

**CITY OF EL PASO, TEXAS
AGENDA ITEM
DEPARTMENT HEAD'S SUMMARY FORM**

AGENDA DATE: September 13, 2022

PUBLIC HEARING DATE: N/A

CONTACT PERSON(S) NAME AND PHONE NUMBER: Ellen A. Smyth, P.E., Chief Transit and Field Operations Officer (915) 212-6000

DISTRICT(S) AFFECTED: All Districts

STRATEGIC GOAL: Goal 7 – Enhance and Sustain El Paso's Infrastructure Network

SUBGOAL:

SUBJECT:

That the City Manager or his designee is authorized to sign the FTA Section 5310 grant and any agreements or verifications required to submit an application to the El Paso MPO for this grant; and that the City shall provide all matching funds, if applicable, for said grant.

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION:

N/A

PRIOR COUNCIL ACTION:

N/A

AMOUNT AND SOURCE OF FUNDING:

N/A

HAVE ALL AFFECTED DEPARTMENTS BEEN NOTIFIED? YES NO

PRIMARY DEPARTMENT: Sun Metro

SECONDARY DEPARTMENT:

*****REQUIRED AUTHORIZATION*****

DEPARTMENT HEAD:



(If Department Head Summary Form is initiated by Purchasing, client department should sign also)

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the El Paso Metropolitan Planning Organization (“El Paso MPO”) is currently accepting grant applications for Federal Transit Administration (“FTA”) Section 5310 grant funds; and

WHEREAS, the City of El Paso, Texas ("City") wishes to submit a grant application to the El Paso MPO for FTA Section 5310 grant funds; and

WHEREAS, if awarded, the funds received under the FTA Section 5310 grant would be utilized for assisting in sustaining Sun Metro transit service to William Beaumont Army Medical Center (“WBAMC”) and in funding an integrated transit management software system for Sun Metro’s paratransit service; and

WHEREAS, the projects would fill a gap in service for El Paso veterans seeking healthcare at WBAMC and will improve efficiency in paratransit service for eligible El Paso residents.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EL PASO:

1. That the City Manager or his designee is authorized to sign the FTA Section 5310 grant and any agreements or verifications required to submit an application to the El Paso MPO for this grant; and
2. That the City shall provide all matching funds, if applicable, for said grant.

APPROVED this ____ day of _____ 2022.

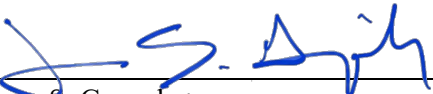
CITY OF EL PASO:

Oscar Leaser,
Mayor

ATTEST:

Laura D. Prine
City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Juan S. Gonzalez
Senior Assistant City Attorney

APPROVED AS TO CONTENT:



Ellen Smyth, Chief Transit and
Field Operations Officer

****Please submit on your official letterhead****

(Add date)

Mr. Tim McDaniel
El Paso MPO – FTA 5310 RFP Project Manager
211 N. Florence Street, Suite 202
El Paso, Texas 79901

RE: City of El Paso Mass Transit Department (Sun Metro) application for FY 2023 and FY 2024: Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities

Dear Mr. McDaniel:

The City of El Paso’s Mass Transit Department, Sun Metro, respectfully seeks your support for FY 2023 (\$548,824.88) and FY 2024 (\$548,824.88) with a combined amount of \$1,097,649.76 to improve mobility for our seniors, veterans, and individuals with disabilities, through the implementation of a new bus route to William Beaumont Army Medical Center (WBAMC), located at 18511 Highlander Medics St., Ft. Bliss, Texas. In addition, funding is requested to purchase essential cloud-based integrated software to upgrade Sun Metro’s paratransit service, Living Independently Facilitated Transportation (LIFT). Federal funding assistance awarded through this program would complement the City of El Paso’s mission to support a high quality of life and place for our community.

Funding through the El Paso Metropolitan Planning Organization (EPMPO) – Federal Transit Administration (FTA): Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities would greatly benefit our border community’s most vulnerable populations, such as veterans, by providing them with the lifeline they need to access medical appointments and procedures.

Our applications consist of two components; cloud-based integrated software for paratransit service and operating expenses for the WBAMC bus route. The first component (integrated software) will be a 20% local match of \$100,000, and the second component (operating expenses) will be a 50% local match of \$298,824.88. Both applications combined will total \$398,824.88.

Improving public transit in our tri-state, bi-national region is essential to meeting the needs of our El Paso community. As the largest public transit provider in West Texas on the U.S.-Mexico border, a substantial proportion of our underserved communities rely on Sun Metro and its transportation service for everyday activities, such as going to work, the store, and medical appointments. We are committed to elevating our customers’ transit experience and to improving our community’s livability, accessibility, and economic development.

El Paso has a record of success in performance improvement through diversity, social policies, innovation, process improvements, and implementation of technology. Federal funding will help Sun Metro create a new bus route to serve veterans and veterans with disabilities that require

transportation to WBAMC. In addition, the grant award will help upgrade software in all LIFT paratransit vehicles to bolster efficiency and manageability for our service.

We thank you for your consideration and are hopeful that you will look favorably upon our request. I am confident that this proposal to improve transit service for our underserved communities will achieve the objectives of the EPMPO – FTA: Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities and help better serve El Paso’s veterans.

Sincerely,

Tomas Gonzalez
City Manager

cc: Tracey Jerome, Senior Deputy City Manager
Ellen A. Smyth, Chief Transit and Field Operations Officer

****Please submit on your official letterhead****

(Add date)

Mr. Tim McDaniel
El Paso MPO – FTA 5310 RFP Project Manager
211 N. Florence Street, Suite 202
El Paso, Texas 79901

RE: City of El Paso Mass Transit Department (Sun Metro) application for FY 2023 and FY 2024: Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities

Dear Mr. McDaniel:

Please accept this letter of support on behalf of the City of El Paso Mass Transit Department, Sun Metro applications for the El Paso Metropolitan Planning Organization (EPMPO) – Federal Transit Administration (FTA): Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities.

El Paso is located in a tri-state, binational region that connects Texas, New Mexico, and the Mexican state of Chihuahua. Based on recent U.S. Census data, El Paso is home to over 600,000 people, with over 46,000 veterans and 87,515 seniors. Sun Metro’s well-researched application envisions a new bus route service for veterans and veterans with disabilities who need reliable transportation to William Beaumont Army Medical Center (WBAMC) for health-related services.

The City of El Paso is applying for FY 2023 and FY 2024 funding and respectfully requests a combined amount of \$1,097,649.76, a much-needed investment to help implement new transportation services for veterans and our other vulnerable populations. The grant will help purchase new cloud-based software for the paratransit service vehicles, in addition to supporting operating expenses for the new WBAMC bus route.

The award of federal funding through this program would be transformative for our community. It would also further position Sun Metro as a public transit system that supports federal goals of accessible transportation, stronger economic recovery, and healthier livable communities.

Thank you for your consideration. I hope this letter of support positively impacts Sun Metro’s request for funding through the EPMPO – FTA Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities. Please do not hesitate to contact my office if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Oscar Leeser
Mayor of El Paso