

GUNNISON VALLEY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

MEETING MINUTES

January 12, 2024

Gunnison County Commissioners Board Room

A. INTRODUCTION

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

Board members in attendance: Janet Farmer, Jason MacMillan, Liz Smith, Laura Puckett Daniels, Diego Plata, Anna Fenerty and Steve Morris (via ZOOM)

Also present are Scott Truex, Leia Morrison, Bill Tomcich (Air Planners), Dean Herrera (via ZOOM - Alpine Express), Danny Bartelli, and community members

CONSENT AGENDA

B. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

C. APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 8, 2023 MEETING MINUTES

D. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S FINANCIAL REPORT

E. CORRESPONDENCE

F. OLD BUSINESS

1) Air program reports

2) Bus program reports

Laura Puckett Daniels *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 on the operational issues that have occurred this week. He will keep the board updated on the winter weather conditions that are predicted for this weekend. The airport restaurant is moving forward but is experiencing some delays but hope to be operational by the 22nd. There was discussion about the delayed and diverted flights.

4) Tourism and Prosperity Partnership Association (TAPP)

John Norton reported that TAPP is still marketing flights, targeted the Texas area.

5) Bus service update

Scott Truex reported that December ridership was up 14%, and that the RTA carried over 44,000 passengers in the month. He also reported that the RTA carried 327,692 passengers in 2023 which is up 31% over 2022. Alpine Express didn't complete about 1% of December's trips due to a lack of drivers. However, Alpine Express has announced that new driver recruitment has been successful and this driver shortage should be resolved in the next week or so. The concrete project at the bus maintenance facility is complete, and the new lot has been

purchased. Scott reported that we are awaiting a transformer for the new facility at the north end of the valley. The senior transportation contracts are signed, and Scott reported that the service area for Gunnison Valley Health (GVH) is three road miles from the City border and that anyone outside of the three miles is covered by Mountain Expresses service. The new van for GVH has been ordered and should be here in a month. Laura Puckett Daniels requested that the notifications for bus cancellations be on the app earlier. There was a discussion about air quality on the RTA buses.

6) Air Service Update

Bill Tomcich commended Bella Biondini's article in the Gunnison Country Times. Bill reiterated that with the new procedures the Skywest aircrafts that are outfitted with the satellite navigation system need less than a mile of visibility; previously, they needed three miles of visibility, which is a dramatic improvement. He believes that this improved reliability is contributing to the increase in advanced bookings. He also reported that December was our first December where GUC experienced 100% completion and that GUC experienced 17% more passengers, the strongest December in terms of passenger numbers since 2005. Bill reported for bookings, we are now seeing double-digit increases for January - March. For spring, United Airlines has extended its second daily flight through April 8th. We will be down to one flight a week for 6 weeks this spring. The summer schedule will resume with a twice daily from Denver and a weekend flight from Houston, on May 23 and 24th. This summer schedule is beginning 10 days earlier than it did last year. Based on our current levels of success, Bill feels confident approaching the carriers to request more service. Laura Puckett Daniels requests that Bill also track other disruptions, including extreme delays and their causes. Rick Lamport added that it would be good to see this data compared to similar mountain airports. Bill will be providing reports with data as requested.

G. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

No public comments.

H. COMMENTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS AND STAFF

Scott Truex asked when the City of Gunnison will appoint another board member. Diego Plata reported that staff recommended to council that only one council member be representative on the RTA. Scott informed the board that having two elected officials from each municipality is a State of Colorado statutory requirement. Diego thanked Scott for the clarification and reported that on Tuesday the 23rd, Gunnison City Council will appoint two members to sit on the RTA board.

I. New Business

- 1) Election of officers of the GVRTA for 2024

Laura Puckett Daniels ***moved to nominate the 2024 GVRTA officers as follows:***

Janet Farmer as Chair, Liz Smith as Vice Chair, Jason MacMillan as Treasurer, and Diego Plata as secretary. Jason MacMillan seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

- 2) Review and possible authorization of window art on buses for CB State of Mind.

The board recommended a couple of edits including, adding an additional form of contact other than a QR code and making "CB State of Mind" more prominent. Cole Cooper from CB State of Mind said he would look into these potential edits and will send another draft to Scott Truex. Liz Smith ***moved to approve the bus window art on buses for the CB State of Mind with any edits in the context of this conversation,*** and Laura Puckett Daniels seconded.

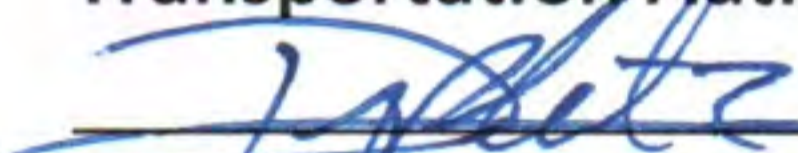
The motion passed unanimously.

- 3) Authorize the Board Chair to sign a contract with Fehr and Peers for consultant services to develop a Strategic Operating and Capital Plan for GVRTA's Commuter Bus Service for an amount not to exceed \$82,000. Diego Plata ***moved to approve authorization of the board chair to sign a contract with Fehr and Peers for an amount not to exceed \$82,000,*** and Liz Smith seconded.

The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:53 am

These minutes are the final version approved by the Board of Directors of the Gunnison Valley Transportation Authority at its meeting on February 16, 2024.



Diego Plata, Secretary

