

ITEM #6 December 28 Minutes

South Central Regional Transit District

Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday,

December 28, 2022 - 1:30 PM

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Javier Perea, RTD Chair, City of Sunland Park

Diana Murillo, City of Anthony

Majorie Powey, Village of Williamsburg

Lynn Ellins, Doña Ana County

Robert Martinez, Village of Hatch

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Nora Barraza, RTD Vice Chair, Town of Mesilla

Yvonne Flores, City of Las Cruces

SCRTD STAFF:

David Armijo, SCRTD Executive Director

Sara Vasquez, SCRTD

Cristina Gamboa, SCRTD

Sarah Portillo, SCRTD

Loretta Gallegos, SCRTD

Adam Shea, SCRTD

OTHERS PRESENT: Becky Baum, RC Creations, LLC, Transcriptionist

1. CALL TO ORDER

Javier Perea called the meeting to order at approximately 1:30.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ALL STAND FOR THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

3. ROLL CALL

A quorum was determined to be present.

4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Only change was to move the Closed Session to January's meeting. Motioned by Diana Murillo, second by Robert Martinez. Passed unanimously.

5. PUBLIC INPUT

There was no public input.

6. APPROVAL OF SCRTD MEETING MINUTES OF October 26, 2022

There were no changes to the minutes. Motioned by Majorie Powey, seconded by Diana Murillo. Passed unanimously.

7. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

David Armijo gave the Executive Director's report. CMAQ Grants, the MPO rolled out three year process of \$1.9 million per year. For the initial grant SCRTD was the only applicant. There is \$5.7 available, SCRTD need is about \$5.5 million. Revised the grant application with the MPO to look at the larger Gillig electric buses. Unfortunately, the

Lightning buses from Colorado do not meet the Buy America so a grant cannot be awarded to them. There is an effort with the federal government to provide some form of a waiver for transit agencies, the problem is it affects the OEM (Original Equipment Manufacturer) for the batteries that are not Buy America. The buses that are available are Proterra, BYD, New Flyer, and Gillig, and the best price was from Gillig, and SCRTRD already has a couple of Gillig that are going very well. Gillig is a little more expensive, so fewer vehicles, but within budget. The question is still the local match, this is spread out over 3 years so budget for 2023, ask for more money for 2024, and then other sources, so confident they can do this over a three year period. That would be roughly \$400,000 for the local match.

David Armijo was in Sierra County a few weeks ago for the RPO (Regional Planning Organization) meeting for the 2024 grant for operating and capital. There is a plan for next year for a route from Hatch to T or C. This would include Williamsburg, T or C, and Elephant Butte. The SCRTRD staff is working on finding benches and if they are close to areas for bus stops. There could be a van pool for the previously discussed cancer run. The target is to begin the route in fall 2023 but hoping to do a trial over the summer. There are planned to have two routes, with four runs a day connecting with Hatch. The total route time from Hatch to the lake will be approximately 55 minutes.

SCRTRD inherited shelters and benches in Sunland Park. Some are broken, and some just need repainting. Probably take the entire fiscal year to finish. Doing some branding with these.

There is a feasibility study and alternatives analysis being done in El Paso for a Regional Fare structure and payment system. SCRTRD is looking to do something similar. El Paso is paying Texas Transportation Institute for this and hopefully SCRTRD can acquire some of that information. This study does include Sunland Park, Anthony, and unincorporated areas of Doña Ana. Study will be about two years. If they do a regional fare system, then a host could be Sun Metro with El Paso County and South Central together. There are multiple companies interested in doing a regional fare system. It was mentioned that there are still people that work only on a cash basis. A solution would be to have something onboard the bus, and this option is being researched.

SCRTRD has had a DBE (Disadvantaged Business Enterprise) Plan, and it is something that is required by the federal government. SCRTRD received a grant in 2015-2016 from El Paso MPO for paratransit to buy a vehicle and some operations. Tried to piggyback on State of New Mexico but cannot do that. Received Creative's DBE plan. The goal is lower as there are only three capital vendors. The overall plan is to work with vendors and do more. They can self-certify by the state and then can actually certify a local vendor. SCRTRD tried

working with CES as the state sanctioned them but then didn't due to this DBE, not certified. This would also include a bidders list, signature letter for vendors.

Title VI Plan, make sure job descriptions, promotions are clear on paying equity. The feds asked for minor changes

Safety Plan the Board approved two months ago. Have now held two safety committees. The committee includes staff from bus operations, maintenance, dispatch, administration.

8. DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL DISTRICT SAFETY PLAN

The plan has stayed the same except now there is a safety coordinator, and a safety committee. Cristina Gamboa is the safety coordinator/planner.

Motioned by Diana Murillo, seconded by Lynn Ellins. Passed unanimously.

9. DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION ADOPTING A DISADVANTAGE BUSINESS ENTERPRISE PLAN AND GOALS

The district is required to have a DBE plan and goals. The goals are set at 0.65% for each of the three years.

Motioned by Lynn Ellins, seconded by Diana Murillo. Passed unanimously.

10. DISCUSSION AND PARTICIPATION IN FEASIBILITY STUDY AND ALTERNATIVES ANALYSIS FOR EL PASO REGIONAL FARE STRUCTURE AND PAYMENT SYSTEM

Sun Metro and El Paso Transit system have initiated regional fare study and invited SCRTD to participate in that study. An initial meeting to kick off the study was held last month. One of the major items was, they were originally looking at this being from 12-18 months, the consultants want more participation in the field for different locations, so therefore it will be closer to 18-24 months for the study. The study will look at fares and methods of payment systems, and what technology could be considered for both on the bus/off the bus. Light discussion about people who do not have technology. The more you ride, the bigger the discount.

11. CLOSED SESSION


THIS WAS MOVED TO JANUARY 25, 2023, MEETING

12. BOARD COMMENT

Javier Perea congratulated SCRTD for securing funding from the El Paso MPO. Welcome Trustee Robert Martinez to the Board.

Diana Murillo stated they are going to miss Lynn Ellins. And thanked him for his service.

13. ADJOURNMENT (2:11 p.m.) - Next meeting January 25, 2023.



Chairperson