

GUNNISON VALLEY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

MEETING MINUTES

May 17, 2024

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A. INTRODUCTION

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

Board members in attendance: Janet Farmer, Liz Smith, Laura Puckett Daniels, Steve Morris, Ian Billick (ZOOM), Diego Plata (ZOOM)

Also present are Scott Truex, Rick Lamport, Bill Tomcich, John Norton (ZOOM), Dean Herrera, Landon Ogilvie (ZOOM), and community members.

Jason MacMillan was presented with a plaque commemorating his years of service on the GVRTA board of directors.

CONSENT AGENDA

B. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

C. APPROVAL OF MARCH 22, 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. Liz Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

REGULAR AGENDA

F. OLD BUSINESS

3) Airport Update

Rick Lamport reported that the general aviation Phase one ramp project has begun and should be done by mid-June.

4) Tourism and Prosperity Partnership Association (TAPP)

John Norton reported that they are pleased with the winter results, and he believes that the drive market was soft this past winter. TAPP is currently in the Texas market and getting ready for summer.

5) Bus service update

Scott Truex reported that ridership for March was up 18% and April was up 44%, the 24th month in a row that we have seen record ridership. For the winter, we ran 11,172 trips and carried over 206,000 passengers; over 97% of those trips were within 10 minutes of the

schedule. The new bike racks are now installed on all of the buses. We have been impacted by the closure of the Highway 50 bridge, which will be discussed later in this meeting. We are waiting on the final documentation on the new facility, and we should have that financially closed out by the next meeting. The spring/summer schedules began on April 8th. Landon from Alpine Express reported that we would have all housing units full over the next month. They are bringing on five new CDL drivers that will be local. Scott Truex explained that when the bridge closure happened, several RTA drivers had been commuting from Montrose, and they would time out and not be able to get back under the time limits for driving. This is one of the reasons why we are hiring more local drivers. Fortunately for us, we have housing to accommodate these drivers. We are using vans because several CDL drivers are based in Montrose. Within the next 2-3 weeks, this should be resolved. Alpine Express is absorbing the cost of the vans that are being utilized. Laura Puckett Daniels asked about the lateness and missed time recently, and Scott explained that these were due to mechanical issues with the aged buses. There was a discussion about bus maintenance and late and missed bus routes. Landon suggested that Alpine Express provide a monthly report that addresses the "no reason given" status in their reports.

6) Air Service Update

Bill Tomcich spoke personally to the challenge of the Highway 50 bridge closure. He reviewed his monthly report which was in the packet. He reported that winter finished strong with April having a 100% completion factor, 94% were on time with strong load factor results. 3,900 passengers in April surpassed the number of passengers that flew in 2022 when United had two flights per day. The highway closure has affected the spring numbers with many people flying out of Gunnison instead of Montrose or Grand Junction. The winter reliability ended up with a 98.4% completion rate (91.8% winter prior) and an on-time performance of 88.8% (compared to 78.4% the year before). When looking at any issues in air service this winter Tomcich reported a total of 16 cancelled flight segments (112 cancelled flights the winter prior) with a total of 26 irregular flights this winter. For summer, Tomcich reported that the second daily flight returns next week and overall May is pacing 35% ahead of last year, June is pacing 7% ahead, July behind and August 19% ahead. He shared that United is planning to add a second daily flight back into the schedule this fall. A mid-afternoon Saturday flight has also been added to United's schedule for the summer. Houston operates on weekends only beginning in June through August 18th. There was a board discussion on the Houston MRG and subsidies. Tomcich reported that JSX will start up flights again starting next week with four flights per week and then bump up to five flights per week for July and August. He will meet with American Airlines and JSX at his conference next week. American Network Planning did give us a letter of support for the DOT for SCASD grant saying that they are interested in a DFW summer service. Tomcich believes that we could be on track to break records in the coming year.

7) Bus operating and capital planning project and surveying update.

Truex reported on the winter survey bus ridership results. Our passengers that responded to the survey included 60% of our passengers that ride the bus at least once per week and 12% that ride every single day. Overall, Truex said the results were very favorable. The summer surveys

will start in June and will include four public outreach events at that time. A board discussion on how to use survey data and next steps ensued.

8) Update on CB South bus stop improvements

Truex attended a meeting with the CB South POA, Met District and the County last week and updated the board on the potential paving project that is needed at that bus stop. The RTA is committing \$60,000 to this project which will be led by the Met District. The POA will contribute \$10-20,000. We hope to get this done in July or August.

9) Update on bus grant applications

Truex submitted three grant applications. The competition is very stiff and we should know by August if we are successful. If we do not get any grant funding, Truex will recommend that we purchase at least one bus with local funds.

G. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

No public comments.

H. COMMENTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS AND STAFF

Truex wanted the board to note that we are flat for the year in sales tax revenue and he is keeping an eye on this.

I. New Business

1) Impacts of Hwy. 50 road closure on GVRTA operations

This discussion took place earlier in the meeting under the Bus Service Update.

2) Review of Transportation Services Contract with AEX contract and decision regarding a twelve-month extension of the contract from 11/17/2024 to 11/16/2025 for the provision of commuter bus service

Truex reported that this is the last extension allowed in our current contract and that he has started working on the next RFP which will be completed in June of 2025. This will be on the agenda at the next meeting to discuss the RFP process. Truex is very impressed with the service that Alpine Express has provided.

3) Resolution #1, Series 2024 - A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE GUNNISON VALLEY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY APPROVING THE GUNNISON VALLEY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY TITLE VI PLAN, PUBLIC NOTICE OF RIGHTS / COMPLAINTS PROCESS, LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY PLAN, PUBLIC

Truex explained that adopting a new Title VI plan is required every three years and that the plan is an updated version of the one passed in 2021.

Laura Puckett Daniels ***moved to approve Resolution #1, Series 2024***, Diego Plata seconded the motion.

Motion passes unanimously.

- 4) Executive session for the purpose of determining positions relative to matters that may be subject to negotiations, developing 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 recused himself from this 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, May 17, and the time is 9:13 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, who has recused himself, and Scott Truex. 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 9:13 am the Board went into executive session.

An announcement made by the presiding officer upon returning to the open meeting: "The time is now 9:42 a.m., and the Executive Session has been concluded. The participants in the Executive Session were Janet Farmer, Ian Billick, Liz Smith, Laura Puckett Daniels, Steve Morris, and Scott Truex. 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 board directed staff to pursue a contract for the piece of land in Gunnison. Truex will attempt to bring a contract for the board to consider at the next meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 9:44 am.

These minutes are the final version approved by the Board of Directors of the Gunnison Valley Transportation Authority at its meeting on June 28, 2024.



Diego Plata, Secretary