



## Mesa County Regional Transportation Planning Office

### GVRTC Minutes for June 26, 2017

**Attendees:** Jody Kliska, Zane Znamenacek, Frank Watt, Todd Hollenbeck, Dean Bressler, Biz Collins, Kathy Young, Mark Rogers, Tristan Schmalz, Tamra Allen, Dan Thao, Trent Prall, Ken Haley, Rob Beck

**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 (absent).

#### **Call Meeting to Order: 3:01 p.m.**

Member Representative Remarks: None

Transportation Commissioner Update: None

#### **Approval of Minutes**

1. Adopt the minutes from the April 24, 2017 GVRTC Meeting.

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

#### **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.

2. Adopting a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the Grand Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (GVMPO), Grand Valley Transit (GVT) and the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) to serve as the Metropolitan Planning Agreement (MPA) in accordance with 23 CFR 450 and authorizing the Chair to sign. – Todd Hollenbeck, RTPO

- Attachment

This is an agreement that goes before this board about every 4 years in order to be in compliance with FHWA. The agreement has been reviewed by the Mesa County attorney's office. It has been reviewed by the other Colorado MPOs and TPRs for acceptance by all and to ensure some consistency among the MOAs that CDOT will execute.

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

3. Adopting the 2018-2019 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) by approving Resolution 2017-002, an Agreement between the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) and the Grand Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (GVMPO) and authorizing the Chair to sign. – Todd Hollenbeck, RTPO

- Attachment

This is brought before the board annually. The plan identifies the work conducted by this office as well as planning partners and the funding associated with it. Need to make an update by removing Phyllis Norris and adding Bennett Boeschstein. The plan has been out for public comment for over 30 days. No comments received to date.

There is a good list of accomplishments. This office is involved in the multi-use trail corridor study and plan for Monument Road and potential improvements to the Lunch Loops Trailhead. Dean Bressler is the primary person involved in this project along with Biz and Todd. This is a National Park Service, Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance planning and design grant for this phase of the project. How will it all work together? Connect Colorado River Trail to Colorado National monument. Connect to Lunch Loops and improvements to parking lot as well as a changing room, shade structures, and parking. The open house will be at the Bike to Work Day event June 28, 2017 from 6:30-9am at GJ City Hall as well as from 5:30-7:30pm at the Central Library. How is the land acquisition going with this? The City of Grand Junction and Mesa Land Trust have worked cooperatively with the respective private property owners and have agreements in place that will enable the shared-use path to be routed along the south side of Monument Road. These agreements achieve the following: 1) place a small portion of each property into a City-owned ROW, 2) the transfer of ROW and construction of a path will alleviate some of the current flooding and property degradation which the landowners welcome; 3) satisfies all property owners by installing a trail that both improves property values and enhances the development opportunities for one or more of the owners. Trail will be in and out of floodplain and will be designed with low-water crossings in some locations. On these bike trails, are they going to allow e-bikes or is this still in discussion? This is still in discussion. Federal Land Managers already have regulations in place and they are not allowed by BLM at the key non-motorized trailheads such as Lunch Loops or Kokopelli Loops in Fruita. Aren't there different classifications that can't go over a certain speed? The electric bikes go up to 40 MPH. The electric assist bikes can go very fast. The legislature also passed new laws but the laws don't clearly speak to what is allowed or restricted in municipalities. There are three levels of pedal assists according to the paper. The first two can be ridden on the trail. Anecdotally we took these bikes out on multipurpose trails and still have to pedal but there is assistance. There is a group looking at it in a competitive way. Those trails were designed for non-motorized use and allowing them is a mistake and the BLM has a better handle on this than anyone else. The state parks typically have both non-motorized and motorized trails. BLM and Forest Service have signs specifying what's allowed on their trails. Even the BLM is having conflicts and have a developed travel management plan.

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

#### **Consideration Item(s)**

4. Election of the GVRTC Chair and Vice-Chair positions. Currently, the Chair is Penny Prinster and Phyllis Norris is the Vice-Chair. Phyllis has been replaced by Grand Junction City Councilmember, Mayor Pro Tem Bennett Boeschstein. The majority vote of the Members present at the time of the vote will determine the officers. – Todd Hollenbeck, RTPO

Penny Prinster stated she had discussed with Todd Hollenbeck and David Karisny before the meeting she is willing to remain as Chair through April 2018. This is an item within GVRTC bylaws that elections are done annually. Historically this has been a rotating position. Penny Prinster will complete 12 years of service next April.

Penny Prinster recommended Bennett Boeschstein as Vice Chair and 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.

5. CDOT Region 3 Update – Mark Rogers, CDOT  
Construction update. Hwy 65 resurfacing is going well. North Avenue project has started. Exit 49 out to ad last week with bids due the first of July. Redlands Roundabout in final design as well as Douglas Pass. There were a lot of questions about SB267. See handout that was provided at STAC. The Transportation Commission still talking and debating about it. It's signed and going forward. Background is that the

State is going sell and lease back State facilities and CDOT will receive \$1.8 billion of those proceeds. 10% for Transit, at least 25% CDOT proceeds need to be applied to rural counties in Colorado-population of 50,000 or less. Mesa, Garfield, and Eagle Counties are above 50,000 in population in Region 3. CDOT is responsible for first \$50 million in lease payments. How should this \$50 million be funded? Surface treatment? RPP? Any number of things. Transportation Commission is looking at what if have to cover more. Remainder could be paid by General Fund or other authorized funds. What projects is CDOT looking at? CDOT is looking at what funding the \$50 million will come out of before looking at projects.

There have been some projects that have been kicked around. Tier 1 development lists, which consists of I-70B, US 6, Palisade Curves and others. Looking to the Transportation Commission for guidance. Want to look statewide. Most of these projects are already in various stages of design. With Transit, does that extend to Bustang from Glenwood to Denver? On payback does it have to be infrastructure or can payback also be made with buses? This is not known as have to figure out what can and can't be done with it.

I-70B construction has started and will continue through the end of the year. Design on Grand Avenue has just begun with an eye looking down around the corner to 2<sup>nd</sup> street. There will be many public sessions on this as well as meetings with businesses and stakeholders on this next phase.

6. Grand Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (GVMPO) Safety Performance Management Presentation – Dean Bressler, RTPO

See handout. This has been discussed a little bit off and on for the past year. At the April GVRTC meeting John Cater and Bill Haas of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) were here to provide the 1<sup>st</sup> formal briefing of what's ahead. This is to provide more information of what's ahead. There is more in the packet than what is on the slides on screen. Will need to take a close look at Mesa County's targets as compared to what State reported to the National Highway Safety Administration for the first three safety performance measures and targets, as well as the full five measures and targets that CDOT will report to FHWA by about August 1. Safety data is available locally but VMT will need to be estimated. The State numbers include those from the local level. Create safer intersections, is an action item, would that be part of this? Have a corridor with serious accidents or fatalities, local agency would assess various countermeasures and take steps to achieving these targets. This would go into the next 2045 planning process. If this committee feels State target is too high (for instance, allowing for too great of an increase in fatalities or rate of fatalities), then this committee can set a different, more aggressive target(s) that would be more aspirational than the CDOT targets. Intelligent vehicles will hopefully take away the distracted driving crashes over the next 5-10 years.

7. Safe Routes to School Presentation – Jody Kliska, RTPO

See handout. Just about a year ago, RTPO received a grant. Building on previous grant awarded to Grand Valley Bikes. Didn't CDOT do a study of that area in Clifton? The Planning and Environmental Linkages study (PEL) was completed and CDOT is proceeding using those findings within the design. Available ROW is a concern in this area. Todd will make a presentation on this SRTS project at the next statewide MPO meeting regarding our project. The City of Grand Junction uses CDBG money every year to improve bicycle and pedestrian connections to school by matching federal and state funds. Do you have a sense of how this continues through the School District? Met with Steve Shultz and provided him an overview and recommendations. The schools were encouraged to apply for grant themselves. Bike repair station at all the middle schools would be great. The school district now owns the bike trailer and bikes.

8. Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Triennial Review Update – Elizabeth Collins, RTPO

Every three years the FTA conducts a review of 17 topic areas and ours was in April of this year. FTA Region 8 staff and consultant staff member were part of the review. We just received the final report today. There were deficiencies found in five areas, Finance Management and Capacity, Technical Capacity, Maintenance, ADA, and Procurement. Staff has been communicating with FTA on inaccuracies and have already started compiling documents. Had concerns with how the review was conducted. In the past we provided drafts yet this time these were not reviewed. There are certainly areas we can

make improvements. Yet we disagree with some of the identified deficiencies, such as in procurement. Mesa County had an agreement with the City to utilize their purchasing department for a while and the FTA reviewers had issues with that process. Mesa County has until January 2018 to resolve issues and we will bring these to the GVRTC.

9. Grand Valley Transit (GVT) Strategic Plan Update – Elizabeth Collins, RTPO  
GVT kicked off plan this year. Focus groups in May with representatives from current passengers as well as choice riders. Great feedback. Just kicked off public outreach last week at three transfer facilities and one on Main Street. July 24, 2017 will be the retreat which is the same day as the regular GVRTC meeting but the retreat will take its place. Staff will be sending out more information and invitations. Have a website devoted to it. Will we see the agenda prior to the retreat? Yes.

Discussion about the potential for 5,000 people at the River Front concerts this summer and not enough parking so we need buses to take people down there. Staff has already met with Pinnacle and City of GJ Staff on this.

10. GVT Operations Report for May 2017 – Dan Thao, GVT  
See handout. Good uptick in ridership, especially in paratransit service. DAR has decreased as many of the regular DAR passengers have moved into regular fixed route areas.

**Other Business:**

Bennett Boeschstein discussed how the current president is proposing cutting all California Zephyr Amtrak routes. This is an alternative to I-70. Wondering if GVRTC wanted to write a letter to continue support of our Amtrak trains to Senators and Representatives. That's a motion. Penny Prinster seconded and vote was 3-0 in favor. This is in our long range transportation plan.

**Meeting Adjourned:4:22p.m.:** Minutes submitted by Kathy Young.