



July 17, 2026

David Armijo
Executive Director
South Central Regional Transit District (SCRTD)
2001 Futurity Drive
Sunland Park, NM 88063

Dear Mr. Armijo,

This letter is in response to SCRTD's request, dated June 24, 2026, to transfer the Venus and ExpressBus Federal Grants from NMDOT to SCRTD.

Upon receiving this request, NMDOT staff met with FTA Region VI to discuss the available options for transferring funding for these two projects, which were awarded to NMDOT on behalf of SCRTD.

As you are aware, FTA announced recipients of the FY24 Bus and Bus Facilities and Low-No Discretionary awards July 26, 2024. NMDOT received a total of \$9,812,622 on behalf of the North Central Regional Transit District (NCRTD) and SCRTD. The SCRTD portion of the federal award was \$2,434,886, to be used for the purchase of one (1) hybrid electric 35' bus, property acquisition in compliance with the Uniform Act and construction of the Venus Project. To be in compliance with the Uniform Act, SCRTD will need to complete an appraisal and review appraisal of the proposed property prior to acquisition of the property.

Subsequently, on November 20, 2025, FTA announced the grant awards for the FY25 Buses and Bus Facilities and Low-No program, and NMDOT was again awarded funding—\$4,049,179 on behalf of SCRTD for the ExpressBus Project under the Low-No program.

After discussions between NMDOT and FTA Region VI, we have identified two options for the Venus Project.

1. Proceed with the current Venus/Jim West joint application, which is near final approval and acceptance. Execution of award is expected within 45–60 days, including the required 15-day DOL review period.
2. Split the grant
 - a. NMDOT would continue to manage the NCRTD portion of the award.
 - b. SCRTD would assume responsibility for its portion of the grant. This option would require time to receive approval from FTA for the transfer, and SCRTD to comply with the planning requirements and apply in TrAMS for the grant:

**Michelle Lujan
Grisham**
Governor

David D. Quintana, P.E.
Acting Cabinet Secretary

Commissioners

John McElroy
Commissioner
District 1

Debra P. Hicks
Commissioner
District 2

Hilma E. Chynoweth
Commissioner, Vice Chairman
District 3

Walter G. Adams
Commissioner, Chairman
District 4

Thomas C. Taylor
Commissioner
District 5

Anthony K. Tanner
Commissioner
District 6

- i. NMDOT, as the direct recipient, would request a transfer and include the following documentation.
 1. A letter from NMDOT stating their willingness to *let SCRTD serve as the recipient and administer the funds in TrAMS.*
 2. A Letter from SCRTD affirming their willingness and capacity (legal, financial and technical) to serve as recipient and administer the funds.
- ii. Region VI would submit the change request to FTA Headquarters with the required documentation for the transfer of the grant.
- iii. SCRTD would need to confirm the New Mexico Match award as the local match currently identified.
- iv. SCRTD would need to comply with the TIP/STIP planning requirements for the projects.
- v. SCRTD would develop the grant application in TrAMS.

Please let us know which option you choose for the Venus Project. We will support your decision and provide technical assistance.

To transfer the ExpressBus Project grant, the process would follow the steps outlined above for the Venus Project and generally include the following:

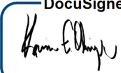
- a. NMDOT would request a transfer from NMDOT to SCRTD for the FY25–26 Low-No Hybrid Bus Grant including:
 - i. An NMDOT letter stating their willingness to *let SCRTD serve as the recipient and administer the funds in TrAMS.*
 - ii. An SCRTD letter affirming their willingness and capacity to serve as recipient and administer the funds.
- b. Region VI would submit the change request to FTA Headquarters.
- c. SCRTD must confirm the source of local match.
- d SCRTD would need to comply with the TIP/STIP planning requirements.
- e. SCRTD would develop the grant application in TrAMS.

We recommend that SCRTD submit any future discretionary applications as a direct recipient. Funds would be awarded directly to SCRTD, and we would continue to provide technical assistance as needed to support applications.

Should you have any questions or wish to discuss these items further, please contact me directly.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kevin E. Olinger", enclosed within a blue circular stamp.

F04AA67663334A9
Kevin E. Olinger

Division Director

Transit and Rail Division

CC via email: Troy Thomas, FTA Region VI
David Bartels, FTA Region VI
Robert Sharpe, FTA Region VI
Sharon Coats, FTA Region VI
Delilah Garcia, NMDOT
Deborah Bach, NMDOT
Alexis Corning-Padilla, NMDOT