

GUNNISON VALLEY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

MEETING MINUTES

June 30, 2023

Crested Butte Town Hall

A. INTRODUCTION

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

Board members in attendance: Janet Farmer, Jason MacMillan, Liz Smith, Steve Morris, Boe Freeburn, Anna Fenerty

Also present were Scott Truex, Leia Morrison, Bill Tomcich (Airplanners), Jon Galle (Alpine Express), Danny Bartelli, John Norton (ZOOM), Cindy Barbour, Rick Lamport, and community members

CONSENT AGENDA

B. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

C. APPROVAL OF MAY 5, 2023, MEETING MINUTES

D. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S FINANCIAL REPORT

E. CORRESPONDENCE

1) Letter of Recommendation – Alpine Express

F. OLD BUSINESS

1) Air program reports

2) Bus program reports

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

REGULAR AGENDA

F. OLD BUSINESS

3) Airport Update

Rick Lamport reported that the artwork at the airport is complete. Rick is working on a lead for a local restaurant operator. General aviation ramp work and general rehabilitation is taking place.

4) Tourism and Prosperity Partnership Association (TAPP) - John Norton reported that July is well booked, so they are moving some of their spending toward the drive market. TAPP has been working with Rick Lamport on displays in the airport.

5) Bus service update

Scott Truex reported that April bus ridership was up 40% and May was up 33%. We acquired our two new buses, which are on the road, and we received the CDOT grant reimbursement. We received more reimbursement than expected, so we only paid \$41,300 per bus. Janet, Leia, and Scott met with the City of Gunnison staff and decided that we would meet in January with

the new council to discuss a potential Gunnison Transit Center. An RFP for a consultant for a new transit development plan will be budgeted for 2024. Discussion of the future transit center in Gunnison ensued.

6) Bus Storage Facility Construction Update

Scott Truex reported that the Fire/Water line inspection passed, and all cement work is complete. We are currently waiting on some lighting/electrical components, with the end of July being the expected completion date. We have been in discussion with the POA on the location of our fencing. We are working with the POA to change the covenants to keep the gate in its current location. We are working on an access easement on our property with United Cement.

7) 2023 Spring and Summer Air Service Update

Bill Tomcich reported that in May, we ran a 64% load factor on United, and so far in June, we are booked at 70%. So far, July flights are booked with a 67% load factor. The fall flights are pacing slower but still higher than last year. Bill reported that the two weekly flights from Houston (outbound) are struggling. With the upgrade to the Embraer E75, we have had 54 successful arrivals and departures, and the two cancellations were due to severe weather in Denver. Bill also reported that JSX is not furnishing advanced booking reports. They are running four flights per week from Dallas. There was a discussion regarding the sharing of proprietary information. Bill also reported that we have a daily flight for fall through the end of September with a Remain Overnight (RON).

G. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

H. COMMENTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS AND STAFF

Scott Truex reported on the financial report that March sales tax was down 3% and April was down 10 to 11%, so projections for the rest of the year are down 10% to be conservative.

I. New Business


- 1) 2022-23 Winter Airport Survey – David from RRC presented the 2022/2023 GUC Passenger Survey report. Discussion ensued on the competitive set.
- 2) 2023-24 Bill reported that he recently visited with American and United. He reported that both airlines are pleased with Gunnison's winter performance. American said that Gunnison and Aspen are their top-performing ski area destinations. American announced they would add a second daily flight out of Denver over the Christmas holidays and an additional Saturday trip to help balance the capacity with the demand. The American MRG may not be required for next winter. United is also very pleased with Gunnison. United will begin winter service on December 14th, with a second daily Denver flight on beginning on December 21st.

Bill reported on the state of the MRG's and said that United does not anticipate any substantive changes, so we can most likely expect a similar cap. American did not seem to be that concerned about the MRG. He said that the DFW/Gunnison next summer was instead more of a focus. This may be the end of MRG's with American. Bill reported that JSX can adjust the schedules to pull flights out when they are not performing or add flights when demand dictates. They did indicate to Bill that they are still evaluating where they will put their resources for next winter.

- 3) Authorization for Board Chair to sign a contract with United Airlines for winter 2023-24 air service between Gunnison and Houston – Bill Tomcich and Scott Truex
Boe Freeburn ***moved to authorize the Board Chair to sign a contract with United Airlines for Winter 2023-24 up to \$300,000*** Jason MacMillan seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.
- 4) Authorization for Board Chair to sign a contract with American Airlines for winter 2023-24 air service between Gunnison and Dallas – Bill Tomcich and Scott Truex – if necessary, This item will be on the next agenda.
- 5) JSX update & discussion - Bill Tomcich discussed the friction between American, Skywest, and JSX. JSX does compete against American with their first-class cabin. Gunnison is the only ski market where the two compete right now. Only Dallas is loaded at this point, but we are discussing the possibility of an Austin non-stop next winter.
- 6) Award contract for concrete apron at 905 W. Evans Maintenance Facility – Leia Morrison & Scott Truex
After discussion, Boe Freeburn ***moved to authorize the executive director to negotiate and if possible, award a contract for up to \$350,000 to construct a concrete apron at 905 W. Evans Maintenance Facility after review by the GVRTA attorney.*** Anna Fenerty seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.
- 7) Set Winter 2023-24 Commuter Bus Schedule – Scott Truex
The proposed schedule includes 42 trips (up from 35) and is optimized to meet the needs of commuters and skiers. All buses should go to CB South. After discussion, Jason MacMillan ***moved to approve the Winter 2023-24 Commuter Bus Schedule as presented in the packet.*** Anna Fenerty seconded the motion. Boe Freeburn opposed the motion, with the rest of the board members present voting in favor, so the motion passed 5-1.
- 8) Resolution Number 3, 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, Jason Macmillan ***moved to approve Resolution Number 3, Series 2020 as presented.*** Liz Smith seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 10:14 am.

These minutes are the final version approved by the Board of Directors of the Gunnison Valley Transportation Authority at its meeting on August 11, 2023.


Elizabeth K. Smith, Secretary