

GUNNISON VALLEY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

MEETING MINUTES

February 16, 2024

Crested Butte Council Chambers

A. INTRODUCTION

Janet Farmer called the meeting to order at 8:05 am

Board members in attendance: Janet Farmer, Jason MacMillan, Liz Smith, Laura Puckett Daniels, Diego Plata, Anna Fenerty, Steve Morris, and Matt Schwartz

Also present are Scott Truex, Leia Morrison, Rick Lamport, Bill Tomcich (Air Planners via ZOOM), Dean Herrera, Landon Ogilvie (via ZOOM), and community members

CONSENT AGENDA

B. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

C. APPROVAL OF JANUARY 12, 2024 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 operations at the airport. He expects Jermaine's to open the airport restaurant next week.

4) Tourism and Prosperity Partnership Association (TAPP)

No one was in attendance, but Scott Truex relayed a message from Norton that outreach is starting to slow down because of the timing of the season, and he is pleased with the results.

5) Bus service update

Scott Truex reported that January's ridership was up 20.7% to 49,484 passengers, compared to 40,983 in 2023. Sometime today, the RTA will experience its 7,000th bus trip of the winter, and

96% of those will have run within 10 minutes of the schedule. In 2023, the GVRTA Commuter Bus carried 327,692 passengers, which was 31% higher than in 2022 and 88% more than in 2021. Truex reported that the cost per passenger did decrease last year. Scott plans to apply for grants that would allow us to order additional buses which would arrive in late 2025 or early 2026 if the grants are awarded. The Gunnison Valey Hospital (GVH) van arrived but has not been wrapped. He also reported that the new bike racks for buses have been ordered.

Alpine Express has hired ten new drivers. Dean reported that things are now going well and that the extra drivers and training have improved operations. Jason MacMillan expressed to the group that he would like to see some improvements regarding communication when a bus is going to be delayed. Truex explained that we could invest in a more expensive app, but he feels that the current Swiftly app works the majority of the time. Truex will work with Alpine Express to increase training. Numerous board members agreed with Jason concerning the need for better communication and improved public perception. Landon with Alpine Express recommends that we market the successes of the RTA.

Liz Smith spoke about accommodating more than three bikes with bike racks and recommended that we contact the Rady School of Engineering as a potential resource.

6)Air Service Update

Bill Tomcich has implemented an operational report in response to the board's request, and the board expressed its appreciation. Bill reported on recent flight reliability. There were a total of ten flight cancellations with the following completions broken down by airline: American (DFW): 100%, Mesa (IAH): 90.3%, SkyWest (DEN): 96.8%. January's overall results included 15,296 passengers and a load factor of 63.7%, representing a 22.5% increase over last year. Tomcich reported that future bookings are tapering off but are still strong, with February pacing +5.4%, March pacing +12.3%, and April pacing +42% ahead of last year. Laura Puckett Daniels asked if there is a way to track significantly delayed flights. Rick Lamport reported that United Airlines' website reported that they couldn't make the time for the Gunnison curfew, and he wanted to acknowledge that it is a voluntary curfew. Lamport said that dispatch knows that GUC will always accommodate a commercial flight, even after curfew. Tomcich reported that JSX's January landing reports were not as good as the rest of the airlines. They had about five flights per week, and their load factor dropped from 55% to 45%. Tomcich updated the board on United's summer schedule, which is now starting on June 28th. United will also be adding a third flight on Saturdays from Denver. American Airlines from DFW is still on their radar but not a part of their summer plan for 2024 due to their regional flight and pilot availability. Bill requested that American write a letter so that we can apply for an extension on the SCASD grant.

G. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

No public comments.

H. COMMENTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS AND STAFF

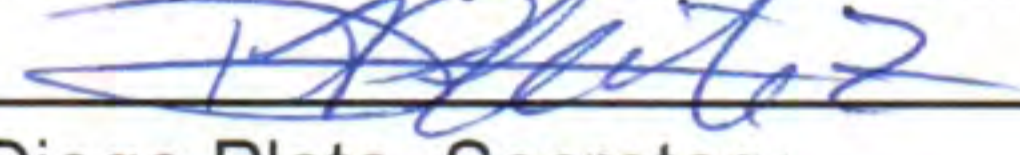
None.

I. New Business

- 1) Request for additional surveillance cameras on RTA buses. Due to recent incidents with drivers and reports from passengers, AEX recommends that they utilize advanced features that are available utilizing AI to pick up movement and send alerts in real time to dispatch. Landon Ogilvie from AEX reported that they have used this in other areas, and it has been extremely helpful. This would add redundancy to the surveillance system and this will be at Alpine Express cost.
Diego Plata ***moved to approve the additional surveillance cameras on RTA buses.***
Jason MacMillan seconded the motion.
The motion passed unanimously.
- 2) Options for bus schedules for spring, summer, and fall of 2024.
Truex recommended the 33 round-trip schedule because it can provide a half-hour service in the evenings and it will be beneficial for driver retention.
Liz Smith ***moved to approve option #3, a 33-trip spring/summer/fall bus schedule.***
Anna Fenerty seconded.
The motion passed unanimously.
- 3) Bus operating and capital planning project and surveying update
Scott reported that the contract was signed, and the project is underway. Fehr & Peers will begin surveying the first week of March.
- 4) Request to consider moving the May 10th meeting to May 17th
Diego Plata ***moved to approve moving the May meeting to May 17th.***
Laura Puckett Daniels seconded.
The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 9:26 am

These minutes are the final version approved by the Board of Directors of the Gunnison Valley Transportation Authority at its meeting on March 22, 2024.



Diego Plata, Secretary