



**COLORADO**  
Department of Transportation  
Division of Transit & Rail

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**DATE:** March 14, 2018  
**TO:** Transit & Rail Advisory Committee  
**FROM:** David Krutsinger, Director - Division of Transit & Rail  
Michael Timlin, Manager - Bus Operations  
Maria Johnson, Bus Operations Specialist  
**SUBJECT:** Bustang Outrider Rural Regional Update

Purpose

The purpose of this memo is to provide the TRAC an operational and planning update on the Bustang Outrider Rural Regional Bus system.

Action

Information only, no action is required.

Background

The Bustang Rural Regional Bus System is statewide enhancement of the current FTA 5311(f) Rural Regional Intercity bus program that DTR has administered for many years. The enhancements include:

- State owned fleet of comfortable 35 ft. & 45 ft. motor coaches equipped with free Wi-Fi, restrooms and wheel chair lift
- Standardized statewide fare system of Bustang's \$0.17 per mile
- Route structure that allows rural citizens to travel to their urban services center for same-day essential services, or to connect to the national intercity bus network, airport, or Amtrak for interstate travel.
- Consistent branding and information. To the customer this is one product, even though it is operationally delivered by multiple companies.

In 2018 the following bus routes will transition to the Outrider brand and vehicles this year: Alamosa - Pueblo, Gunnison - Denver, and Durango - Grand Junction.

Details

The initial Lamar - Pueblo Outrider service was launched on January 2, 2018, operated by the Senior Resource Development Agency of Pueblo, Inc. (SRDA). SRDA "soft" launched in January by using their existing fleet. CDOT's six bus order of Outrider-branded 35 ft. motor coaches is in the delivery phase, and those buses will be deployed on the SRDA route soon. SRDA applied for Interstate operating rights from Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) in order to effectively interline ticketing with the intercity bus companies. When approved, SRDA will then have the ability to provide a seamless ticketing solution for rural residents requesting interstate travel, who either begin or end their trip with SRDA, and use an intercity bus carrier for the other part of their trip.

*Ridership* - January 37 passengers handled and February 32 passengers handled. As previously noted ridership will improve when ticket interlining between Outrider and Bustang and intercity bus is established.

*Rolling Stock*- Two of the six buses ordered have been delivered and are awaiting service preparation such as WiFi installation and vinyl livery wrap. The remaining 4 buses will be delivered Thursday March 8.



*Outrider Next Phase Mobility Study* - HDR is conducting an Outrider mobility study to determine next phase Outrider service. The goals of the mobility study are to:

- Identify improved mobility and connectivity between regions
- Incrementally expand rural regional (Bustang Outrider) networks

HDR is currently analyzing responses from stakeholders from 15 statewide communities. Questions asked:

1. What new regional transit connection(s) would you like to see for your community?
2. What markets or trip types would these potential connections serve?
3. How many trips per day do you think there is a market for?
4. What times of day and days per week would you like to see potential service operate?
5. Would you like potential new service to be branded as part of the Bustang Outrider network or do you have ideas for a separate brand?

Some of the feedback they have received:

- Support and excitement for new regional service and connections
- Primary market is medical services and shopping
- Desired service is weekdays, with early departure and late return
- No issues with space or capacity at terminals (bus stations/stops)
- There is support for services to be branded as part of Bustang Outrider

Next steps for the mobility study:

- High level operating Plan
- Technical report - July 2018

#### Next Steps

- Consult with FMCSA on Interstate operating authority for SRDA
- Launch Alamosa - Pueblo Outrider May 1, 2018
- Award Gunnison - Denver RFP April 15, 2018
- Launch Gunnison - Denver July 1, 2018
- Transition Durango - Grand Junction Road Runner service to Outrider July 1, 2018
- Review next phase Outrider mobility study for service modifications or additions in calendar 2019.

