



## **FY2020-2021 Budget Submission**

**South Central Regional Transit District  
300 W. Lohman, Las Cruces 88005  
March 16, 2020**

# **South Central Regional Transit District Dona Ana County Budget Submission Fiscal Year 2020-2021**

## **Executive Summary**

The Transit District provides regional planning and transit service throughout Dona Ana county. This includes the recently implemented Green Bus route that operates from Garfield/Hatch to NMSU with fifteen bus stops. Additionally, the District operates the Red, Turquoise and Purple routes operating from Las Cruces to Anthony, Chaparral, Santa Teresa and Sunland Park. More than a dozen rural communities have bus stops on these bus routes. Beginning in October, the District will initiate the Yellow bus route with operations in Santa Teresa, Sunland Park and connecting service to El Paso.

The District began service operation in Dona Ana County in February 2016 and receives funding from eight member entities, including the County of Dona Ana and grants from NM Department of Transportation (DOT) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). Further, the County also funds enhanced service operations within Dona Ana County through a memorandum of agreement.

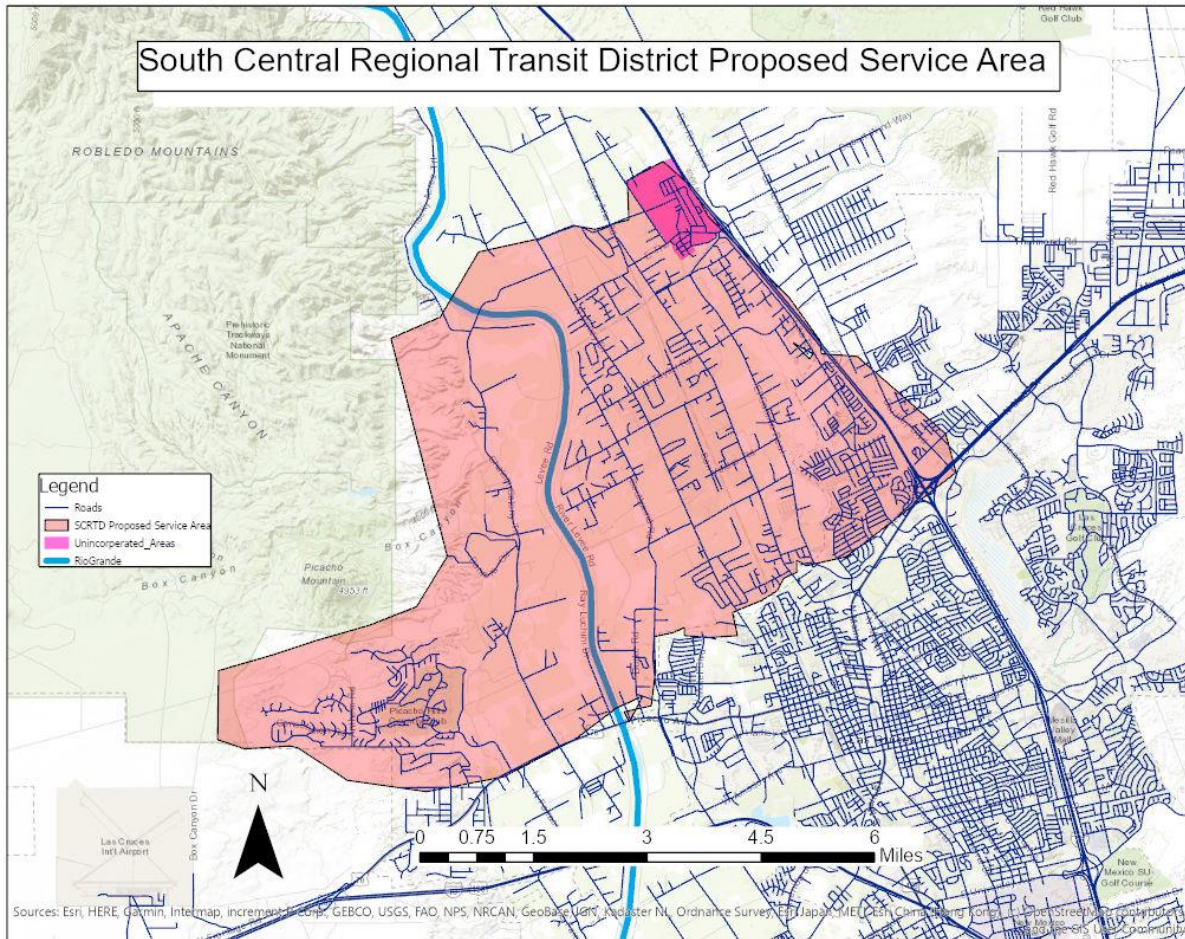
The District has experienced significant growth in ridership during the past three years. The proposed funding request addresses the demand in bus service through an increase in capital funding to support enhanced operations and extension of bus service to the southern area of Dona Ana county. The District budget proposal will leverage local funding via District membership fees and Dona Ana County funds to match federal funding, a fifty percent match on operations, an eighty percent federal to twenty percent local match for capital funding.

## **Budget Request**

This year's funding request is for \$863,700. The request for funding includes \$814,000 funds for operations and \$49,700 for capital. This request is an increase in funding and will provide enough funding to initiate and operate both a new bus route and a pilot demand response route. The new route will be the Yellow Route, with service from Santa Teresa, Sunland Park and El Paso. This route will carry 96,000 trips annually. Service will commence once new bus stops are produced and installed and a bus schedule is printed, and the stops are uploaded in Google maps.

The Pilot demand response route will operate limited service, see Exhibit A below. The Pilot service will be a flex route with on demand trips. More specifically, these trips may be booked once a week for shopping or healthcare. As a flex route, the service, if continued, will qualify for state and local funding.

### Exhibit A – Pilot Project



### Capital Funding

The District is requesting \$49,700 in funding to support the local match for capital funds to support the purchase of one bus, facility improvements and the purchase of two hybrid-electric buses. The Legislature is providing \$180,000 toward the purchase which will match the \$1,170,528 in federal funds secured via the El Paso MPO. The District will receive an additional \$118,800 in federal funding, more specifically, \$78,800 for a bus and \$40,000 for facility improvements.

## Service Plan

During the past three years the service within the county has expanded with increases in ridership and demand for more service. This includes adding service to northern Dona Ana county, more specifically to Garfield/Hatch. Contributing to the increase in ridership rising demand, new bus routes and improved connections throughout the bus network. Increased marketing, communications and advertising in Spanish language newspapers, community centers and libraries throughout Dona Ana County. Every route experienced an increase in ridership in comparison to ridership a year ago.

The addition of the new Yellow bus route, formerly the Sun Metro route #83 adds an urban service to the SCRTD bus network. Table 1 provides annual ridership and a projected ridership forecast with the new bus service.

**TABLE 1 – FISCAL YEAR RIDERSHIP PROJECTED**

<b>SCRTD ANNUAL FISCAL YEAR RIDERSHIP</b>					
<b>Month</b>	<b>FY2017</b>	<b>FY2018</b>	<b>FY2019</b>	<b>FY2020</b>	<b>FY2021</b>
Oct	967	2,639	3,125	3,470	3,948
Nov	821	2,164	3,017	3,377	3,948
Dec	757	2,003	2,467	3,109	3,948
Jan	983	2,220	2,809	2,929	15,932
Feb	1,380	2,344	3,143	3,398	14,225
Mar	1,611	2,205	3,058	4,136	14,794
Apr	1,763	2,689	4,546	3,948	14,225
May	1,878	2,789	5,346	4,356	14,794
Jun	1,768	2,974	5,678	4,221	14,225
Jul	1,616	2,337	4,339	4,515	15,922
Aug	2,721	3,417	3,644	4,400	15,932
Sep	2,581	2,779	3,361	4,620	15,932
<b>YTD</b>	<b>18,846</b>	<b>30,560</b>	<b>44,533</b>	<b>46,479</b>	<b>147,825</b>

A critical element of the plan is the ability to attract funding from multiple sources. The District was successful in securing \$1,170,528 in federal funding to purchase two hybrid-electric buses with the State Legislature providing \$180,000 in funding for the local match. Further federal funds are programmed to purchase a

replacement bus to support the retirement of one bus for Fiscal Year 2021. These funds along with additional federal funding will add over \$1,519,028 in capital funding to the District this year.

### **Service Efficiency**

During the past year, the District consolidated operations to a single maintenance facility located in Anthony, New Mexico. This facility is located across from the Transit Transfer Station where four bus routes connect throughout the day. Ownership of the facility eliminated the monthly lease cost of the facility, thereby reducing the annual cost of the operation by \$30,000. This consolidation has reduced non-revenue miles and saved fuel and labor cost. Further, the District transition from a private insurance carrier to the New Mexico Municipal League insurance reduced cost by \$65,000 annually. These efficiencies will be transferred to adding additional transit service in Dona Ana County

### **Ten Year Service & Financial Plan**

The District has successfully negotiated with the State of New Mexico's Department of Transportation to provide additional funds to begin an evaluation of services and development of a new service plan with a ten-year time horizon. The previous plan was a five-year plan. Additionally, the plan will be done in concert with RoadRunner updating their ten-year plan. This coordination should mitigate duplication while enhancing the two plans to be more complementary of services provided within Dona Ana County. The Mesilla Valley MPO is a partner in the integration of these two plans along with the 2045 Regional Plan.

The District has developed a ten-year fleet plan that identifies the cost to provide transit service within the region. The plan identifies the retirement schedule for the bus fleet and the associated cost of the fleet for the ten-year service horizon.

### **Funding Summary**

The District requests \$863,700 to support the operating cost for Dona Ana transit service and to expand transit service to the southern area of Dona Ana County, more specifically, to Santa Teresa/Sunland Park. The funds will be used for both operations and to match federal funds to provide much needed capital funding.

## Exhibit B – Revenues

<b>South Central Regional Transit District</b>				
<b>FY 20-21 Revenue Programmed</b>	<b>FY20</b>	<b>FY21</b>		
<i>Operating Revenue</i>	<b>Budgeted Revenue</b>	<b>Projected Revenue</b>		
<i>Membership Dues</i>				
CITY OF LAS CRUCES	\$ 49,980.00	\$ 63,451.70		
DONA ANA COUNTY	\$ 43,164.00	\$ 53,576.25		
SUNLAND PARK	\$ 7,208.00	\$ 9,168.90		
TOWN OF MESILLA	\$ 1,124.00	\$ 1,427.40		
VILLAGE OF HATCH	\$ 843.00	\$ 1,071.20		
CITY OF ANTHONY	\$ 4,680.00	\$ 6,084.00		
CITY OF ELEPHANT BUTTE	\$ 732.00	\$ 930.15		
TOWN OF WILLIAMSBURG	\$ 229.00	\$ 291.85		
<i>Grants &amp; MOU</i>				
Dona Ana County GRT	\$ 479,000.00	\$ 814,000.00		
Dona Ana County EOC	\$ 54,000.00			
NM DOT Special Funds		\$ 64,000.00		
TEXAS 5307	\$ 9,400.00	\$ 18,500.00		
NMDOT 5311	\$ 90,419.53	\$ 100,419.53		
NMDOT 5311*	\$ 344,665.00	\$ 412,108.22		
<i>Other Source Revenue</i>				
Bus Fares/Ticket Sales	\$ 12,500.00	\$ 84,000.00		
Advertising Revenue	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 15,000.00		
Sunland Park DMV Fees		\$ 37,500.00		
<b>Total Operations</b>	<b>\$ 1,107,944.53</b>	<b>\$ 1,681,529.20</b>		
<i>Capital Appropriations</i>				
<i>FHWA Funds</i>		\$ 1,170,528.00		
<i>Legislature - Local Match</i>		\$ 180,000.00		
<i>Legislature - Bus</i>	\$ 93,000.00			
<i>Legislature - Facility</i>	\$ 200,000.00			
Radios	\$ 15,480.00			
Support Vehicles	\$ 36,000.00			
Facility	\$ 71,404.00	\$ 40,000.00		
NM DOT 5339 (Bus)	\$ 70,000.00	\$ 78,800.00		
Local Match - DAC	\$ 38,576.00	\$ 49,700.00		
<b>Total Capital</b>	<b>\$ 524,460.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,519,028.00</b>		
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>\$ 1,632,404.53</b>	<b>\$ 3,200,557.20</b>		
<b>NOTES</b>				
<i>*FY20 &amp; FY21 Revenue is prorated to match federal funding cycle (Oct 2020 - Sept 2021)</i>				
<i>Funding Sources: 5311 Rural; 5307 Urban; FHWA Highway; Legislature Funding</i>				
<i>Dona Ana County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) Migrant transport funding</i>				
<i>Bus Fares based on ridership of 147,000 trips</i>				
<i>NM DOT Special Funds for Pilot Project</i>				
<i>Local Match to federal capital projects (DAC)</i>				

## Exhibit C – Expenses

SOUTH CENTRAL REGIONAL TRANSIT DISTRICT		
FY 20-21 Expenses Programmed		
Operating Expenses	FY20	FY21
Descriptions	Budgeted Expenses	Remaining Balance
<i>Personnel Services</i>		
Salaries	571,366.10	896,426.00
<i>Employee Benefits</i>		
FICA/Medicare Tax	41,726.00	66,090.00
Unemployment Tax	10,002.90	11,616.00
Workers Comp Insurance	26,100.00	30,000.00
Health Insurance and Life	47,125.00	113,373.00
Retirement - PERA	39,193.00	66,568.00
<i>Travel &amp; Maintenance</i>		
Travel - Reimbursement	6,500.00	6,500.00
Fuel - WEX	100,360.00	125,000.00
Maintenance on Vehicles	20,000.00	25,000.00
<i>Supplies</i>		
Equipment	28,000.00	32,000.00
Fareboxes		21,099.41
Supplies	6,360.00	12,800.00
<i>Insurances</i>		
Allegiance	46,000.00	
Automobile Insurance - NICO	75,000.00	
NM Municipal Insurance		66,000.00
D&O Insurance	2,640.00	3,640.00
<i>Contractual Services</i>		
Professional Fees & Svcs/Audit	12,870.00	18,690.00
Legal Fees	4,000.00	4,000.00
Services ADP fees/Janitorial/RC C	19,718.75	23,318.75
Reserve Funds		88,422.10
Zia Therapy	12,000.00	10,265.94
Camino Real Newspaper	6,000.00	
FineLine Graphics	3,500.00	7,500.00
<i>Operating Costs</i>		
Advertisements/Promotional	150.00	150.00
Conf/Seminars/Training	600.00	1,800.00
Postage	250.00	750.00
Office Equipment	1,500.00	6,500.00
Subscription/Dues	2,100.00	2,100.00
Cell phone / T-mobile	4,318.75	16,500.00
Bus Rental	1,351.53	
Utilities	6,000.00	9,820.00
Bus Facility Lease	7,312.50	15,600.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 1,102,044.53</b>	<b>\$ 1,681,529.20</b>