

GUNNISON VALLEY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

MEETING MINUTES

February 17, 2023

Board of County Commissioners Room

A. INTRODUCTION

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

Board members in attendance: Janet Farmer, Jim Miles, Boe Freeburn, Jason MacMillan, Liz Smith, Laura Puckett Daniels

Also present: Scott Truex, Leia Morrison, Bill Tomcich, Jon Galle, Jeff Moffett, Rick Lamport, John Norton (ZOOM), and community members.

CONSENT AGENDA

B. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

C. APPROVAL OF JANUARY 6, 2023 MEETING MINUTES

D. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S FINANCIAL REPORT

E. CORRESPONDENCE

1) Letter of support for Town of Crested Butte grant application

F. OLD BUSINESS

2) Air program reports

3) Bus program reports

Liz Smith *moved to approve the consent agenda with moving item 11 to before item 1 under new business in the agenda.* Jim Miles seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

REGULAR AGENDA

F. OLD BUSINESS

3) Airport Update

Rick Lamport thanked everyone for coming out for the grand opening of the new terminal. Rick discussed operations at the airport and the impact of recent flight cancellations. He also reported that the airport will be looking to update their rates and fees and have hired a consultant to perform a study and make recommendations.

4) Tourism and Prosperity Partnership Association Report - John Norton reported that the 2022/2023 ski season continues to book airline seats later in the season, more so than in the past. JSX is loaded to Dallas for the summer which TAPP is looking forward to. He shared that TAPP believes that the fact that American isn't going to fly to Dallas this summer is good news as they see Denver as our most important airline hub. TAPP will be promoting the Bikes Fly Free to Dallas heavily.

5) Bus service update

Scott Truex reported that ridership in January was up 54.5% from last year, and up 2,300 passengers over December (our previous record). Scott discussed many of the statistics that were included in the packet. He created an emissions report showing that the RTA buses reduced valley-wide carbon dioxide emissions by up to 2.3 million kilograms in 2022. He reported that there were over 12,000 senior trips in 2022. He also reported that ten of the last twelve months have been record ridership numbers. The CNG fueling station went down again for about fifty-two hours last month and Scott reported that we continue to have issues with this fueling facility. We do have two drivers in the five plex and there are two more than may be moving in. Staffing issues are due to lack of drivers, especially on the weekends. He reported that there are staffing issues on the senior bus service as well. The board had a discussion about potentially utilizing RTA housing for future senior bus drivers. Lastly, Scott reported that the electric bus demonstration was canceled by the vendor.

#### 6) Update on Bus Purchase

Scott Truex reported that the two new CNG buses will arrive in April. We have been given the pre-grant award authority by CDOT. These buses will be additions to the fleet, not replacements which will allow us to increase our future schedule.

#### 7) 2022-23 winter air service update

Bill Tomcich reported on final January numbers. With the addition of JSX, we exceeded the previous year's numbers. Load factors were comparable, and a little higher. Our January numbers were the strongest that Gunnison has seen since 2009. For 2023, we have a good mix of capacity to meet demand. Bill reported on the MRG results and current state of bookings for United, American and JSX.

#### Spring/Summer

Bill reported that we will be down to one flight a day for the April/May schedules. There will be a midday turn instead of an overnight. Beginning June 2nd, the aircraft will be updated to an E175. This upgrade will utilize satellite-based navigation. JSX is now loaded for the summer with four flights per week from June 2- September 4. United's Houston service is still yet to be determined. American is not planning on having any new routes from their DFW hub this summer. Liz asked what we might expect with the new satellite-based procedures, and Bill said that we would have lower landing minimums, and increased reliability.

#### 8) ) Airport survey

Nothing to report. David Becker does appreciate being included in Rick's IROP emails. Bill will follow up to see if they are still doing surveys.

#### 9) Bus Storage Facility Construction update

Scott reported that the interior photos are in the packet. Construction is scheduled to be complete once the frost is off the ground. Currently, we have spent all of the 2.2 million in grant funds and are now spending local funds. We are on track to complete the project within our budget. We anticipate that when the new buses arrive in April, we will be able to store them in

there but the project won't be fully complete until May or June. The board is invited to tour the facility after the next board meeting in Crested Butte in March.

#### G. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

No one here for public comment

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

##### New Business

11) (Moved by motion of the Board) Discussion regarding the 2023-2024 Airplanners, LLC consulting agreement and potential conflicts of interest due to Airplanners' relationship with the Montrose Airport. Liz Smith explained to the board that after thinking through it, she felt that it warranted a more robust discussion with the board. She does understand the proposal but sees the possible conflict of interest with the Gunnison/Montrose airport as a more complicated addition to the agreement. Janet feels comfortable with the current relationships with Air Planners. Jim Miles agreed with Janet. Jason asked about checks and balances to better anticipate potential conflicts of interest. Bill said he has been sensitive to this since day one, so he will be exclusively involved with Gunnison, and his new partner, Matt Skinner will be exclusively with Montrose. He feels very comfortable being able to maintain the separation. Liz Smith also spoke about how periodically going through a public RFP process can help an organization work through these issues. Bill did talk to Scott this fall and he didn't see it as an issue. The contract is for two years. Laura Puckett Daniels added that ensuring we are stewarding the public funds appropriately is healthy; in two years, it would be appropriate to do this and expressed that public process is valuable and should be considered on an occasional basis. Scott shared his perspective that Airplanners, Social Firekeeper, and Scott Truex are as close to employees of the RTA as possible. Scott will research what other firms are available and what an RFP process would look like. He will put it on the agenda for March. Jim Miles says this is the smoothest board he is on and that everything continues to run well with no conflicts and that the information is transparent. Exploration of the RFP process will be on the next agenda.

- 1) Authorization of Board Chair to sign letters of support for:
  - i. A second daily CDOT Bustang–Outrider bus between Crested Butte / Gunnison and Denver
  - ii. Mountain Express grant application
  - iii. Gunnison County grant application

Jim Miles ***moved to authorize the Board Chair to sign the letters of support.*** Jason MacMillan seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

2) Resolution Number 1, Series 2023 - A RESOLUTION OF THE GUNNISON VALLEY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY AMENDING THE POLICY FOR ELECTRONIC PARTICIPATION DURING BOARD MEETINGS

Jason MacMillan ***moved to adopt Resolution Number 1, Series 2023.*** Jim Miles seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

3) Air Command committee appointment to replace Roland Mason

Janet recommended Liz Smith replace Roland Mason. Laura ***moved to appoint Liz Smith to the Air Command.*** Jim Miles seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

4) Request for return of fully refundable deposit from Fading West Development, LLC –

After discussion, Jason MacMillan ***moved to request the return of our \$380,000 fully refundable deposit.*** Jim Miles seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

5) Resolution Number 2, 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

After discussion, Liz Smith ***moved to adopt Resolution Number 2, Series 2023.*** Boe Freeburn seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

6) Authorization of the Board Chair to sign a contract for the purchase of two housing units at the Lazy K parcel in Gunnison

After discussion, Liz Smith ***moved to authorize the board chair to sign a contract to purchase two housing units at the Lazy K parcel in Gunnison.*** Jim Miles seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

7) Adoption of GVRTA Gunnison Transit Center Analysis, Criteria, and Preferred

Location – Scott Truex reviewed the analysis and reiterated that the best location plan is the Gunnison Rec Center. If approved, we would like to approach the city council on March 14th with a plan and proposed lease of the land. Jim Miles sees a potential parking problem and suggested that the RTA could expand the parking with RTA paying for that expense. Boe Freeburn is also in support of this location in terms of convenience but to consider that phase 3 of the Recreation Center is still under discussion. Jason agreed with the location and asked if any future grants coming up could be used at the four-way stop in Crested Butte. Scott said that would be a completely different grant. Laura Puckett Daniels is concerned with taking up field space. Liz Smith is also concerned with lack of parking and reduction of field space. Scott said that a key to a transit center is line of sight from the waiting area to the bus stops and reported that there could be a significant drainage issues where the west parcel is.

*After further discussion, Boe Freeburn moved to adopt Gunnison Transit Center Analysis, Criteria, and Preferred Location document as presented.* Jim Miles seconded, which passed unanimously.

8) Approval of Spring, Summer, & Fall bus schedule – Scott Truex

This proposed schedule includes 28 round trips, which is up from 19 last. An increased year round schedule will help us employ our drivers year round, hopefully resulting in a steady work force of drivers. Jim Miles ***moved to approve the Spring, Summer, and Fall bus schedule as presented.*** Boe Freeburn seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

9) Comments to Gunnison County regarding the Wildflower at CB subdivision land use application – Scott Truex

The RTA requests that the developer agree to construct bus pullouts on both sides of County Rd. 740, similar to the pullouts the GVRTA has constructed along Hwy 135 as part of any approval. Liz questioned if the threshold of 50 units would also be used when considering service to future subdivisions; Scott replied that there are variables such as proximity to the current route. After further discussion, Liz Smith ***moved to approve the Comments to Gunnison County regarding the Wildflower at CB subdivision land use application.*** Jim Miles seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

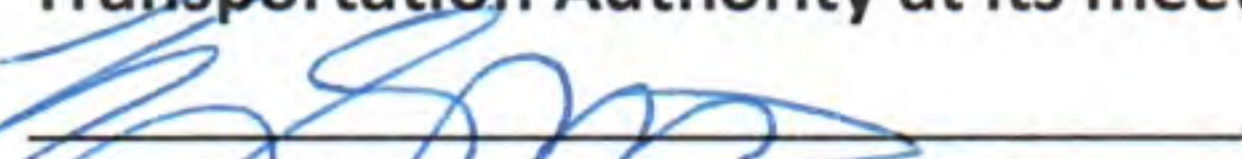
10) Capital purchases – Scott Truex, Leia Morrison, and Danny Bartelli –

- i. Tire Changing Equipment - Three bids were procured and the equipment ordered.
- ii. Bus lifts - Three bids were procured and the equipment ordered.
- iii. Bus stop shelter installations – The bus shelters have been ordered but we have not been able to get any quotes for the installation. Scott Truex requests permission to circumvent the procurement policy and go with Lacy Construction.
- iv. Aprons at Gunnison maintenance facility.
- v. Garage door tune-ups – update and discussion

After discussion, Boe Freeburn ***moved to move forward with Lacy Construction to install the four shelters in the City of Gunnison this spring in an amount not to exceed the budgeted item of \$30,000 while allowing staff to negotiate with another entity if one materializes.*** Jim Miles seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 10:08 am

**These minutes are the final version approved by the Board of Directors of the Gunnison Valley Transportation Authority at its meeting on March 24, 2023.**

  
Elizabeth K. Smith, Secretary

