

GUNNISON VALLEY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

MEETING MINUTES

March 22, 2024

Gunnison County Commissioners Meeting Room

A. INTRODUCTION

Janet Farmer called the meeting to order at 8:02 am

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

Also present are Scott Truex, Leia Morrison, Rick Lamport, Bill Tomcich, John Norton (ZOOM), Dean Herrera, AEX Representatives, City of Gunnison Representatives, and community members.

CONSENT AGENDA

B. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

C. APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 16, 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 that Jermaine's is now open at the airport and has been very successful thus far. This summer, the ramp project on the GA side will begin.

4) Tourism and Prosperity Partnership Association (TAPP)

John Norton reported that they are pleased with the winter load factors and that the new summer schedules are now on the TAPP website.

5) Bus service update

Scott Truex reported that the RTA had another record month for ridership, up 25% year over year for the month of February. The additional Gunnison bus shelters have been ordered and will arrive around mid-July. The new bike racks have arrived and will be installed on the buses. Truex reported that the RTA passed the CIRSA audit. The electrical work has been completed at the shop. Truex mentioned the Crested Butte News article regarding parking for clarification and discussion with the board. Laura Puckett Daniels reiterated that we have to increase service to get people to ride the bus. We will have thirty-three round trips scheduled for this summer.

#### 6) Air Service Update

Bill Tomcich summarized his flight reliability report, which was included in the board packet. There was a discussion on the disruptions in February. The overall numbers for February included a 99.2% completion factor; last February, it was 91%. For passenger loads, all three carriers ran load factors averaging 82%. Tomcich reported that March is pacing 16% ahead and April and May. After April 9th, we will be down to one flight per day. Houston flight begins at the end of June, but they operate at their own risk with no MRG. JSX's numbers were less than 50% in the month of January and 49.3% in February. JSX expanded its capacity from 4 flights to 5 but saw no passenger growth. Tomcich also reported that the MRG for the Houston winter flight had a substantial cost increase this year.

#### G. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

No public comments.

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

Laura Puckett Daniels asked that the board be provided with information on how diesel will impact the emissions report and compare it to CNG in the future when we look to expand the RTA bus fleet with diesel.

#### I. New Business

- 1) CNG Fuel Pump has a scheduled downtime discussion. Scott Truex received a notice that Gunnison Auto and Performance will dig up their fueling site starting April 15th, and after discussing it with Trillium, the RTA should be able to continue CNG fuel operations during the entirety of the project.
- 2) Bus operating and capital planning project and surveying update discussion  
Scott Truex updated the board on the progress of the surveys. As of the date of this meeting, we have over 370 surveys completed (last time, we only received 130 in the winter), and over half are actively riding the bus while they are surveyed. Scott will bring the winter survey results to the next board meeting. We will close the survey at the end of March and reopen it in June. We will send the board draft chapters of the plan as they come out. Scott requested that the scope of our contract be changed to expand our community outreach, with four additional meetings and two additional days with the consultants. Fehr & Peirce quoted an additional \$5,000 for more public input.  
Diego Plata **moved to approve adjusting the scope of work with Fehr & Peirce as described**, and Anna seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- 3) Update on bus grant applications discussion  
Scott Truex reported that we are applying for grants for two more buses. Our two oldest vehicles are approaching 600,000 miles. Danny has done a great job keeping these older, high-mileage buses running, but their expected useful life is 500,000 miles. One grant is through the Congressionally Directed Spending (formerly known as an earmark), and the RTA has asked Senator Bennett & Hickenlooper for letters of support. The second is 5339 Bus & Bus Facility Grants. We will apply for these grants, but it will take a year to a year and a half before we get the funding. If we do not receive funding, we must consider spending local funds. The third funding source is through CDOT, and we will apply for two replacement buses. We will withdraw the second expansion request if we get the expansion award. Procurement through CDOT has already gone through, so we piggyback off their order. Laura Puckett Daniels was concerned that we would compete with local entities (City/County) for the congressionally directed spending funds. Scott reported that we are applying with four other transit agencies. Discussion ensued.
- 4) Executive session for the purpose of determining positions relative to matters that may be subject to negotiations, developing a strategy for negotiations, and/or instructing negotiators, under C.R.S. Section 24-6-402(4)(e) for the purpose of conferring with staff regarding the possible purchase of an empty lot in the City of Gunnison

Diego Plata and Matt Schwarts recused themselves from the executive session.

Janet Farmer ***moved pursuant to section 24-6-402(4)(a) of the Colorado Revised Statutes, that this meeting of Board of the Gunnison Valley Transportation Authority adjourn and, upon affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members present, reconvene in executive session for the sole purpose of discussing negotiations relating to the possible purchase of a vacant lot in the City of Gunnison, Colorado.*** Laura Puckett Daniels seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

An announcement was made by the presiding officer, Janet Farmer prior to entering the executive session: "The Executive Session is not open to the public, and action may not be taken. It is Friday, March 22, and the time is a.m. For the record, I am the presiding officer; Janet Farmer the Board Chair. Present at this Executive Session are the board members in attendance except for Diego Plata and Matt Schwarts, who have recused themselves, and Scott Truex, Leia Morrison, Anton Sinkewich, and Andie Ruggera. If, at any point in the Executive Session, any participant believes the discussion is going outside the proper scope of the Executive Session, please interrupt the discussion and make an objection for the record."

At 9:07 am the Board went into executive session.

An announcement made by the presiding officer upon returning to the open meeting: "The time is now 9:26 a.m., and the Executive Session has been concluded."

The participants in the Executive Session were Janet Farmer, Jason MacMillan, Liz Smith, Laura Puckett Daniels, Anna Fenerty, Scott Truex, Anton Sinkewich, Andie Ruggera, and Leia Morrison.

For the record, if any person who participated in the Executive Session believes that any substantial discussion of any matters not included in the motion to go into Executive Session occurred during the Executive Session or that any improper action occurred during the Executive Session in violation of the Open Meetings Law, I would ask that you state your concerns for the record.”

No concerns were stated.

The meeting adjourned at 9:27 am.

**These minutes are the final version approved by the Board of Directors of the Gunnison Valley Transportation Authority at its meeting on May 17, 2024.**

  
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Diego Plata, Secretary