



## Mesa County Regional Transportation Planning Office

### GVRTC Minutes for February 22, 2021

**Attendees:** Jason Smith, Mark Rogers, Judy Derusha, Mike Goolsby, Dana Martinez, Rene Romero, Todd Hollenbeck, Kathy Hall, Scott Mai, Sarah Brooks, Greg Caton, Jay Valentine, Kaity Clark, Trent Prall, Andy Gingerich, Valdon Lewis,

**Phone:** Morgan Marion, Julie Skeen, Aaron Willis, Mike Timlin

**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:** 3:03p.m.

**Changes to the Agenda:** Item # 7: Approval of a recommendation to the Mesa County Board of County Commissioners to approve a revenue contract with Greyhound has been postponed as the contract is still under review.

**Representative Reports:** None

**Transportation Commissioner Report:** Kathy Hall-Transportation Commission met last week and had to delay some items due to long discussions. Legislatures are all talking about funding for transportation but waiting to see what comes to fruition. Discussion of the Little Blue Canyon construction and Greenhouse Gas Roadmap through the Colorado Energy Office. CDOT is involved in the rulemaking.

**Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) Region 3 Update:**

Year 3 of SB267 funds will come to fruition beginning of March or April 2021. CDOT will have more information at next meeting once we know how much Region 3 will receive.

**Approval of Minutes**

1. Adopt the minutes from the January 6, 2021 and
2. January 19, 2021 GVRTC Meeting.

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.

**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).

3. Adopting the 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment #5 by approving Resolution 2021-001, 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 attachment. This amendment was in coordination with CDOT Region 3 staff as well as TAC and all are recommending approval. Went out for public review over 2 weeks ago. The amendment is for changes in funding for Phase 5 of the I-70B project, redesign and reconstruction of the 1<sup>st</sup> Street and Grand Avenue intersection as well as 1<sup>st</sup> Street south to the intersection with Rood Avenue. Discussion of new federal pandemic relief funds received for shovel ready projects in our area also included the Delta dips projects which is outside the MPO boundary and not included in the TIP. Discussion of project savings applied to I-70B project. I-70B project is currently out to bid and depending on how the bids come in there may or may not be savings and if there are savings, there will be another TIP amendment to move funds to other projects.

There was no public comment received.

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.

4. Adopting Resolution 2021-002 setting targets by supporting the updated 2017-2021 targets established by the Colorado Department of Transportation for the Safety Performance Measures and authorizing the Chair to sign – Dean Bressler, RTPO

See attachment. This is the 4<sup>th</sup> year this has been brought before the board. Each of those years, staff, TAC, and CDOT discussed whether it is in the MPO's best interest to adopt our own targets or support CDOT's targets. Recommendation is to support CDOT's. Applicable to the MPO boundary only. Difficult statistically to separate MPO and TPR, all of Mesa County. CDOT established their targets in August 2020 based on input from each of the Regions and a statewide statistical analysis. MPO is not penalized if the targets are not met.

How much of a reduction? Has been as high as 640 annual fatalities statewide. Trend is going downward. What percentage does Mesa County have of the total fatalities statewide? Should we be looking at what's happening in Mesa County? This is something we can bring back to the GVRTC at future meetings of what Mesa County is doing compared to the State.

If we are going to make a difference, then need to zero in on what Mesa County can do so can make a difference locally. RTPO staff and TAC regularly review crash data at the local level. It is what was used to help prioritize projects for the 2045 RTP and subsequently for the TIP.

If there is no funding repercussions, what's the point? Why are we setting these targets? The State could have repercussions for not meeting the targets. Some targets have been missed since these requirements kicked in during the last 4 years. Mike Goolsby stated that HSIP funding, state FASTER safety is driven in part by the number of fatalities. The better our performance, the less safety funding we may end up receiving. I-70B project there were a certain number of crashes and fatalities, and received funding for this project. Would like more evaluation of data at the local level.

Scott McInnis stated this is a mandate to follow CDOT's targets in the resolution and cannot customize the language. This is a requirement of the passage of FAST Act in 2015.

With limitations, staff can and does track how the MPO and County compare to Statewide. Only DRCOG has set its own targets out of the 5 MPO's.

There was not any public comments received.

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. Adopting Resolution 2021-003 setting targets by supporting the updated targets established by the Colorado Department of Transportation for the pavement and bridge condition measures (PM2) and performance of NHS and freight measures (PM3) and authorize the Chair to sign – Dean Bressler, RTPO See attachment. These are the other required targets. In the Fall, Transportation Commission adopted the change to the PM2 targets for pavement condition. Staff is recommending supporting the State targets.

These are statewide targets and may not be representative of Mesa County. The Interstate in Mesa County is in much better condition than the Front Range. Segments of I-70B, Hwy 6, and North Avenue are in worse condition. Projects are planned to address these segments.

There was not any public comments received.

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.

6. Approval of a recommendation to the Mesa County Board of Commissioners to amend the contract with Transdev Services – Dana Brosig, RTPO See attachment. The amendment is for the increase of operations costs as well as Greyhound administrative services and complying with Healthy Families Act.

Public Comment -

Judy DeRusha-President of ATU 1776 and representing the members of the union who are employed by Transdev. Discussion of the Healthy Families and Workplaces Act as well as CARES Act funding. Why is this responsibility being placed on Transdev when the funding has been received by the GVRTC.

Some of the CARES Act funds will be going toward the Healthy Families Act and is not related to COVID leave but requires employers to give employees sick leave from the start of employment.

Dana Martinez is a dispatcher for Transdev. Discussion about the Healthy Families Act as well as funding for better filtration systems on the buses. This isn't for just the employees, it's for the riders.

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

7. Approval of a recommendation to the Mesa County Board of County Commissioners to approve a revenue contract with Greyhound – Dana Brosig, RTPO

This item was postponed to a future GVRTC meeting as the contract is still under legal review.

### **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.

8. Bustang Route Expansion Presentation- Morgan Marion and Julie Skeen, CDOT  
See attachment. CDOT is going start four new routes this summer. One being from Telluride to Grand Junction. Some of the stops are similar to the route from Durango to Grand Junction. There will be a several hour layover in Grand Junction and then return to Telluride. CDOT is asking for feedback for where the bus stops are located, potential flag stops, as well as schedule suggestions.

With a layover, do we have the facilities for the bus? Currently the layover buses are stored at CDOT G Road facility. The riders, they would go appointments and return back later that day. Have limited facilities for riders to wait and informing riders of this.

This route is for people to get to Grand Junction and use GVT to get around town and then back to Telluride. Plan is to arrive in Grand Junction at 9:30am and leave back to Telluride around 3:30-4pm.

Discussion of mobility center need to support increased Bustang services.

9. CDOT 1601 Interchange Approval Process revision update – Aaron Willis, CDOT  
See attachment. CDOT has an individual policy that applies to new interchanges, interchange modifications, etc. Applies to local applicants as well as CDOT. There is a policy as well as procedures an applicant is to follow for approval prior to construction. Discussion of categories and approval process and outreach to other MPO's etc. A new requirement in the interchange approval process is Travel Demand Management (TDM).

10. Mobility Hub Update- Dana Brosig, RTPO  
SB267 transit funding included \$80,000 for the old Greyhound station for safety improvements. Since Greyhound is now at GVT Downtown, CDOT determined to utilize the funds for a site selection study instead. The study should be finished by the end of April 2021. The study will first develop a purpose and need, evaluation criteria and select up to eight locations. Fatal flaw analysis will narrow down the sites to four locations and those four locations will be analyze with the purpose and need and evaluation criteria to narrow the selection down to up to two locations. A conceptual design and equity analysis will be performed on the final two locations. Study includes two workshops and public online survey of what to include in mobility hub. Ready to submit a BUILD grant in Summer 2021 and then apply for construction grant the following year. Will also be looking at a maintenance facility as part of the study.

11. GVT Fleet Maintenance Update – Jay Valentine, City of Grand Junction  
Recap of 2020. They performed 5,108 hours of maintenance on GVT buses. 39% were scheduled and 61% were unscheduled. Unscheduled will increase as the buses age. 676 repair orders and 2,100 different repair types. Average of 3 separate repairs per repair ticket. Often times the mechanics find other items that need repaired while performing preventative maintenance. Of the 676 repair orders, 306 were scheduled preventative maintenance (PM). 92% early or on time and 8% late for 2020. Since Sept 2020, have been 100% on time for PM. City Fleet has dedicated one more full time mechanic to the operation. A second mechanic dedicated to GVT that are on an hourly charge. A third mechanic is paid by GVT and dedicated to GVT. In 2021, have performed 40 PM's thus far. Software implementation update will benefit City staff and will provide GVT staff the ability to look at mechanic notes and see status of the repair and have more up to date information. This should be implemented by middle of March. For the next GVRTC meeting, will provide a more comparative report with the software upgrade.

Inventory and supply chains are doing better. There are still special orders that have a long lead time.

12. GVT Operations Report for January 2021 – Valdon Lewis, Transdev/GVT

See attachment. Transdev and ATU 1776 successfully completed union negotiations on 2/15/21 and the new contract is through 12/31/23. Ridership continues to be down. Discussion of federal mask mandate. Not seeing ridership come back. Route 9 ridership comparison for 2020 & 2019. Discussion of safety topics for the month. Pleased that Transdev staff have already had the availability of having access to the vaccine for COVID. Discussion on the implementation of Routematch on March 1<sup>st</sup>.

**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.

Judy DeRusha-President of ATU 1776. Throughout this whole pandemic, tried to keep this community moving even though lowest paid drivers. There are still outstanding safety concerns related to COVID. 15% of drivers have contracted COVID. Pushed Transdev to install adequate barriers and UV filtrations. Transdev said GVRTC is responsible for this. Why haven't you? Why don't you? CARES Act funds should be used to do this.

Dana Martinez-hope everyone understands. If you guys would ride a bus right now, you would see the elderly, handicap and these are the people we are looking out for. We are doing everything we are supposed to. We want to make sure they are safe and has to do with the filtration. Let's look into that. It's our job to provide you with information. Want something that works. I want to get along with you guys and not fight with you. Bustang-as a dispatcher, get a lot of phone calls they can't get to Aspen when at the Airport.

Discussion of a possibility virtual GVRTC meeting to address the Greyhound contract within the next week or so. The next scheduled meeting is the week of Spring break. This may be cancelled if nothing pressing for the agenda.

**Meeting Adjourned:** 4:40p.m.: Minutes submitted by Kathy Young.