

**MINUTES OF THE
EAGLE VALLEY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY d/b/a Core Transit
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
August 13, 2025**

A meeting of the Eagle Valley Transportation Authority (“Authority”) Board of Directors (“Board”) was held on August 13, 2025, at 12:00 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 August 8, 2025, 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 August 8, 2025, and the certification of posting are attached hereto.

ATTENDANCE

Directors in Attendance:

Chair: Director Earle Bidez, Mayor, Town of Minturn

Vice Chair Director Rich Carroll, Councilor, Town of Avon

Director Dave Eickholt, Beaver Creek Metro District

Director Jeanne McQueeney, Commissioner, Eagle County

Director Bryan Woods, Councilor, Town of Eagle

Director Garrett Alexander, Member of the Board of Trustees of the Town of Red Cliff

Director Barry Davis, Councilor, Town of Vail

Attendance:

Scott Robinson, Deputy Director, Core Transit

Dayana Herr, Marketing, Communications & Customer Relations Manager, Core Transit

Aryn Schlichting, Director of People & Culture, Core Transit

Tanya Allen, Executive Director, Core Transit

Dave Snyder, Director of Transportation, Core Transit

Lance Trujillo, Director of Innovation and IT, Core Transit

Sanjok Timilsina, Director of Finance, Core Transit

Selene Suarez, People and Culture Generalist, Core Transit

Dave Levy, Planning Manager, Core Transit

Amy Burford, Executive Assistant & Special Projects Coordinator, Core Transit

David Reid, Director of Aviation, Eagle County Regional Airport

Chris Romer, EGE Air Alliance

Jim Shoun, Mobility Manager, Town of Avon

Chris Gersbach, General Manager, Beaver Creek Metro District

Zoe Goldstein, Vail Daily

Stephanie Samuelson, Vail, CO

Attendance on Zoom:

Edgardo Reyes, Information Services Representative, Core Transit

Vanesa Duarte, Core Transit, Office/Admin Coordinator

Mitzi Marquez, Finance Coordinator, Core Transit

Larry Pardee, Town of Eagle

Todd Cleveland, ITS Transit Tech, Core Transit

Tony Arenales, Maintenance Coordinator, Core Transit

Kathryn Winn, Core Transit Legal Counsel, Attorney, Collins Cole Winn & Ulmer, PLLC

Tati Wernicke, People and Culture Generalist, Core Transit

Jodi Doney, Operations Manager, Eagle County Regional Airport

Christine McLeod, CPA, Haynie & Company

Diego Martinez, Haynie & Company

Joanna Kerwin, Edwards Metro District, Edwards, CO

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

There were no changes.

BOARD COMMENT

Director Carroll explained the new consent agenda section and emphasized adding more structure to Executive Director Tanya Allen's review, noting that this could be brought up for further discussion at the Board retreat.

Director Eickholt introduced Chris Gersbach as the new General Manager of the Beaver Creek Metro District, following the retirement of Bill Simmons.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Tim McMahon of Avon shared his concerns regarding Core Transit's donation to the Eagle Valley Trail and the emergency action plan for the upcoming winter season.

Stephanie Samuelson from Vail shared her experience working with Core Transit.

Executive Director Tanya Allen clarified that the Eagle Valley Trail donation did not come from the new Core Transit half-cent sales tax. She explained that the funds came from the ECO Transit and Trails balance that remained with Eagle County at the end of 2024. This was a portion of the total ECO Transit & Trails balance retained by Eagle County as part of transition negotiations. Details regarding this donation were included in the finance agreement approved by the Board at its December 2024 meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA

Director Bidez presented the following as part of the consent agenda for approval:

5.1. June financial statements

5.2. June payables

5.3. July 11, 2025, regular meeting minutes

5.4. A twelve-month fleet maintenance services agreement valued at \$1,500,000 with Eagle County for the upkeep of Core Transit buses

5.5. Request from Eagle County's Healthy Aging Department to provide the services of a bus/bus operator on 9/11/25 to conduct a day trip to Casa Bonita in Denver, Colorado, at a cost of approximately \$2,000

5.6. The Member Transit Pass Program

5.7. The bank signer update as presented by staff to add Sanjok Timilsina as the signer on the MBS Account

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

AGENDA ITEMS

6. Presentations

6.1 Housing Program Presentation

People and Culture Generalist Selene Suarez shared that Core Transit's current housing inventory includes 44 bedrooms, with the primary goal of supporting operator recruitment and retention. She highlighted 2024 achievements such as establishing waitlist protocols, improving communication regarding rent costs, and expanding capacity. She explained that Core Transit subsidizes a portion of the rent for these units, reducing costs for employees, and reported that over 58% of the operations team currently lives in employee housing. She shared that the number of employees housed grew from 34 to 44 following the recent transition, with 10 new bedrooms added to the program. She emphasized that this expansion reflects Core Transit's commitment to putting people first by developing a strong employee housing program that empowers the workforce and enhances service to the community.

She shared that Core Transit has collaborated with several local properties, including Eagle County Housing Authority, CMC, and Riverdance. She touched on challenges such as strong demand, long waitlists, and affordable housing located far from work. She noted that \$320,000 was allocated to the housing fund in 2025, and staff is recommending \$350,000 for 2026. She explained that the plan for 2026 is to maintain current rent levels while conducting a cost-benefit analysis of additional alternatives such as purchasing units, master leasing, or offering housing stipends or other benefits.

Director Bidez asked if there is an opportunity for Core Transit to invest in affordable housing.

Deputy Director Robinson noted that purchasing a permanent operations facility and investing in employee housing simultaneously would be financially challenging, but Core Transit is always exploring opportunities.

Director Alexander asked for some clarification on the breakdown of allocated funds. Deputy Director Robinson explained that most funds cover master lease rent and maintenance, which have decreased now that Core Transit has a full-time maintenance coordinator on staff. He added that funds originally allocated for a housing consultant were used to add more housing units instead.

Director Davis asked if staff had considered a down payment assistance program. Deputy Director Robinson replied that the focus is currently on establishing core benefits, but it could be considered in the future.

Business

7.1 FY2024 Audit Presentation

Ms. McLeod began the audit presentation by reviewing the audit procedures. Mr. Diego provided an overview of 2024 total liabilities, total assets, and the statement of net position highlights. Ms. McLeod then reviewed the required communications, noting that no difficulties were encountered in performing the audit. She also reported that there were no uncorrected misstatements and no corrected misstatements.

Director Woods motioned to accept and approve the auditors report and the financial statement for FY 2024. Director Eickholt seconded the motion, which passed with a unanimous 7-0 vote.

7.2 Air Update/MRG Request

Mr. Reid reported that 2024 was a record year for Eagle County Regional Airport, with nearly 290,000 enplanements, representing a 24.8% increase compared to 2023. He reported that the increased enplanement trend continued into Q1 of 2025.

Mr. Romer reviewed the performance of summer 2025 Minimum Revenue Guarantee (MRG)-supported flights, including non-stop service to Chicago-O'Hare and Houston. He also shared the budgeted winter 2025/26 MRG schedule, which includes new opportunities for service on American Airlines to Charlotte and United Airlines to Washington, DC. Mr. Romer explained how increasing flight service provides better options for locals and generates additional sales tax revenue for the community. He requested a total of \$1.5 million from Core Transit for 2026, which included the \$1.2 million standard allocation and a supplemental contribution of \$300,000 for the new opportunities.

Director Bidez asked for more details about the requested supplemental contribution of \$300,000. Executive Director Allen stated that the air fund is normally allocated up to \$1.2 million per year. The past year's better than budgeted MRG performance created savings that the Alliance is requesting be used for these new opportunities. With Board approval, this could also be included in the 2026 budget.

Director McQueeney asked how Core Transit's \$1.2 million compares to prior years' funding levels. Mr. Romer stated that prior to Core Transit funding, fundraising efforts raised \$500,000 to \$600,000 annually, which limited what could be brought to the airport and the local economy. He said that with the current \$1.2 million budget, they have

been able to double opportunities and expand impact.

Director Carroll asked if there was an estimate of how much visitors spend who fly into the local airport. Mr. Romer responded that visitors to Eagle County Airport stay an average of 5.6 nights and spend approximately \$545 per day per person.

The Board directed staff to include the \$1.2 million plus the \$300,000 supplemental contribution in the 2026 draft budget.

7.3 Vice Chair Election

Director Bidez explained that, since the previous Vice Chair is no longer on the Board, a new Vice Chair needs to be appointed.

Director Bidez motioned to appoint Director Carroll as the Vice Chair. Director Davis seconded the motion, which passed with a unanimous 7-0 vote.

8. Staff Reports

Deputy Director Robinson shared that Rider Appreciation Week is upcoming and that wages and compensation information will be provided soon by the People and Culture department.

Director of Transportation Snyder reported that July 2025 ridership is up 9% compared to July 2024. He explained that the annual recertification process has begun, providing refresher training for operators, which is highly beneficial. He noted that 80% of the fleet is in service.

Executive Director Allen thanked Nick Sunday for his service on the Board of Directors. She provided an update from the state regarding the unionization process and reminded the Board that the September meeting will be one of the bi-

annual evening meetings, during which staff will present the winter schedule and seek feedback on the current summer schedule for planning purposes.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Director Davis made a motion to enter Executive Session pursuant to C.R.S. 24-6-402 (4)(b) for a conference with Core Transit's general counsel to receive legal advice on labor relations and Director Eickholt seconded the motion which passed with a unanimous 7-0 vote.

Director Bidez announced that no formal action will be taken during Executive Session, and the board will not return to Council Chambers to reconvene in open session. The meeting will adjourn at the conclusion of the Executive Session.

Director Davis exited the meeting before the Executive Session and did not participate.

ADJOURNMENT

Director Bidez announced that the Executive Session had concluded at 2:38 pm and the Board returned to open session.

Director Eickholt made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:41 pm. Director Carroll seconded the motion which passed with a unanimous 6-0 vote.
