

GUNNISON VALLEY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

MEETING MINUTES

May 5, 2023

Gunnison County

A. INTRODUCTION

Janet Farmer called the meeting to order at 8:03 am

Board members in attendance: Janet Farmer, Jason MacMillan (ZOOM), Liz Smith, Laura Puckett Daniels, Jim Miles, Anna Fenerty, Steve Morris

Also present are Scott Truex, Leia Morrison, Bill Tomcich (Air Planners), Jon Galle (Alpine Express), Danny Bartelli, John Norton (ZOOM), Cindy Barbour (Alpine Express), and community members

CONSENT AGENDA

- B. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA *MARCH 24th*
- C. APPROVAL OF ~~FEBRUARY 17TH~~ MEETING MINUTES
- D. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S FINANCIAL REPORT
- E. CORRESPONDENCE
- F. OLD BUSINESS
 - 2) Air program reports
 - 3) Bus program reports

Liz Smith ***moved to approve the consent agenda as presented.*** Anna Fenerty seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

REGULAR AGENDA

F. OLD BUSINESS

3) Airport Update
No report.

4) Tourism and Prosperity Partnership Association - John Norton reported that we had a great winter until March. Inflation and increased costs have slowed business across all markets. Jason MacMillan asked if we are getting back to a pre-pandemic baseline. Norton reported that this winter was our best ever regarding lodging revenues. He believes we are stronger than our pre-pandemic numbers.

5) Bus service update

Scott Truex reported that in March, we set a new record; we carried over 41,0000 people, up 32% over the previous year. YTD, we are up 41%. All of the last 12 months have been record numbers for us. In April, the RTA increased service by nine round trips (from 19 to 28). If the board can make it, there will be a Crested Butte Transportation Planning Meeting on June 12th

from 9-12. Scott reported that we are occupying another Lazy K unit with a driver, with another driver expected next month.

6) Update on Bus Purchase

Scott Truex reported that our first new bus arrived last Monday. The second bus only made it to Fargo but had to turn around for repairs. The bus will receive decals, be prepped for service within the next 10 days, and be in service by the end of the month.

7) 2022-23 winter air service update

Bill Tomcich gave the board a handout summarizing the total winter passenger counts, available seats, and load factors. He reported that the MRG for Houston did a lot better than expected. Because the fare was stronger in March and the fuel prices lower, it impacted the MRG positively, and we will owe less than \$12,000. However, American out of DFW did meet the \$300,000 MRG in January.

9) 2023 Summer Air Service Update

Bill Tomcich reported that we are now down to one daily flight on United but will return to two flights daily in June. There will be a Houston flight on weekends during the summer. On May 25th, JSX resumes. At the next board meeting, we will talk about the contracts. Scott Truex asked if we would like to approach JSX again about flights to Austin next winter and ask that flights be loaded earlier. The board agreed with the idea of approaching JSX and if they are amenable, then this will appear on a future agenda for discussion. Bill Tomcich said air travel is up 18% and that the E175 upgrade will happen on Friday, June 2nd.

10) 2023 Airport survey

Bill Tomcich reported that the airport survey had been wrapped up. David Becher from RRC will report the findings to the board at the June meeting.

11) Bus Storage Facility Construction Update

Scott Truex reported on the progress of the facility construction. Concrete work will start in early June, taking about a week. The domestic water line is complete. Fencing is scheduled for the end of May. We expect the facility to be operational in late June.

12) Gunnison Transit Center Discussion

Leia met with the Gunnison City Council on April 11th. Due to citizen turnout, the council has decided to refrain from further discussing this location. Scott assured the board that the RTA doesn't need a transit center at this time, and operations will continue as it has. Scott Truex suggests we talk to the City about their zoning to allow for a transit center in the future. With current zoning, the only area allowing a transit center is in the commercial zone (south of Highway 50). Scott Truex also recommended to the board that our transportation plan be updated. He would like to start this process this fall and budget for it in 2024. We did need to withdraw our grant applications and asked that the board move to do so. Liz Smith asked what

we would do for public outreach and input or future discussion. Scott Truex said that we would have to work with the city through the planning process. The Town of Crested Butte and Mt. Crested Butte built their own transit centers. It is in their Master Plan, so it will need to be a city initiative to talk to their citizens about it.

Anna Fenerty ***moved to withdraw all federal CDS and Section 5339 grant applications meant for the Gunnison Multi-modal Transit Center construction.*** Laura Puckett Daniels seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

13) Capital purchases

Scott Truex reported that the bus stop shelter installations are complete.

We now have an RFP for aprons at the Gunnison maintenance facility, and that RFP will be in the papers next week.

G. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Celeste Helminski from the Gunnison Chamber of Commerce commended the RTA for their service and for the new bus shelters.

H. COMMENTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS AND STAFF

Jim Miles apologized for missing previous board meetings.

Scott Truex informed the board that the governor had amended the statutes for RTA's to collect more sales tax (increasing the maximum to 2%.)

I. New Business

- 1) Review of the contract with AEX, Inc. – decision regarding a 12-month extension of the contract with AEX for the 2024 commuter bus service. After discussion, no action was taken, allowing the contract to automatically renew.

- 2) Request from the Whetstone Industrial Park to allow residential use on the lot next to our new bus storage facility (Lot #9) Allow residential use

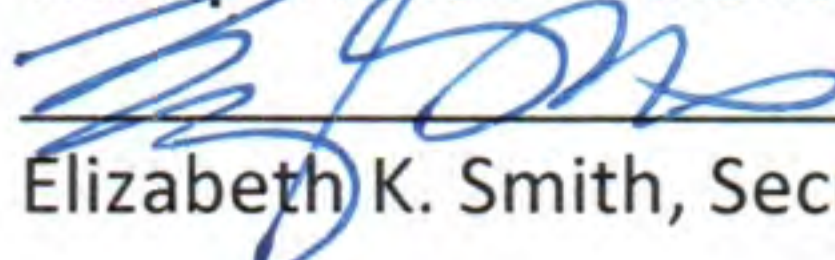
Jim Miles ***moved to vote in favor of the amendment to the covenants to allow residential use on Lot #9 of the Whetstone Industrial Park if Mountain Express agrees.*** Laura Puckett Daniels seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

- 3) Request to consider moving the June meeting from June 16th to June 30th

Liz Smith ***moved to move the June Meeting from June 16th to June 30th.*** Anna Fenerty seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:59 am.

These minutes are the final version approved by the Board of Directors of the Gunnison Valley Transportation Authority at its meeting on June 30, 2023.


Elizabeth K. Smith, Secretary

