



Mesa County Regional Transportation Planning Office

GVRTC Minutes for August 28, 2017

Attendees: Todd Hollenbeck, Kathy Young, Dan Thao, David Eller, Kathy Hall, Jason Smith, Trent Prall, Greg Lablanc, Frank Watt, Lydia Reynolds

Roll Call: Penny Prinster, Chair – Town of Palisade, called the meeting to order. Bennett Boeschstein– City of Grand Junction and David Karisny – City of Fruita are present. Scott McInnis – Mesa County was not present.

Call Meeting to Order: 3:02 p.m.

Member Representative Remarks: None

Transportation Commissioner Update:

February was a record of decision on the I-70 project. Keywit Meridian won the contract for the design build, finance and manage for 30 years. Sierra Club have filed a lawsuit against FHWA regarding the project. This project will bring communities together as there will be a park built and CDOT received a \$1 million grant for jobs and daycare related to this project.

Bustang-started in July 2015 and ridership on west route has increased 77%. North route to Fort Collins has increased 50% and 42% increase on the South route. They will be adding two more routes. Time frame to get this to Grand Junction? Think it's in 2018. 20 years ago it was Greyhound that then went away. Is there any outlook for Bustang trying to create opportunities to reduce the congestion? It gets some cars off the road but not enough. Bustang will add more routes and buses as ridership reflects it's needed. 156,000 in ridership in 2016. 40,000 cars in one day going through Eisenhower was a one day record this year. Have tested Bustang on express lane but it was setup with substandard width for larger vehicles. This may be an incentive for all buses to use it and won't be sitting in traffic. NEPA locked CDOT in to see if rail would not be feasible before can explore other options along I-70 Corridor.

New chairperson for Transportation Commission is Syndey Zink from Durango and vice chairperson is Shannon Gifford from the Denver Area.

Grand Avenue bridge will be awesome when gets completed. Mondays seem worst regarding traffic but gets better later in the week.

Panasonic-Colorado's Roadway Intelligent Solution-working with CDOT on smartcars, etc. Driverless car from Ft. Collins to Colorado Springs test driver through Auto similar to Uber. How to get road conditions from smartcars to the variable message signs is something Panasonic is working on. Autonomous impact vehicle-follows stripping trucks that no one has to drive. Did a pilot up in Greeley and didn't go as well as hoped but guaranteed they would work through the issues so CDOT is proceeding with purchase. Autonomous buses are also in the works.

On October 23, 2017 Transportation Summit where all this new technology will be presented.

Was there any discussion regarding passenger rail? Light rail is not working as well. It's packed to capacity. Study of rail on I-70 is not financially feasible as wouldn't have the ridership. Is feasible on the front range. Talking billions of dollars. Rail line is not set for high speeds on front range.

Approval of Minutes

1. Adopt the minutes from the June 26, 2017 GVRTC Meeting.

Penny Prinster asked for a motion. Bennett Boeschstein so moved and David Karisny seconded the motion. Vote was 3-0 in favor.

Consent Item(s)

The Consent Agenda is intended to allow the Committee to spend its time on more complex items. These items are generally perceived as non-controversial and can be approved by a single motion. The public or Committee Members may ask that an item be removed from the Consent Agenda for individual consideration.

None

Consideration Item(s)

2. Approving Resolution 2017-003, a Resolution of the GVRTC concerning the support for the 2018 Grand Valley Transit (GVT) Local Funding Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) and authorizing the Chair to sign. – Todd Hollenbeck, RTPO

This is the existing IGA that has been used since 2014. Proposing no increase and maintain system as is. 2018 will be the last year to be able to do this. Will have to look at reduction of service or come back with negotiations for additional funding. The strategic plan will be completed at the beginning of 2018 and this will help with the decision.

Penny Prinster asked for a motion. David Karisny so moved and Bennett Boeschstein seconded the motion. Vote was 3-0 in favor.

Briefing Item(s)

Briefing items are intended to allow the Committee to give Staff guidance in the day-to-day operations of the Regional Transportation Planning Office, or to hear general presentations from others.

3. CDOT Region 3 Update – Dave Eller, CDOT

Glenwood Springs project has taught us a lot on reducing traffic when didn't think we could. Modeling showed D level and the need to reduce traffic by 35%. Huge campaign to get out of cars, more carpooling, biking, transit. They are dropping off transit riders at the pedestrian bridge and pick up the bus on other side. Worked very closely with the school district and they postponed the start of school until after Labor Day. The school buses will be dropping off kids on one side, and walking them on a trail to the schools with a crossing guard. Possible options for the Hwy 340 project. Added marketing to the budget to help with Glenwood Springs project. Would school district add buses to help? Dial-A-Ride and Paratransit is all GVT provides in the Redlands so we'd have to add service. Walking school bus where drop the kids off and have them walk to school from the churches nearby, etc with supervision. Don't have a lot of time to talk about it since going to advertisement in September. GVT has federal funds that aren't currently be matched. Is the school district willing to add buses but would be required to be open to the general public if use federal funds to help operate. School district increasing walking distance from 1 mile to 3 miles has increased traffic. There is a crosswalk but not everyone stops. Sidewalks are still limited but have been improved.

Maybe stopping the truck traffic during the waves around the schools schedule and adjust construction site. Have discussed night construction and 12 hours construction times. Use lessons learned from Glenwood project to help with this project. Have made recommendations to schools with the Safe Routes to School project RTPPO completed.

I-70B west has started design through 1st and Grand at 30% design. City now owns the pawn shop at the corner by the Depot.

Clifton-proceeding forward and have meetings set up with the community to get design going.

20 Rd & US 6 working with consultant and evaluating the options presented by consultant.

Hwy 139 surface treatment out for advertisement in November. Southside work all the way up to mile marker 31 and the summit is at mile marker 35.

Exit 49-awarded to United. They asked to delay construction until next year instead of doing a winter shut down. Could come in next year and start construction and not take much longer. Decision was to start next year.

Hwy 141 / 32 Bridge over river in need to have the concrete railing rebuilt. The utilities will all have to be moved under the bridge. This will happen next year.

West of DeBeque bridge has fatigue cracking on the metal and will be doing a welding project to repair it and then replace the decking.

4. GVRTC 2017 - 2018 Meeting Schedule – Todd Hollenbeck, RTPPO

October 23, 2017

December 18, 2017

February 26, 2018

April 23, 2018

June 25, 2018

August 27, 2018

October 22, 2018

December 17, 2018

About two months ago there was a discussion about the upcoming schedule. The committed went to an every other month schedule a little over a year ago at the request of the GVRTC. Is this working for everyone? The end of next year will be the kickoff to the 2045 and starting the modeling update but will be items needed to be brought to the GVRTC. From staff's perspective, it's working. Could develop a staff memo to provide on the months there isn't a meeting. Committee member has a concern when there are a number of items for discussion and they bring that back to their council, don't have time to present the information. Okay with meeting more than every other month if it splits up large volumes of information. Staff will notify GVRTC at current meeting if there will be a need for one the following month.

5. Grand Valley Transit (GVT) Strategic Plan Vision and Goals Discussion – Todd Hollenbeck, RTPPO

• **Attachment**

Last month we had a retreat which had great attendance and participation. Looking at where GVT is at currently and challenges now facing and where we want it to be in the future. After going through the retreat and public events, this is the consultant's first effort at the vision and goals. You can take this with you and review it and make comments back to us or we can go

through it now and discuss them. Recommending change in wording related to the Vision statement. Do we want to expand outside Grand Valley? Needs to be broader so not leaving out Powderhorn or DeBeque. Do we want to mention local plans within the vision statement or is this something already into the document? Consistent with comprehensive plans from participating entities added under collaboration section.

Question raised on whether CMU is paying now for students to ride GVT. They are but not as much as the original agreement. They are continuing to charge each student but CMU is not providing the full amount to GVT. Why are we not making them? Staff have gone through a roller coaster with them regarding this funding that was specifically for GVT. Since then the university has changed the language but not specific to GVT. At one point CMU completely stopped paying. Now they are paying GVT for students requesting a pass. Struggling with the marketing on campus. Staff is making progress but not to where it was originally. As the City of Grand Junction pours so much into CMU, they need to reciprocate it. So what other transportation do they provide? Parking in a nightmare. There is some belief the funding is going toward MavRides. This funding also helps pay for additional parking spaces but this information is not readily available from CMU. The students voted as a student body to have the \$4 per student per semester to go toward GVT when it was originally established. This is a two way partnership. CMU has a different view for public transportation and look more towards Uber. Both Tim and Derrick were invited to the retreat and John Marshall came. Based on their information, students attending the university aren't from the larger urban areas and they are accustomed to services such as Uber.

Need to have a meeting to discuss the concern with CMU and maybe some recommendations will come out of Strategic Plan. Come with a recommendation and examples where it's been successful. Will table this until the planning effort completed.

6. GVT Operations Report for July 2017 – Dan Thao, GVT

- **Attachment**

Experienced a downtick in ridership for fixed route. Paratransit has been experiencing an uptick in ridership. Have started running service for Las Colonia events and have had a total of 55 riders. We are having issues with having access to the theater regarding pedestrian traffic. This is getting better. Marketing is only happening by City of Grand Junction and Pennacole. Need to get the word out and maybe ridership would increase if more people know about it. Next event is on 9/2/17. Have discussed routes to/from Lincoln Park and the two parking garages at CMU. Parks and Rec wasn't open to this idea.

Have had a few accidents this month and provided notifications to give GVRTC a heads up.

Other Business:

Meeting Adjourned: 4:20p.m.: Minutes submitted by Kathy Young.