

**South Central RTD
Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday,
April 22, 2026 - 1:30 PM**

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Manuel Sanchez, SCRTD Chair, Doña Ana County/Commissioner
Javier Perea, SCRTD Treasurer, City of Sunland Park/Mayor
Biviana Cadena, SCRTD, Town of Mesilla
John Munoz, SCRTD Member, City of Las Cruces
Amanda Cardona, SCRTD Alternate, Village of Williamsburg
Gabriel Holguin, SCRTD Vice-Chair, City of Anthony/Mayor

MEMBERS ABSENT:

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
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 1:30 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 John Munoz, second by Manuel Sanchez. Passed unanimously.

5. PUBLIC INPUT

There was none.

6. APPROVAL OF SCRTD MEETING MINUTES OF MARCH 25, 2026

Motioned by John Munoz, second by Javier Perea. Passed unanimously.

7. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT - DAVID ARMIJO

David Armijo reported on the Jupiter project. There have been discussions with BIA and Oracle personnel and several Board Members. This is a project to create a two-year mobility pilot program. Oracle is excited about the air quality and energy aspects of the project, including bus shelters as well as vehicles. David Armijo is considering two vans and a spare, costing around \$300,000 for all three. Operations costs for a two-year project is around \$150,000 for drivers and maintenance. Partners would include the City of Sunland Park, Dona Ana County, the Border Industrial Association, and now Mr. Armijo is speaking to Jupiter. He has drafted a letter to Stack and the Borderplex for the Chair to open discussions. Tessa Abeyta is one of the Borderplex PIOs, and Mr. Armijo hopes to talk to her soon to get things started. Research will be done into the proper times of day to run the routes and satisfaction surveys will be done. SCRTD has worked with BIA doing vanpools before, but it did not quite work out due to the strange shift timing. Mr. Armijo thinks that the routes need to work something like the routes in Sierra County do, with small circulator routes and then a connection to the larger routes. David Armijo hopes for feedback from the Board, and some sort of endorsement or authorization. It is possible that some of the grants can be tied into it as well. He hopes to get more private sector funding from the various partners and to launch the project this fall. SCRTD just picked up two more EV vans yesterday, so there are plenty of small vehicles to use for this project. This project could tie into the Ten Year Plan by adding service to the Business Industrial Park as well as Santa Teresa. Mr. Armijo believes that if the only service is to Jupiter, it will fail. It must combine both locations. As the project continues, more micro-transit routes could be added. Manuel Sanchez is excited about this project and feels that the County would be likely to help out provided that funds can be obtained for capital outlay. Mr. Armijo feels that it will be very successful to start out with the smaller vehicles and work up to larger ones as ridership increases. Discussion included public input, adding the DACC campuses to bring people to job training, and other places. It is important to keep the City of Las Cruces in the loop and Mr. Armijo plans to also include the City of Anthony in the project.

8. DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION AUTHORIZE SCRTD TO ENTER INTO A COOPERATIVE PURCHASING AGREEMENT WITH WASHINGTON STATE DES - DAVID ARMIJO

David Armijo reported that staff has been working on cooperative agreements with other areas for quite some time. This is a good, far-reaching agreement and will allow SCRTD to work with multiple companies. This contract will go into

effect in July and will facilitate future purchases of vehicles while saving a bit on pricing. Staff is capable of doing the purchasing without the contract, but it would take much more time and effort.

Resolution motioned by Javier Perea, second by Manuel Sanchez. Passed unanimously.

9. A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE SOUTH CENTRAL REGIONAL TRANSIT FTA SECTION 5310 ELECTRIC DEMAND RESPONSE INTO LAS CRUCES SERVICE AREA FY 2027 (2 EVs)

David Armijo reported that the State has requested a justification for receiving grants for new vehicles. SCRTD has found the EVs to be very effective and popular and it is expected that the ADA demand/response project will use the small EVs. SCRTD has been requested to be prepared to serve both the Mesilla Valley/Las Cruces area and El Paso. Some of the routes may receive an exemption from the ADA requirement, thus reducing cost a bit.

Resolution motioned by John Munoz, second by Manuel Sanchez. Passed unanimously.

10. A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE SOUTH CENTRAL REGIONAL TRANSIT AMENDMENT TO THE FY2026 BUDGET - ADAM SHEA

Adam Shea reported that the budget amendment will increase Expenditures by \$573,835.61 mostly due to increases in salary and employee benefits, with some being caused by projects such as renting the El Paso bus stops, working on the microgrid, and improving facilities. After calculating the revenues and expenditures, the account balance is \$136,100.54. Mr. Shea is also requesting an adjustment between the Operating Revenue and Capital, such as moving the Ten Year Plan from Capital to Revenue. The current balance in the account will carry over to the next fiscal year.

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

11. A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE SOUTH CENTRAL REGIONAL TRANSIT FY 2026 3rd QUARTER FINANCIAL REPORT - ADAM SHEA

Adam Shea reported that Cash Balance is \$406,090.93 in the Operating and Money Market accounts. Expenditures total \$2,934,550.82 which is about 74.6% of the overall Expenditures budget, including employee wages of around \$1.7 million; employee benefits of around \$531,000; travel and maintenance of around \$230,000; supplies of around \$28,000; insurance almost \$40,000; contractual services of \$178,000; and operating costs of \$231,000. For Operating Revenue, SCRTD has collected a total of \$2,436,611.59 which is about 59.7% of the overall

budget. Membership dues are \$133,000; MOUs and grants are \$2,236,000; other revenues are about \$67,000; this gives a remaining balance of \$873,630.35 yet to collect. Capital revenues are \$2,180,133.30 which is 23% of the overall budget. Capital is the largest section of the budget at \$9.4 million: Fund 5303 has collected \$60,000 and Fund 5310 has collected \$299,000 to reimburse for vehicles; State and local funds are \$1,104,000; Fund 5307 is \$71,000 but when the grants clear there should be over \$918,000 available to draw on; Fund 5339 is \$644,192. There is still \$5,022,971.51 in the Capital budget and some of those items will carry over into the next fiscal year. David Armijo reported that the FY2024 grant has been approved and should be available for use in a few weeks. There are no grants that are currently in danger of expiring.

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

12. DISCUSSION OF THE SOUTH CENTRAL REGIONAL TRANSIT FY 2027 PRELIMINARY BUDGET - ADAM SHEA

Adam Shea reported that Personnel Costs will increase by 3.5% in wages. One Budget Analyst position will be added. The total wages will amount to \$3,255,454.61. If the wage increase were to be only 3%, total wages would be only \$11,841.24 less. The employees are currently severely below the expected wage and 3.5% will bring it closer to standard wages. Mr. Shea will be ensuring departmental budget review in FY27. He will be looking at Administration, Operations, and Maintenance. He showed a breakdown of each department's expenditures with both the 3.5% increase and the 3% increase. One of the main increases has been due to an increase in health benefits. The 3.5% increase would be a total of 8.8% over the numbers in 2024 while the 3% increase would only be about an 8.4% increase. Mr. Shea showed anticipated revenue of \$4,240,520.53 which is roughly 6.9% over 2026. Estimates show that if the 3.5% wage increase is implemented, expenditures would be over by about \$50,000 while if the 3% increase is implemented, expenditures would be over by about \$34,000. Mr. Shea reiterated that these are all estimates and the actual numbers will be available for presentation next month. He had hoped to receive the numbers from DOT by now, but they have not arrived. Capital is anticipated to have a total of \$8,400,573.01 including the amounts rolling over from 2026 and new funds. This is a decrease of 12.1% from 2026. The actual revenue items will be adjusted once the numbers are provided. David Armijo reported that SCRTD has a fairly high retention rate except among the bus operators. He can bring more details next month. Manuel Sanchez indicated that the difference between the two wage increase options is small enough that the 3.5% would be his choice.

13. BOARD COMMENTS

Manuel Sanchez asked David Armijo for an update on the discussions with T or C. David Armijo reported that he has reached out to both T or C and Elephant Butte. He had a follow-up meeting a few weeks ago with both the Mayor and the City Manager. They are committed and wish to join the SCRTD. The work on the bus stop at the Walmart is what opened the door. Adam Shea has sent a letter regarding costs and he has added it into his budget for next year. They have asked for a summer program, which was in the works before COVID. Staff has created a route for Fridays and Saturdays which would be an expansion of the Blue Route with additional stops in the lake area. Staff believes this can be done at a nominal cost and T or C has offered to help out with that. It is possible that it can be paid for using the grants. Mr. Armijo will bring this to the Board next month. This will also give SCRTD some leverage in the City of Elephant Butte to bring them into the fold, as well.

14. ADJOURNMENT - NEXT BOARD MEETING - MAY 27, 2026

Motion by Javier Perea, second by Manuel Sanchez. The meeting adjourned at 2:28 p.m.

Chairperson

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Javier Perea', is written over a horizontal line. The signature is cursive and stylized.