

GUNNISON VALLEY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

MEETING MINUTES

January 10, 2025

Crested Butte Town Council Meeting Room

A. INTRODUCTION

Matt Schwartz called the meeting to order at 8:08 am

Board members in attendance: Matt Schwartz, Diego Plata, Liz Smith, Laura Puckett Daniels, Steve Morris, Ian Billick, Anna Fenerty and Valeda Scribner

Scott Truex, Leia Morrison, Mike Patterson, Rick Lamport, Bill Tomcich, Dean Herrera, Kim Bolling, Danny Bartelli, John Norton (ZOOM), Landon Ogilvie (ZOOM) and community members are also present.

CONSENT AGENDA

B. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

C. APPROVAL OF THE NOVEMBER 15, 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.*** Ian Billick seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**REGULAR AGENDA**

F. OLD BUSINESS CONTINUED

1) Airport Update

Rick Lamport reported that everything was running as expected at the airport with no other reports.

2) Tourism and Prosperity Partnership (TAPP) report –

John Norton reported that spending has doubled among all of the TAPP markets in the country. He said that with more terrain being opened at Crested Butte, bookings are also improving. TAPP will keep its accelerated pace of spending throughout January. They will continue to put money towards the Chicago flight, hoping this opportunity will return next year. Norton also reported that Vail Resorts has declined to help promote this Chicago flight. Discussion ensued regarding the valley's relationship with Vail.



### 3) Bus Service Update - Scott Truex

Scott Truex introduced the new Bus Operations Manager, Mike Patterson, and the new town councilor from Mt. CB, Valeda Scribner. Scott reported that for operations, ridership was up 5% in November and down 5% in December, and that year-over-year ridership is up 20%. The GVRTA carried over 393,000 passengers last year. He added that Alpine Express's dedication to safety and service is commendable. The GVRTA will be working on improving communications with Trillium. He added that the GVRTA and Alpine Express have addressed simplifying the alerts on the app. The GVRTA currently has ten buses on the road. Spin To See discs have been ordered. A new bench and garbage can at the 11th street stop in Gunnison have been installed. The batteries for the shelters have been ordered but have not arrived yet. Kim from Alpine Express reported that two new CDL drivers are coming on board. Scott Truex informed the board that we have ordered three buses and that the first bus should be here before the ski season next year. Joni Reynolds with Gunnison County Health and Human Services, identified two gaps in transportation in the valley: firstly, a lack of transportation to the west side of Gunnison and secondly, the lack of transport options to Montrose and Grand Junction. Landon talked about forming a coalition to have a regional voice regarding the Crested Butte to Montrose added route. Scott informed the board that the senior transportation contracts for service have been executed.

### 4) Gunnison Enhanced Bus Stop and GVRTA Offices

Scott Truex reported that several weeks ago, we held a joint work session with the Gunnison City Council and received positive input regarding preferred access points, parking, bikes, size, and building location. Scott did receive an initial scope of work for the funding from CDOT, but it wasn't what he was looking for so CDOT is going to start over with a new scope of work. Scott reported that it will most likely be another month or two before we get a contract offered, and we won't be able to start the process of finding a design-build team until we do.

### 5) Bustang Outrider 2nd daily CB to Denver Bus update

Scott Truex reported that Chaffee County has agreed to fund the other half of the local match for the second daily trip. He said that it is likely that we should be able to get the service going by May 2025. Scott reported that GVRTA will need to plan to spend the full \$70K this year and probably \$100K per year for the future unless CDOT can find additional funding for the service. A discussion on the history of the Bustang service ensued.

### 6) Air Service Update

Bill Tomcich reviewed the November 2024 results. He reported how the newly improved Denver hub and the additional aircraft resources that are now able to fly the new flight procedures, resulted in a successful two-flight daily service during the shoulder season. United Airlines added two daily flights to the spring schedule due to this successful outcome. Bill reported that there have been some weather challenges (especially in Texas) this December that have resulted in some recent cancellations and delays. Bill shared that United Airlines has been running smoothly from Denver and Houston. Looking forward, Bill feels that the remaining winter bookings look strong. On February 15th the new Chicago flight begins. Bill added that as of right



now, the inbound Chicago flights are strong in bookings, but the return flights are soft. There was a discussion on the operational limitations set by the TSA. Rick will send the enplanement report for 2024 when he receives them. There was a discussion regarding the food vendor not being open during the holidays.

Public Comment - there was no public comment

Comments from Board & Staff -

Liz Smith inquired about the housing units that the GVRTA owns and where we stand philosophically. She would like for the board to discuss its long-term strategies and also be updated on the status of housing (maybe bi-annual or quarterly). Kim from Alpine Express reported that as of this coming week, all housing will be full. She added that previously, the housing units weren't being utilized as much during the recruitment process, but during the last six months, it has played a large role. Kim said that all of the tenants appear to be long-term, so having housing as an option is beneficial to hiring. She said that landlord responsibilities have been the biggest challenge lately. The board agreed that they would like more regular updates on the state of affairs with our housing units and that it would be beneficial to have a one-stop shop where everyone could access these kinds of documents. Scott Truex added that housing is not run as a cost center, but it could easily be. Scott said he could restructure the budgets to show this.

Liz Smith also brought up the organizational structure and how it can best be reflected to the public.

Diego Plata brought up the makeup of the GVRTA board again, questioning what the state statute is regarding the required number of elected officials or if "elected" could be persons that are representative of the various town councils and commissions. There will be further discussion on this topic in the February board meeting.

I. New Business

1) Election of officers of the GVRTA for 2025

Ian Billick ***moved to elect Matt Schwartz as Chair, Liz Smith as Vice Chair, Diego Plata as Secretary, and Laura Puckett Daniels as Treasurer.*** Anna Fenerty seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

2) Electronic Attendance of Board meetings

Currently, we allow two meetings per year to be attended electronically. Ian Billick would like to see more flexibility or perhaps not have Friday meetings. It was proposed that the electronic attendance be increased to four meetings.

Ian Billick ***moved to allow each board member to attend up to four meetings electronically each year from October to October. Liz Smith proposed an amendment that if more electronic attendance was needed, board members could petition the rest of the board for additional electronic attendance. Ian Billick accepted the proposed amendment.***

Steve Morris seconded the amended motion. The amended motion passed unanimously.



3) Request to move the June 27th meeting to June 20th

Steve Morris ***moved to move the June 27th meeting to June 20th.*** Liz Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

March and June meetings cannot be held in the CB Town Council Chambers so Scott proposed that we move those months to Mt. CB. The Board agreed.

4) Adoption of GVRTA Commuter Bus Strategic Operating and Capital plan

Ian Billick ***moved to approve the GVRTA Commuter Bus Strategic Operating and Capital plan as presented.*** Laura Puckett Daniels seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

5) Approval of RFP #2025-01 for Transit Operator and Maintenance Services Provider  
Diego Plata asked that we add a layer of definition to the verbiage regarding translation services from "may be provided via phone." Matt Swartz inquired about the "monthly list of schedule delays and missed runs," he would like to add that "reason unknown" not be a viable option. Valeda requested that verbiage be added to the section regarding the Transit app to ensure that it is up to date with operations. There was a discussion regarding the missed loops and the incentive structure. Laura Puckett Daniels began a discussion about clarification on the tenant responsibility section.

Ian Billick ***moved to approve RFP #2025-01, giving Scott the discretion to make amendments as discussed here today.*** Diego Plata seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

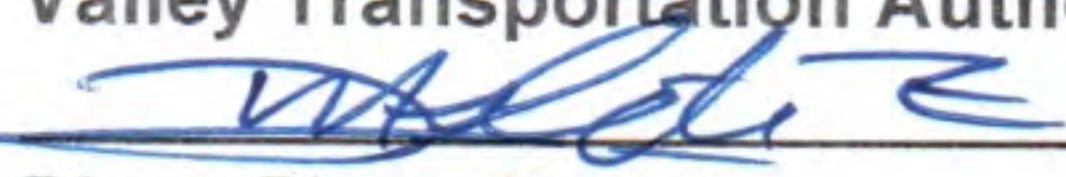
6) Appoint Evaluation Committee for RFP #2025-01

Scott suggests 5-6 people, including Mike and Leia, and 2-3 board members.

Laura Puckett Daniels ***moved to appoint Scott Truex, Leia Morrison, Mike Patterson, Matt Schwartz, Liz Smith, and Anna Fenerty to the committee.*** Diego Plata seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 10:21 am

**These minutes are the final version approved by the Board of Directors of the Gunnison Valley Transportation Authority at its meeting on February 21, 2025.**

  
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Diego Plata, Secretary