

GUNNISON VALLEY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

MEETING MINUTES

August 8, 2025

County Commissioners Room, Gunnison County Courthouse

A. INTRODUCTION

Matt Schwartz called the meeting to order at 8:00 am

Board members in attendance: Nicholas Kempin, Anna Fennerty, Diego Plata, Matt Schwartz, Steve Morris, Ian Billick, Liz Smith (ZOOM)

Scott Truex, Leia Morrison, Mike Patterson, Rick Lamport, Bill Tomcich, Dean Herrera, Kim Bolling, Danny Bartelli, Andrew Sandstrom (ZOOM), JD Crichton (ZOOM), and community members are also present.

CONSENT AGENDA

B. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

C. APPROVAL OF THE JUNE 20TH, 2025 MEETING MINUTES

D. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S FINANCIAL REPORT

E. CORRESPONDENCE

F. OLD BUSINESS

1) Air program reports

2) Bus program reports

***Diego Plata moved to approve the consent agenda.*** Anna Fennerty seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**REGULAR AGENDA**

F. OLD BUSINESS CONTINUED

3) Airport Update

Rick Lamport reported on the upcoming airport master planning project. He reported that it typically takes 14-18 months to complete the Airport Master Plan. He has interviewed eight companies for this project. Lamport also reported on the high-altitude testing that is currently happening at the airport.

4) Tourism and Prosperity Partnership (TAPP) report

Andrew Sandstrom (ZOOM) reported that we are pacing better than our competitive set. The Colorado Tourism Office reported that Colorado has been losing market share to Utah during the winter season. Sandstrom disclosed that although the valley's winter visitation was down, our summer has been rebounding. He also reported on an interesting trend that TAPP is seeing

and that is that during the June-September time period, occupancy is up about 3% and our unique visitor count is down, but the length of stay is up. Overall, our occupancy is pacing up 2-3% and visitor days are up 2-3% and the rate is pacing up around 8%. Ian Billick asked if we should be receiving international visitor data. Rick Lamport reported that the origination study (leakage study) and OMD reports will show international data. Sandstrom commented that international data is most likely very low.

#### 5) Air Service Update

Bill Tomcich reported that the one market that is increasing is Houston, which is up 10 ½ % year over year. He reported that Dallas-Fort Worth (DFW) was also up 12% and Austin was only up 1.3%. Tomcich reported that June and July were record months for our airport. Tomcich spoke to our future bookings, reporting that August is pacing 27% ahead, while September is pacing 29% ahead. Tomcich reported that for the fall, October and November are pacing strongly ahead with October pacing 44% ahead of last year. Tomcich recognized that the local market is responding to the increased service. All of our winter flights are loaded and our MRG's with Houston and Chicago have been executed with United. The Chicago flight will operate two flights per week with the exception of January, for a total of twenty two roundtrips ending March 29th. The Houston daily service will begin on December 18th without dropping Tuesdays. Tomcich reported that the combined MRG cap is less than what we had last year and that all flights are loaded for both United and American. He reported that JSX is pleased with their service into Gunnison and will begin their winter service in December.

#### 6) Executive Director's report

Scott Truex updated the board on our current grant applications. He highlighted the fact that of the twenty five projects across the nation that were submitted, ours was the only one in Colorado that made it into the Senate version of the Budget bill and although there are several hoops that we will have to go through we have made some great strides since the last meeting. Truex reported that our first three buses are on the assembly line in Winnipeg and we are on track to receive them in early December and another early next year. As of yesterday, eight of our ten buses were in service and two were waiting on parts.

Truex also reported that we are going to propose a small route change at the next meeting, but we need to do more research and speak with the City of Gunnison. This proposed route change is in our capital and operations plan that we passed last year as something to consider.

#### 7) Facility at 301 W. Tomichi Avenue

Scott Truex gave an update on the grant contract. As of yesterday, the grant contract was still in the contracting queue, and he is hopeful that we will get it executed in the next week or two. We have developed the RFQ for this project which is later on in the agenda.

#### 8) Update on proposed amendments to the initial GVRTA Intergovernmental Agreement.

Scott Truex reported to the board that we are waiting on comments from the County.

9) Update on changing the form of meeting minutes from written minutes to using a recording of the meeting.

Leia Morrison reported that we are testing an audio only version on ZOOM at today's meeting.

G. Public Comment - There was no public comment

H. Comments from Board & Staff

I. New Business

1) Request to increase the airline mechanic subsidy for 2025

**Diego Plata moved to increase the payment to the Gunnison County Airport Fund from \$50,000 to \$54,000 to fund the airline mechanic subsidy in 2025.** Ian seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

2) Authorization of Board Chair to sign a contract with Swiftly, Inc. for real-time location services and service adjustments

**Diego Plata moved to authorize the board chair to sign a contract with Swiftly, Inc. for real-time location services and service adjustments.** Ian Billick seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

3) Inspection of new buses in Winnipeg and Pembina

Scott Truex explained the request to send Danny Bartelli to the factories along with our consultant, the reason being that we are ordering five buses. Experience will be of benefit to Danny, but also to the GVRTA. Ian Billick asked why this is the purview of the board. Scott said that it is outside of the budget. Ian suggests a threshold of discretion in the future.

**Ian Billick moved to authorize the purchase of airline tickets and travel expenses for Danny Bartelli to inspect our new vehicles in Winnipeg and Pembina.** Diego Plata seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

4) Approval of RFQ for Architectural, Engineer, and Project Management Services for Enhanced Bus Stop at 301 W. Tomichi Avenue

Scott Truex said we will need the final approval from CDOT before we can send this RFQ out. He discussed how we will handle cost control during this process.

**Ian Billick motioned with a caveat for the board chair to review to approve RFQ 2025-02 for architectural, engineering, and project management and construction contract administration services for the GVRTA enhanced bus stop facility as presented with the ability to make some minor edits.** Anna Fennerty seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

5) Approval of Clean Transit Enterprise fund grant application

Scott Truex discussed the terms of this grant, the forty one trip schedule to fifty three trips in the winter with approximately 15-minute service from 6 am to 6 pm. We would also add some thirty passenger vehicles to our fleet. Our CTE allocation of funds is approximately \$450,000 in 2026 and approximately \$600,000 in the following years and these amounts will fluctuate. There was a discussion of the general relationship between the feds and the state when it comes to funding.

***Ian Billick moved to authorize the submission of the Gunnison Valley RTA's request for funding from the FY26 CTE SB230 Formula Grant Program as presented.*** Diego Plata seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

6) Authorization of Board Chair to sign a letter of support for the Clean Transit Enterprise fund grant application

***Diego Plata moved to accept the 2024 Audit of the financial statements of the Gunnison Valley Transportation Authority as presented.*** Ian Billick seconded.

The motion passed unanimously.

7) Acceptance of the 2024 Audit of the financial statements of the Gunnison Valley Transportation Authority. Scott Truex was pleased to report that again this year, we were given a clean audit and there were no findings in the audit.

***Ian Billick moved to accept the 2024 Audit of the financial statements of the Gunnison Valley Transportation Authority as presented.*** Anna seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

8) Approval of the winter 2025-2026 Bus Schedule

Scott Truex reported that This proposed schedule is identical to last winter, which includes 41 round-trips per day

***Diego Plata moved to approve the winter 2025-26 bus schedule as presented.*** Ian Billick seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

9) Possible addition of solar panels to the 905 W. Evans maintenance facility. The board discussed and decided not to move forward.

The meeting adjourned at 8:51 am