cost has gone up due to labor and materials. The deposit amount stays the same at \$380,000. GVRTA can get this deposit back if the board decided to withdraw at a later date. Jason MacMillan ***moved to sign the deposit agreement as presented***. Roland Mason seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

2) Approval of contract with Gunnison County and Gunnison Valley Health to provide senior transportation in 2023 – Scott Truex noted that the agreement is substantially similar to the current agreement. Boe Freeburn ***moved to approve the contract with Gunnison County and Gunnison Valley Health***. Jason MacMillan seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

3) Approval of contract with Gunnison County and Mountain Express to provide senior transportation in 2023 – Scott Truex noted that this agreement is also substantially similar to the current agreement. Roland Mason ***moved to approve the contract with Gunnison County and Mountain Express to Provide Senior Transportation Services***. Anna Fenerty seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

4) Adoption of GVRTA 2022 Revised Budget – Scott Truex  
Scott Truex reported that most changes are due to additional services and/or the increased cost of goods and services. The late-night taxi funding of \$30,000 expense was approved earlier by the Board of Directors. Maintenance costs are higher due to two buses coming out of warranty. There is flexibility in this budget to allow for unknown timing on some of the expenses. Jason MacMillan ***moved to adopt the 2022 Revised Budget as presented***. Steve Morris seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

5) Discussion regarding 2023 and future budget options based upon potential change in commuter bus operations – Scott Truex explained the difference between two budget options included in the packet for the 2023 budget and the five year financial plans. Option A includes 19 round trips in spring/summer/fall and was included in the last board packet. Option B includes 28 spring/summer/fall. Option B would cost approximately \$580,000 more yearly and forgo the Hidden River Road bus stop, also potentially reducing the amount available for the 6th and Butte housing project. This would increase the number of year-round employees as service would be more consistent.

6) Adoption of GVRTA 2023 Budget – Scott Truex

After discussion, Roland Mason ***moved to adopt the 2023 Budget using Option B as presented.*** Jason MacMillan seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

7) Adoption of GVRTA 2023-2027 Five-year financial plan

Roland Mason ***moved to adopt the 2023 - 2027 Five-year financial plan using Option B as presented.*** Anna Fenerty seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

8) Approval of 2023 GVRTA Board of Directors Meeting dates – Scott Truex

Boe Freeburn ***moved to adopt the 2023 GVRTA Board of Directors Meeting Dates as presented.*** Steve Morris seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

9) Discussion regarding a possible contract with JSX to provide air service between Austin and Gunnison during the winter of 2022/23 – Kent Myers noted that JSX has countered GVRTA's proposal which was approved at the last meeting. He asked the board to discuss this in an Executive session.

10) Executive session for the purpose of determining positions relative to matters that may be subject to negotiations, developing strategy for negotiations, and/or instructing negotiators, under C.R.S. Section 24-6-402(4)(e) for the purpose of conferring with staff and consultants regarding a possible contract with JSX to provide air service between Austin and Gunnison during the winter of 2022/23.

At this point Janet Farmer moved and Steve Morris seconded a ***motion that this meeting of Board of the Gunnison Valley Transportation Authority adjourn and, upon affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members present, reconvene in executive session for the sole purpose of Determining positions relative to matters that may be subject to negotiations; developing strategy for negotiations; and instructing negotiators as authorized by CRS 24-6-402(4)(e) for the purpose of discussing negotiations with JSX for possible winter service.*** The motion passed unanimously.

Janet Farmer stated the following: "This Executive Session is not open to the public and action may not be taken. For the record, I am the presiding officer; Janet Farmer. It is Friday, September 16, 2022 and the time is 9:52 a.m. Present at this Executive Session are the RTA board members in attendance and the following persons: Kent Myers, Bill Tomcich, Jeff Moffett, Scott Truex and Leia Morrison. If, at any point in the Executive Session, any participant believes the discussion is going outside the proper scope of the Executive Session, please interrupt the discussion and make an objection for the record."

The board moved into executive session at 9:46 a.m.

The executive session was concluded at 10:15 a.m.

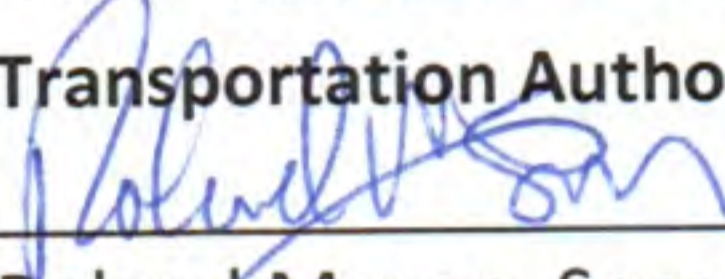
Janet Farmer stated that "For the record, if any person who participated in the Executive Session believes that any substantial discussion of any matters not included in the motion to go into Executive Session occurred during the Executive Session or that any improper action occurred during the Executive Session in violation of the Open Meetings Law, I would ask that you state your concerns for the record." No concerns were stated.

11) Potential authorization of the Board Chair to sign a contract with JSX to provide air service between Austin and Gunnison during the winter of 2022/23

Jason MacMillan ***moved to authorize the Board Chair to sign a contract with JSX to provide air for an amount of \$180,000 which will come out of the 2022 budget and includes JSX providing 40 round trips between Austin and Gunnison with the amount to be prorated if less than 40 trips are flown and includes JSX and TAPP marketing the flights, and authorization is contingent upon there being a signed MOU contract between JSX and the Gunnison County Regional Airport for the winter season.*** Roland Mason seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-1 with Anna Fenerty opposed.

The meeting adjourned at 10:18 am

These minutes are the final version approved by the Board of Directors of the Gunnison Valley Transportation Authority at its meeting on January 6, 2023.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Roland Mason, Secretary

