



## Mesa County Regional Transportation Planning Office

### **GVRTC Minutes for April 26, 2021**

**Attendees:** Dana Brosig, Kathy Young, Dean Bressler, Mike Goolsby, Sean Yeates, Todd Hollenbeck, Brian Rusche, Scott Beilfuss, Kathy Hall, Scott Mai, Jay Valentine, Trent Prall, Andy Gingerich, Judi Derusha, Kimberly Bullen, Janet Hawkinson, Mark Rogers, Sarah Brooks, Valdon Lewis,

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

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

**Changes to the Agenda:** None

**Representative Reports:** None

**Transportation Commissioner Report:** Kathy Hall – appreciation of Phyllis Norris work with City Council and GVRTC.

**Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) Region 3 Update:** Mike Goolsby – CDOT had a groundbreaking on US 50 project a couple of weeks ago. The 1<sup>st</sup> Street and Grand Avenue Phase 5 project is kicking off. Mobility Hub will tie into Phase 6 of I-70B project if located downtown.

**Presentations** – Phyllis Norris for years of service on the GVRTC. This is her last meeting.

#### **Approval of Minutes**

1. Adopt the minutes from the February 22, 2021, March 11, 2021, March 23, 2021, and April 1, 2021 GVRTC Meetings.

Scott McInnis asked for a motion. Greg Mikolai so moved and Lori Buck submitted a request to 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. Vote was 4-0 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

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

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

2. Adopting the 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment #7 by approving Resolution 2021-004, 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

See slides. Overview of the TIP process and discussion of line items that have been added or changed with this amendment.

Public Comment: None

Scott McInnis asked for a motion. Lori Buck so moved and Phyllis Norris submitted a request to 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. Vote was 4-0 in favor.

3. Adopting the 2022-2025 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) by approving Resolution 2021-005, 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

See slides. Discussion of items in 2021 that may be obligated by 6/30/21 won't roll forward to 2022. If not obligated will roll to 2022. Discussion of projects added in 2022, 2023 and potential projects in 2025. In the future, when additional Regional Priority Program (RPP) funding is available, the GVRTC will be able to allocate it.

Public Comment: None

Scott McInnis asked for a motion. Phyllis Norris so moved and Greg Mikolai submitted a request to 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. Vote was 4-0 in favor.

4. Approval of a Fleet Replacement Earmark Letter of Support under the CASTA transit package –Dana Brosig, RTPO

This funding used to be called earmarks, now called Community Project Funding. Staff is working with CASTA to put together a packet of projects for Colorado transit. There will be fees for lobbying of these projects which must be paid with local funds. Similar to other grant funding with an 80/20 match. Have six buses up for replacement this year but only asking for four replacement buses with this request. Will also apply for the upcoming competitive 5339 grants.

Concern from the GVRTC on the cost of the lobbying fees since we don't know the exact amount. \$40,000 is total cost for lobbying and consultant fees of the entire project packet. Discussion of setting a cap on amount of lobbying costs at \$4,000. If higher, need to revisit with the GVRTC.

Scott McInnis asked for a motion. Greg Mikolai so moved and Lori Buck submitted a request to 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. Vote was 4-0 in favor.

5. Extension of Mask Requirement on Grand Valley Transit after the expiration of TSA Directive requiring masks on public transportation – Dana Brosig, RTPO

- Back on 5/8/20, the GVRTC based a resolution to require face coverings on GVT. On 2/2/21, TSA implemented executive order requiring face coverings and expires on 5/11/21. TSA stated there are not any plans to extend their order. RTPO Staff has coordinated with the Health Department and recommends continuing the mask requirement through at least June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021 for the following reasons:
  - Need to continue to protect drivers and travelling public. Many GVT riders do not have the freedom to choose a different form of transportation for travel to work, medical appointments, groceries, pharmacies, etc.

- Many GVT riders are likely not fully immunized as they were not eligible until April 2, 2021 and include hard-to-reach populations
- Recommend extending policy until after Memorial Day/ JUCO due to increased visitors and riders on GVT

Options are to end it on 6/5/21 or bring it back before the GVRTC for extension. Is GVT back at full capacity? Not yet and have been managing the capacity with shadow buses.

Public Comment: Judi Derusha – works for Transdev as a driver. Personally, I think we are better off being safe than sorry. Don't have too much of a problem of extending the masks until 6/5/21. Concern with the statement with continue to protect the drivers and the public. Drivers are caught in the middle. Mesa County lifted restrictions, passengers still required to wear masks, they are angry, and not coming prepared with masks. Aware GVRTC has requested funds to provide security personal for GVT, but ever since COVID haven't seen the Sheriff's Office on the buses. On 2/9/21, received an email from Valdon Lewis that Mesa County has finalized at MOU with the Sheriff's Office that they will not be riding the buses, but will be following the buses or stationed at various locations. How is this providing security for the buses?

Scott McInnis asked for a motion. Greg Mikolai moved to extend the mask requirement on GVT with an end date TBD. Phyllis Norris submitted a request to 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. Vote was 4-0 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.

6. Transportation Performance Management (TPM) and Local Safety Briefing- Dean Bressler and Sean Yeates

See slides. TPM measures are a part of current federal transportation legislation (MAP-21 and FAST Acts) and we expect this to be part of funding programs going forward. Performance management and target setting required for Safety (PM1), Infrastructure Condition (PM2), and System Reliability (PM3) (includes Level of Travel Time Reliability, Truck Travel Time Reliability). TPM example for System Reliability (PM3) – Level of Travel Time Reliability for Non-Interstate NHS roads. The example slide shows National Performance Management Research Data Set (NPMRDS) results for I-70B and US-50 through south downtown Grand Junction vicinity. INRIX is the Big Data aggregator that FHWA uses to collect, compile and provides the NPMRDS results.

Crash Data – compared state vs County non-CDOT roads and safety targets. Namely, in terms of meeting safety targets, off-system roads are performing as well or better than the state system.

Discussion of crashes and how improvements are made. Ability to stripe roads every year on County roads to help reduce crashes. Discussed cost savings attributable to safety improvements.

As the 2045 RTP was prepared, each of the TPM areas, including crash data, were geocoded into the GIS environment that enabled us to use a data-driven approach to prioritize projects. See slides.

7. Mobility Hub Update – Dana Brosig, RTPO  
HDR is currently performing a siting study and looking at various locations. Two virtual workshops were held that included a variety of stakeholders. See slides. Discussion of a main mobility hub and possibly smaller mobility hubs. 1<sup>st</sup> mobility hub should be in the downtown area based on comments from the workshops.

Scott McInnis stated the need to ensure we have functionality. Goal is not to provide a public park. There will be limited space in downtown. Some of these things are idealistic.

Phyllis Norris stated all things listed are very good. Already have charging stations all over this valley. Pamphlet showing where some of these things are such as charging stations to inform the public.

Staff will be applying for a planning grant for this project.

Need to improve connectivity for the area and various modes of transportation so it's easy and safe to get to.

The purpose of the siting study is to look at a wide range of what's available. Establish a purpose and needs for this community, so that we can prioritize what is most needed.

Greg Mikolai wanted clarification on if connecting various modes of mass transit is the main purpose.

There will be an economic analysis as part of the planning study.

Discussion of rideshare vs. drop off and if there's a difference. There will be limited capacity based on acreage.

8. Grand Valley Safe Routes to School Project Update – Dana Brosig, RTPPO  
Received SRTS grant from CDOT. Project is to update existing mapping and integrate with website and mobile app as well as a County wide education program on pedestrian and bike safety.
9. Fleet Replacement Update- Dana Brosig, RTPPO  
We applied through CDOT's 2021 call and were awarded funding for two lowfloors and three paratransit expansion buses which was our request. These buses won't arrive for at least a year. Currently have six buses needing replaced and proposing to replace with two lowfloors, two longer cutaways and two paratransit cutaways. These all have different useful life's so won't need to be replaced at the same time.
10. FTA Stimulus Packages Update – Dana Brosig, RTPPO  
Discussion of how CARES Act funding was determined as well as CRSSA Act funding. Total allocated to GVT for CARES Act and CRRSA may not exceed 75% of 2018 NTD reported operating costs. Thus did not receive any funding under CRRSA.  
  
If CARES + CRSSA > 132% of 2018 Operating costs, received 25% of 2018 operating costs under the ARP Act funds. Grand Valley Transit was allocated \$875,516 and funds must be obligated by September 30, 2024. Staff will present possible projects to the board in the future for the ARP funds
11. GVT Fleet Maintenance Update – Jay Valentine, City of Grand Junction  
See slides. Down in total maintenance hours 1<sup>st</sup> quarter 2021. Scheduled vs Non-Scheduled has improved. Total repair orders are down. Some of this is the cyclical nature of the buses. Had two late PM's in the last quarter but still within the allowable percentage.
12. GVT Operations Report for March 2021 – Valdon Lewis, Transdev/GVT  
See report. COVID hit us in March 2020 and had a half a month of full ridership. We will be able to compare ridership with COVID impacts going forward. Seeing ridership starting to increase in April. Paratransit is increasing/returning. Had two minor crashes in March, mirror and taillight. No passenger injuries in 1<sup>st</sup> quarter. Discussed safety topics for March.

Challenges is maintaining a safe following distance based on what other vehicles are doing around them. The more space in front of the bus, more time to react and avoid collision or injuries. Recruitment has been a struggle. Have added 7 new drivers and working on adding 3-4 more to be back to full staffing.

Greyhound started 4/6 and will report more on that next month. Started Routematch in March for fixed route and paratransit. New technology and learning curve for staff.

As a company, trying to minimize overtime. Had to bring staff in from Denver to cover routes. Those folks have been sent home. Needs staff to cover driver vacations.

**Unscheduled Business:**

The Unscheduled Business portion of the agenda provides an opportunity for 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 purpose of the Unscheduled Business portion is for the Grand Valley Regional Transportation Committee to listen to the public. The Committee Members do not generally engage in debate or make comments during the Unscheduled Business portion.

None

**Meeting Adjourned: 4:31p.m.:** Minutes submitted by Kathy Young.