



COLORADO
Department of Transportation
Division of Transit & Rail
2829 W. Howard Pl. 4th Floor
Denver, CO 80204

DATE: September 10, 2021
TO: Transit & Rail Advisory Committee
FROM: Amber Blake, Director - Division of Transit & Rail
Michael Timlin - Senior Manager of Mobility Operations & Deputy Division Director
Kyle French, Bus Operations Manager - Division of Transit & Rail
Jeff Prillwitz, Bus Operations Coordinator - Division of Transit & Rail
RE: Bustang Outrider Quarterly and Fiscal Year End Update; 4th Quarter - Year Ending June 30, 2021

Purpose

The purpose of this memo is to provide a quarterly and fiscal year end Bustang Outrider update on operational and performance measures for 4th Quarter, fiscal year ending on June 30, 2021.

Action

Informational only - no action is required.

Background

The Bustang Outrider rural regional bus service began operation in 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, and is generally contracted as a pass-through grant agreement rather than as a direct operational agreement with specific requirements. FTA rules allow local cash match to be 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. Due to the large reduction of service by the intercity bus carriers within Colorado the “in-kind” contributions based on unsubsidized miles is no longer available. All Bustang Outrider routes will now use Transportation Development Credits for the “in-kind” match.

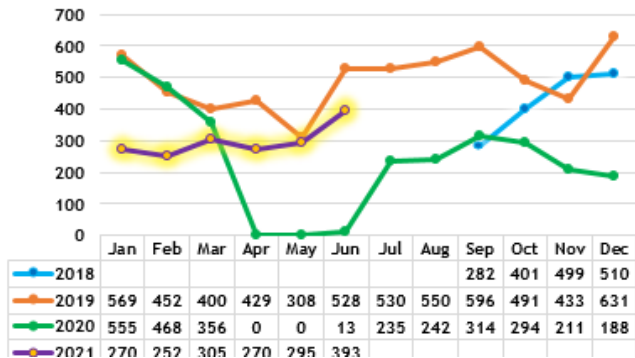
Outrider provides essential service transportation from rural to an urban community services center as well as a connection to the national intercity bus network. Outrider is considered as, and is marketed as an “offspring” brand to the parent Bustang system. For these reasons, a separate Outrider update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

The routes currently in operation are:

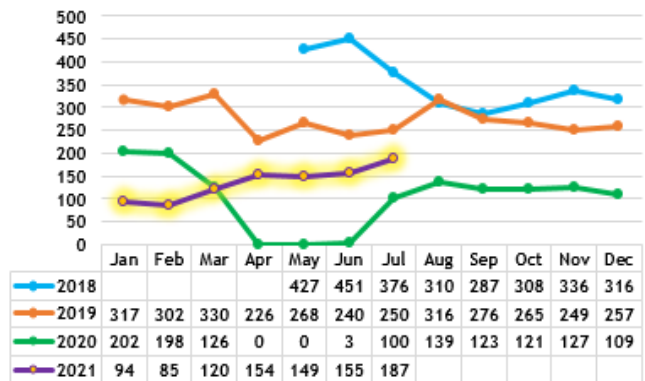
- Lamar - Colorado Springs in revenue service Monday through Friday except major holidays and operated by Senior Resource Development Agency of Pueblo, Inc. (SRDA)
- Alamosa - Salida -Pueblo is in revenue service daily and is also operated by SRDA.
- Gunnison - Salida- Denver is operating in revenue service daily and is 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)
- Craig - Denver via US 40 & I-70 West operated by Greyhound Lines, Inc. (This is a phase III route launched into revenue service on January 2, 2021)

Details
RIDERSHIP

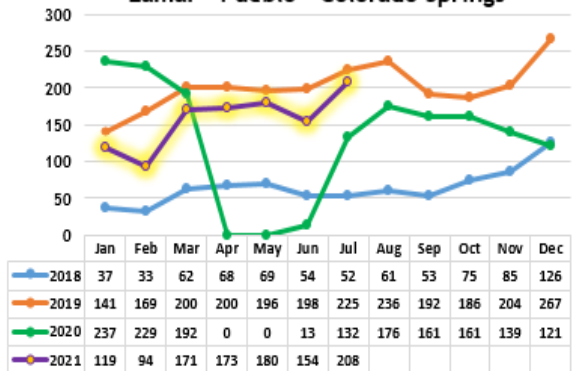
Durango - Grand Junction



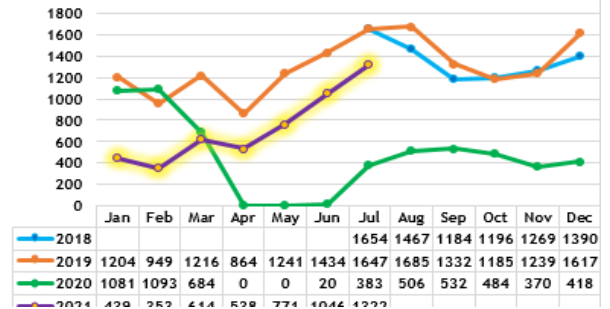
Alamosa - Pueblo



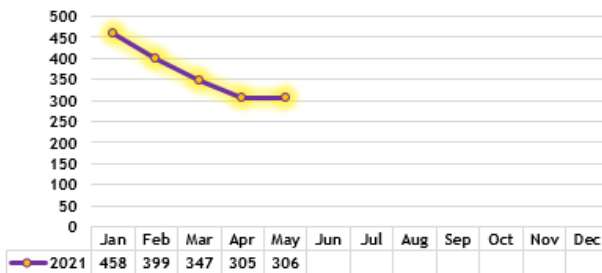
Lamar - Pueblo - Colorado Springs



Gunnison - Denver



Craig - Denver



PHASE III PLANNING- Stakeholder outreach has been completed on the final four proposed routes that were presented to the Transportation Commission in December 2019 (discussion), and received approval in January 2020. The four Outrider routes to be implemented in 2021 are:

- Sterling -Greeley and Denver via I-76 & US 34 (route will operate Sterling - Greeley on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Sterling - Denver on Tuesday and Thursday)
- Trinidad - Pueblo via I-25
- Grand Junction - Telluride via US 550
- Service stops and schedules have been determined for all Phase III routes.

The nationwide delay in deliveries of heavy duty vehicles has impacted the start of the Sterling - Greely and Denver service and the Trinidad - Pueblo service. Buses for these routes were originally scheduled for delivery in March of 2021. Delivery was made in the last part of August 2021. Inspections, repairs and prep work have necessitated a start date for these two routes in early October 2021.

Service on the Telluride - Grand Junction route will be starting at the beginning of September after the execution of the lease arrangement for two CDOT owned Van Hool CX 35s to be operated by Telluride Express.

Next Steps

- Determine operators for the Craig to Denver route in 2022. Route is currently being operated on a one year “emergency” basis by Greyhound. Requests for Proposals (RFP) to advertise by early September, 2021.
- Award Calendar Year 2022 Grants for Outrider.
- Opening events and outreach to communities which will be serviced by the Phase III routes.
- Expand Lamar to Colorado Springs service to seven days a week.
- Expand Gunnison - Denver service to the community of Crested Butte. Possible summer stop at Monarch Crest which will compliment the winter stop at Monarch Mountain Ski Area.
- Service the Grand Junction Airport with the Durango - Grand Junction Service. Telluride to Grand Junction will provide airport service from opening date.
- AECOM to continue survey of all Bustang Outrider routes for stop improvements including shelters, service stop signs. ADA compliance and wayfinding signs.