

GUNNISON VALLEY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

MEETING MINUTES

March 18, 2022

Gunnison County Commissioners Chamber

A. INTRODUCTION

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

Board members in attendance: Janet Farmer, Boe Freeburn, Roland Mason, Jason MacMillan, Steve Morris

Also present: Scott Truex, Leia Morrison, Kent Myers (ZOOM), Jeff Moffett, Cindy Barbour (ZOOM), Landon Ogilvile, Jon Gally, Anna Fenerty and community members

CONSENT AGENDA

B. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

C. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

- 1) Approval of December 10, 2021 meeting minutes

D. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S FINANCIAL REPORT

E. CORRESPONDENCE

F. OLD BUSINESS

- 1) Air program reports
- 2) Bus program reports

Boe Freeman ***moved to approve the consent agenda as presented.*** Jason MacMillan seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

REGULAR AGENDA

F. OLD BUSINESS

3) Airport Update - Rick Lamport

Lamport reported that the airport construction is progressing. The new jet bridges have been installed. The power unit on the jet bridges still needs permanent power off of the transformer. A new bag claim belt is installed and functional and the passengers are very happy. The new men/women's restroom on the public side is now operational. The glass and frames have all arrived so installation will begin shortly. The framing for rental car offices has begun. The water bottle filling station has also been installed. Installation of the covers for the parking lot will begin on April 26th that will include solar panels. Escalators will be installed next week.

4) Tourism Association Report - Jeff Moffett

The Summer marketing is set to go \$400,000 for a direct media buy (digital) targeting people and behaviors that include interest in public land, mountain biking, Baton Rouge, Austin, searching for Colorado trips, those visiting competitor's markets. April 15th - August. Local fare extended through the end of the year.

5) Bus service update - Scott Truex

February ridership was up 51% up from last year, down from pre-pandemic numbers still, however, March ridership is flat to pre-pandemic levels. Truex thanked Jon, Cindy and the entire AEX team and noted that Danny is doing an excellent job keeping the fleet running. Bus 503 needs a new turbo which will be covered by the warranty. Danny has ordered a stockpile of tires since they are available right now. Tag axle lifters should be programmed and completed next week. We have submitted the end-of-year report for CDOT. We did have several bus stop windows broken and Gunnison police did make an arrest on one of them. Scott has ordered a battery-operated security camera. Mountain Express and Center for the Arts meeting - possibly bringing the bus into their bus stop but it was decided that for now, the use of RTA bus stops is best. Gunnison County Health discussion on adding NARCAN to buses. Jon and his staff will come up with a recommendation for the board. We did have a couple of incidents, an ankle injury, a complaint about a driver closing door on someone, and small damage at the fueling site. The injury has been investigated and sent to insurance. Mask compliance incidences required law enforcement to get involved. The mask mandate runs through April 18th as of now.

Garrett Brafford announced that Alpine Express is going to be opening up a CDL training program and they are exploring a training course in Gunnison.

6) Air Command Report - Scott Truex

All major Air Command topics will be discussed further at this meeting.

7) 2021 Winter air service discussion – Kent Myers & Bill Tomcich

Bill reported that Skywest's CRJ700's fleet is limited which is why we had delays and cancellations this winter but now that all 19 are back in service they had a 94% completion factor as of February. Overall, Mesa and Skywest have performed very well in punctuality and reliability this winter. This winter's load factor performance, is one of the strongest winters that Gunnison has seen in many winters. The airport exceeded their 5-year total of "total number of seats" booked. March load factors are still 61% with Houston and Dallas doing even better. Kent added that financially December was strong, January was soft, February and March picked up. In April American continues to run for a few days which will be a challenge.

8) 2022 spring air service - Bill Tomcich and Kent Myers

We now have two daily flights on 70 passenger crafts. We will be tracking the advanced bookings.

9) 2022 summer air service - Kent Myers

Bill reported that the good news is starting June 3rd United will go to 3 flights a day to and from Denver through the summer on 70 passenger aircraft. There was discussion regarding Houston service. Last year, Houston was profitable because July made \$200,000 operating profit on the MRG, but August and September had significant losses. At the end of the year, we broke even. United wants to take July off the MRG and have RTA guarantee off-peak times. The Air Command recommended that the board go forward with no MRG (2 flights per week from

Houston) at United's risk. The board discussed the pros and cons of funding daily service from Houston, engaging in a suboptimal MRG (which sets precedent for other seasons), versus having United fly twice a week at their own expense. The cap they proposed was approximately \$250,000. Scott said that the consensus from the Air Command was to not go the route of the MRG because of the precedent it could set for our winter service and because we want Denver to succeed. Jason asked if there are climate impacts put in the calculations. Scott replied that there were not. Bill added that Houston service is highly seasonal and that we can assume load factors will continue to be low in August and September. Kent reported that Denver does not service 3 markets that Houston does and that includes Baton Rouge. Because the Denver market really compliments the Houston flight he agrees with the recommendation. Scott recommended that the message to the community focus on the fact that we are increasing air service by 10% this summer with three times/daily service to Denver. Kent added that Denver is a strong hub with its improved connections. There is a precedent for doing this in the winter in other markets. Roland asked if the new MRG would include language on fuel cost inclusion. Rick asked Bill what the likelihood could be that the pilot shortage or other factors cause us to lose the current schedules and the answer was it is possible. Bill reported that American will not be making use of the SCASD grant money this season and will be focusing their efforts on maintaining connectivity to prime hubs. The board agreed with the Air Command recommendation. **Jason MacMillan moved to approve the recommendation of the Air Command to not sign an MRG contract with United for Houston summer air service.** Roland Mason seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

10) Bus Storage Facility Construction - Scott Truex & Leia Morrison

Truex reported that the property owners association signed off on masonry changes. NEPA process had no concerns. We will be releasing the bid documents next week. We have been in touch with the POA property manager

11) Lazy K housing purchase - Scott Truex & Leia Morrison

Completion is still expected by end of the summer or early fall. The change order has been approved by Janet. We will do a master agreement with Alpine Express and they will rent it to their employees.

12) Attendance by ZOOM - Scott Truex

According to the RTA attorney, Kathy Fogo. Board members should not be counted in quorum or be able to vote by ZOOM

G. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

No public comments were submitted.

H. COMMENTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS AND STAFF

Leia Morrison reported that the marketing campaign for bus ridership has wrapped up and the ridership numbers show that it appears to be a success.

A discussion was held regarding the new bus Bustang Outrider originating in Crested Butte.

Collaboration and end-of-season wrap-up with Mt. Express will be scheduled soon.

CIRSA audit has been completed and we scored over 100%.

New Business

1) Request from GVH for bus window advertising

Jason MacMillan **moved to approve the GVH bus window covering request.**

Boe Freeburn seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

2) Authorization of Board Chair to sign a contract with Motor Coach Industries (MCI) to purchase two CNG powered D4500 Commuter Coaches for a total amount not to exceed \$1,650,000 – After discussion, Roland Mason ***moved to authorize the Board Chair to sign a contract with Motor Coach Industries (MCI) to purchase two CNG-powered D4500 Commuter Coaches for a total amount not to exceed \$1,650,000.*** Jason Macmillan seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

3) Possible engagement of RRC Associates to survey departing passengers at the Gunnison-Crested Butte Regional Airport during the summer of 2022 and the winter of 2022-23 – Scott Truex, Kent Myers, Bill Tomcich, & Janet Farmer. Scott reported that RRC is the company that has completed our surveys in the past and since there are so many more people coming into our airport now, he thought it might make sense to do another survey. He also expressed concern that in the past we may not have utilized this survey data. Kent interjected that from a strategic standpoint it verifies the O&D data and that the pandemic has changed resort communities. The information will give us data to take back to United and American. Rick said that because we have more seats coming in during the soft season it may have stopped some of the leakages from other airports.

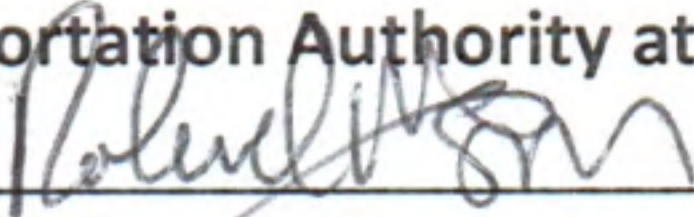
4) Authorization of Board Chair to sign a contract with RRC Associates for a total amount not to exceed \$25,000 – Scott Truex

Roland Mason ***moved to approve the authorization of the board chair to sign the contract with RRC Associates for a total amount not to exceed \$25,000*** Jason MacMillan seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

5) Request to set a date for a GVRTA Board Retreat with the Air Command Committee in May to discuss air service planning – Scott Truex. It was decided that a Doodle Poll will be created and sent to board. Roland Mason asked the board if they would like to include some multimodal project discussion (other than just bus transportation) in order to capture some of the funds that are currently available.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

These minutes are the final version approved by the Board of Directors of the Gunnison Valley Transportation Authority at its meeting on May 6, 2022.



Roland Mason, Secretary