

GUNNISON VALLEY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

MEETING MINUTES

November 15, 2024

Crested Butte Town Council Meeting Room

A. INTRODUCTION

Liz Smith called the meeting to order at 8:08 am

Board members in attendance: Matt Schwartz, Liz Smith, Laura Puckett Daniels (ZOOM), Steve Morris (ZOOM), Ian Billick (ZOOM)

Scott Truex, Leia Morrison, Rick Lamport, Bill Tomcich, Dean Herrera, Kim Bolling, Danny Bartelli, and community members are also present.

CONSENT AGENDA

B. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

C. APPROVAL OF THE SEPTEMBER 20, 2024 MEETING MINUTES

D. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S FINANCIAL REPORT

E. CORRESPONDENCE

F. OLD BUSINESS

1) Air program reports

2) Bus program reports

Matt Schwartz *moved to approve the consent agenda*. Laura Puckett Daniels seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**REGULAR AGENDA**

F. OLD BUSINESS CONTINUED

3) Airport Update

Rick Lamport provided the board with an update on airport operations. He noted that recent weather in Denver caused flight cancellations, but Gunnison experienced no issues. He also reported that the airport is fully prepared for winter operations.

4) Tourism and Prosperity Partnership report – No report

5) Bus Service Update - Ridership in September increased by 22%, and October saw a further increase of 27%. The winter bus schedule, which begins on November 27th, is now available on Google Maps and will be live on the website by the weekend.

The GVRTA has joined the State of Washington's procurement agreement and has ordered a new bus using local funds. Danny provided an update to the board regarding the motor rebuild for Bus 506, the oldest CNG bus in the fleet, which is currently being repaired in Grand Junction.

Kim informed the board about updates to the training schedule and the employment situation. Additionally, the scopes of work for both grant contracts have been received, and risk assessments and milestones for these grants have been completed. The consultant is reviewing the scope of work, and they are expected to be submitted to CDOT later today.

The capital project list in the 2050 Statewide Transportation Plan is being updated in collaboration with CDOT. The CB South paving project and the construction of new bus stops in Gunnison have both been completed.

#### 6) Gunnison Enhanced Bus Stop and GVRTA Offices

A joint work session with the city council is scheduled for Tuesday evening at 5:30 PM. During this meeting, we will present three alternative concepts for discussion. The focus of the work session will be on the bus stop located on the property, as well as the potential use of a waiting area, restrooms, and offices.

7) Air Service Update - Bill Tomcich reported that with Thanksgiving falling almost a week later this year, the industry is experiencing some softening in demand this month. However, United Airlines remains optimistic about the capacity increases they have implemented for the season. Flights from Chicago are now open and available for booking. Overall, winter bookings are currently pacing ahead of last year, indicating strong demand for the upcoming season.

Public Comment - none

Comments from Board & Staff - none

#### I. New Business

1) Elect a new Board Chair to fill the position until January 2025

Ian Billick ***moved to approve that Matt Schwartz will serve as chair, Liz Smith as Vice Chair, and Laura Puckett Daniels as treasurer for the remainder of the terms.*** Laura Puckett Daniels seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

2) Draft bus operating and capital plan

Kelsey and Mikhail from Fehr & Peers presented the draft operating and capital plan to the board. The plan is currently organized chapter by chapter, but there is interest in simplifying its structure. Mikhail asked the board for input on the plan's intended use beyond what GVRTA has already expressed.

Ian suggested creating an executive summary that outlines the purpose and key objectives of the plan, facilitating integration across the various communities. Laura emphasized the importance of focusing on proposed outcomes and timelines.

Mikhail noted a request to make the prioritization of projects clearer and invited further feedback from the board. He also sought clarification on how GVRTA would like coordinated projects to be acknowledged in the document.

3) Bustang Outrider 2nd daily CB to Denver Bus – request for subsidy. The board reviewed slides beginning on page 189 of the packet, which detailed Bustang and Outrider routes, ridership statistics, and passenger boarding locations. Key points of discussion included that the Crested Butte to Denver route is the most successful, serving 17,500 passengers in FY 2024. Approximately 40% of passengers are from Gunnison County, with over 50% from Chaffee County. CDOT is willing to add a second daily trip but requires local communities to commit to funding a local match.

The estimated annual loss for the second trip is \$425,000, with CDOT requesting a 50% local match. If service begins in May 2025, the local match would be approximately \$142,000, which could be split between Gunnison and Chaffee Counties. GVRTA's share would be \$71,000 for 2025 and \$106,000 for 2026.

The board considered the following:

- Supporting a motion to enter into an agreement with CDOT to fund a local match for the second daily Outrider bus service, contingent upon Chaffee County contributing an equal amount.
- Declining to support a local match for a once-daily Crested Butte to Montrose service, as no other route contributes a local match for once-daily service. However, the board expressed openness to discussing Montrose service further if CDOT proposes twice-daily service.

Liz Smith and Laura Puckett Daniels raised concerns about setting a precedent for locally funding a successful service. Ian and Steve emphasized the importance of regional service, advocating for support if Chaffee County also commits to funding. Ian stressed the critical nature of this service. Scott Truex suggested inviting representatives from CDOT's Division of Transit and Rail (DTR) to a future meeting to discuss Montrose service options.

Laura Puckett Daniels ***moved to enter into an agreement with CDOT to fund a local match for a second daily Outrider bus between Crested Butte and Denver for service beginning May 1, 2025 for an amount not to exceed \$71,000 contingent upon Chaffee County contributing the same amount as the GVRTA.*** Ian Billick seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4) Adoption of GVRTA Revised 2024 Budget

Scott Truex presented the revised 2024 budget, which is outlined on page 195 of the packet. The updated budget includes the purchase of the lot adjacent to Safeway, a substantial expansion of the spring, summer, and fall bus schedules and several smaller adjustments that were approved throughout the year. All these changes are consistent with the monthly financial projections provided in the financial reports at each board meeting.

If there were no additional changes from the board, staff requested a motion to adopt the GVRTA Revised 2024 Budget as presented or amended.

Ian Billick ***moved to approve the revised 2024 GVRTA budget as presented.*** Laura Puckett Daniels seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

#### 5) Adoption of GVRTA 2025 Budget – Scott Truex

Scott Truex presented the proposed GVRTA 2025 Budget, highlighting several major changes. At the request of Crested Butte staff, \$50,000 has been added to the "Contracted Temporary Help" line to support GVRTA's potential participation in the valley-wide Highway 135 corridor planning project. These funds would only be utilized following a future motion from the Board of Directors.

The budget includes a local match for Bustang services, contingent upon a matching contribution from Chaffee County. Additionally, the maximum cap amounts for the MRG contracts have been finalized at \$582,206, an increase from the previous placeholder amount of \$560,000.

The budget also accounts for the full grant amount of \$1,516,108 from the Section 5339(b) program to purchase two expansion buses. There is a possibility that a different grant, covering only 80% of the cost, could be used for this purchase, with the Section 5339(b) funds rolled into 2026. To accommodate potential contingencies, the cost of each bus has been increased by approximately \$31,833.

Overall, total revenues are projected to increase by \$38,308, while total expenses are expected to rise by \$235,798.

Liz Smith ***moved to approve the 2025 GVRTA budget as presented.*** Ian Billick seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

#### 6) Adoption of GVRTA 2025-2029 Five-year financial plan

Ian Billick ***moved to adopt the GVRTA 2025-2029 Five-year financial plan as presented.*** Liz Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

#### 7) Approval of 2025 GVRTA Board of Directors Meeting dates

Ian Billick ***moved to approve the GVRTA Board of Directors meeting dates as presented.*** Laura Pucket Daniels seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

8) Award of contract to provide Bus Operations Management services

Scott Truex discussed with the board the process and recommendation for awarding the contract to provide Bus Operations Management services. Scott explained that Laura, Leia, and he reviewed resumes from interested candidates and conducted interviews with two individuals. Both candidates were highly qualified and would have been strong fits for the position. After thorough discussions and reference checks, the committee determined that Mike Patterson was the best candidate for the role.

Scott confirmed that he has spoken with Mike, who has agreed to the contract terms and is prepared to start on December 1st. Mike Patterson brings a valuable skill set and credentials to the role and is expected to be an excellent fit for the organization. His passion for the environment, along with his prior experience with electric vehicles, design solutions, and process development, will be beneficial to GVRTA's operations. Mike's LLC, Evocatus, will serve as the entity for this contract.

Ian Billick ***moved to authorize the board chair to sign a contract with Evocatus, LLC for the services of Mike Patterson to act as the GVRTA bus operations manager from December 1, 2024 to December 31, 2026 with a monthly compensation of \$6,500 for the first 13 months and \$6,750 for the last 12 months.*** Liz Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

9) Approval of a contract with Gunnison County and Gunnison Valley Health to provide senior transportation in 2025

The contract amount for senior transportation services was increased from \$300,000 to \$315,000 for 2025.

Ian Billick ***moved to authorize the board chair to sign the contract with Gunnison County and Gunnison Valley Health to provide senior transportation services as presented.*** Liz Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

10) Approval of a contract with Gunnison County and Mountain Express to provide senior transportation in 2025

Scott Truex presented the contract with Gunnison County and Mountain Express to provide senior transportation services in 2025. The contract, detailed on page 235 of the packet, is similar to last year's agreement. The amount has been increased from \$100,000 to \$105,000.

Laura Pucket Daniels ***moved to authorize the board chair to sign the contract with Gunnison County and Mountain Express to provide senior transportation services as presented.*** Ian Billick seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

11) Appoint new Air Command Committee Chair

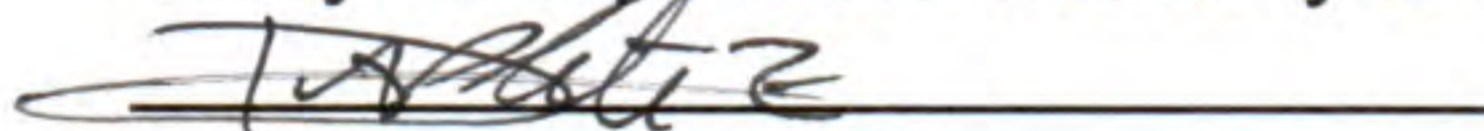
David Clayton has indicated that he is ready to step down from facilitating the committee meetings. Janet Farmer has volunteered to take on this role.

Ian Billick ***moved to appoint Janet Farmer as the Air Command Committee Facilitator.***  
Laura Puckett Daniels seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

12) Draft RFP for transit operator and maintenance services provider  
Scott Truex presented the board with the draft Request for Proposals (RFP) for the transit operator and maintenance services provider. Kathy and Scott are currently in the process of rewriting the contract, which will become Exhibit 13. Scott plans to bring the board a final draft, including all exhibits, for approval at the next meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 9:42 am.

**These minutes are the final version approved by the Board of Directors of the Gunnison Valley Transportation Authority at its meeting on January 10, 2025.**

  
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Diego Plata, Secretary