



**Transit and Rail Advisory Committee
 Meeting Minutes
 March 2, 2023
 1:30 PM – 2:30 PM
 Google Meets**

| Member | Organization | Yes | No | Member | Organization | Yes | No |
|-----------------|---------------------------|-----|----|----------------|----------------------------|-----|----|
| David Averill | SMART | x | | Danny Katz | CoPIRG | x | |
| Sarah Curtis | All Points Transit | x | | Ken Mooney | NECALG | x | |
| Jonathan Flint | Steamboat Springs Transit | x | | Ann Rajewski | CASTA | x | |
| Matthew Helfant | DRCOG | x | | Vince Rogalski | Gunnison Valley TPR / STAC | | x |
| Dave Johnson | RFTA | x | | Jim Souby | ColoRail | | x |
| Will Jones | City of Greeley | x | | Bill Van Meter | RTD | | x |
| | | | | Eva Wilson | Town of Avon | x | |

| Others Present | CDOT Present |
|--|--|
| Lan R Michael Davies T. Andrew Brooks Alvan Bidal Sanchez | Amber Blake - CDOT Ben Gellman - CDOT Brian Metzger - CDOT Brian Pokorny - CDOT Cody Hedges - CDOT Colette DeSonier - CDOT David Menter - CDOT Eliot Tipton - CDOT Erin Kelican - CDOT Geoffrey Guthrie - CDOT George Gromke - CDOT Jan Rowe - CDOT Jeffrey Prillwitz - CDOT Jennifer Phillips - CDOT Katherine Vlajcic - CDOT Laura Morales-Garcia - CDOT Levi Griffith - CDOT Masengu Kadima - CDOT Samantha Millison - CDOT Shilpa Kulkarni - CDOT Tegan Gough - CDOT -recorder |

1. Introductions/Meeting Overview/Welcome – Will Jones

- 1:32 begin

2. Round Table - Will Jones

- Matthew Helfant: last meeting announcement
- Amber Blake: congratulations to Matthew. Announced this is her last meeting / 17th March last day
 - moving on to consulting firm
- David A: thank you to Amber Blake/ positioning of SMART as lead agency for gondola work/ funding for operations end in 2027
- Will Jones: congrats to Amber Blake
- Danny Katz: “Denver moves everyone plan”/ vision of 5 BRT routes for 2030 list/ looking forward to Denver taking initiative
- Ann R.: thanks to Amber Blake as DTR director
- Will Jones: election of officers next meeting
 - Amber B. question about Will’s role
 - Will says his position will be filled
 - Amber B asks: transit manager filling rest of term?
 - Will answers that it is undecided
 - Matthew Helfant seat being taken by Alvan Bidal Sanchez temporarily

3. Bustang Update – Jennifer Phillips

- Ridership update/ shows depth of routes/ I-70 is doing very well/ all routes are up from 2019/ moved 170k passengers in 2022
- South and North lines are more impacted by work from home shifts in workforce
- Outrider program
 - new Sterling/Greeley/Denver route launched and Pueblo to Trinidad route launching in March
- Outrider ridership update
 - changed graph parameters
 - Telluride is of concern
 - better connections needed etc.
 - hopefully will improve ridership since working with operators
 - focusing on marketing with Sterling/Greeley/Denver route/ slow start
 - Pegasus route is doing well
 - expansion in September 2022 and schedule modification (new schedule now live)
 - eliminated many overnights in Avon due to operator complaint
 - Bustang to Broncos
 - north and south lines successful
 - weak ridership on west line so not continuing in 2023
 - Snowstang
 - doing very well / new Breckenridge line is very successful
- partnering with a group focusing on diversifying the mountains / group is *Slide Through Saturdays*
 - free lift tickets and equipment provided by resorts and businesses
 - CDOT/ Snowstang provides transportation to ski resorts
 - Jennifer presented video highlighting this group’s previous event
- Elkstang announcement
 - Estes Park seasonal service
 - active May through October
- Bustang expansion study
 - study should be done end of June or early July
- outrider funding now in NOFA

- Connected Colorado Project
 - contract negotiations/ 4 partners/ changes ticketing systems
- electrification study - working with OIM
- vehicle purchases/ 5 buses on order currently
- questions:
 - Eva Wilson: excited to see ridership on west I70/ concern with people with being left at curb due to lack of space on buses
 - Eva: reservation system starting with Bustang?
 - Jennifer: Possible 50/50 split with reservation with on-demand seating
 - Eva: difference between Bustang versus Snowstang reservation system?
 - Jennifer: stems from different purposes/ some services are limited throughout year
 - Eva: are there incentives for getting coach operators
 - Jennifer: Ace operator contract means they are responsible for providing operators
 - Ace created program for Pegasus drivers to get CDL to drive coach/ pipeline for more in-demand routes
 - CDOT is looking at leadership role to possibly take to promote CDL operators statewide
 - Sarah Curtis in Montrose: pleased to hear exploring more schedules/ offered help
 - David Johnson/ when is electrification study beginning?
 - Jennifer: RFP will be issued within a month for contractor to complete study (so soon)
 - David: comments to keep in mind that we are overhauling our facility so open to Bustang 'fueling' given results of EV study/ new facility operable in 2025
 - Jonathan Flint: fleet electrification - are hybrid options on the table?
 - Jennifer: refers to study that will be completed and she will follow up
- Will to Amber Blake

4. NOFA Update - Amber Blake

- Issuing NOFA for super call
 - issued on April 10th or 17th
 - posted in simplified version / by project type
 - reminder on Certs and assurances/ TRAC members
- questions
 - Michal Davies: clean transit enterprise?
 - Amber: will follow up
 - David Q: points to similarities to TAM plan as in CDOT leading work
 - ahead of game with Connected Colorado

5. Adjourn – Will Jones