

GUNNISON VALLEY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

MEETING MINUTES

August 12, 2022

Crested Butte Town Council Chambers

A. INTRODUCTION

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

Board members in attendance: Janet Farmer, Boe Freeburn, Jason MacMillan, Liz Smith, Jim Miles,

Also present: Scott Truex, Leia Morrison, Kent Myers (ZOOM), Bill Tomcich, Jeff Moffett, Jon Galle, David Becher from RRC & Associates (ZOOM) and community members

CONSENT AGENDA

B. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

C. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

1) Approval of June 3, 2022 meeting minutes

D. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S FINANCIAL REPORT

E. CORRESPONDENCE

F. OLD BUSINESS

1) Air program reports

2) Bus program reports

Boe Freeburn ***moved to approve the consent agenda*** as presented. Jim Miles seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

REGULAR AGENDA

F. OLD BUSINESS

3) Airport Update - Rick Lamport

No update.

4) Tourism Association Report – John Norton

No update.

5) Bus service update - Scott Truex

Truex reported that ridership was up 46% in June and 42% in July. The RTA carried over 20,000 passengers in July, which was a new record for summer ridership. Four of the last five months have been record numbers. The school district did approach the RTA to help once again provide bus service from CB South. The 7:40 bus from CB South will again drop off students at the Center for the Arts. Last year there were no overcrowding issues. Alpine Express has been doing some extra driving training. Jon Galle reported that COWEST has

begun CDL training in Montrose. These training efforts have led to more hiring of CDL drivers. Truex reported that the RTA has purchased a new bus for senior services in Gunnison.

6) Update on Bus Purchase - Scott Truex

The two CNG buses have been ordered and will arrive by February 2023. We are still waiting on the grant contract for the Congressionally Directed Spending (formerly known as earmarks) awarded a year ago. It is still not a given that we will receive these funds, but Truex hopes to know more by the next meeting.

7) Air Command Report - Scott Truex

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

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

Myers reported that summer continues to be strong across the board. Denver is 33% ahead of the volume last year, and July ended with a 73.5% load factor. August is currently at 65.8% load factor, and the airport is way up in total passengers even with the construction. The Jet Suite X (JSX) program to which the RTA contributed financial support is overwhelmingly successful. JSX increased the service frequency in July, so they were flying four days a week for a period of time, and they just announced on Monday that they're going to extend the service two days a week until September 25th. Tomcich reported on a year's difference and compared the reliability from last summer to this summer. He also reported that the load factors in July were an extraordinary 73.5% out of Denver, representing more than 100% capacity increase and 100% passenger increase. Tomcich reiterated that there's not a single other Mountain Airport that will see that kind of increase this summer.

9) Airport Surveys -

David Becher from RRC and Associates reported to Myers that there is an overabundance of surveys which is three times more than the previous survey attempts (417 total) because multiple surveyors were employed this summer, whereas, in the past, there was only one. Myers will provide an update on the results when one is available. Liz Smith asked if there have been surveys on JSX passengers, and Myers confirmed that there have been. Myers expects other demographics to be provided by JSX. The success of this program has been attributed to community involvement, particularly in the real estate market, and TAPP's efforts on social media. Myers added that obviously, the demand was also there. Tomcich added that JSX is a very aggressive marketer and their partnership with United is a powerful marketing tool.

10) 2022-2023 Winter Air Service - Bill Tomcich

Tomcich reported that the winter schedule will begin on December 15th, twice daily from Denver and daily from Houston. For the fall, United will go down from three to two flights a day beginning August 20th, and from September 30th to December 14th, there will be one flight a day that will be a RON. United's winter schedule will end on March 25th. The cap for winter MRG is \$481,000. The FAA now allows the E-175 aircraft to use the new lower landing minimums using new approaches. For American Airlines, an airbus 319 will operate once daily flights with reduced capacity. The \$300,000 cap from last year will remain the same for this

year. American schedule is December 15th - April 3rd. The airbus capacity is 128, and the CRJ700 has a capacity of 65 passengers.

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

The groundbreaking at the new facility took place last Tuesday. Truex reported that the RTA is receiving an extra \$500,000 from CDOT. The total project cost including land will be approximately \$4,000,000 and CDOT will pay about half of this.

12) Fading West Housing Purchase

Truex reported that the estimated cost of this project is 1.9 million for this 5-plex project. A 20% refundable deposit of \$380,000 is needed to hold the space for us. The groundbreaking for this project is expected to occur in June of 2023. A contract for the deposit will be brought to the board at the next meeting. We won't know the price until about 120 days until they break ground, at which point we can decide if we want to proceed or cancel.

G. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Scout Walton, who is a Skyland resident, congratulated the board for supporting the JSX decision. He reported that it is being used as an alternative to United or driving. He has heard from passengers that it is convenient and reliable, and he encourages the board to continue to support the service.

Nick Claus from Woodhouse (Elevation Hotel in Mt. Crested Butte) echoed Scout's response.

H. COMMENTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS AND STAFF

None.

New Business

1) Acceptance of the 2021 Audit of the financial statements of the Gunnison Valley Transportation Authority – Scott Truex
Truex reported that the audit went very smoothly.

Jim Miles moved to accept the 2021 Audit of the financial statements of the Gunnison Valley Transportation Authority.

Liz Smith seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

2) Authorization for Board Chair to sign contracts with American Airlines and United Airlines for winter 2022-23 air service between Gunnison and Dallas and Gunnison and Houston -Scott Truex.

Truex reported that the United contract is for \$481,000, and with American is \$300,000.

Jason MacMillan moved to authorize the Board Chair to sign contracts with American Airlines and United Airlines for winter 2022-23 air service between Gunnison and Dallas and Gunnison and Houston for a total amount not to exceed \$782,000.

Boe Freeburn seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

3) Resolution Number 1, Series 2022 – A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE GUNNISON VALLEY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY, AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF REAL PROPERTY FOR THE USE OF THE GUNNISON VALLEY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY – Five-plex, Lot 5, Lazy K Subdivision – Scott Truex
Jim Miles **moved to adopt Resolution Number 1, Series 2022.**

Liz Smith seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

4)GVRTA Initial 2023 Budget Assumptions – Scott Truex

Truex reported the 2023 Draft Budget Assumptions, which included that the sales tax revenues are projected to be flat for the remainder of 2022. The 2023 sales tax increases by 1.5% over current year projections. Winter flights are guaranteed to Houston and Dallas. Summer flights are guaranteed to Dallas (using SCASD grant) and Houston. The senior transportation operations continue with no changes in 2023. The purchase of a new senior bus for GVH is included. The RTA will provide a local match for the purchase of a new senior bus for Mt. Express. The commuter bus operates on a 35 round-trip winter bus schedule and a 19 round-trip spring, summer, and fall bus schedule. Includes the two new motorcoaches which will be purchased in 2023 (have already been ordered). The construction of the Whetstone bus storage facility will be completed in 2023. The new bus shelters will be installed in the City of Gunnison at the Library, Safeway, Teller, and Spencer bus stops. The concrete apron will be installed around the West Evans Maintenance Facility.

Jim Miles **moved to approve the GVRTA initial 2023 Budget Assumptions.**

Boe Freeman seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

5) Purchase of Ford Transit Van for GVH Senior Services Program in 2023 – Scott Truex –
Truex has worked with Scott Frikke and the vendor and the consultant. We do not have to go out for a bid. Truex will have firm pricing to the board in a couple of weeks.

Jim Miles **moved to authorize the purchase of a Ford Transit Van for the GVH Senior Services Program in 2023 in an amount not to exceed \$100,000.**

Boe Freeman seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

6) Purchase of Solstice Condominiums, Unit G from Margaret (Margot) Levy and addition of a workforce deed restriction to Unit G – Scott Truex

Truex reported that Margot Levy approached the board about selling her Solstice Condominium in town to the RTA. Jon Galle and Truex walked through the 2 bedroom, 1 ½ bath unit with the single car garage. Levy is proposing an approximate 25% discount to the RTA for this purchase. At the closing, Margot would include a deed restriction on the unit; the town of Crested Butte would be the beneficiary of the deed restriction and will be contributing \$18,000 to the purchase.

7)Possible 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 Solstice Condominiums, Unit G from Margaret Levy – Janet Farmer

No Executive session occurred.

Margot expressed that she was extremely excited to participate in preserving workforce housing in the north end of the valley. Liz Smith asked for details on the deed restriction. Scott Truex and Margot reported that it must be occupied by a full-time resident, working 30 hours a week and 80% of their income generated within Gunnison County. Jason MacMillan inquired about what would happen if the North Valley Supervisor were to leave, and how would the occupancy priority proceed. Truex answered that Alpine Express would run the lease and would be responsible for occupancy. This would be our 6th unit that the RTA has purchased.

8) Authorization of Board Chair to sign a contract to purchase Unit G, Solstice Condominiums from Margaret Levy for a total amount not to exceed \$620,000 (\$600,000 purchase price plus closing costs)


Jim Miles moved authorization of the Board Chair to sign a contract to purchase Unit G, Solstice Condominiums from Margaret Levy for a total amount not to exceed \$620,000.

Liz Smith seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Liz Smith reported on her work with the Southwest Colorado Opioid settlement project. Transportation across rural communities has been difficult and Smith opened up the discussion on a possible partnership with this project. Scott Truex spoke to the challenges and recommended that Gunnison Valley Hospital or Mountain Express may be the best partners in this effort. Truex will report back to the RTA on how we could support another organization in these efforts.

The meeting adjourned at 9:08 am.

These minutes are the final version approved by the Board of Directors of the Gunnison Valley Transportation Authority at its meeting on September 16, 2022.



Roland Mason, Secretary