South Central RTD
Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday,
January 28 2026 - 1:44 PM

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Manuel Sanchez, SCRTD Chair, Doña Ana County/Commissioner
Gabriel Holguin, SCRTD Vice-Chair, City of Anthony/Mayor
Gerard Nevarez, SCRTD, Town of Mesilla
Majorie Powey, SCRTD Member, Village of Williamsburg/Mayor Pro-tem

MEMBERS ABSENT:

John Munoz, SCRTD Member, City of Las Cruces
Javier Perea, SCRTD Treasurer, City of Sunland Park/Mayor
Robert Martinez, SCRTD Member, Village of Hatch/Trustee

SCRTD STAFF:

David Armijo, SCRTD Executive Director
Liza Alonzo, SCRTD Executive Assistant
Sara Vasquez, SCRTD Human Resources
Crystal Gomez, SCRTD Accounting Assistant
Veronica De La O, SCRTD Administrative Assistant
Adam Shea, SCRTD Finance Manager
Rosa Isela Talamantes, SCRTD Senior Accountant
Loretta Gallegos, SCRTD Transit Manager

OTHERS PRESENT:

1. CALL TO ORDER

Manuel Sanchez called the meeting to order at 1:40 p.m.

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

Motioned by Majorie Powey, second by Manuel Sanchez. Passed unanimously as amended.

David Armijo suggested switching Items 8, 9, and 7 around so that the items are discussed in the order of Item 6, then Items 8 and 9, then back to Item 7.

Manuel Sanchez moved to amend the agenda as suggested. Second by Gerard Nevarez. Amendment passed unanimously.

5. PUBLIC INPUT

There was none.

6. APPROVAL OF SCRTD MEETING MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 12, 2025

Motioned by Gerard Nevarez, second by Manuel Sanchez. Passed unanimously.

7. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT - DAVID ARMIJO

David Armijo that the Sunland Park microgrid and solar array start date has been pushed back a bit, into the beginning of February. He still expects it to be finished in April, but it is a 120-day schedule so it may be completed in May. He discussed the benefits of the project. The Anthony project is coming into Phase 3, which is paving the front area and putting in the electric gate with access cards for employees and sensors to open the gates for the buses. That facility is in operation Monday through Saturday. Some of the small vehicles will be replaced with the hybrid buses. The Venus property has completed the NEPA process and is being cleared off. Staff is working on purchasing the neighboring property as well. The Venus property is intended mainly to be a storage and charging area, with gates and maybe a small maintenance building. There was discussion of the current charging stations being used for the buses at the Mesilla Valley Hospital and the possibility of using the planned stations the County is going to install at the County Building. David Armijo showed a color-coded aerial photo of Sunland Park. He discussed that staff is clearing more of the grounds to increase the usable area of the property by about an acre and a half, and discussed the locations for the solar array and charging stations. Mr. Armijo has completed his FTA NTD report for this year. The preliminary audit results show that the assets have increased from $3 million to about $11 million as well as increased routes, so the NTD report was more complex than it has been before to complete. Ridership increased about 23% last year and again has increased about 11% this year. This means that there are more grants coming in. The capital from most of those will carry over into next year if it does not get spent this year. The micro-transit project is still in the works and there are some funds to support that. Manuel Sanchez discussed that the new contract with Green Power Motors may be an opportunity to obtain more electric vehicles. Mr. Armijo has been talking with Green Power and the State about the vehicles.

8. APPROVAL OF ANNUAL OFFICER BOARD APPOINTMENTS AND APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION - BOARD CHAIR

Manuel Sanchez requested nominations for Board Chair. He mentioned that if no one else wanted to do it, he would not mind remaining as Chair. Gerard Nevarez nominated Manuel Sanchez.

Manuel Sanchez was unanimously approved as Board Chair for 2026.

Manuel Sanchez requested nominations for Board Vice-Chair. Russell Hernandez was the Vice-Chair for 2025, no longer on the Board. Chair Sanchez nominated Gabriel Holguin.

Gabriel Holguin was unanimously approved as Board Vice-Chair for 2026.

David Armijo reported that as Adam Shea, Finance Officer, is in Sunland Park it is easier if Javier Perea, Mayor of Sunland Park fills the position of Treasurer as he has in the past. Javier Perea is not present at this meeting, so David Armijo left it to the Board to decide. Manuel Sanchez suggested nominating Javier Perea and revisiting the issue if Mayor Perea does not wish to serve this year. Manuel Sanchez requested nominations. Majorie Powey nominated Javier Perea as Board Treasurer.

Javier Perea was unanimously approved as Board Treasurer for 2026.

Manuel Sanchez requested nominations for Board Secretary. Manuel Sanchez suggested that Mayor pro tem Munoz may be interested, as he is on the list for the City of Las Cruces. Majorie Powey or Gerard Nevarez are also eligible to take the position. He was unsure if Robert Martinez would be interested, as the Village of Hatch has historically not participated much in the Board. Gerard Nevarez nominated Mayor pro tem Munoz as Board Secretary. Majorie Powey mentioned that it is easier if the Board Officers are closer to Las Cruces.

John Munoz was unanimously approved as Board Secretary for 2026.

9. A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE SCRTD MEETING SCHEDULE FOR THE YEAR 2026 - BOARD CHAIR

The current meeting schedule is for the fourth Wednesday of the month at 1:30 p.m. The dates are January 28, February 25, March 25, April 22, May 27, June 24, July 22, August 26, September 23, October 28, and November 25. There is a note that due to December's meeting being close to Christmas, it is traditionally not held. As Thanksgiving comes closer, the Board may decide not to hold the November meeting as well.

Resolution motioned by Gerard Nevarez, second by Manuel Sanchez. Passed unanimously.

10. A DISCUSSION TO INTRODUCE THE SOUTH CENTRAL REGIONAL TRANSIT DISTRICT'S NEW EMPLOYEE - DAVID ARMIJO

David Armijo introduced Daniela Gutierrez. Ms. Gutierrez is the Project Manager for SCRTD. She is pleased to have Danielle Ornelas join her office as Project Coordinator. Ms. Ornelas worked with Ms. Gutierrez at the City of Sunland Park in Project Management. Ms. Ornelas reported that she is enjoying her work with SCRTD. David Armijo is excited to have the help at the district, which means he can get out to the other towns and make presentations and have discussions with the surrounding governments.

Trustee Majorie Powey has been having audio difficulties throughout this presentation. Time was taken to get her back online.

David Armijo mentioned that the Board Handbook in the packet is very useful and everyone should read it.

11. A DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION FOR THE SOUTH CENTRAL REGIONAL TRANSIT DISTRICT AGENCY SAFETY PLAN - - DAVID ARMIJO

David Armijo discussed the SCRTD Agency Safety Plan. The ASP includes security, collaborating with the safety agencies and first responders, and the safety of the vehicles on the road. The plan was updated last summer and further updates have been requested by the New Mexico Department of Transportation to update the plan again. More updates may be needed in the next six months. There will be more training for everyone coming up, as well. The safety of the vehicles is calculated with number of mechanical failures per revenue miles. The new electric buses have fewer moving parts, so Mr. Armijo expects to have drastically reduced numbers in the component failure category. He is also very pleased with the reliability of the Gillig buses.

Resolution motioned by Gerard Nevarez, second by Gabriel Holguin. Passed unanimously.

12. A DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION FOR FY2026 BUDGET AMENDMENT - ADAM SHEA

Adam Shea discussed the requested amendment. He requested a reduction of $21,750 in expenses followed by an increase of $70,026.57 for a difference of $48,276.57 increased. This brings the Total Expenditures up to $3,359,787.64 for the year. These changes are due to the fact that the expenses for janitorial services, supplies, uniforms, advertising, and utilities. Utilities increased by $25,000 due to incomplete information regarding charging the buses. The requested increase will hopefully cover everything until the end of the year, then when the solar array is online the utility costs should go down. Mr. Shea also

requested an amendment to the Revenue due to the MOUs coming in after the beginning of the fiscal year. These adjustments will bring the revised budget up to date with $4,117,002.84 which will cover the expenses of $3,359,787.64 easily. The money market account will have a balance of $757,215.20. The adjustment in Capital is due to an increase in CMAC of $444,000 more than anticipated and there are a couple of vans in the 5310. These items were expected at some time when the budget was created, but the exact date of arrival was unknown until the MOU was received after the beginning of the fiscal year. This brings the balance up to $10,055,489.63 in Capital.

Resolution motioned by Manuel Sanchez, second by Gabriel Holguin and Majorie Powey. Passed unanimously.

13. DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION OF THE SECOND QUARTER FINANCIALS FY2026 - ADAM SHEA

Adam Shea discussed the resolution. Cash Balances as of December 31, 2025 had a total of $471,611.67; Expenditures for FY26 through December 31, 2025 were 56.3% of the overall budget. This increase is due to an increase in employee wages and benefits in Services; the increases were 54.7% and 57.8% respectively. Mr. Shea will be working on the new routes versus number of employees and bring a presentation to the February meeting to discuss employee wages, benefits, and the overall budget. Travel and Maintenance is 46.3%; Supplies is 62.8% and the big jump was primarily because things were rearranged at Sunland Park and Anthony to provide ready supplies for the drivers and personnel; Insurance is at 50%; Contractual Services is at 67.7% due to signage for the Sunland Park facility, legal fees, and software. Cameras and automated passenger counters are being installed in the buses, which requires new software and these things were not purchased until after the beginning of the fiscal year. Operating Costs are at 74.7% due primarily to paying off the commercial loan and unanticipated property taxes. Overall Expenditures are $1,890,457.24 which is 56.3% of the overall Expenditure budget. Revenue was $1,826,699.37 which is 44.4% of the overall budget. Still outstanding is $827,686.41 billed which is 66.4% of the overall anticipated revenue. Capital Appropriations: Received $1,719,631.64; anticipating another $1,148,296 in Accounts Receivable making the total about 66.5% of the overall capital budget. Capital Appropriations at this time based off those amounts received is $100,228.94.

Resolution motioned by Gerard Nevarez, second by Manuel Sanchez. Passed unanimously.

14. DISCUSSION AND UPDATE OF THE SCRTD MOU BETWEEN NMDOT, MVMPO, CITY OF LAS CRUCES (RoadRUNNER TRANSIT) AND SCRTD - DAVID ARMIJO

David Armijo reported that there is still not an agreement between all four parties. Staff has been trying to get an agreement for the past five years or so, such that all four parties' specific roles and responsibilities would be clearly defined. SCRTD is now asking for their fair share of urban funds from the region similar to what has recently been received through the agreement with El Paso since the agreement was signed in 2022. Urban funds were received due to the van pool program in Mesilla starting about two years ago, but those amounts have been fluctuating. Mr. Armijo requested funds based on that again this year. Until now, the City of Las Cruces has been dominating all the urbanized funds and Mr. Armijo expects to find some challenges to getting more money. SCRTD operates almost as many hours and miles as the City buses, but their ridership is higher in the City due to their more frequent service. David Armijo expects a large increase in revenue if SCRTD can manage to be separated financially from the City of Las Cruces, which will severely decrease the City's Transit Budget while increasing SCRTD's ability to provide service and amenities such as shelters and benches outside the City. Mr. Armijo requested Board Members to speak to the MPO about supporting this agreement in order to increase revenue for the entire region. There will also be a challenge in getting the match together for increased urban revenue. Mr. Armijo suggested that a sales tax will be needed to help get the match funds.

15. BOARD COMMENTS

Gabriel Holguin reminded Board Members that this is his first time as a Board Member and assured everyone that he will be asking more questions and participating more as time goes on and he learns about the job. He introduced his City Clerk, Valeria Arroyos. He is happy to be on the Board. Manuel Sanchez welcomed Mayor Holguin. Gabriel Holguin discussed the importance of the City of Anthony having transit services, as it is right in the middle of all the destination cities.

16. ADJOURNMENT - NEXT BOARD MEETING - SPECIAL MEETING FEBRUARY 25, 2026

Chairperson