

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

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Manuel Sanchez, SCRTD Chair, Doña Ana County/Commissioner
Maria Burciaga, SCRTD Alternate, City of Sunland Park/Councilor
Biviana Cadena, SCRTD, Member, Town of Mesilla
Majorie Powey, SCRTD Member, Village of Williamsburg/Mayor Pro-Tem
Gabriel Holguin, SCRTD Vice-Chair, City of Anthony/Mayor
John Munoz, SCRTD Member, City of Las Cruces/Mayor Pro-Tem

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Robert Martinez, SCRTD Member, Village of Hatch/Trustee

OTHER ATTENDEES:

Ingo Hoeppner, City of Truth of Consequences

SCRTD STAFF:

David Armijo, SCRTD Executive Director
Danielle Granados, SCRTD Executive Assistant
Daniela Gutierrez, SCRTD Project Manager
Liza Alonzo, SCRTD Grants Administrator
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 1:34 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

Move up item seven, the minutes, prior to public input.

Motioned to approve agenda as amended by Manuel Sanchez, second by Biviana Cadena. Passed unanimously.

7. APPROVAL OF SOUTH CENTRAL REGIONAL TRANSIT DISTRICT MEETING MINUTES OF JUNE 24, 2026

Minutes motioned by Biviana Cadena, second by Maria Burciaga. Passed unanimously.

5. PUBLIC INPUT

Sara Vasquez presented the Doña Ana Interns, Damien Ibarra, Melanie Nieto, and Angeles Romero. They will be serving for Doña Ana Continuous Internship as summer interns.

Melanie Nieto just graduated from Gadsden High School. She will be going to NMSU to get her bachelor's in social work. Demien Ibarra just graduated from Chaparral High School and going to DACC to continue bachelor's in culinary. Angeles Ramos is currently going to be a senior at Gadsden High School and plans to graduate and go to UNM and get her bachelor's as a sign language interpreter. Manuel Sanchez welcomed them. David Armijo spoke about the program with Suncity whom he worked for years ago and that for many it was their first job. They are hoping to do more internships during the course of the school year.

6. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT - DAVID ARMIJO

David Armijo discussed service. There has been an interesting learning curve as the summer months as they put some weekend service in place last year in the spring. The summer months the services were not going as well. They are planning on bringing them back in the fall. Green route to do a redesign, it is an express run not really a fixed route, limited services. They could take some of the savings and add another late night trip (really late afternoon trip). Trip after 4:00, get people back into Hatch and then bring another trip back after 5:00. There are two routes that overlap Magenta in the East Mesa, when the two buses connect at DACC, schedule the Magenta as it has more latitude to make the connections and take over the trips and take people from DACC through the area along Sonoma Ranch, then to the hospital district, to the mall, and then coming to NMSU. The Green route used to end there, now the Magenta will continue to the Move-It Center. This allows the Magenta to connect to all the city routes SCRTD has and to other routes from the Move-It Center and NMSU. The Blue route has been interesting and done very well with some added some stops.

Next hopefully work with the folks at the lake and find a way to get a little bit further into the lake. It is providing additional services onto the weekend with Friday/Saturday trip which helps augment the Blue route. Blue route continues to grow services and has done very, very well. Continue to work with Sierra County, T or C, Elephant Butte, and Williamsburg as that route continues to grow. They will try and work with Elephant Butte next year, probably worked with the wrong people in the first place. Manuel Sanchez stated he can help with connection to the State Parks Office.

Ridership growth. As of June approaching 167,000 trips. That is more trips than all of last year. Right now, including partial July, 180,000 trips. Current estimate, target is around 203,785. They keep doing things. Their service is so different and depends on how it is approached and what information gain from the community and how to respond. They just added Passio GO for the office, but it can interface with GTFS, They are using Google maps which is passive, but with their cameras with Passio GO can get real time information on the bus.

Manuel Sanchez states he has done some traveling and seen that it shows real time and is helpful.

8. BOARD RESOLUTION TO ADOPT AN INDEPENDENT TRANSIT ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN - DAVID ARMIJO

David Armijo stated the U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Transit Administration requires transit agencies of size to have a regular plan. Four years ago the state to start developing their own plan and the plan was to spin off the districts, NCRTD, Rio Metro, and SCRTD. A plan was developed and brought it to the board three years ago. The state decided to keep them all together and SCRTD went with the group. To remain in the group now there are a number of things that would need change. They already have a plan that has been updated by a professional planning organization to meet the requirements that they need to have with the Federal Transit Administration. He will submit that document, today's resolution, to the regional office in Ft. Worth that this is the plan going forward for the next four years. David stated the others in the group will be doing the same thing in the next round.

Majorie Powey asked what is the SBLBF . David Armijo stated they are the contractor that did the SCRTD 10-year plan and so he had them do this plan also. SBLBF is the name of the ownership of the company, people's names.

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

9. BOARD RESOLUTION AND APPROVAL OF THE ADA FIXED ROUTE AND PARATRANSIT PLAN - DAVID ARMIJO

David Armijo stated the Americans with Disability Act was passed by legislation and went into effect July 1990. He was in Dallas and in charge of all the suburban operations and the contract transit services. He was asked by President George Bush, Sr. to have a series of buses available, prepped by the Secret Service. Going to have 50 congressmen fly into Dallas and sign the document that would memorialize the ADA. This provided a way to ensure that buses were going to become accessible, allow people with various disabilities access to the bus stop, if they could not get to the bus stop then a special demand service. What has been discovered since that time is that even though buses are now accessible, bus stops are not necessarily accessible. This is for fixed route and paratransit. Services up until now, all nine bus routes, have been identified as express bus services as have limited services in the a.m. and the peak and do not run as often. There are some now that are every hour, the Yellow route in the southern district runs every 40 minutes. Some of those routes could be ADA qualified. Last month the board approved having a third party company come in, evaluate the routes, determine which would need to ADA and where we need to develop a service for that.

Manuel Sanchez stated that the resolution is on page 14 of the agenda packet. Majorie Powey asked about the senior center and if it provides transportation in that category. Las Cruces does have this service, a well defined paratransit program, and have a distinct van program. The senior van program has been merged with the ADA and so carry both riders together at different times.

Resolution motioned by John Munoz, second by Biviana Cadena. Passed unanimously.

10. BOARD RESOLUTION AND APPROVAL TO RELEASE RFP FOR PARATRANSIT SERVICE AND ADA CERTIFICATION CONTRACT - DAVID ARMIJO

David Armijo stated they are trying to do two things with this contract. Once it is determined independently they are going to have to do certain routes will be paratransit and certain routes will not be. A third party contractor would evaluate individuals to whether or not they would be getting to the bus stop to ride the bus. This would proceed on whether they have a special vehicle demand response to come pick them up. The second part would be to have a contractor to perform the actual service to go out and pick up people in the communities. This would be the Red, Purple, and Yellow routes to be looked at. To control the cost, they would provide the vehicles. There would be no fixed cost into the contract by the contractor. Get a great deal on WEX discounts for fuel so they would pick up the fuel cost. To start this in phase one they would provide the vehicles, fuel, insure the vehicles, and provide a location for the vehicles, Anthony and/or Sunland Park. In working with FTA and civil rights groups will give time to come to Las Cruces. This will be challenging. There are companies like Amistad, First Transit that can do it. If they cannot find a contractor that is reasonably prices,

SCRTD will do it, but have to hire more staff. They would like to get the contract by the end of August.

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

11. BOARD RESOLUTION TO APPROVE SUBMITTAL OF FY2028 5310 AND 5311 ANNUAL GRANT APPLICATIONS - LIZA ALONZO

Liza Alonzo stated they are asking for the boards approval to apply for the 5310 and 5311 application to the Federal Transit Administration that they apply for each year. This assists them in operations for seniors, individuals with disabilities, as well as rural areas.

Resolution motioned by Gabriel Holguin, second by Biviana Cadena. Passed unanimously.

12. APTA AWARDS SUBMITTAL REPORT - DANIELA GUTIERREZ

A video was shown for that was submitted for the APTA Award.

Daniela Gutierrez stated the award ceremony is in October. They hope to hear results by late August or September. Manuel Sanchez said it would be nice for the team to get recognition for all their hard work. David Armijo stated they need to do a better job of telling the story from the writers perspective.

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

Adam Shea stated this is to request a budget amendment to fiscal year 2026 which is actually quite minor. \$17,464 increase in the expenditure portion of the expenditures of the budget. In revenue it is an increase of \$38,228 which offsets the \$17,000 for expenditures. For capital an increase of \$362,817 for the New Mexico Matching grants that we got for this year. The major increase as far as expenditures do with personnel services and that is due to changes in service from one time period to another. It just increased our expenditures more than anticipated. In looking at the total amounts, expenditures will be total 100% expended for the year. The reason for revenue increase is because of the carryover, as well as the van pool, and miscellaneous other revenue.

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

14. A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE SOUTH CENTRAL REGIONAL TRANSIT DISTRICT YTD FINANCIALS FOR FY2026 - ADAM SHEA

Adam Shea stated SCRTD has been extremely successful this past fiscal year. As of June 30th there is a total of \$427,198.29 in the bank. They are still working to increase that. They opened another secondary account at Wells Fargo Bank which is going to be able to help with depositing fare box revenue. The fiscal year 2026 reflect a successful year of operations with the District maintaining a strong financial position while fully executing its approved operating budget. Total operating expenditures reached \$3,960,237, and that is 100% of the expenditure budget. This is the first time SCRTD did this. Personnel services of \$2,312,846, and employee benefits of \$714,484, which is 76.4% of the expenditure budget. The secondary is the travel and maintenance. They did increase in travel expenditures this year. Maintenance is the bigger portion of this section. Again 100% of the expenditures throughout the year. Still going strong.

Revenue section. They collected 83.8% of the overall revenue budget. There are several items still awaiting to receive and several items they expect to collect. Much of the revenue budget is still wrapped up in FTA applications that have been submitted. Did receive \$3,360,025 this year. Still have another \$100,000 that is billed out. There is a reserve of about \$47,526 to carry over into the next fiscal year.

Capital. They have only collected 30.7% of the amounts budgeted for fiscal year '26. The capital budget does expend over five years, so able to take the remaining amount and carryover into the fiscal year '27. That was discussed last month. Collected a total of \$3,255,779. And still have projects that are ongoing. Still awaiting receipt of buses or vehicles that are outstanding, as well as construction projects. Some of the 5307 funds are amounts that are in applications that have been submitted. Fiscal year 2024 has been approved, and fiscal year 2025 has been approved, yet the grant has not been executed yet. There are some funds over from the Mesilla Valley MPO that they will be receiving in fiscal year '27. Once the solar is completed they will have a better understanding how that will be able to supplement the electricity and revenue potential.

Resolution motioned by Biviana Candea, second by Gabriel Holguin. Passed unanimously.

15. A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SOUTH CENTRAL REGIONAL TRANSIT DISTRICT TO PROCEED WITH TRANSFER OF FEDERAL GRANTS FROM NMDOT TO SCRTD - DAVID ARMIJO

David Armijo stated the resolution is the longest resolution they have done. He made a request to the NMDOT and to the Federal Transit Administration via a letter. He was happy to receive their response which is transfer the two outstanding grants, Venus Construction Project which as of September will be two years old, the ExpressBus Contract is one year old. We have graduated to

be a direct recipient and manage several grants. Received 5311 urban funds from 2024 in the month of June. And already started receiving money from the grant over \$255,000. That grant is one million dollars, and that is operating funds they are receiving from two years ago and getting reimbursed now. The second grant which is also urban is from 2025 and Adam has that in his box and ready as soon as the grant has been executed. SCRTD is already managing two other grants, and this will bring them to four grants in TrAMS and funding. With this action today they will be submitting this letter and the resolution to New Mexico DOT letting them know that SCRTD has decided that in the letter they want both of those grants transferred to them. They will then be able to move directly in the work with FTA, takes NMDOT out of the loop. They lost the first property they went after. The property they have now which is next door, which is a little better property, and cheaper to develop, but it is going to cost about \$200,000 more than the other property. Two years have gone by, prices have gone up. David Armijo read the section whereas one through eight. These grants \$2.4 million and \$4 million will be transferred into a federal account called TrAMS that will be accessed by David Armijo, Adam Shea, and Liza Alonzo. They will keep track of the grants and work through the process. They have close relationships with people in Ft. Worth. It does accept the administrative responsibility and that is a significant thing. By direction of this David Armijo gets the authority to prepare and execute these grants and letters, for which he is already doing with the staff. Local matching funds, they have already acquired. Federal and state compliance, they just passed their TrAMS review and did really well with that and will not have to do that for three more years. Planning requirements, they will continue to be responsible to the two MPOs doing the regional plans and working together and have been for more than a decade. Property acquisition, if they move forward with the appraisal this month, then move forward, then in early fall make that acquisition. The resolution today does move this process forward to the next step.

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

16. ADJOURNMENT - NEXT BOARD MEETING - SEPTEMBER 23, 2026

Motion to adjourn by Gabriel Holguin, second by Manuel Sanchez. Meeting adjourned at 2:52 p.m.


Chairperson

