

From: [Tessa Cheek](#)
To: [Jennifer Coates](#)
Subject: Fwd: Please sign our letter of support for Colorado Bustang's fourth anniversary
Date: Monday, June 10, 2019 12:41:37 PM

Is this something we could add to the agenda to consider as a group on the 12th?

Thanks Jen!

Tessa

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: Margot Lurie <mlurie@copirg.org>
Date: June 10, 2019 at 10:49:37 AM MDT
To: tcheek@town.ridgway.co.us
Subject: Please sign our letter of support for Colorado Bustang's fourth anniversary

Dear Councilor Cheek,

On July 13th, CDOT's Bustang intercity bus service will celebrate its fourth anniversary and we would like you to show your appreciation and support for the service by adding your name to our letter (copied and pasted below).

As a local elected official, adding your name to this letter will help us advocate for the continued expansion of a service that is providing over 21,000 rider trips a month. Bustang's original service along I25 and I70, grew by 21% year-over-year this winter and CDOT has added Bustang Outrider service connecting Lamar, Pueblo and Colorado Springs; Gunnison and Denver; Durango and Grand Junction; and Alamosa and Pueblo. Dozens of communities are serviced along these routes.

We will be delivering a letter to CDOT on July 13th, the fourth anniversary of Bustang, from local elected leaders across the state congratulating them and showing support for continuing to add new communities to the system as well as new buses to the service they provide. My organization, CoPIRG, is a statewide, non-profit, that is working to ensure everyone has safe, convenient transit options to get around the state.

To add your name, simply indicate your interest by responding to this email. Please include your name and title.

Thank you

LETTER TO CDOT:

July 13th, 2019

Colorado Department of Transportation
2829 West Howard Place
Denver CO, 80204

Dear Transportation Commissioners,

We want to wish a happy birthday to the Bustang program as it celebrates its fourth anniversary. Since 2015, Bustang has provided important transit service that connects communities along I-70 and I-25 with the Denver Metro Area and vice versa. In addition, Bustang Outrider provides connections between Lamar, Pueblo and Colorado Springs; Gunnison and Denver; Durango and Grand Junction; and Alamosa and Pueblo. Dozens of communities are serviced along these routes.

In its fourth year of operation, demand for Bustang continues to grow. In the spring, ridership along its West, North, South, and Denver Tech Center routes grew by 21% and carried approximately 21,000 riders a month. Bustang Outrider service, while only about a year old, serviced over 2,000 riders a month over the winter. Farebox recovery continues to be strong across the system generating over \$500,000 in revenue in March 2019 alone.

The steady growth in ridership demonstrates the clear need for even more statewide bus service like Bustang. We support your continued efforts to expand Bustang and the Bustang Outrider service by both connecting new communities to the system and by adding more buses along the routes that are at capacity. We also support continuing to offer innovative services like the RamsRoute, which connects students at Colorado State University-Fort Collins with Denver, and the Bustang service to home Broncos games.

Coloradans need travel options to get around the state and the steady growth in Bustang ridership demonstrates that it is providing critical service and continues to be a good foundation to build from.

Congratulations on Bustang's fourth anniversary, and keep up the good work.

Sincerely,

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Margot Lurie
mlurie@copirg.org