

**South Central RTD
Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday,
June 24, 2026 - 1:30 PM**

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Manuel Sanchez, SCRTD Chair, Doña Ana County/Commissioner
Gabriel Holguin, SCRTD Vice-Chair, City of Anthony/Mayor
Javier Perea, SCRTD Treasurer, City of Sunland Park/Mayor
Amanda Cardona, SCRTD Alternate, Village of Williamsburg
Majorie Powey, Trustee, Village of Williamsburg

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Biviana Cadena, SCRTD, Town of Mesilla
John Munoz, SCRTD Member, City of Las Cruces
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

1. CALL TO ORDER

Manuel Sanchez called the meeting to order at 1:36 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 Javier Perea, second by Manuel Sanchez. Passed unanimously.

5. PUBLIC INPUT

There was none.

6. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT - DAVID ARMIJO

David Armijo reported on the grant process for the 5310 and 5311 grants from NMDOT. Work begins in August when staff submits interest in funding online. Then all the paperwork is submitted, and the award has been arriving in June. This year's award is \$1.89 million, which is more than last year. SCRTD ranked #1 in the yearly statewide competition for performance indicators for the fourth year in a row, mainly because the system is extremely efficient. The money will actually be available for October 2026 through September 2027. This is the 11th year SCRTD has received these grants. The County provides the local match that allows SCRTD to apply for and receive these grants. Mr. Armijo showed several slides showing the district's excellent progress over the past 11 years. The new routes are doing well and staff plans to initiate more paratransit/ADA services.

7. CONSENT AGENDA

8. APPROVAL OF SOUTH CENTRAL REGIONAL TRANSIT DISTRICT MEETING MINUTES OF APRIL 22, 2026

Administrative change to correct Amanda Cardona's name in the minutes.

9. RESOLUTION APPROVING SOUTH CENTRAL REGIONAL TRANSIT DISTRICT FIXED ASSETS FY26 REPORT

10. RESOLUTION APPROVING THE AUTHORIZATION OF FILING OF APPLICATIONS WITH THE FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION FOR FEDERAL TRANSPORTATION ASSISTANCE FY2027

Motion to approve Items 8, 9, and 10 by Manuel Sanchez, second by Javier Perea. Passed unanimously.

11. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SOUTH CENTRAL TRANSIT DISTRICT TO SEEK FTA REVIEW AND FEDERAL REIMBURSEMENT RESOLUTION FOR GILLIG BUS PROCUREMENT - DAVID ARMIJO

David Armijo discussed that NMDOT sent a challenge last month. The appeal is due in this Friday. Bus 2505 was one of the first buses that staff sought reimbursement for. In 2022, a funding request was granted from the El Paso MPO. El Paso MPO area includes El Paso and southern NM including Chaparral, Anthony, Sunland Park, and Santa Teresa. That area has not been served for a long time. The awards added up to \$5 million. There were two

No-Low grants as well which gave an additional \$5.6 million. Several battery electric buses were the result of those funds in 2025. The buses in question today are the ones received in spring 2026, which brings the buses count up to eight battery electric buses, four EVs, and four hybrid electric buses plus other smaller vehicles. The fleet is now about 30 vehicles total. There were some agreement changes from CMAC to FTA in 2024 and 2025. Staff is asking NMDOT to reconsider the denial of reimbursement for the bus received this spring and staff wishes to provide additional information to support that request. SCRTD would build a record needed for NMDOT approval, conditional approval, or defer for FTA concurrence rather than issue a final adverse determination. David Armijo thinks this is an opportunity to treat this process as more of an administrative issue with NMDOT. SCRTD is asking that the Gillig history as a fleet standardization be considered as a sole-source: Everyone is already trained on this particular bus, maintenance and equipment are all for this bus, so why would you change brands? The Gillig buses have been reliable and the company provides very good support, while other companies have gone out of business. The supplemental information will also discuss the chronology of the transfer from CMAC to FTA and where the funding came from as well as the timing of the bus procurement and deliveries. Eligibility, audits, and post delivery paperwork will be included in the information as well.

David Armijo presented these three options to ask for: Approve the reimbursement; do a conditional approval which could be subject to reasonable conditions, additional documentation, administrative resolution, and procedures updates; or defer for FTA concurrence and ask FTA to work with SCRTD and NMDOT jointly and to bring in a third party to look at the process. Staff has drafted a letter to submit with the additional information. Mr. Armijo is asking the Board to approve this submission to be sent in on Friday. If that submittal fails, staff will look for FTA concurrence. If that fails, staff will ask for a separate FTA review. David Armijo is asking the Board to approve all three options.

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

12. DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL OF A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SOUTH CENTRAL REGIONAL TRANSIT TO ISSUE AN RFP FOR AN ADA COMPLEMENTARY PARATRANSIT SERVICE STUDY PURSUANT TO A FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION (FTA) REQUEST - DAVID ARMIJO

David Armijo discussed the study request. SCRTD has been operating ADA services as express services and FTA has asked those to be converted to motor coach or fixed-route services. This would increase the number of stops and connections as well as making it an hourly service. This conversion was already included in the Ten-Year Plan. The study will allow a third party to come look at it. The internal review is being wrapped up and will be released to the State for review. In around 30 days, the State review will be done and the procurement

can be released. The annual review has been wrapped up and the final plan can be done. On November 11th the FTA will finalize it and staff will bring it back to the Board at the same time that FTA submits it to the Civil Rights Department. The plan could be in the Civil Rights Department for weeks or months, Mr. Armijo doesn't know. The Civil Rights Department can use the report to decide which routes will be paratransit. The paratransit will cost roughly \$100,000 per route to convert the buses and even though funding will cover around 80%, SCRTD has to come up with the other 20%. Some of these routes also run through RoadRUNNER Transit territory, so SCRTD will need to sit down with them and figure out how it will work. This conversion will hopefully happen with a phased approach over a few years, but Plan B is to use the 5310 funds for it. The number of organizations involved will make it a bit complex, but Mr. Armijo has done this before and is confident.

Resolution motioned by Javier Perea, second by Majorie Powey. Passed unanimously.

13. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SOUTH CENTRAL TRANSIT DISTRICT ADOPTING THE FY2028-2032 INFRASTRUCTURE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN (ICIP) - DAVID ARMIJO

David Armijo reported that Daniela Gutierrez is not available to discuss the ICIP. She is the On-Site Manager for the solar array and it is about five weeks from being complete, so she cannot leave the facility. This year's plan is due in July 1, 2026. The plan is already submitted, but this resolution is needed before it can be viable. The first part is the Venus Program. There is already several million in the Venus Project, but staff has secured an additional \$705,000 from the legislature that will be available later this year. The Hatch Project is interesting. Staff has been thinking that a small property use for layover in Hatch would save quite a bit of money. Currently the Hatch Police and School District are allowing SCRTD to store vehicles on their properties. Long-term, a small facility may be required there. Therefore, less than \$100,000 is included in the ICIP for purchase and fencing of a small property. Staff might go to the legislature in the winter for funding for this project.

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

14. A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE SOUTH CENTRAL REGIONAL TRANSIT DISTRICT FISCAL YEAR 2027 ANNUAL BUDGET - ADAM SHEA

Adam Shea discussed the budget. Personnel expenditures including benefits is \$2,476,365.61 which is an increase of 9.5% over 2026 and brings several positions into line with other transit organizations' compensation rate and benefits. Travel and Maintenance decreases by 3.4%; Supplies increases by 40.6% to ensure Maintenance has everything they need at all locations;

Insurance is a 43% increase due to the discount from prior years being reduced as well as having added some vehicles to the fleet; Contractual Services is a 51.3% increase primarily due to adding Security as a Contractual Service; Operating Costs is a 4.4% increase. The grand total of Expenses is \$4,481,460.32 which is an increase of 13.6% over the last fiscal year. David Armijo reported that there is a reserve of \$149,000. One of the major costs is Security and staff is looking for ways to reduce the cost. David Armijo will report on the results of that research next month and it may change the budget again. Mr. Shea and Rosa were able to get a rebate from the IRS for the alternative fuel/clean fuel vehicles that SCRTD is running. Initiation of the rebate cost \$25,000 but in the end the rebates should amount to around \$221,000. The State also has a credit program for clean vehicles, so staff was able to get that for an amount of around \$50,000 to \$95,000. These credits would be considered revenue. Staff will continue to research and find any funding available. David Armijo indicated that the budgeting is being done as though it is just a normal year. Staff is unsure of how much the new solar array will save, so the budget is simply being run as though it does not exist. The numbers will become clear after the array is online for several months. Adam Shea discussed the Revenue section of the budget: Operating Revenue is a total of \$4,630,252.56 which is a 15.74% increase; balance of Revenue over Expenses is \$148,792.24 based on the current expenditures and revenue programmed. Capital: 5303 and 5304 are Planning Funds and are 100% decreased because there is none programmed for the next fiscal year; 5310 is a decrease of 49.57%; 5311 is 100% decrease due to the movement of the capital that was under 5311 into the 5339; local funds 16.4% increase; FHWA 100% increase; 5307 was 27.74% increase; and 5339 was 6.76% decrease. This totals \$10,212,931.01 for a 6.89% increase.

Resolution motioned by Javier Perea, second by Majorie Powey. Passed unanimously.

15. BOARD COMMENTS

Majorie Powey is impressed at the difference between the start of SCRTD and how well it is doing now. She thanked David Armijo for his hard work. She is excited about the bus stops she sees in town. Everyone agreed that the progress is amazing and are looking forward to seeing the numbers for ridership and other data.

16. ADJOURNMENT - NEXT BOARD MEETING - JULY 22, 2026

Motion to adjourn by Gabriel Holguin, second by Manuel Sanchez. Meeting adjourned at 2:29 p.m.


Chairperson