

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

A meeting of the Eagle Valley Transportation Authority (“Authority”) Board of Directors (“Board”) was held on December 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 December 8, 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 December 8, 2023, and the certification of posting are attached hereto.

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**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 Tenenholz, Acting Director, ECO Transit

Ray Shei, Alternate Board Director, Beaver Creek Metro District

Jeff Wetzal, Operations Manager, ECO Transit

Greg Barret, Safety & Security Manager, ECO Transit

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Lance Trujillo, Transit Technology and Innovation Manager,  
ECO Transit

Jessie Cooper, Fleet Asset Supervisor, ECO Transit

Dayana Herr, Admin Supervisor, ECO Transit

Jim Shoun, Town of Avon

Mandie Steele, Transdev

Jim Clancy, Executive Director, Beaver Creek Resort Company

Tim McMahon, Community Member

Joanna Kerwin, Community Member, Edwards Metro District

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**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 6-0 vote.

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**APPROVAL OF MINUTES  
AND FINANCIAL  
STATEMENTS**

Director Phillips presented the Minutes dated November 8, 2023, for approval and asked if any other Directors had any questions or requests for corrections. Hearing none, Director Davis moved to approve the minutes and financial statements. Director Bidez seconded the motion, which passed with a unanimous 6-0 vote.

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**BOARD COMMENT**

There were no comments made by any Directors.

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**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Tim McMahon, a community member, started by apologizing for being involved in a small incident with one of ECO Transit's buses. He then asked whether ECO would lose its existing half-cent sales tax when transitioning to the EVTA. He inquired if any of the board directors had ridden the Vail/BC route, mentioning that he had ridden it nine times, and two of those times, there were issues with the buses. Specifically, the back doors did not open, and there were no head signs indicating the bus' direction. Mr. McMahon further mentioned that three of those times, the buses covering this route were actually ECO buses because SP+ buses were broken down. According to him, ECO Transit road supervisors don't have a way to communicate with SP+ drivers during their runs.

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Finally, he suggested that Wednesdays at 12 PM is not a good time for a public meeting since most bus riders cannot attend.

Jim Clancy, the Executive Director of Beaver Creek Resort Company, expressed his gratitude to the board of directors for the organization's progress so far. He mentioned that the Beaver Creek community has been closely monitoring the ridership of the free Vail/Beaver Creek route and has observed that it comprises both tourists and the local workforce. He suggested that it would be beneficial to gather more data to better understand the ridership's specifics. This would help identify the target audience and tailor marketing efforts to guests and workforce riders. He added that some improvements to signage on the buses was desirable.

**After public comment, Director Dana Veljacic from the Town of Red Cliff joined the meeting.**

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## **AGENDA ITEMS**

### **6. Resolution 2023-22: Setting the 2024 Meeting Schedule**

Director Phillips acknowledged the public comment regarding the regular Board meeting time but said the current time best enabled the Directors to balance this commitment with others they have in their respective jurisdictions. She added that thoughts and comments regarding EVTA could be provided to all Directors at public forums where they were available, many of which may be at more convenient times.

Director Davis suggested creating a public email address for community comments.

Director Davis moved to approve Resolution 2023-22: Setting the 2024 Meeting Schedule. Director Eickholt seconded the motion, which passed with a unanimous 7-0 vote.

### **7. ECO Transit Service Update**

Mr. Larry Tenenholz updated the Board on the first week of SP+ contract operation of the Vail/Beaver Creek route, including some equipment challenges as only three of their four buses had arrived on time. He explained that ECO Transit had been able to assist with coverage so as to minimize cancellations. In week one 11 of 462 trips were missed, approximately 2%. Week two showed significant improvement

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and he expected that tend to continue moving forward. Mr. Tenenholz noted that their contract includes provisions for liquidated damages, i.e., a fee for any service promised that they did not provide, providing strong incentive for improvement.

Mr. Tenenholz updated the Board on some improvements already underway to address some of the issues raised by public commenters, including the installation of radios to allow direct communication with ECO Road Supervisors if required, repair of electronic head signs, and new exterior decals clearly indicating the free bus service.

In terms of ridership, during the first week of service, the route had an average of 345 riders per day. There were some issues with week two ridership counts that were being resolved but preliminary numbers indicated ridership was growing rapidly.

Mr. Tenenholz also highlighted significantly reduced cancellations in the first week of 2023 (nine) versus the same period in 2021 and 2022 (46 and 62, respectively) and improved fleet availability thanks to the collaborative efforts of Eagle County's fleet team.

Mr. Tenenholz also shared some planned service improvements, including two additional morning peak trips on the Valley Express route from Eagle Valley High School to Vail, an extra morning peak on the Highway 6 route from Edwards to Vail, two morning peak shadow buses, and additional afternoon peak shadow buses. These were expected to launch in late December.

Tim McMahon, a community member, reported that he has noticed incorrect fare prices displayed on some of the buses he has ridden in the past few weeks. He also inquired about the possibility of having shadow buses available for the Valley route, as the need to transport people from Eagle to Vail is crucial.

## **8. 2024 Budget Adoption**

Executive Director Allen reviewed the assumptions behind the 2024 budget as well as expenditures and revenues for each of the four funds, noting that ECO Transit expenditures were

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currently being split 50/50 with Eagle County under the assumption that these responsibilities would transfer approximately mid-year. Regular adjustments to the budget were expected as the transition timeline was further refined.

General Fund revenues totaled \$33,557,004 with a combination of EVTA sales tax, ECO Transit sales tax transfers, and fare revenues. General Fund expenditures amounted to \$21,495,542. Major expenditures included purchased transportation, wages, and benefits, which includes both the costs of any outside contracts (such as SP+) and the share of ECO Transit operating expenses incurred by Eagle County prior to the transition. General Fund expenditures also included transfers to the Transit Capital, Air, and Housing Fund. Expenditures across all four funds totaled \$22,453,802.

### **8.1 Public Hearing**

Tim McMahon, a member of the community, asked if there were numbers available to the public of how much SP+ is being paid. Executive Director Allen said that for 2024 the budgeted amount for that contract is \$980,052.

### **8.2 Resolution 2023-23: A Resolution to Adopt the Budget for the 2024 Fiscal Year.**

Director Davis moved to approve Resolution 2023-23: A Resolution to Adopt the Budget for the 2024 Fiscal Year. Director Eickholt seconded the motion, which passed with a unanimous 7-0 vote.

## **9. Strategic Plan Review and Retreat Planning**

Executive Director Allen said the retreat was scheduled for January 10th from 9am to 2pm. The retreat will begin with a regular meeting and will be facilitated by Greg Bellomo. The objectives of the retreat include revisiting the interim strategic plan, acknowledging the progress made, and discussing critical elements of the plan. Additionally, a portion of the retreat will be dedicated to engaging in conversations about housing.

She reviewed the current interim strategic plan to highlight some areas where progress has been made and encouraged Board members to reflect further in advance of the retreat.

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## **10. Communications Update**

Mr. Bill Ray updated the Board on recent communication initiatives, including the creation of an EVTA Facebook, two Vail Daily articles, and an upcoming press release announcing the hiring of a Deputy Director and promotion of the free Vail/Beaver Creek Express service.

## **11. Executive Director's Update/Future Topics**

Executive Director Allen shared that Scott Robinson had been hired as the EVTA's new Deputy Director for Administration and Finance and that he was expected to start on December 18. Previously, Robinson served as the Superintendent of Business Operations at Mountain Rec, where he gained experience handling various areas, including HR, payroll, finance, and marketing. His skills in marketing will be especially valuable in the upcoming project to develop a new branding and name for the EVTA.

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### **NEXT MEETING**

January 10, 2023.

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### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 PM

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