

PRESS RELEASE

SCRTD Wins Federal Grants to Bring Electric Bus Service to the Mesilla Valley

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Anthony, New Mexico- The United States Department of Transportation's Federal Transit Administration (FTA) has awarded the South Central Regional District (SCRTD) two Low or No-Emission (Low-No) grants totaling \$5,583,764 to purchase up to six low-emission electric battery buses, charging infrastructure to provide staff training and to allow SCRTD to purchase the land it currently leases as its headquarters.

The FTA's Low-No grants program provides funding for transit agencies to buy low or no emissions vehicles and related charging equipment and facilities that are manufactured in the United States. SCRTD Chairman, Javier Perea said that electric buses and infrastructure have benefits for the entire community, "Electric buses have no emissions as a result they will improve the air quality for everyone in the county, however the benefits of electric power don't stop there Electric technology substantially reduces maintenance costs as electric engines have fewer parts and the cost of electricity has been lower than the cost of fossil fuels." SCRTD has partnered with the El Paso Electric Company to support technical requirements to install and operate the electric buses from SCRTD's Sunland Park Facility.

SCRTD Executive Director David Armijo said that the electric buses will be used on the agency's Yellow and Silver Routes that operate from Sunland Park to El Paso's Downtown Transit Center and the city's Westside. "The electric buses will be built in the US by Gillig, a long-time, US-based manufacturer of buses with an expected delivery of March 2024," Armijo said. " The buses will be heavy-duty 25- to 35-foot buses that will accelerate SCRTD's conversion to a zero-emission fleet. This funding along with the additional grant funding for the acquisition of the land we now lease and the building of a facility to support the electric and low-emission buses is another step in the progression of SCRTD into a full-fledged regional transportation agency."

About SCRTD: SCRTD was formed in 2006 and began operation of service in 2016. The agency operates seven bus routes that serve three counties carrying over 82,000 riders in 2022, up some 45% over 2021 total. SCRTD services connect riders with Las Cruces' Roadrunner, El Paso's Sun Metro, and other regional services.

General information about the agency is available at scrted.org. Bus schedules are available for review at scrted.org/all-lines. Schedule information is also available by calling (575)-323-1620.

Gillig Hybrid buses are similar to the electric buses ordered. These buses operate on the Yellow bus route.



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