



**COLORADO**  
Department of Transportation  
Division of Transit & Rail  
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Denver, CO 80204

**DATE:** March 12, 2021  
**TO:** Transit and Rail Advisory Committee  
**FROM:** Kay Kelly, Chief, Office of Innovative Mobility  
Mike Timlin, Interim Director  
Kyle French, Bus Operations Manager - Division of Transit & Rail  
Jeff Prillwitz, Bus Operations Coordinator - Division of Transit & Rail  
**RE:** Bustang Outrider 2nd Quarter Update October - December 2020

#### 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 December 31, 2020.

#### Action

Informational only - no action is required.

#### Background

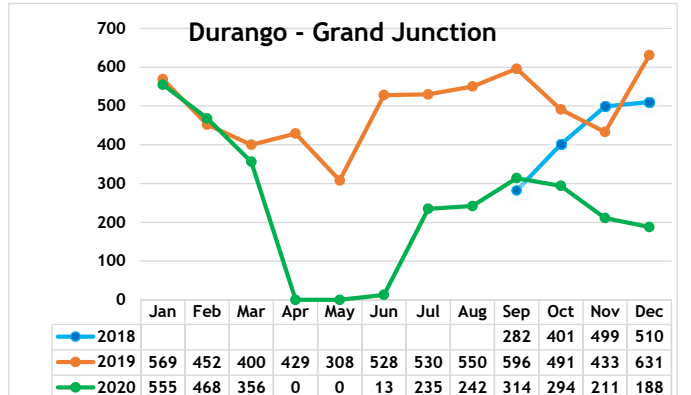
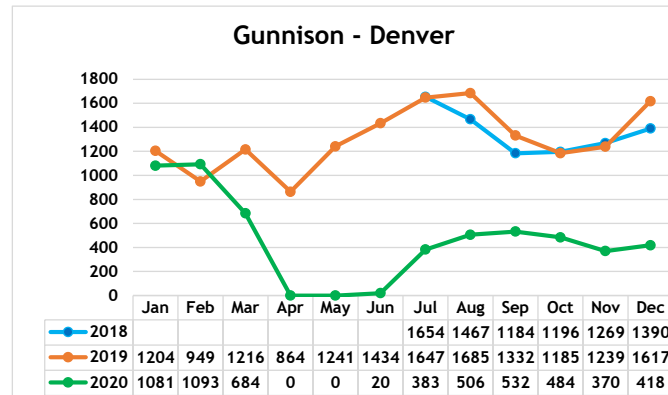
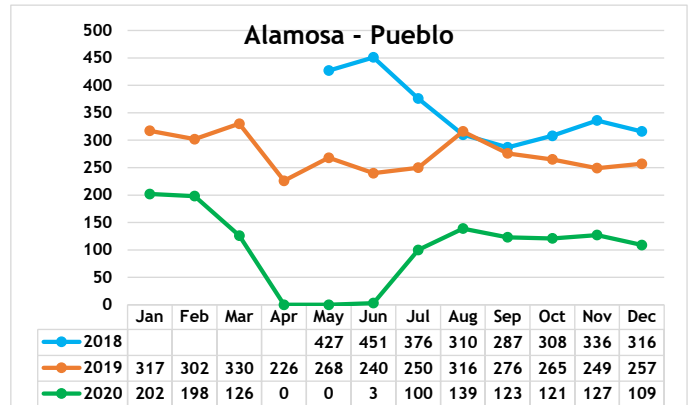
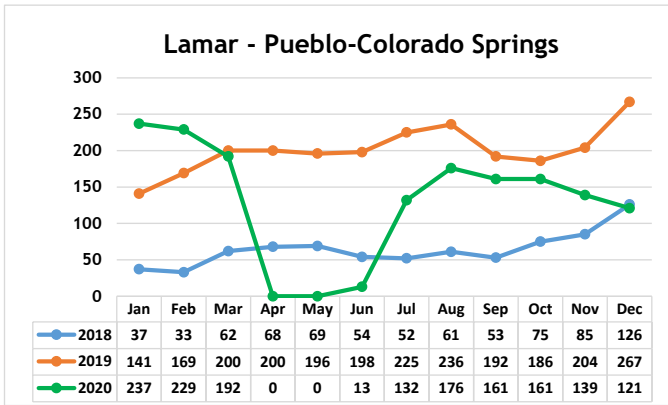
The Bustang Outrider Rural Regional bus service began operation On January 2, 2018, with a Lamar- Pueblo route operated by the Senior Resource Development Agency of Pueblo, Inc. Outrider uses both FTA 5311(f) and state FASTER funds. It is contracted-out as a pass-through grant agreement rather than a direct operational agreement with specific requirements. FTA rules allow local cash matches 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 a rural to an urban community services center and a connection to the 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 operated by SRDA.
- Gunnison - Salida- Denver is operating in revenue service daily and operated by Alpine Express Shuttle.
- Durango - Grand Junction is operating in revenue service daily by Southern Colorado Community Action Agency (SoCoCAA)

Details  
RIDERSHIP



**TICKET SALES PLATFORM** - The Masabi ticket platform released to the public in December of 2020. Response from Outrider’s customers and operators has been very positive.

**PHASE III LAUNCH**- The new Craig - Denver Outrider service, operated by Greyhound Lines, Inc., launched without incident on January 1, 2021. Ridership reports will be coming in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter update.

**SMALL BUS DELIVERY UPDATE** - The Sterling-Greeley/Denver and Trinidad-Pueblo service launches are affected by a recall of the small body-on-chassis buses delaying delivery until May or beyond.

**PHASE III OUTREACH** -Outreach meetings for the Phase III Outrider meetings are winding down. With our consultants, CIG, Outrider’s team has 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.

Next Steps

- Two of the next three Phase III operators are selected:
  - Northeastern Colorado Association of Governments (NECALG) will operate the Sterling to Greeley. This run operates Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. On Tuesdays and Thursdays, the route will continue to Denver from Sterling. A stop in Aurora at the Peoria RTD Station will allow easy access to the Anschutz Medical Campus and Denver International Airport. The launch will commence in the summer.
  - The Trinidad to Pueblo route will operate five (5) days a week by the South Central Council of Governments (SCCOG). Service stop locations are under consideration. This service will also launch in mid to late summer
  - The Telluride - Grand Junction route is in the RFP bid process and expected to launch mid to late Summer.
- Continue training and re-training of Outrider operators in the Masabi sales platform and the text messaging communication service, both instituted in January.
- Finalize service stops and schedules for the Phase III Bustang Outrider routes