

**MINUTES OF THE
EAGLE VALLEY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
September 13, 2023**

A meeting of the Eagle Valley Transportation Authority (“Authority”) Board of Directors (“Board”) was held on September 13, 2023, at 12:30 p.m. The meeting was held in person at the Avon Council Chambers located at 100 Mikaela Way, Town of Avon, Colorado, 81620, and on zoom. Notice of the meeting was posted on September 08, 2023, and included agenda items, location and time, as well as the teleconference information needed to participate in the public portion of the meeting. The Notice of Board of Directors Meeting dated September 08, 2023, and the certification of posting are attached hereto.

ATTENDANCE

Directors in Attendance:

Director Amy Phillips, Mayor and Councilor, Town of Avon

Director Dave Eickholt, Beaver Creek Metro District

Director Jeanne McQueeney, Commissioner, Eagle County

Director Barry Davis, Councilor, Town of Vail

Director Earle Bidez, Mayor, Town of Minturn

Director Nick Sunday, Councilor, Town of Eagle.

Director Dana Veljacic, Member of the Board of Trustees of the Town of Red Cliff

Directors Absent:

All Directors were present for this meeting.

Also in Attendance:

Tanya Allen, Executive Director, EVTA

Larry Tennenholz, Acting Director, ECO Transit

Ray Shei, Alternate Board, Beaver Creek Metro District

Jeff Wetzal, Operations Manager, ECO Transit

Vanesa Duarte, Admin/Fiscal Tech, ECO Transit

Lance Trujillo, Transit Technology and Innovation Manager,
ECO Transit

Joanna Kerwin, Community Member, Edwards Metro District

**APPROVAL OF THE
AGENDA**

Director Phillips presented the agenda. Director Davis motioned to approve the Agenda. Director Eickholt seconded this motion, which passed with a unanimous 7-0 vote.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES
AND FINANCIAL
STATEMENTS**

Director Phillips presented the Minutes dated August 09, 2023 for approval and asked if any other Directors had any questions or requests for corrections. Director Eickholt pointed out that Mr. Larry Tennenholz, who presented at the August meeting, was not included in the attendance list and suggested that Ms. Tanya Allen be referred to as Executive Director Allen to distinguish her from Board Directors. After these changes, Director Davis moved to approve the minutes and financial statements. Director Eickholt seconded the motion, which passed with a unanimous 7-0 vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Joanna Kerwin, a community member of Edwards Metro District, suggested that the EVTA should be among the entities receiving referral letters for development and community input. To this, Director Phillips recommended that Executive Director Allen establish contact with Eagle County, all Towns, and Metro District Planning Departments to ensure that the EVTA is included in these updates. Director McQueeney advised that the EVTA Board should seek legal advice regarding the matter to confirm this is appropriate.

AGENDA ITEMS

5. ECO Transit Updates

Mr. Teneholz, Acting Director of ECO Transit, announced that ECO Transit received approval from Eagle County to purchase 5 new hybrid buses using ECO Transit reserve funds. The estimated timeframe for the buses to arrive is between one and a half to two years.

Mr. Tenenholz presented the Winter Season draft schedules, highlighting newly added trips on the Highway 6 route that will

help ease transportation during rush hours and provide additional late-night services.

Mr. Tenenholz shared a proposal for expanded service on the Vail/Beaver Creek express route, to be operated by a contractor called SP Plus. Contracting this route would allow ECO Transit to re-allocate one bus and two operators to other routes while providing a significant increase in service between key destinations. The proposal included a significant increase in service, with buses running every 20 minutes from 7am until 7pm.

5.1 Approval of Resolution 2023-21, A Resolution Approving a Transportation Service Agreement

Mr. Tenenholz provided more information about the potential contract with SP Plus. He explained that the contract included the flexibility to add extra buses and employees if necessary in the future. The estimated cost of the proposed service would be approximately \$1.2 million annually, which includes all associated operator costs, workers' compensation, and vehicle maintenance.

Director Bidez inquired about possible enhancements to other routes. In response, Executive Director Allen stated that there were no plans at the moment, but the contract with SP Plus could provide additional buses and operators if needed, to expand services on other routes if this was desirable in the future.

Director Eickholt suggested that ECO Staff consider the possibility of introducing an express service between Eagle and Vail and include it in the fare-free pilot program. Mr. Tenenholz estimated that the cost of providing this service, including everything required to run it, would be around \$600k. Director Eickholt requested that Mr. Tenenholz provide further information regarding this at the next meeting.

Director Eickholt motioned to approve Resolution 2023-21, A Resolution Approving a Transportation Service Agreement. Director Bidez seconded this motion, which passed with a unanimous 7-0 vote.

5.2 ECO Transit Fleet Update

Mr. Teneholz said that ECO Transit is planning to refurbish up to four buses, which will increase the lifespan of these vehicles by another 10 years. The bid for the refurbished buses came in at under \$400K. In addition, Mr. Teneholz also mentioned that ECO Transit recently purchased two retired Beaver Creek buses at auction. One of these buses will be used as a dedicated training bus. The County is also currently working on expanding its vehicle parts inventory. This will assist the fleet in working on buses with extended downtime.

Director Eickholt inquired about the payment for the refurbished buses and whether they would be paid off from ECO's fund or EVTA's fund. Executive Director Allen clarified that the payment for the refurbished buses will be made from the ECO Transit fund.

6. ECO Transit 2023-2024 Season Fares

Executive Director Allen reviewed ECO Transit's existing fare policy, adopted in the fall of 2022, which recommends discussing Fare Performance with the Board in advance of every year's budget process. The new policy also expects ECO Transit to achieve a fare-recovery ratio of approximately 20%, which is the ratio of operating expenses covered by fares collected from riders.

Executive Director Allen noted that ECO Transit was already at 97% of its budgeted fare revenue for the year and that fare recovery was running above 20%. Based on this and the EVTA's ultimate goal of moving to a fare-free system across a significant portion of the service area, she suggested the EVTA Board consider several options for fare relief this winter season. This could be an opportunity to utilize EVTA's resources to benefit riders across the entire service area.

She presented several recommendations for Fare relief actions with associated revenue implications. Board members suggested any discounts be simple to communicate, such as a 25% across the board reduction and asked whether a larger reduction might be possible. Executive Director Allen noted

that ECO staff was trying to offer a reduction that would have an impact on rider's wallets without driving additional demand that could not be accommodated.

The Directors agreed that this idea deserved some consideration and asked for a more detailed proposal so they could make a more informed decision at the October meeting.

NOTE: Following this discussion, Director Barry Davis from Town of Vail, had to leave the meeting, leaving only six Directors and still maintaining a quorum.

7. 2024 Budget Timeline and Expectations

Executive Director Allen provided some highlights for the upcoming 2024 budget. She mentioned that the 2024 budget will look different than the 2023 budget as it will be constructed in four separate funds. The first fund will be the "General Fund," which is where most of the expenses will be allocated. The second fund will be the "Transit Capital Fund," which will be used for vehicle and equipment purchases. The "Air Service Fund" will include funding to support eligible air activity. Finally, a "Housing Fund" will be used for all housing-related expenses, including housing investments, capital investments, leases, and more.

Regarding the revenue side of the 2024 budget, Executive Director Allen noted that the projection is for flat sales tax revenue. As a result, the recommendation is for EVTA to have a prediction of sales tax revenue consistent with 2023 that can be adjusted as necessary.

For ECO Transit Sales Tax transfers, she explained that Eagle County and EVTA will be meeting to decide on which costs to allocate to which organization during 2024. The difference between costs paid by ECO Transit and costs paid by EVTA will accrue to EVTA. Fare revenue will be subject to change depending on the fare policy that EVTA decides to adopt. The working expectation is that EVTA will begin collecting and account for all fares for the system starting January 1st.

Executive Director Allen also discussed the expense side of the 2024 budget. She mentioned that the plan is for EVTA to fully assume all operating responsibilities for ECO Transit sometime

in the middle of the year, although there is no set day for this transition to take place. EVTA will use ECO Transit expenses as a baseline, but the assumption is that there will be an increase in salary expenses, equipment expenses, and vehicle expenses as expansion projects are identified.

8. Branding Project Update

Executive Director Allen provided an update to the Board on the Name and Branding process for EVTA. She mentioned that following the initial meeting, there have been five stakeholder sessions with a total of 25 participants. A lot of good feedback was collected from these meetings. However, based on discussions with the Marketing team, there is still a need to invite more community members to participate in these sessions to get additional feedback. The plan is to have more "pop-up" community engagement to gather feedback from the Latino community, regular riders, and senior riders, as these are the groups that have not been heard from yet.

NOTE: Following this discussion, Director Dana Veljacic from Town of Red Cliff, had to leave the meeting, leaving only five Directors and still maintaining a quorum.

9. Communications Update

Mr. Ray provided an update on Executive Director Allen's visits to all member jurisdictions. He also mentioned that he is working on creating some press releases to update community members on new decisions made by the Board so that they can see the work that EVTA is doing.

10. Executive Director's Updates/Future Topics

Executive Director Allen said that the July sales tax was over \$1 million, totaling approximately \$7.9 million for the year. She noted that the new evta.org domain is active and associated with the current website, and an evta.org email has been created which she will start using as her main email address. Additionally, she mentioned that four new positions are available for hiring, and she hopes to start receiving applications and scheduling interviews soon. For the October meeting, the main topic will be the budget. Updates from the Airline Committee and a presentation from the town of Avon

regarding housing opportunities were also tentatively on the schedule.

NEXT MEETING

October 11, 2022.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:01 PM
