



COLORADO

Department of Transportation

Division of Transit & Rail

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TO: Transit and Rail Advisory Committee
FROM: Sophie Shulman, Chief, Office of Innovative Mobility
David Krutsinger, Director, Division of Transit and Rail
Mike Timlin, Manager, Bus Operations Unit
DATE: November 8, 2019
RE: Outrider Decision Review

Purpose

The purpose of this memo is to review the prioritization of routes with TRAC.

Action

No action this month. Input from TRAC is requested prior to approval in January 2020.

Background

The 2014 Intercity & Regional Bus Plan, the 2015 Statewide Transit Plan, and subsequent decisions have affirmed a role by CDOT to implement essential-service connections between rural areas of the state and multiple urbanized areas where medical, transport, shopping, and other services are available. Multiple operators' services have been consolidated under the recognizable "Bustang Outrider" brand, to simplify trip-planning and trip-making for customers. Four routes were re-branded throughout 2018 (operator): Lamar - Pueblo, Alamosa-Salida-Pueblo, Gunnison-Salida-Denver, and Durango-Grand Junction.

In November 2017, Transportation Commission approved the use of up to \$2.5 Million total of FASTER funds for rural-regional bus routes (generally operated by transit agencies) and inter-regional routes (generally Outrider-branded). Four additional routes are expected to be implemented in 2021.

Details

A total of 21 routes were identified in 2018, and have progressively been evaluated throughout 2018-19. With funding for only about four routes, transportation planning regions (TPRs) have provided input about their highest priorities. Technical information for ridership, ease of implementation, and equity (social & geographic) was provided to support decision-making. Four routes are recommended for "Phase 3" implementation in 2021: (1) Trinidad - Pueblo, (2) Sterling - Greeley, (3) Telluride - Grand Junction, and (4) Craig - Denver. Four additional routes are proposed for "Phase 4". See attached for more.

Next Steps

- Present draft results at the December "monthly" call with transit agencies on December 5th
- Present draft results at STAC on December 6th
- Present draft recommendations at a Transportation Commission Workshop December 18th
- TRAC final recommendations January 10, 2020
- TC final review & approval, January 15th (workshop) & 16th
- SB 267 Approvals by TC in December are expected to provide the funding to order buses during 2020
- Implement routes January - June 2021

Attachments

- Presentation