

GUNNISON VALLEY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

MEETING MINUTES

February 21, 2025

Board of County Commissioners Meeting Room, Gunnison

A. INTRODUCTION

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

Board members in attendance: Matt Schwartz, Diego Plata, Ian Billick, Anna Fenerty (ZOOM) and Valeda Scribner (ZOOM)

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

CONSENT AGENDA

B. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

C. APPROVAL OF THE JANUARY 10, 2025 MEETING MINUTES

D. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S FINANCIAL REPORT

E. CORRESPONDENCE

F. OLD BUSINESS

1) Air program reports

2) Bus program reports

3) Composition of the GVRTA Board of Directors - Memo from staff

Scott Truex requested to add the Authorization of the Executive Director to enter into a purchase agreement with MCI for the purchase of two MCI D45CRT Motor Coaches using FTA section 5339(a) funding for a total amount not to exceed \$1,783,655 to the agenda.

Ian Billick ***moved to approve the amended consent agenda.*** Diego Plata seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

REGULAR AGENDA

F. OLD BUSINESS CONTINUED

4) Airport Update

Rick Lamport reported that it has been a busy week at the airport and that there have been some mechanical delays with American Airlines, with one resulting in twenty passengers having to sleep in the airport. Rick also presented to the board that the 2025 Colorado Aviation Economic Impact Study reported that the airport generated \$154.9 million a year towards the economic impact of the community. There was a discussion regarding how this compares against our overall economy as a community.

5) Tourism and Prosperity Partnership (TAPP) report

John Norton reported on a precipitous drop in visitors to the valley. According to Norton, historically, when we have had a great air season, we have had a great visitation season as well. Norton reported that TAPP has been at work trying to understand the dynamics of this discrepancy. Ian Billick said that Mountain Express saw the second biggest day in its record, so he questions how we could be down 12% on skier visits to the mountain.

6) Bus Service Update

Scott Truex reported that ridership in January was down 11% from last year, but is still the second largest January we've ever had. He also reported that although February ridership is currently down 18%, the GVRTA carried 2,329 passengers on February 15th, which is a single day record. Scott reported on the recent CNG fueling station issues and praised Alpine Express for their assistance in bringing over vehicles for us to utilize. He also reported that the school district has offered us four buses if we need them. Scott Truex did attempt to acquire some older MCI D4500 diesel buses from an agency in Pennsylvania who were offering them for free, but they were acquired by another agency. Mike Patterson has been working with Trillium on a more permanent solution to this fueling issue.

Scott Truex reported on preventative bus maintenance and the condition of our current fleet. He also spoke on the shelter updates and a recent vandalism at the library bus stop. He reported that the second daily Denver bus started on February 1st.

Mike Patterson has been working with Scott Morill on how the GVRTA can integrate with regional emergency planning efforts, and he has been attending EOC meetings. Mike has also been able to work with our app Swiftly on some potential improvement of features such as alerts.

Scott Truex has been attending the Region 10 TPR planning meetings for CDOT's 2050 planning process, which includes potential GVRTA projects and the funding available. For transit projects, Scott asked that the following projects be included in this plan: Enhanced Bus Stop, Expansion of our fleet, Expanded service, Mt. Express's Whetstone facility, Park N Rides, Gunnison to Montrose service, and additional buses for Mt. Express.

Scott Truex announced that our federal operating grant for \$367k is in place and we will be submitting our first reimbursement request. He also announced that we received a scope of work from CDOT for the enhanced bus stop by Safeway. Scott also announced that GVRTA has received the Procurement Concurrence and Purchase Authorization from CDOT for our federal discretionary funds grant totaling \$1.516 million. This grant will cover 85% of the cost of the two new buses, which will arrive in early December. Scott also shared that he received and signed the grant contract for our CCCP award from CDOT for 1.427 million, which will cover 80% of the cost of two more buses. Finally on grants, Scott announced that there may be an additional opportunity to apply for the Clean Transit Enterprise funding created by the SB 230 funds. Scott will report back to the board if we can acquire funding through this source.

Scott reported on the RFP process that we are currently going through. The GVRTA advertised locally in the newspapers, in Colorado through CASTA and nationally through Mass Transit Magazine and Transit Talent's online hub, and we received requests from sixteen entities to see the RFP. We held our pre-proposal meeting on February 4th and representatives from three agencies attended. Applicant questions are due on February 28th and Scott will draft answers and get them to the evaluation committee for review before posting the answers. Proposers will have two months to get their proposals submitted and they are due on May 23rd. It was requested that Scott send out some calendar invites for these upcoming dates for the RFP committee.

7) Air Service Update

Bill Tomcich discussed the air program report. He shared that January was a good month operationally because we didn't have a lot of snow, however, he doesn't expect that February will look as positive because of the previously reported on mechanical issues. He reported that for the winter bookings, February is currently pacing 16% ahead, March is pacing 21% ahead and April is pacing 34% ahead over last year. Bill reported that spring flights are also pacing ahead. For future flights, Bill announced that American will be running daily service through DFW through April 3rd, United is operating three flights daily, with a fourth flight on Saturday, and Houston has been trimmed down to six flights per week per our request. Bill reported that we are \$50,000 into the black with our RFP, meaning the revenues exceeded our cost by \$50,000. However, Bill reported that we still expect a payout at the end of the year. Bill reported on the new Chicago flight, and that he is overall happy with the results so far. Bill would like to see this Chicago flight offered as a two-flight schedule next winter. For the summer, Bill reported that the third daily flight to/from Denver will be added in May. Rick Lamport will be beginning a leakage study.

Public Comment - there was no public comment

Comments from Board & Staff -

Ian Billick asked if the board might want to calculate an impact fee for future developments in the valley and engage in a future discussion. Scott Truex will add this as a discussion item on the next agenda.

Scott Truex reported that the December sales tax is up 7.4% over last December. Bill and Scott had a very productive meeting with JD Crichton of Vail Resorts and he attended the Air Command meeting earlier this week. Scott reported that he signed the 2024 Audit Engagement Letter with McMahon and Associates. We will begin the auditing process over the next few months and hope to have it complete in mid-summer. Scott has been participating in the Mt. Express five-year planning process as a member of their advisory committee. Scott discussed the recent updates to the website. Finally, Scott asked if the board approved of him approaching the developer of the Starview subdivision concerning the possible creation of a park and ride.

I. New Business

1) Review of 2024 Year-End Bus Program results.
Scott Truex reviewed some of the highlights of this report.

2) Hwy 50 and Hwy 135 Access Plan – presentation from the City of Gunnison & Gunnison County
Anton Sinkewich, Martin Schmidt, & Hillary Seminick presented the plan and answered questions. Matt Schwartz reiterated that this plan doesn't dictate that there will be improvements made. Changes would be necessitated only if development triggered it.

3) 2nd Daily bus to Denver - discussion
Scott Truex started with a history of this route proposal, the funding of the local match, and the proposal that CDOT made concerning the bus only running to Gunnison rather than Crested Butte. Matt Schwartz discussed the option of the second bus stopping in Gunnison and then proceeding to Montrose and the possibility of GVRTA providing a bus that could accommodate luggage from any passengers whose destination is Crested Butte. The messaging regarding airport accessibility was discussed. No direction was given to staff to take any action at this time.

4) Approval 2025 spring/summer/fall bus schedules

Ian Billick ***moved to approve the 2025 Spring/Summer/Fall Bus Schedule as presented.***
Diego Plata seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

5) Authorization of the Executive Director to enter into a purchase agreement with MCI for the purchase of two MCI D45CRT Motor Coaches using FTA section 5339(a) funding and for a total amount not to exceed \$1,783,655.

Diego Plata ***moved to authorize the Executive Director to enter into a purchase agreement with MCI/NewFlyer for the purchase of two additional MCI D45CRT Motor Coaches to be used for replacing buses #504 & #505 for a total amount not to exceed \$1,783,655.*** Ian Billick seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

There was a discussion concerning the composition of the board, which was on the consent agenda. Scott reported that the IGA follows the state statutes, which include two directors appointed by each member, which shall be an elected official. RTAs have to have at least five board members and one from each entity. The board asked that this discussion be included on the agenda at the next meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 9:51 am

These minutes are the final version approved by the Board of Directors of the Gunnison Valley Transportation Authority at its meeting on May 9, 2025.



Diego Plata, Secretary