

**South Central RTD
Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday,
June 26, 2024 - 1:30 PM**

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Majorie Powey, Village of Williamsburg
Shannon Reynolds, Doña Ana County
Yvonne Flores, City of Las Cruces
Russell Hernandez, RTD Vice-Chair, Town of Mesilla

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Javier Perea, RTD Chair, City of Sunland Park
Robert Martinez, Village of Hatch
Manuel Sanchez, Doña Ana County
Diana Murillo, City of Anthony

SCRTD STAFF:

David Armijo, SCRTD Executive Director
Sara Vasquez, SCRTD
Crystal Gomez
Veronica De La O, SCRTD
Adam Shea, SCRTD

OTHERS PRESENT:

1. CALL TO ORDER

Yvonne Flores called the meeting to order at approximately 1:39.

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 MINUTES - April 24, 2024

Motioned by Majorie Powey, second by Shannon Reynolds and minutes accepted.

5. PUBLIC INPUT

Elizabeth Smith, a member of the public and bus operator, presented a letter regarding the possibility of a raise for bus operators. The letter compares industry-standard income for bus operators, and SCRTD is a few years behind other similar

businesses. She thanked the Board for the COLA increases over the years.

Sara Vasquez introduced the summer interns present.

6. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

David Armijo gave the Executive Director's report. There were 121,000 rides this year, which is about 16% growth over last year. Yellow Route continues to carry the most riders, with Red close behind. Green Route continues to increase with 6,100 rides. The new Copper Route did better last year but work on it continues. Two of the seven electric vehicles on order have arrived. They will only carry about 11 passengers and have a wheelchair lift in the back. They will be used as a micro-transit service, on-demand, similar to Uber. SCRTD was ranked #1 in the state for the second year with the NMDOT Performance Award, even over the more extensive transit services. The Sunland Park acquisition progresses. The price and updated appraisal have been approved, and the NMDOT and FTA will hopefully sign off on that purchase soon. Foundation of Open Government town hall meetings on the upcoming state budget are happening around New Mexico. The representatives participating are Joann Ferrary, Nathan Small, and Jeff Steinborn. Mr. Armijo has slides from the meetings regarding the budget and offered to share them with board members if they wish. The staff has several meetings to see if they can get more funding.

7. DISCUSSION AND RESOLUTION APPROVING THE FY2026-2030 INFRASTRUCTURE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN (ICIP) - TIM MCDANIEL

Tim McDaniel presented the 5-year plan. After receiving public input, the project list includes bus shelters and vehicles, Venus Road Transfer Facility, expansions at the Anthony facility, vanpool expansion, and Sunland Park facility improvements. The list can be rearranged before submission to the State. The only new item on the plan is the Venus Road Transfer Facility, which would provide a connection between existing routes and possibly a route up to Organ. There was a discussion of the prices of the projects so that when Board Members go to Santa Fe to lobby, they will know how much to ask for.

Resolution motioned by Russell Hernandez, second by Shannon Reynolds. Passed unanimously.

8. DISCUSSION AND RESOLUTION APPROVING THE FY2025 TENTATIVE ANNUAL BUDGET - ADAM SHEA

Adam Shea presented the budget. He discussed with the personnel in the district that there would be a 5% COLA, two new maintenance technicians, and three new drivers. The total increase in personnel would be 10.65%. Employee benefits increase by 2.6%. Travel and maintenance increased by 4.76%, supplies by 9.8%, and insurance by 75.65% because they no longer discount auto insurance. Board Members asked for written reasoning for discontinuing the discount. The expenditure accounts show an increase of 8.43% for contractual services and a

decrease of 28.36% in operating costs. This makes an overall decrease of 1.9% from 2024. Operating revenue is \$2,813,442.66, which is a decrease over FY2024 by 6.3%. Confirmation of some of the expected revenues has not yet arrived. The operating budget will be updated when those revenues are confirmed sometime in the next few weeks. Funds carried over from this year will be \$20,288.94. The capital budget is expected to be \$8,331,750.75, which is a decrease of 11.7% over FY24. Most of these funds will be used for the Sunland Park facility and the conversion of the fleet to electric vehicles.

Resolution motioned by Shannon Reynolds, second by Russell Hernandez. Passed unanimously.

9. DISCUSSION AND RESOLUTION APPROVING THE NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (NMDOT) REQUEST FOR SCRTO TO BECOME A DIRECT GRANT RECIPIENT - DAVID ARMIJO

David Armijo presented. The request is to change the district from a sub-grant recipient to a direct grant recipient due to the growth and maturity of the operation. This would allow the budget to be managed more efficiently. The direct recipient grant program allows for submission for the entire year, and as soon as the grant is approved, all funds are accessible when needed. The sub-recipient has to go through the direct recipient, and the district has to request funds from that entity. The transition will begin on October 1, 2024, if the motion passes today.

Yvonne Flores motioned the resolution, and the second was by Russell Hernandez. Passed unanimously.

10. A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE FTA FY2024 GRANT SUBMITTAL WITH THE EL PASO MPO - TIM MCDANIEL

Tim McDaniel presented the FTA 5307 grant for urbanized areas. This grant would bring \$630,149 for the New Mexico portion of the El Paso urbanized area. Other funds may be available through the Mesilla Valley MPO and will be addressed in the future if applicable. The proposed projects for these funds have been approved by the El Paso MPO and included in their planning documents for the next year. One would be for preventive maintenance of \$94,269 from the federal government with a \$23,592.25 local match. The second is the Job Access and Reverse Commute Program, which is \$65,015 from the federal government and a local match of the same amount. Another request is for operating assistance with \$95,616 with a local match of the same amount. A request to help resurface the pavement at the Sunland Park facility is for \$210,849, with a local match of \$52,712.25. A fifth project is a maintenance facility for the Sunland Park facility, which costs \$85,500 from the federal government and \$21,375 from local matches. Security fencing for the Sunland Park facility request is \$78,800, with a local match of \$19,700. Staff has also applied for a grant from the DFA, which would cover all the match amounts if successful.

Yvonne Flores motioned the resolution, and the second was by Russell Hernandez.

Passed unanimously.

11. DISCUSSION AND RESOLUTION APPROVING THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE NMDOT WITH THE EL PASO MPO AND THE SOUTH CENTRAL REGIONAL TRANSIT DISTRICT - DAVID ARMIJO

David Armijo presented the MOU between the El Paso MPO and SCRTD. Six of the 25 El Paso MPO members, including the state engineer, are from New Mexico. SCRTD is not on the El Paso MPO Technical Committee or Policy Board. The Texas Department of Transportation noticed and instructed the El Paso MPO to rectify the situation. This resolution would approve an MOU between the New Mexico DOT, SCRTD, and El Paso MPO.

Russell Hernandez motioned the resolution, and the second was by Yvonne Flores. Passed unanimously.

12. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

The next meeting is Wednesday, July 24, 2024, at 1:30 p.m.
Sierra County update and new services presentation

13. ADJOURNMENT

Motioned by Yvonne Flores, second by Shannon Reynolds. Meeting adjourned.



Chairperson