

GUNNISON VALLEY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

MEETING MINUTES

September 15, 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, Liz Smith, Steve Morris, Boe Freeburn, Laura Puckett Daniels, Diego Plata

Also present are Scott Truex, Leia Morrison, Bill Tomcich (AirPlanners), Jon Galle (Alpine Express), Danny Bartelli, and community members

CONSENT AGENDA

B. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

C. APPROVAL OF AUGUST 11, 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. The motion passed unanimously.

**REGULAR AGENDA**

F. OLD BUSINESS

3) Airport Update

Scott Truex reported that the restaurant plans were moving forward.

4) Tourism and Prosperity Partnership Association (TAPP) - No update

5) Bus service update

Scott Truex reported that we have had the CASTA conference here in the valley this week, so it has been busy. July ridership was up 31%, and August ridership was up another 30%. The RTA worked with the Housing Authority to work with families at the Frontier Mobile Home Park to occupy six of the RTA units, and they are available until November 7th. The RTA may extend some of the short-term agreements. The RTA commits to filling the one larger unit with an AEX

mechanic assistant. We need thirteen drivers for the winter season. Scott reported that he was able to come up with a hybrid bike rack design to accommodate fat bike tire dimensions. New radios for buses and the shop are in the process of being ordered because the current system does not work throughout the entirety of the route.

#### 6) Bus Storage Facility Construction Update

Scott Truex reported that we received our Certificate of Occupancy. A few punch list items still need to be addressed and should be completed by Halloween.

#### 7) 2023 Fall Air Service Update

Bill Tomcich reported that GUC is wrapping up an extremely successful summer (the second strongest summer ever). For summer, the overall load factor was 80%. July's load factor was over 89%, the strongest ever. Bill also reported that JSX also ran an impressive load factor. Liability this summer increased to a 100% completion factor in July, and with that, the nighttime flight is now running at complete reliability. We will go down to one flight a day after September 30th. For October, we are pacing 10% down for advanced bookings.

8) Revisit of authorization for the Board Chair to sign a contract with United Airlines for winter 2023-24 air service between Gunnison and Houston for an amount not to exceed \$522,000  
**Boe Freeburn moved to authorize the Board Chair to sign an MGR agreement with United Airlines for an amount not to exceed \$522,000**, and Steve Morris seconded.

#### G. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Erin Ganser, a CB South resident policy update, wanted to assume there will be more discussion that there is a thoughtful response and that a public bus. She requests that this policy have a deeper review.

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

Janet brought forward the award that RTA received from CIRSA.

Boe Freeburn spoke about his experience on the bus on Saturday and wanted to discuss the RTA's policy for a drunken passenger. Jon Galle updated the board that it is up to the driver's discretion and that many factors are involved.

#### I. New Business

##### 1) 2023-24 Winter air service discussion

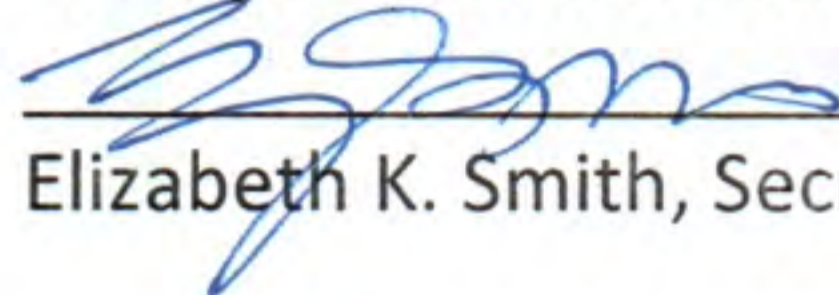
Bill reported that the winter schedules are fully published and mostly finalized. He said that American Airlines has no contract this year. American Airlines flies with MRGs from Denver in no other ski markets. We now have the free market determining the appropriate amount of service. JSX will resume on December 14th. JSX is flying at its own risk and is planning on five flights per week this winter. JSX will not be flying from Austin as they are no longer flying out of that airport due to operation facility issues. Bill also reported that according to Destimetrics, bookings across the marketplace are down.

American's bookings are up because their capacity is up. Bill reported that Houston is slightly down over last year.

- 2) Request for approval of bus window art for Gunnison County Food Pantry  
Jodi Payne, the Executive Director at the Gunnison Food Pantry, presented her bus window design for the three newest buses.  
Laura Puckett Daniels ***moved to approve the bus window art with suggested typo fixes for Gunnison County Food Pantry***, and Boe Freeburn seconded.  
The motion passed unanimously.
- 3) Approval of RFP for consultant services in support of the development of a strategic operating and capital plan for GVRTA's commuter bus service  
Liz Smith ***moved to approve the RFP for consultant services in support of the development of a Strategic Operating and Capital Plan for GVRTA's commuter bus service***, and Jason MacMillan seconded.  
The motion passed unanimously.
- 4) GVRTA Draft 2024 Budget Assumption Discussion  
Scott Truex presented an initial draft budget and informed the board that July sales tax was up about 8.5% and that the proposed budget is flat. Discussion followed. This budget will be returned to the board at the next meeting for adoption.
- 5) 2024 – 2028 DRAFT GVRTA Five-year Financial Plan  
Scott Truex reviewed the plan with the board. A discussion on MRGs was had.
- 6) Update of GVRTA Transit Policies and Procedures Discussion  
There was discussion on language for music on commuter buses and making RTA documents more inclusive. Scott Truex will provide another draft for the board to review at the next meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 9:50 a.m.

**These minutes are the final version approved by the Board of Directors of the Gunnison Valley Transportation Authority at its meeting on November 3, 2023.**

  
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Elizabeth K. Smith, Secretary