



COLORADO
Department of Transportation
Division of Transit & Rail
2829 W. Howard Pl. 4th Floor
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DATE: November 13, 2020
TO: Transit & Rail Advisory Committee
FROM: Kay Kelly, Chief, Office of Innovative Mobility
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RE: Bustang Outrider Quarterly Q1 FY2020-21

Purpose

The purpose of this memo is to provide the Transit and Rail Advisory Committee a quarterly Bustang Outrider update on operational and performance measures, with data ending September 30, 2020.

Action

Informational only - no action is required.

Background

The Bustang Outrider rural, regional bus service began operation 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). It is contracted-out as a pass-through grant agreement rather than a direct operational agreement with specific requirements. FTA rules allow local cash matches covered by “in-kind” contributions from private intercity bus unsubsidized miles operated or Transportation Development Credits (TDC) from FHWA “toll credits” flexed to FTA projects.

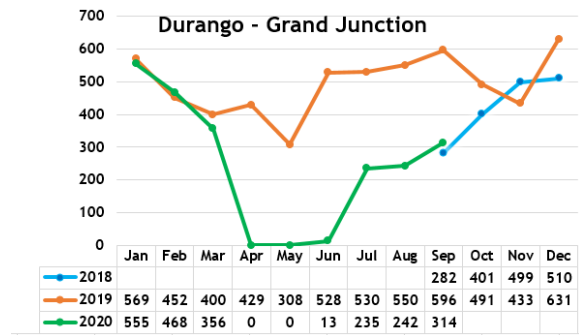
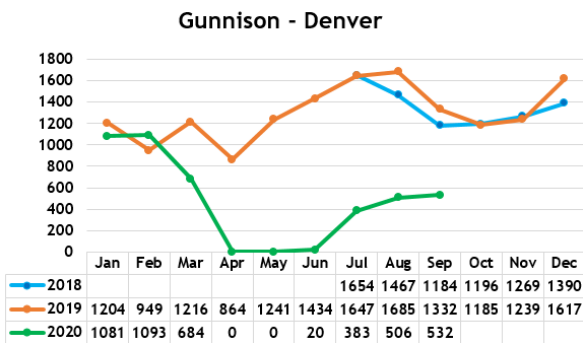
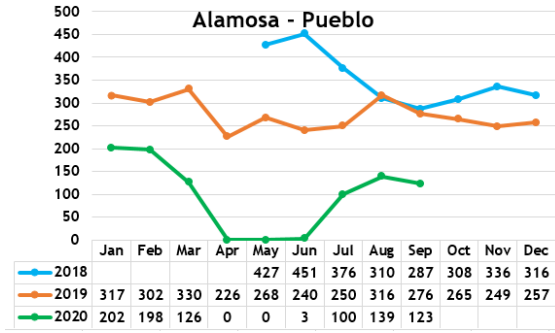
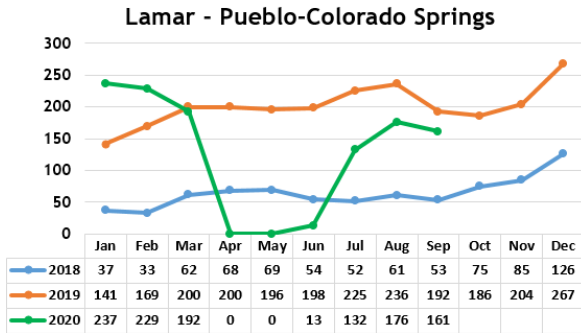
Outrider provides essential service transportation from rural to an urban community services center and connects to the “legacy” national intercity bus network. Outrider is considered and marketed as an “offspring” brand to the parent Bustang system. For these reasons, a separate Outrider update accompanies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

The Phase II routes in operation are:

- Lamar - Colorado Springs in revenue service Monday through Friday except for major holidays and operated by Senior Resource Development Agency of Pueblo, Inc. (SRDA)
- Alamosa - Salida -Pueblo is in revenue service daily and also operated by SRDA.
- Gunnison - Salida- Denver is operating in revenue service daily and 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)

Details

RIDERSHIP



TICKET SALES PLATFORM - The Masabi ticket platform contract is finalized, and its expected implementation of the app will begin in early December of 2020. The Outrider operators have completed training in the Masabi ticket platform, and initial testing has started.

PHASE III - Due to COVID-19, The roll-out schedule for the four (4) phase III routes are being staggered to allow for savings on start-up costs and a more orderly launch. The plan is as follows:

- Craig - Denver via U.S. 40 - January 1, 2021
- Sterling- Greeley/Denver - Summer 2021
- Trinidad - Pueblo - Summer 2021
- Telluride - Grand Junction - Summer 2021.

Operators are assigned for three of the proposed Phase III Bustang Outrider routes. The Sterling to Greeley/Denver route will run five days a week and to be operated by the Northeastern Colorado Association of Governments (NECALG). The Trinidad to Pueblo route will be performed five days a week by the South Central Council of Governments (SCCOG).

The Craig to Denver route will begin on January 1, 2021, and will operate seven days a week. In 2021 Greyhound Lines will be performing this route as part of the Outrider system. Greyhound will lease two State-Owned Van Hool CX35 coaches. Delays in getting the RVP completed due to the COVID - 19 pandemic necessitated the emergency request to allow Greyhound to serve the communities along this route just for 2021. We will issue a request for proposals (RFP for the Craig to Denver route with a start date of January 1, 2022.

Anticipated starting dates for the other three Phase III routes will be July of 2021 for the Trinidad to Pueblo route, the Telluride to Grand Junction route, and the Sterling to Greeley route. The last two Van Hool CX35 buses are programmed for the Telluride to Grand Junction route, delivered in November of 2020. The fleet to be used on both the Trinidad to Pueblo and the Greeley to Sterling are smaller, cutaway style buses. These buses were ordered via CDOT's price agreement from Davey Coach with expected delivery in March of 2021.

PHASE III OUTREACH-Outreach meetings for the Phase III Outrider meetings are currently on-going. With our consultants, CIG, Outrider's team have met with interested parties and organizations, local governments and conducted telephone transit townhalls. The response has been very positive for all of the proposed routes.

Input from the Sterling to Greeley outreach meetings have indicated a strong desire for service between Sterling and Denver. Traveling to Denver instead of Greeley twice a week is considered a method to accommodate the Denver service. Possible service stops in Denver would include Denver International Airport, probably via a close in RTD Park and Ride and connecting with the A-line airport train. Another potential service stop may be the Anschutz Medical Campus, which includes the Veteran's Administration Hospital. The final stop would be Denver Union Station with its connections to local transit via RTD, statewide transit via Bustang and Bustang Outrider, and interstate travel via the legacy intercity bus carriers, like Greyhound Lines, Inc.

Part of the outreach is a series of surveys promoted with a paid advertisement on Facebook. The response has been very successful, with 134,086 people reached and 19,753 post engagements. Overall the comments have been very supportive with many helpful suggestions. Outreach will continue into the early part of 2021 and include follow-up with many local stakeholders.

Next Steps

- Continue Phase III Stakeholder meetings
- Launch Masabi Ticket Platform - early December
- Launch Craig - Denver on January 1, 2021