



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