



Mesa County Regional Transportation Planning Office

GVRTC Minutes for August 23, 2021

Attendees: Kimberly Bullen, Judy DeRusha, Dean Bressler, Sarah Brooks, Dana Brosig, Scott Mai, Trent Prall, Mike Goolsby, Mark Rogers, Valdon Lewis, Kaity Clark, Janet Hawkinson, Matt Lemon, Greg Caton, Scott Beilfuss, Kathy Hall, Rene Romero, Alma Sekulich,

Virtual Attendees: Rebecca White, Kathy Young, Andy Gingerich

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

Call Meeting to Order: 3:04p.m.

Changes to the Agenda: None

Representative Reports: None

Transportation Commissioner Report:

Kathy Hall: Discussion of the Green House Gas rule and CDOT will have 8 public hearings throughout the state. All the comments will be heard and looking forward to hearing from all of you. You can make comment directly to the Transportation Commission every 3rd Thursday of the month. If there are a lot of things to work through then the process can be extended. Discussion of the cleanup of I-70 through Glenwood Canyon and the crews that came from all over the state to help. This has been the #1 focus for the State.

Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) Region 3 Update: Glenwood Canyon is open. Contractor to start mobilizing today on the permanent fixes of the major damage. The Department of Public Safety is still working though assessments of the river itself. About 4,000 truckloads and about 96 million pounds of debris removed thus far. Storage site at Dotsero and about 200 loads to Silt this past weekend.

Approval of Minutes

1. Adopt the minutes from the August 10, 2021 GVRTC Meeting.

Greg Mikolai moved to approve the minutes. Scott McInnis submitted a request to 2nd 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.

2. Adopting the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) for FY 2022 by approving Resolution 2021-008, an Agreement between the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) and the Grand Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (GVMPO) and authorizing the Chair to sign. – Dana Brosig, RTPO

- Attachment
3. Adopting the GVRTC Policy 8.0: Title VI Program & Policy 9.0: Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Update, by approving Resolution 2021-009 and authorizing the Chair to sign. – Dana Brosig, RTPO
 - Attachment
 4. Adopting the GVRTC Policy 2.0: Public Participation Process by approving Resolution 2021-010 and authorizing the Chair to sign. – Dana Brosig, RTPO
 - Attachment
 5. Adopting the GVMPO Public Participation Plan by approving Resolution 2021-011 and authorizing the Chair to sign. – Dana Brosig, RTPO
 - Attachment

Representative McInnis asked if anyone from the public wished to move any of these items to individual consideration. No one spoke up.

Scott McInnis asked for a motion. Greg Mikolai moved and Dennis Simpson submitted a request to 2nd the motion. Vote was 4-0 in favor.

Individual Consideration Item(s)

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

6. Middle and High School Pass Program/ Kids Ride Free Promotion – Dana Brosig, RTPO
 - Attachment

Back in May of this year, staff was contacted by the Workforce Center as they had Temporary Aid for Needy Families (TANF) funds available and decided upon the District 51 student pass program, which provided for \$180,000 in farebox revenue. This allowed students to ride GVT for free all summer. Staff met with the Workforce Center staff last month and they wanted to continue the program. Traditionally, \$200,000 of the GVT IGA comes from TANF funds. Very few TANF fund passes have been distributed. Asked to continue this program through this school year but parents will need to complete a form and then student can pick up a sticker for their student ID. For those passes that are TANF eligible, GVT will be compensated.

Currently, GVT allows 3 and under to ride free with a paying passenger. This leaves a gap for those between the ages of 4-11 so staff is proposing an all kids ride free promotion from 9/1/21-5/31/22. Discussion of student pass sales in 2020 and 2019.

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) has had a number of listening sessions to get people back on transit and this is a great way to support students getting to work, school, etc.

Representative Mikolai asked about the on-line form. The parent has to fill out the on-line form and then a student's name(s) will be automatically added to a list. The form asks for monthly income so we can determine if TANF eligible. Is there a non-online version of the form for parents who do not have access to a computer or internet? There is not but they may go to the Workforce Center or any of the public libraries. The online form is also available in Spanish.

Representative Simpson clarified that currently 3 and under do not pay but everyone else does. Yes that is correct. This promotion would be for all kids so it would include those under middle school but older than 3.

Representative McInnis asked if there was anyone from the public who wished to comment. No public comments.

Scott McInnis asked for a motion. Greg Mikolai so moved and Lori Buck submitted a request to 2nd 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.

7. Green House Gas Roadmap – Theresa Takushi, CDOT Division of Transportation Development

- Attachment

Rebecca White, who is the head of CDOT Division of Transportation Development presented. Her department is responsible for planning, environmental, GIS, etc. Draft rulemaking issued on 8/13/21. 1st rulemaking that focuses on Green House Gas (GHG) emissions. HB 261 started staff on this, which led to GHG roadmap. SB260 includes provisions for completing this rulemaking. Positive outcome was recognition that this rule belongs within CDOT, before that it was with the Air Pollution Control Division of Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. In June, role came to CDOT. In a 60 day comment period now. Open up our existing state rules on transportation planning and amending them to include the GHG rule. Slides walk you through the structure. 8 public hearings planned in September around the State. Preamble is the best explanation of how the GHG rule fits in. There are a lot of definitions and added new ones. There are only two MPO's in Non-Attainment and affect TIPs. Grand Valley MPO (GVMPO) is not affected immediately in the way that DRCOG and NFRMPO are.

Discussion about regionally significant projects and GHG requirements and tailor it for rural areas.

Discussion of running regionally significant projects through the travel model and predict and compare against target levels. 4% of cars now are electric. By 2050, goal is for every car on road is electric so effect of this rulemaking is greatly reduced.

Representative Mikolai asked about potential projects that demonstrate reduction in GHG. What will CDOT do to reduce GHG? What would a project look like that would reduce GHG? A widening project may be able to reduce emissions just by the way we implement it, not just reducing congestion. Added express lane and also transit that could use this lane can reduce emissions. Are we making it easier for you to take the bus if you are in an area of a state where transit is available?

Representative Simpson asked questions about the table on page 101 of the GVRTC binder and it's showing the GVMPO with a base line of .38 in 2025. How do we get a lower base line in 2030 without doing anything? Due to the nationwide standards that lower emission for vehicles.

Representative Buck asked how GHG numbers are going to be collected. That is a complexity of the rule. It is based on the travel demand model. Premise of the rule is based on this. Every 5 years, CDOT will do a report of what is actually going on such as vehicle miles traveled, number of electric cars, gasoline usage, etc. Can we meet the goals in the table? Expecting feedback on these goals.

Representative McInnis clarified that the Air Quality Control Commission was first given this assignment, correct. He was concerned CDOT will come under heat to go toward with what the Air Quality was originally requesting. What role will Air Quality have in this rulemaking? This is the Transportation Commission rule and they help craft and adopt it. Air Quality is to confirm and verify the GHG reports within 30 days. If CDOT does not hear from them, then project moves forward anyway.

Representative Mikolai asked about the base line projections and what if the model you are using is wrong such as population increases more than expected, how does that work within the models? How does the review process take this into account down the road? Projections come from state demographer but all kinds of things affect this growth. Going to have to see how it goes. Will need to have points where we check in and if we missed our base line, we'll have to reopen the rule making and make adjustments. The GVMPO model is updated every 5 years to account for these changes.

Representative McInnis asked what our staff involvement was? Staff (Dana and Dean) has been involved in nearly all of the preliminary meetings but did not see the entire draft rule until everyone else did. Commissioner Davis has also participated in some of the CDOT meetings.

8. GVT Operations Report for July 2021 – Valdon Lewis, Transdev/GVT

- Attachment

Report reflects comparison to 2019 numbers. Both fixed route and paratransit ridership is down but paratransit ridership is returning. Farebox revenue boost from TANF summer bus pass program. Representative McInnis asked if they are seeing anything with this Delta variant. There have been 9 employees that have tested positive since the beginning of the pandemic.

Discussion of safety for the month. 206 perfect safety days out of 212 days through the end of July. Have hired one new driver and are still actively recruiting. We are down 5 drivers. New wage doesn't start until 1/1/22 but it is being discussed during employee interviews.

Unscheduled Business:

The Unscheduled Business portion of the agenda provides the public an opportunity 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.

Alma Sekulich from Innovative Textiles has been working with staff and wanted to say thank you. They really worked with us regarding providing bus service to Riverside Parkway businesses. There are 20 employers along Riverside Parkway that would like transit service to help bring employees to work. Staff helped us to look at our options and asked that the board recognize the south side of the tracks and the need for bus service. Talked about Community Correction and bus service would be helpful as the businesses along the parkway hire a lot of these clients.

Meeting Adjourned: 4:22p.m.: Minutes submitted by Dean Bressler.