

GUNNISON VALLEY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

MEETING MINUTES

December 8, 2023

Crested Butte Town Council Meeting Room

A. INTRODUCTION

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

Board members in attendance: Janet Farmer, Jason MacMillan, Laura Puckett Daniels, Steve Morris, Boe Freeburn, Diego Plata, Anna Fenerty. Also present are Scott Truex, Leia Morrison, Bill Tomcich (Air Planners), Dean Herrera (Alpine Express), Danny Bartelli, Landon Ogilvie (Alpine Express) and community members

CONSENT AGENDA

B. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

C. APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 3, 2023 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,** Boe Freeburn seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously

**REGULAR AGENDA**

F. OLD BUSINESS

3) Airport Update

Rick Lamport updated the council on the one canceled flight that occurred due to an icy runway. Rick also updated the council on the new airport restaurant, Bar 76. The delay right now for the restaurant opening is the acquisition of a liquor license permit. The parking fee system at the airport has been initiated. A long-term lot next to the airport is available for a monthly rate. The rate for daily parking is \$8, and the monthly rate is \$80. Rick also reported that there are new rates and charges to airlines for landing fees.

4) Tourism and Prosperity Partnership Association (TAPP)

John Norton (on ZOOM) said he was happy that Mark Reaman of the Crested Butte News published the numbers for the airport in the newspaper. He feels that the message of increased reliability is necessary for our community. He is pleased with the advanced bookings that GUC is experiencing.

5) Bus service update

Scott Truex introduced the staff and management from Alpine Express at the meeting (Danny Bartelli, Landon Ogilvie, and Dean Herrera). Scott reported that the October ridership was up



20%, and November was up 25%. We are now running the 41 round-trip schedule. We are on track to carry 320,000 passengers in 2023, up from 250,000 in 2022. The concrete project is still underway and should be completed this year. For RTA housing, Scott reported that all but two of our housing units are spoken for. We are holding one housing unit for a mechanic, leaving one unit available for a driver.

#### 6)2023 Fall and Winter Air Service Update

Bill Tomcich reiterated that the new procedures and aircraft result in higher load factors due to improved reliability. We ended with an 81.8% load factor in November. Over the next two weeks, we will transition from one flight a day to a second daily from Denver. JSX will return to the market with a five-flight-a-week schedule out of Dallas. America Airlines resumes a twice-daily schedule from DIA. The Houston flight resumes non-stop service on December 21st. JSX is going to run from December 21st to January 7th. American Airlines will run its winter schedule through April 3rd. American will be increasing their available seats by about 16%. Houston service is still a Minimum Revenue Guarantee. In the spring, United decided to extend the ski market by nine days through April 8th and extend the summer schedule. We are looking very strong for advanced bookings, and GUC is pacing over 11.4% of last year. Bill defined revenue and non-revenue fliers for the board.

G. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD - None.

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

Laura Puckett Daniels shared with the board some concerns that have been expressed to her by bus drivers: lack of clarity in the schedule, lack of seniority, and hiccups in operation. Her concern is retention. Landon from Alpine Express spoke to these concerns. He encouraged the board to contact Alpine Express directly or through Scott Truex if/when this kind of feedback comes.

1)Presentation from the Crested Butte Planning Department – Draft Transportation Mobility Plan  
Mel Yemma presented a draft of the Crested Butte Mobility Plan. Jason MacMillan commented that there is a real value in having bathrooms at any central hub, so he sees this as an additional challenge to the need for a warm shelter. Laura Puckett Daniels asked about the proposed roundabout at Red Lady. Mel Yemma shared CDOT's and the committee's recommendations.

2) Discussion regarding setting a date for a Board of Directors retreat with the Air Command Committee to discuss air service planning and goals for the next several years

The Air Command Retreat with the Board of Directors will be on March 22nd, following the regularly scheduled board meeting in Gunnison.

3) Purchase of lot at 500 S. 9th Street in Gunnison

Scott Truex reported that the asking price for the property was \$350,000 and that the RTA contracted at \$320,000. The lot has been surveyed, and it is 50 feet by 140 feet. Scott said that



the RTA will extend the life of its facility by 10-20 years with this purchase, and this purchase will allow us to remain where we are in relation to the current bus maintenance facility. Danny Bartelli agreed that it is an excellent investment and that they can access and park buses there with this added lot.

4) Resolution Number 4, Series 2023 - A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE GUNNISON VALLEY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY, AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF REAL PROPERTY FOR THE USE OF THE GUNNISON VALLEY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

**Boe Freeburn moved to approve resolution Number 4, Series 2023.** Jason MacMillan seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously

5) Approval of contract with Gunnison County and Gunnison Valley Health to provide senior transportation in 2024

Discussion ensued regarding the defined service area of the senior transportation service. Scott will follow up with the board on the 3-mile service area.

**Anna Fenerty moved to approve the contract with Gunnison County and Gunnison Valley Health.** Diego Plata seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously

6) Approval of contract with Gunnison County and Mountain Express to provide senior transportation in 2024

**Laura Puckett Daniels moved to approve the contract with Gunnison County and Mountain Express to provide senior transportation in 2024.** Jason MacMillan seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously

7) Amendment of contract with Social Firekeeper, LLC dated January 1, 2023

**Diego Plata moved to amend the contract with Social Firekeeper, LLC.** Jason MacMillan seconded the motion

The motion passed unanimously.

8) Award of contract for consultant services to develop a Strategic Operating and Capital Plan for GVRTA's Commuter Bus Service

**Diego Plata moved to award a contract for up to \$85,000 in consultant services to develop a Strategic Operating and Capital Plan for GVRTA's Commuter Bus Service to Fehr and Peers.** Boe Freeburn seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 9:33 am

**These minutes are the final version approved by the Board of Directors of the Gunnison Valley Transportation Authority at its meeting on January 12, 2024.**

  
Elizabeth K. Smith, Secretary