



COLORADO
Department of Transportation
Division of Transit & Rail
2829 W. Howard Pl. 4th Floor
Denver, CO 80204

DATE: March 13, 2019
TO: Transit & Rail Advisory Committee
FROM: David Krutsinger, Director - Division of Transit & Rail
Mike Timlin, Bus Operations Manager - Division of Transit & Rail
Jeff Prillwitz, Bus Operations Coordinator - Division of Transit & Rail
RE: Bustang Outrider Quarterly and Fiscal Year End Update; Q2 FY2019-20

Purpose

The purpose of this memo is to provide TRAC a quarterly Bustang Outrider update on operational and performance measures, with data ending December 31, 2019.

Action

Informational only - no action is required.

Background

The Bustang Outrider rural regional bus service began operation in On January 2, 2018, with a Lamar- Pueblo route operated by Senior Resource Development Agency of Pueblo, Inc. Outrider uses a different funding source, FTA 5311(f), rather than state FASTER funds, and is generally contracted as a pass-through grant agreement rather than as a direct operational agreement with specific requirements. FTA rules allow local cash match to be replaced by “in-kind” contributions from private intercity bus unsubsidized miles operated or Transportation Development Credits (TDC) from FHWA “toll credits” flexed to FTA projects.

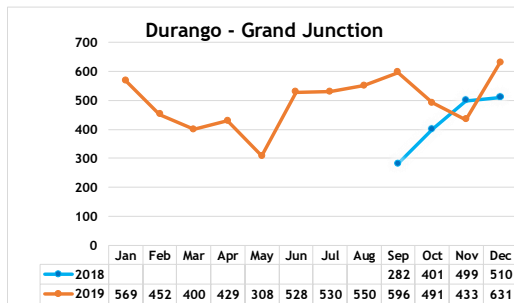
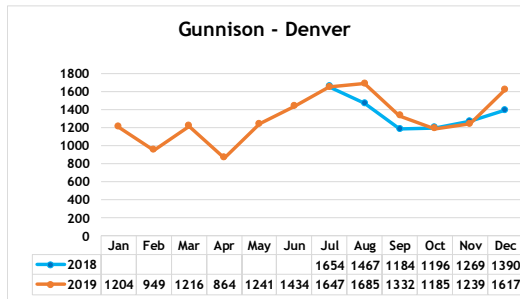
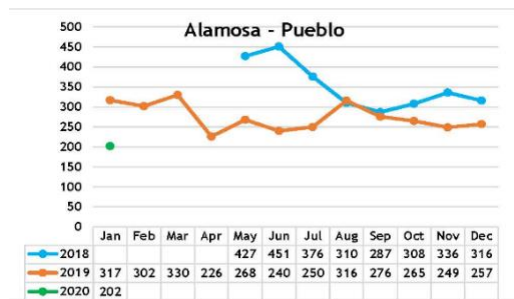
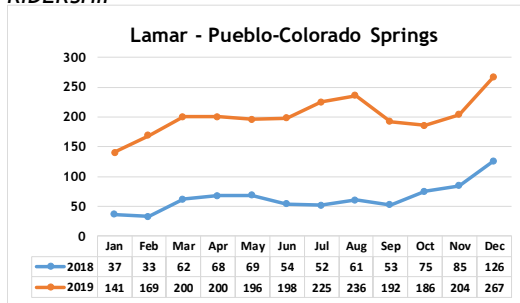
Outrider provides essential service transportation from rural to an urban community services center as well as a connection to the national intercity bus network. Outrider is considered as, and is marketed as an “offspring” brand to the parent Bustang system. For these reasons, a separate Outrider update accompanies the quarterly Bustang update.

The Phase II routes in Operation are:

- Lamar - Colorado Springs in revenue service Monday through Friday except major holidays and operated by Senior Resource Development Agency of Pueblo, Inc. (SRDA)
- Alamosa - Salida -Pueblo is in revenue service daily and is also operated by SRDA.
- Gunnison - Salida- Denver is operating in revenue service daily and is operated by Alpine Express Shuttle.
- Durango - Grand Junction has transitioned to Outrider from Roadrunner operating in revenue service daily by Southern Colorado Community Action Agency (SoCoCAA, formerly SUCAP)
- Denver - Salt Lake City - is a collaborative service between Utah DOT and CDOT, operated by Greyhound Lines, Inc. While this service is a FTA section 5311(f) project and because of the multi-state nature of its operation it is not currently being operated with Outrider branding.

Details

RIDERSHIP



TICKET SALES PLATFORM - The Masabi ticket platform contract is under review by the Governor's Office of Information Technology. One feature of this platform is other transit properties will be able to piggy-back off this procurement. The advantage to customers is the ability to pay for tickets in advance, by credit card, and have information stored on mobile devices, similar to the airline industry.

PHASE III PLANNING- The final four proposed routes have been presented to the Transportation Commission and TRAC in December 2019 (discussion), and received approval in January 2020. The four Outrider routes that will be implemented in 2021 are:

- Sterling - Greeley via I-76 & US 34
- Trinidad - Pueblo via I-25
- Grand Junction - Telluride via US 550
- Craig - Denver via US 40 & I-70 West

In addition the recent San Luis Valley Study indicated that there is considerable support to relocate the Alamosa - Salida portion of the Alamosa - Pueblo route from CO 17 via Moffatt, to US 285 via Monte Vista, Center, and Saguche. Discussions were held internally and with San Luis Valley TPR which resulted in the decision being made to retain the current routing due to scheduling issues and the possibility of excessive D.O.T. hours. Stakeholders in the San Luis Valley will explore local solutions to expanding transit in their area and serving CO 17 another way.

Next Steps

- Determine operators for Phase III routes. Prepare Requests for Proposals (RFP) as needed.
- Telluride to Grand Junction and Craig to Denver will necessitate the purchase of 4 Van Hool CX35 over the road transit coaches. Trinidad to Pueblo and Greeley to Sterling will be serviced with smaller, cutaway style, buses.
- Order buses and procure other materials & equipment for the new routes (wraps, routers, fareboxes, etc).
- Award Calendar Year 2021 Grants for Outrider.
- Outreach to communities which will be serviced by the Phase III routes to confirm sign installation locations.