

South Central Regional Transit District

BOCC Meeting - May 25, 2021

David Armijo

Executive Director



South Central
Regional Transit

SCRTD Funding Request from Regional Funds

- On October 1, 2020, the District assumed the bus operation of the Sunland Park to downtown El Paso transit corridor aka, Route 83
- This corridor was operated previously through an agreement with the City of El Paso and the City of Sunland Park that expired in September 2020
- Funding for this service was primarily from the Section 5307 grant program
- SCRTD has requested funding for the Sunland Park to downtown El Paso bus corridor from Section 5307 funds and in support of operations from the communities of Anthony, Chaparral, Sunland Park and the unincorporated area of Dona Ana County

Urban Program Funds – Eligible Recipients

- Urbanized Areas of more than 200,000 in population and over
- Funds flow directly to designated recipients selected locally to apply for and receive Federal Funds.
- SunMetro is a designated recipient for the region
- However, SCRTD is eligible to receive funds as a direct recipient via a split letter signed by the designated recipient with regional coordination from the El Paso MPO

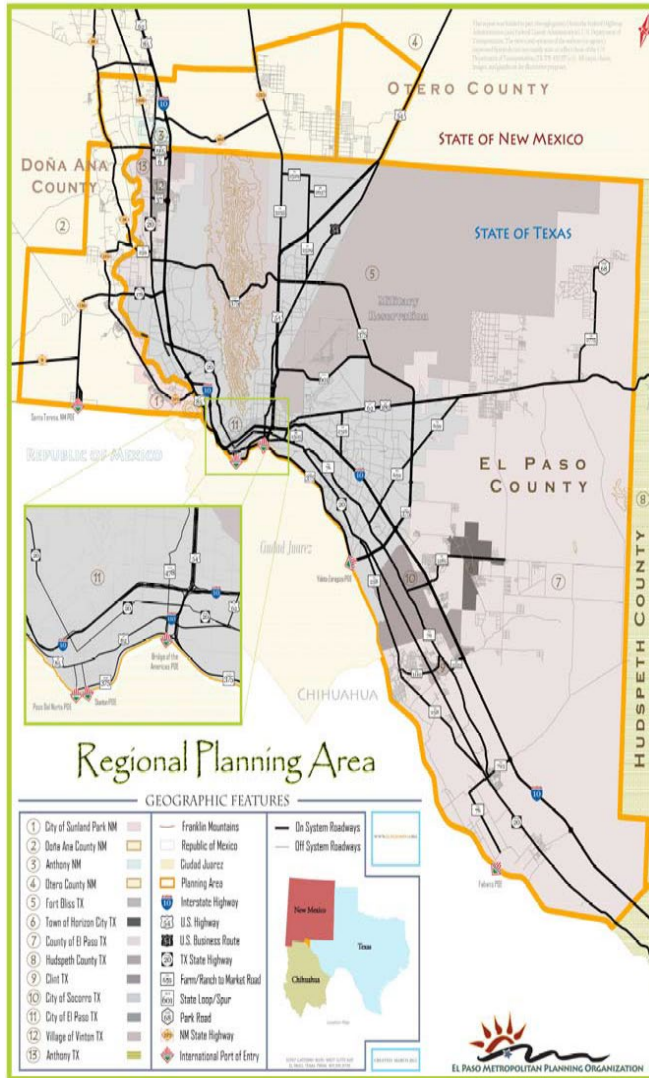
Allocation of Funding – Section 5307 Urban

- Funding is apportioned on the basis of legislative formulas
- For areas with populations of 200,000 and more, the formula is based on a combination of bus revenue, vehicle miles, bus passenger miles, fixed guideway revenue vehicle miles, and fixed guideway route miles as well as population and population density
- The FY2021 Section 5307 Apportionment Table identifies the following funds:
 - \$14,313,151 Regional Funds
 - \$13,771,548 El Paso
 - \$ 541,603 New Mexico
- New Mexico's allocation is 3.8 percent

Allocation of Funding - Section 5339 Bus & Bus Facilities

- The FY2021 Section 5339 Apportionment Table identifies the following funds:
 - \$1,599,108 Regional Funds
 - \$ 60,766 New Mexico
- New Mexico's allocation is 3.8 percent

MPO Structure & Service Area



Transportation Policy Board

- (30 elected and/or appointed officials)

Executive Committee

- (7 TPB members)

Congestion Management Process Committee

- (3 TPB members)

Transportation Finance Committee

- (3 TPB members)

Suburban Mobility Committee

- (8 TPB members)

Transportation Project Advisory Committee

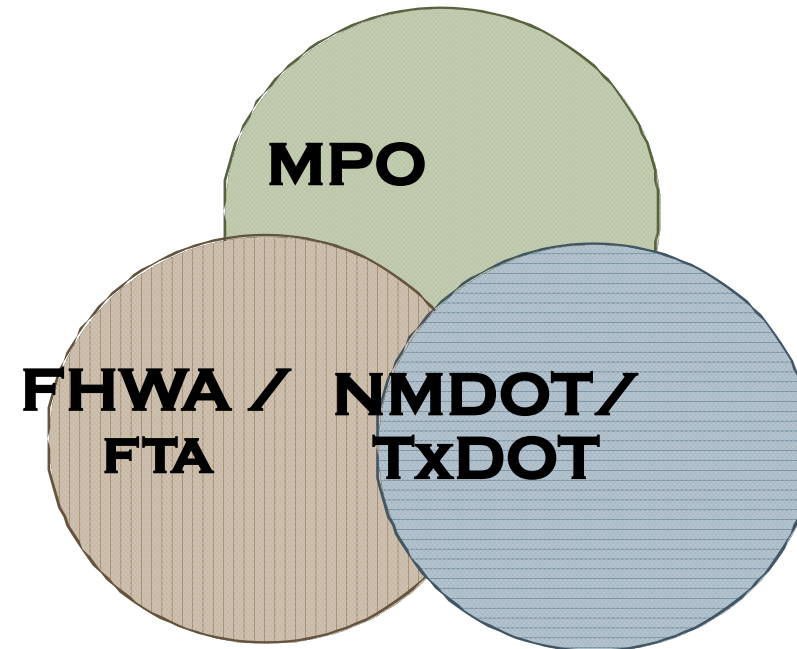
- (16 appointed members)

New Mexico MPO Representatives

- Joseph Cervantes, NM State Senator District 31
- Raymundo Lara, NM State Representative – District 34
- Javier Perea, Mayor, City of Sunland Park
- Diana M. Trujillo, Mayor, City of Anthony, NM
- Trent Doolittle, District Engineer, NM DOT – District 1
- Chuck McMahon, Assistant County Manager, Dona Ana County

MPOs

- A transportation **policy-making and planning body** with representatives from state and local government and transportation authorities
- MPOs ensure that existing and future expenditures for transportation projects and programs are based on a **continuing, cooperative** and **comprehensive** (3-C) planning process.
- Federal *requirement* in Census urbanized areas of 50,000 or more
- Population at or >200,000, designated a Transportation Management Area
- The Transportation Policy Board is the deciding body
 - Texas and New Mexico representation



Problem Securing Funding

- SCRTD requested funding from El Paso via correspondence in October 2020
- Meetings were held with the Federal Transit Administration, Sun Metro, MPO and SCRTD regarding process
- In January, FTA recommended a split letter to be issued from SunMetro supporting funding for SCRTD as a direct recipient
- SCRTD followed with a letter to Mayor Lessor, requested a joint meeting of the two boards to address the process, no meeting was held
- EL Paso MPO held discussion with Executive Committee on May 14th
 - Discussion focused on deferring action on the item until a process can be identified but no funding addressed or released for Fiscal Year 2021

Next Steps

- A letter has been drafted requesting action from the MPO Policy Board to recommend “the split letter” from SunMetro approach recommended by the region Federal Transit Administration (FTA) office
- SCRTD qualifies for \$874,660 in FY2021 funding
- Deferring action is unnecessary when a process is available to address the need for regional funding in New Mexico.
- Should meet with MPO Policy Board to communicate the need for action this fiscal year



Summary - 5307 Regional Funds

- Over \$16 million in regional funding annually for the Section 5307 & 5339 programs
- SCRTD, a local transit agency, eligible for \$874,660 in funding FY21 and \$600,00 in FY22
- District sent October letter to City of El Paso requesting funding
- Conference calls held with NM DOT, FTA Regional Office, SunMetro and MPO to discuss funding
- SCRTD has received Section 5310 funds from MPO
- 2020 Gillig bus purchase was funded via urban grant funds through the MPO

Questions

