



Mesa County Regional Transportation Planning Office

GVRTC Minutes for April 27, 2020

Attendees: Dana Brosig, Dean Bressler, Kathy Young, Scott Mai, Ken Haley, Mike Bennett, Trent Prall, Tom Downey, Todd Hollenbeck, Sarah Brooks, Jason Smith, Julie George, Janet Hawkinson, Mark Rogers, Valdon Lewis, Greg Caton, Andy Gingerich, TJ Burr, Kathy Hall, Sara Benedict, Rob Beck,

Roll Call: Scott McInnis, Acting Chair – Mesa County, called the meeting to order. Lori Buck – City of Fruita, Greg Mikolai – Town of Palisade and Phyllis Norris – City of Grand Junction are present.

Call Meeting to Order: 3:00p.m. Meeting will be recorded.

Changes to the Agenda: Item # 5 has been moved to a meeting in the future.

Presentations: None

Member Representative Remarks: Introductions of Greg Mikolai and Lori Buck as new board members and their backgrounds.

Transportation Commissioner Update:

Transportation Commission has been meeting almost every week via Zoom and discussions on the state budget. SB267 is on hold until bond market stabilizes. In limbo on how to move forward. Any idea on how much taxes will be down? Impacts are very grim. Requested information be provided to staff to be disbursed. There is a Youtube video of Transportation Commission meeting last week. Revenue outlook is on that link. Receiving briefings every week. Grand Valley MPO is having a meeting with Ms. Lew tomorrow with RTPO & CDOT staff. Discussion of fiscal impact the County is expecting as well as a discussion of COVID stats for Mesa County. \$7 billion estimated shortfall by the legislature based on this fiscal year. HUTF estimated at \$50 million less this year. What % will be down? These figures are variable at this point and very preliminary. Total HUTF received through March is \$186 billion.

CDOT Region 3 Update:

Jason Smith: North Avenue and ADA ramp project underway to get the existing ramps up to standards. Also going to start on Hwy 340 widening projects. United Companies will be completing the overlay project on Hwy 330 to Collbran. Start in July timeframe. Culvert project not awarded as wasn't within budget. Will reissue later this summer after reworking scope. Another ADA ramp project are for various ramps all over the valley that need to be improved to meet current standards. Quite a few projects are under design. Working on a study of Clifton to Palisade and what the needs are. Surface treatments and center median improvements on North Avenue. 20 Road interchange project on Hwy 6 still progressing. What is the timing of the 1st Street and Grand Avenue as staff have been receiving questions. Phase 5-design finishing up. Working on purchasing ROW. On schedule for advertising in Feb/Mar 2021. Construction in 2-3 months from that. May-June time frame. Finishing up in Spring 2022. This project is funded with FASTER safety and RPP and therefore more secure. Not affected by SB267. Glad projects are moving forward.

Approval of Minutes

1. Adopt the minutes from the February 24, 2020 GVRTC Meeting.

Scott McInnis asked for a motion. Phyllis Norris so moved and Scott McInnis submitted a request to 2nd the motion. Vote was 2-0 in favor. Greg Mikolai & Lori Buck abstained as they were not at this 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 the 2020-2023 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment #5 by approving Resolution 2020-004, an Agreement between the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) and the Grand Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (GVMPO) and authorizing the Chair to sign. – Dean Bressler, RTPO

- Attachment

This TIP expires on June 30, 2020. Staff explained the TIP requirements and how this TIP is in line with the 2040 Plan as well as the recently adopted 2045 plan. There were several Multimodal Option Fund projects added that this board approved for funding at the last meeting. This TIP also includes the intersection improvements at F 1/2 Road and I-70B as well as actual transit funds received so funding could be obligated before 7/1/20. These are reflected on packet pages 11-28 and highlighted in yellow.

3. Adopting the 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) by approving Resolution 2020-005, an Agreement between the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) and the Grand Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (GVMPO) and authorizing the Chair to sign. – Dean Bressler, RTPO

- Attachment

This TIP is taking the existing 2020-2023 TIP and moving it forward by one year and it takes effect on 7/1/20. Adding a lot of SB267 funded projects. Discussion of the preamble within the document and how this doesn't change much but the tables do. Tables are shown on packet pages 43-48 and new or increased funding amounts are highlighted in purple. Any projects not obligated by 6/30/20 will roll forward. Added 2024 funding projections for transit projects.

These projects were not controversial by previous board members.

Scott McInnis asked for a motion. Lori Buck so moved and Phyllis Norris submitted a request to 2nd the motion. Vote was 3-0 in favor. Due to Greg Mikolai not yet being officially appointed to the GVRTC he is not yet allowed to vote.

Individual Consideration Item(s)

Please limit public comment to a maximum of five (5) minutes per speaker (unless otherwise restricted by the Chair).

4. Election of the GVRTC Chair and Vice-Chair positions. Currently, the Chair is vacant after David Karisny's term ended with Fruita City Council in April and Scott McInnis is the Vice-Chair. The majority vote of the Members present at the time of the vote will determine the officers.

Scott McInnis will run for chair. Phyllis Norris so moved, Lori Buck 2nd the motion. Vote was 3-0 in favor.

Lori Buck moved for Phyllis Norris to be Vice Chair. Scott McInnis 2nd the motion. Vote was 3-0 in favor.

5. Approving Resolution 2020-006, a recommendation to the Mesa County Board of Commissioners to amend the Grand Valley Transit operations contract with Transdev Services, Inc. in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the CARES Act funding. – Dana Brosig, RTPO
 - Attachment

This item has been moved to a future meeting yet to be determined.

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.

6. CARES Act Funding – Dana Brosig, RTPO

- Attachment

Discussion of the CARES Act vs. apportioned 5307 grant funding. Discussion of matching funds. FTA funds can't match FTA CARES act funds. Grants are reimbursement based after local funds expended. Challenges on funding with bus replacement. Could move forward with the needs we have with these funds. Discussion of local funding. Transit operating budget is around \$3 million a year. Discussion of grant for four buses received from CDOT and the pending bus grants for two replacement buses and three expansion paratransit buses. 80/20 match for these bus grants. We want to maximize the grant funds we receive and minimize local funds used. What do we expect to get regarding grant funds? A budget of what we have, what we need, and projections. Discussion of what projects CARES act funding can go towards. Discussion of IGA amendment and increasing operating and maintenance costs. Transdev will be renegotiating union agreement later this year. Discussion of what's included with Transdev contract. Pre-meeting to discuss information and a separate meeting to take action regarding the Transdev contract amendment.

7. Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (PTASP) – Dana Brosig, RTPO

- Attachment

This is a new requirement of FTA and was due 7/20/20 but has been relaxed a bit due to the pandemic. Discussion of minimum requirements and which entities are involved. Accountable Executive and Chief Safety Officer is a big piece of the plan. Suggestion would be the GVRTC chair as the Accountable Executive. Assumption is that all entities, City Fleet, County Fleet, Transdev, already have a safety plan in place. Staff is utilizing FTA's draft plan and has already reached out to entities and what their safety plans are. Discussion of developing an overarching safety committee that covers all aspects of the transit system and meets quarterly with quarterly fleet meeting to discuss safety issues. Safety report on every GVRTC agenda.

Chief Safety Officer requirement discussion. Suggestion could be County Administrator and City Manager. RTPO staff would be working with supervisor of each department who then reports to County Administrator and City Manager. Suggestion was RTP Director as Accountable Executive and Transit Coordinator as Chief Safety Officer. Concern about these positions not having control over budget and staff of other departments. Realize RTP staff will be doing the leg work and presenting it to the Accountable Executive and Chief Safety Officer. Staff believes the Chief Safety Officer can be more than one person. GVRTC would like organizational chart that shows different roles of each position. Further discussion is needed.

8. Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1776 (ATU) Letters – Dana Brosig, RTPO

- Attachment

Discussion of GVRTC members not interfering with Transdev's agreement with the union.

9. GVT Operations Report for March 2020 – Andy Gingerich, RTPO and Valdon Lewis, GVT

- Attachment

Thanked all Transdev's staff for their commitment to continue to provide service to the community. Discussion of providing shadow buses and additional cleaning in order to keep drivers employed. Ridership has decreased substantially during the pandemic but has levelled off a bit. Was doing well at the beginning of March before the pandemic hit.

Unscheduled Business:

The Unscheduled Business portion of the agenda provides the public to speak about issues that were not on the main agenda. Please limit public comment to a maximum of five (5) minutes per speaker (unless otherwise restricted by the Chair). Testimony relating to scheduled agenda items will not be allowed during Unscheduled Business.

The current meeting room will not work for future meetings. Suggestions are the public hearing room at Mesa County. City Hall public hearing rooms is also an option depending on the dates and if it's available. Discussion of needing to have more meetings instead of every other month. Executive Session will be necessary and looking at next Monday.

Judi Derusha, President of the local ATU and representing the GVT employees spoke about the request for drivers related to the pandemic. Concern that GVT staff are required to wear masks but passengers are not. Staff never trained on proper use of the masks. Request of permanent barriers on the buses and a complete accounting of how the CARES Act funding is spent.

Meeting Adjourned: 5:05p.m.: Minutes submitted by Kathy Young.