

GUNNISON VALLEY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

MEETING MINUTES

February 11, 2022

Crested Butte Town Council Chambers

A. INTRODUCTION

Janet Farmer called the meeting to order at 8:01 am

Board members in attendance: Janet Farmer, Boe Freeburn, Jim Miles, Roland Mason, Jason MacMillan, Jim Miles, Steve Morris

Also present: Scott Truex, Leia Morrison, Kent Myers (ZOOM), John Norton (ZOOM), Cindy Barbour (ZOOM), Landon Ogilvie (ZOOM), Jon Galle, and community members

CONSENT AGENDA

B. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

C. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

1) Approval of December 10, 2021 meeting minutes

D. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S FINANCIAL REPORT

E. CORRESPONDENCE

F. OLD BUSINESS

1) Air program reports

2) Bus program reports

Jim Miles ***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

Lamport reported that the airport construction is progressing. Next week the jet boarding bridges will be installed. An automated bag belt has been installed and is operational. Relocation of the TSA's bag screening has also been completed. Next week, the bag claim belt will be installed. Lamport reported that full completion should happen in June or July of this year. He reported there were a few days of cancellations due to ice in Texas.

4) Tourism Association Report - John Norton

Norton reported more robust than anticipated late-season sales, so TAPP is stretching out marketing efforts to accommodate and take advantage of this.

5) Bus service update - Scott Truex

We carried 173,500 passengers in 2021 which is up from 2022 but down from 2019 (a record year). January was up 39%. Down about 14% from where we were before the pandemic. In

early January, we had to use some vans since drivers were sick. There were five instances of overcrowding, but once we got the vans off the road, that was no longer an issue. Tag axel lifters are being installed, which will increase traction on the hill.

RTA did have an accident at Denver and 135, the bus was turning right onto 135, and another driver tried to cut the corner, and the bus clipped them. It was determined that it was the other driver's fault. There was no substantial damage to the RTA bus.

Alpine Express had a compliance review related to the drug and alcohol policy, which has been revised and will be discussed later in the meeting.

Several windows were broken on four of the bus stops. Vandalism was initially considered but the breakage appears to coincide with snowfall. However, Jon pointed out that there have been reports of broken windows in Gunnison due to vandalism with pellet guns. The new glass will be installed at the bus stops.

Truex expressed that Alpine Express has done a great job of getting new drivers and is now fully staffed.

The CNG fueling station in Gunnison has been having freezing issues again. The compressor will need to be replaced and heated.

Jon Galle reported that we are still currently in negotiation stage on extending the Outrider bus service to Crested Butte. This Bustang Outrider will be starting in Mt. Crested Butte at 5 am, will be at the 4 Way stop at 5:20 am, in CB South at 5:30, and will depart Gunnison from the Econo Lodge at 6:00 am. This service will arrive in Denver around 11:00 am. They will utilize the RTA bus stops. Once the RTA facility in Crested Butte is complete phase 4 of Outrider expansion west, will be discussed which will hopefully include service to Montrose from Crested Butte.

The 8am CB South bus is still pulling in to the Center for the Arts to accommodate children going to school. The Town of Crested Butte took care of the snow removal at this bus stop. Truex will meet with Mountain Express, Center for the Arts and Town of Crested Butte to discuss ways to increase ridership to Center for the Arts events in the future, possibly including a flag stop there.

The Gunnison Transit Center is now on the list to apply for funding. Truex met with Region 3, all transit operators and CDOT in order to be included in this grant funding.

The GVRTA will be included in a group Transit Action Plan with other transit agencies across rural Colorado.

An educational and informational advertising plan will begin next week to increase ridership.

6) Air Command Report - Scott Truex

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

7) 2021 Winter air service discussion – Kent Myers

DFW was hit particularly hard last week with the ice storm so they had very limited service. Fuel is another consideration for the winter air service. Fuel prices are on the rise and we are going to continue to see the effects of inflation. Anecdotal, Myers said that RTA knocked it out of the park financially for both airlines for the month of December. Eddie Avila noted that he has been called in for several aircraft maintenance issues recently.

8) 2022 spring air service - Kent Myers

Myers spoke to schedule and reported that GUC will have twice a day service coming out of Denver until June 2nd.

9) 2022 summer air service - Kent Myers

Myers reported that beginning on June 3rd there are 3 flights per day loaded currently to Denver. Houston service begins on June 4th and will fly weekends until 6/25 when it switches to daily service. He suspects that we will have added cost (3-4% currently) for fuel price increases.

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

Truex reported that the cost continues to creep up. The current estimate is about \$200,000 more than we had budgeted. The NEPA docs are ready to be submitted to FTA for approval. We will be applying for a categorical exclusion. Jeremy at Mt. Express has a few possible changes. The bid opening is scheduled for April 21st.

11) Lazy K housing purchase - Scott Truex & Leia Morrison

The framing is just about complete and the mechanical rough-in started this week. Some minor changes are being suggested by the contractor and Truex and Morrison will meet with the contractor on Tuesday to discuss these proposed changes.

12) West Denver housing purchase – Scott Truex & Leia Morrison

John O'Neal who is the point person for this project, said that they wouldn't be able to begin this project until the 1st or 2nd quarter of 2023, with completion sometime during the summer 2023. This project would be an additional 5 units.

13) GVH Senior Transportation bus barn and housing project update – Scott Truex & Leia Morrison

Received a second estimate for \$1.8 million. Truex recommended not moving forward with this project at this time and the Board agreed.

G. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

No public comments were submitted.

New Business

1) Living Journey Bus Window Covering Request

Boe Freeburn ***moved to approve the Living Journey's bus window covering request.***

Jason MacMillan seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

#### H. COMMENTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS & STAFF

Morrison will be working on the CIRSA Insurance audit.

Truex reported that he met with the Senior Transportation Manager, Scott Frick on the future purchase of a new van which will likely be another transit van with a wheelchair lift.

Truex reported that Mountain Coal near Somerset alerted the RTA to the fact that the Department of Revenue has been collecting RTA tax from their vendors over there which is incorrect. Somerset is not part of the RTA district. Fortunately, very few actual purchases are made in this district so the amount should be minimal.

Truex was informed yesterday that if we want to order any more CNG buses, we have to order by May. The manufacturer is not going to offer CNG vehicles for several years since everything is going to be electric & diesel (supposition). We have two grant applications that have been submitted for 2 buses and we are likely to get awarded one of these grants. Unfortunately, we don't know if we'll be able to purchase diesel buses with this grant money. If the federal budget had been passed already, this wouldn't be an issue. Truex suggested that we purchase CNG buses with local funds. The Board directed Truex to bring a contract for purchase to the next meeting.

#### NEW BUSINESS CONTINUED

2) Adoption of new GVRTA Drug and Alcohol Testing Policy

Jim Miles ***moved to approve the new GVRTA Drug and Alcohol Testing policy.*** Boe

Freeburn seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

3) Board Member attendance of GVRTA Board Meeting by Zoom discussion - Scott Truex and Janet Farmer. The discussion was had as to what kind of policy should be developed for attendance requirements. Scott will draft a suggested policy for the next meeting.

4) Set 2022 spring/summer/fall bus schedule – Scott Truex

Truex is proposing a more robust bus schedule last year with 19 trips.

Roland Mason ***moved to approve the proposed 2022 spring/summer/fall bus schedule.***

Boe Freeburn seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

5) Authorization of Board Chair to sign contracts with United Airlines and American Airlines for summer 2022 air service between Houston and Gunnison and between Dallas and Gunnison for a total amount not to exceed \$700,000 – Scott Truex

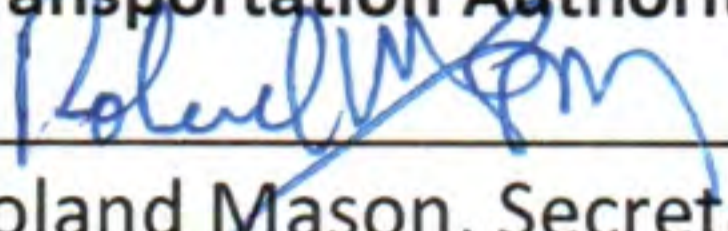
Jim Miles ***moved to approve authorization of Board Chair to sign contracts with United Airlines and American Airlines for summer 2022 air service for a total amount not to exceed \$700,000.*** Steve Morrison seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

6) Request to move the May 6, 2022 Board Meeting to April 29, 2022

Jason MacMillan ***moved to approve the rescheduling of the May 6th, 2022 board meeting to April 29, 2022.*** Jim Miles seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 9:19 a.m.

These minutes are the final version approved by the Board of Directors of the Gunnison Valley Transportation Authority at its meeting on March 18, 2022.

  
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Roland Mason, Secretary