



AGENDA FOR THE SUN METRO CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**July 08, 2026
10151 MONTANA AVENUE, EL PASO, TX 79925
3:00 PM**

Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the Sun Metro Citizens Advisory Committee of the City of El Paso will be conducted on the above date and time.

A quorum of five committee members must be present and participate in the meeting.

ROLL CALL

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

All matters listed under the Consent Agenda below will be considered by the Committee to be routine and will be enacted by one motion in the form listed below. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless members of the Committee or persons in the audience request specific items be removed from the Consent Agenda to the Regular Agenda for discussion prior to the time the Committee votes on the motion to adopt the Consent Agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approve the Minutes of the Regular Committee meeting of May 14, 2026. **26-0789**

REGULAR AGENDA

2. Discussion and action regarding preparation, submittal and presentation of an annual report of the Committee to City Council. **[BC-2230](#)**
Sun Metro Mass Transit, Karl Rimkus, (915) 212-3317
3. Discussion regarding an update on standardized Sun Metro data report for the Committee. **[BC-2231](#)**

Sun Metro Mass Transit, Karl Rimkus, (915) 212-3317

4. Discussion regarding Intergovernmental Service Agreement for microtransit service at Ft. Bliss. [BC-2232](#)

Sun Metro Mass Transit, Karl Rimkus, (915) 212-3317
Sun Metro Mass Transit, Anthony Dekeyzer, (915) 212-3306

5. Discussion regarding update on Sun Metro Rising Implementation. [BC-2233](#)

Sun Metro Mass Transit, Claudia K. Garcia, (915) 212-3375

6. For notation: [BC-2234](#)

- EPATS LGC Board of Directors meet monthly regarding transit services in the El Paso County Transit service area.
 - Website: [<https://elpasotransportationauthority.org/>](https://elpasotransportationauthority.org/)
- The Sun Metro Paratransit Advisory Public Meeting occurs twice (10 a.m. and 6 p.m.) via MS Teams on the first Thursday of March, June, September and December. For more information, please contact Mr. Victor Caraveo at 212-LIFT. Meeting announcements are also posted on Sun Metro's Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/sunmetro>

PUBLIC COMMENT

The Committee will allow speakers from the public to comment on any transit-related issue that is not on the agenda. During the Public Comment Period of the meeting, audience members who sign up to address the Committee will be given an opportunity to address the Committee. Unless modified by the Chair, speakers will be allowed three (3) minutes for their comments. For more information, please contact Mariana Orozco at (915) 212-3308.

ADJOURN

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Sign language interpreters will be provided for this meeting upon request. Requests must be made to Sandra Hernandez at HernandezSX1@elpasotexas.gov a minimum of 48 hours prior to the date and time of this hearing.

If you need Spanish Translation Services, please email HernandezSX1@elpasotexas.gov at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting.

Posted this the _____ of _____ at _____ AM/PM by _____



Legislation Text

File #: 26-0789, **Version:** 1

**CITY OF EL PASO, TEXAS
LEGISTAR AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY FORM**

AGENDA LANGUAGE:

This is the language that will be posted to the agenda. Please use ARIAL 11 Font.

Approve the Minutes of the Regular Committee meeting of May 14, 2026.

SUN METRO CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Location Address	10151 Montana
Meeting Date	May 14, 2026
Meeting Time	3:00PM
Meeting Start Time	3:11PM

ATTENDANCE

District	Member Name	Present	Absent	Arrived Late (Time)	Left Early (Time)
Mayor	Xavier Banales	X			
1	Keith Andrews		X		
2	Elisa Tamayo	X			
3	William Graham	X			
4	Sandy Azcona		X		
5	Aziz Afravi	X			
6	Angela Ochoa		X		
7	Sylvia Carreon	X			
8	Scott White	X			

CONSENT AGENDA

Item 1.	Approve the Minutes of the Regular Committee meeting of September 10, 2025.			
Motion	Motion to approve made by member Banales, seconded by member Carreon, passed unanimously.			
Vote	AYES	Members Banales, Tamayo, Graham, Afravi, Carreon and White	NAYS	None
Not Present	Members Andrews, Azcona and Ochoa			

REGULAR AGENDA

Item 2.	Discussion and action regarding election of officers for the committee.			
Comments	Mr. Rimkus discussed. Mr. White, committee chair, commented.			
Motion	Motion made by member Carreon to keep current chair and vice chair, seconded by member Banales, passed unanimously.			
Vote	AYES	Members Banales, Tamayo, Graham, Afravi, Carreon and White	NAYS	None
Not Present	Members Andrews, Azcona and Ochoa			

Item 3.	Discussion and action regarding a vision statement for the committee.			
Comments	Julie Baldwin-Munoz, Chief Strategy Officer, presented final draft. Mr. White, committee chair, commented. Ms. Garcia, legal, commented.			
Motion	Motion to adopt vision statement made by member Banales, seconded by member Carreon, passed unanimously.			
Vote	AYES	Members Banales, Tamayo, Graham, Afravi, Carreon and White	NAYS	None
Not Present	Members Andrews, Azcona and Ochoa			

Item 4.	Discussion and action regarding the adoption and implementation of uniform bylaws for advisory committee as required by El Paso City Ordinance 019766.			
Comments	Mr. Rimkus presented. Mr. Banales, committee member, commented.			
Motion	Motion to adopt bylaws made by member Tamayo, seconded by member Carreon, passed unanimously.			
Vote	AYES	Members Banales, Tamayo, Graham, Afravi, Carreon and White	NAYS	None
Not Present	Members Andrews, Azcona and Ochoa			

Item 5.	Discussion regarding attendance reporting requirements.			
Comments	Mr. Rimkus presented.			
Motion	N/A			
Vote	AYES		NAYS	
Not Present				

Item 6.	Discussion and action regarding setting regular committee meeting calendar for 2026.			
Comments	Mr. Rimkus presented. Mr. Afravi, committee member, commented.			
Motion	Motion to adopt meeting calendar made by member Carreon, seconded by member Afravi, passed unanimously.			
Vote	AYES	Members Banales, Tamayo, Graham, Afravi, Carreon and White	NAYS	None
Not Present	Members Andrews, Azcona and Ochoa			

Item 7.	Discussion and action regarding preparation, submittal and presentation of an annual report of the Committee to City Council.			
Comments	Mr. Rimkus presented. Mr. White, vice chair, commented. Mr. Banales, committee member, commented.			
Motion	Motion made by member Tamayo, seconded by member Afravi, passed unanimously. Motion made by member Banales, seconded by member Carreon, passed unanimously. Motion made by member Tamayo, seconded by member Carreon, passed unanimously.			
Vote	AYES	Members Banales, Tamayo, Graham, Afravi, Carreon and White	NAYS	None
Not Present	Members Andrews, Azcona and Ochoa			

Item 8.	Discussion regarding standardized Sun Metro data report for the Committee.			
Comments	Mr. Rimkus presented. Mr. White, committee chair, commented. Mr. Banales, committee member, commented.			
Motion	N/A			
Vote	AYES		NAYS	
Not Present				

CALL TO THE PUBLIC (NON-AGENDA ITEMS)

The following members of the public commented:

None

ADJOURN

Item	Adjourn the meeting of May 14, 2026.			
Motion	Motion to adjourn made by member Carreon, seconded by member Tamayo, passed unanimously.			
Vote	AYES	Members Banales, Tamayo, Graham, Afravi, Carreon and White	NAYS	None
Not Present	Members Andrews, Azcona and Ochoa			
Time	4:08PM			



Legislation Text

File #: BC-2230, **Version:** 1

**CITY OF EL PASO, TEXAS
LEGISTAR AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY FORM**

DISTRICT, DEPARTMENT, CONTACT INFORMATION:

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Sun Metro Mass Transit, Karl Rimkus, (915) 212-3317

AGENDA LANGUAGE:

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Discussion and action regarding preparation, submittal and presentation of an annual report of the Committee to City Council.

SUN METRO CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Annual Committee Report to El Paso City Council

August 1, 2026

Current Members

Scott White, Chair (Dist. 8)
Keith Andrews (Dist. 1)
Sandy Azcona (Dist. 4)
Angela Ochoa (Dist. 6)
Xavier Bañales (Mayor)

Bill Graham, Vice-Chair (Dist. 3)
Elisa Tamayo-Ochoa (Dist. 2)
Aziz Afravi (Dist. 5)
Sylvia Carreon (Dist. 7)

Staff

Anthony R. DeKeyzer, Director of Mass Transit
Joyce Garcia, Legal Representative

Karl Rimkus, Committee Liaison

History

Created by Resolution on April 26, 1988 as the “Citizen’s Advisory Committee”
Renamed by Resolution on October 11, 2022 as the “Sun Metro Citizens Advisory Committee”
Bylaws Amended by Resolution on September 3, 2025 to comply with Ordinance No. 019766

Purpose

To advise the Mass Transit Department Board on matters over which the Board has authority.



Meetings and Attendance

Member	July 9, 2025	Sept. 10, 2025	May 14, 2026	July 9, 2026
Afravi, Aziz	P	P	P	
Andrews, Keith	P	P	A	
Azcona, Sandy	P	A	A	
Bañales, Xavier	P	P	P	
Carreon, Sylvia	P	P	P	
Graham, Bill	P	P	P	
Ochoa, Angela	P	P	A	
Tamayo-Ochoa, Elisa	A	A	P	
White, Scott	P	A	P	

P = Present; A = Absent

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

TBD.

Scott White, Committee Chair

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF MASS TRANSIT

As Director of Mass Transit, it has been my privilege to participate in Sun Metro Citizens Advisory Committee (SMCAC) meetings since 2023. Feedback and input on transit policy from committee members is a valuable resource to me and my staff in our efforts to achieve our mission of connecting our El Paso community through high quality transit services. I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the valuable service to the community that committee members make in dedicating their time and to thank them for their commitment. I look forward to working with the Committee in the coming year and will continue to support the purpose of the SMCAC.

Anthony DeKeyzer, Director of Mass Transit



SUN METRO ACCOMPLISHMENTS

COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

The Sun Metro Citizens Advisory Committee has been engaged with Sun Metro staff on several key projects during the past year, including the development and adoption of a vision statement for the Committee, tracking the progress of Sun Metro Rising, and following ridership trends and use of funds for the Veterans Ride Free grant program.

1. VISION STATEMENT FOR THE COMMITTEE

Beginning with the July 9, 2025 Committee meeting, the Committee worked closely with Julie Baldwin-Munoz, Chief Strategy Officer, and Roman Sanchez, Chief Innovation Officer, of the City Manager's Office, to collaboratively develop a vision statement for the Sun Metro Citizens Advisory Committee (SMCAC). Over the following meetings, Ms. Baldwin-Munoz and Mr. Sanchez led discussions and conducted interviews with committee members to identify key factors that resonated with each member regarding their understanding of the Committee's purpose. The result is the following vision statement, approved by the Committee at its May 14, 2026 meeting:

The Sun Metro Citizens Advisory Committee advocates for accountable, accessible, and strategically sustainable transit services to meet the transportation needs of our community.

Additionally, the following key priority areas were identified, to guide planning and agenda-setting activities with the Committee for in 2026 – 2027:

- Advocacy
- Accessibility
- Accountability
- Strategic Growth and Sustainability

Sun Metro will continue to coordinate meetings with Ms. Baldwin-Munoz and Mr. Sanchez and SMCAC to help guide committee activities in the coming year.

2. SUN METRO RISING



Sun Metro Rising began as a study that identified how Sun Metro could improve transit service for the community. This study included robust community engagement, including an on-board survey, virtual public meetings, and stakeholder discussions. Information gathered from these activities was used to develop a strategic plan to guide service improvements.

Sun Metro conducted a comprehensive study of its transit system and, guided by community feedback, identified key updates to make service more efficient, reliable, and better aligned with riders' needs. The changes will increase route frequencies, reduce travel times, and reshape service by streamlining existing routes, introducing new ones, and discontinuing routes with low or no ridership.

Recommendations from study:

- Restructure the route network to simplify and strengthen service
- Continue to restore Sunday service
- Interest in more frequent service
- Continue to maximize the potential of the Streetcar

Implementation

Future Goals

3. TEXAS VETERANS COMMISSION “VETERANS RIDE FOR FREE” GRANT

The Texas Veterans Commission is the state department of veteran affairs. Its purpose has been to act as the state-appointed advocate of Texas veterans as they attempt to secure the benefits rightfully earned in exchange for their service in our nation's armed forces.

Since 1927, the mission of the Texas Veterans Commission has been to advocate for and provide superior service to veterans that will significantly improve the quality of life for all Texas veterans, their families, and survivors.

The Fund for Veterans' Assistance (FVA or Fund) was created in the 79th Legislature to address the needs of Texas veterans and their families. The Fund is composed of money deposited under the Texas Government Code, the Texas Transportation Code, and Texas Parks and Wildlife Code, and provides for the awarding of grants related to veterans assistance.

Once grant awards are awarded by the Commission, grants are administered by the staff of the Fund for Veterans' Assistance. Through the Fund, the Commission has awarded **over \$359 Million Dollars** in more than 1,600 reimbursement grants since 2009.



Transportation is a critical need for many veterans. Lack of transportation is a barrier in getting to VA appointments as well as connecting with local services and resources. In the El Paso area, transportation has been identified as one of the top three needs by the TVC Veterans Needs Assessment Survey, conducted by Texas A&M Public Policy Research Institute.

Sun Metro and TVC are working together to address this need by offering the Veterans Ride Free transportation program to veterans, surviving spouses and their dependents. To date, TVC has awarded Sun Metro grants totaling \$283,500 (since 2023).

Funding Year	Funding Amount	Total Expended	Passes Issued	LIFT Tickets	Veterans	Surviving Spouses	Dependents	Unduplicated Veterans Served
FY 24	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00	1,378	3,464	632	19	72	723
FY 25	\$113,500.00	\$113,500.00	2,876	10,888	782	18	64	864
FY 26	\$157,000.00	\$120,000.00	2,942	7,904	753	29	63	846 Served Grant ends Aug 31, 2026
FY 27	\$140,000.00	<i>Pending</i>	<i>Pending</i>	<i>Pending</i>	<i>Pending</i>	<i>Pending</i>	<i>Pending</i>	<i>Grant begins Sept 1, 2026</i>

DRAFT





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Sun Metro Mass Transit, Karl Rimkus, (915) 212-3317

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Discussion regarding an update on standardized Sun Metro data report for the Committee.



Legislation Text

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Sun Metro Mass Transit, Anthony Dekeyzer, (915) 212-3306

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Discussion regarding Intergovernmental Service Agreement for microtransit service at Ft. Bliss.



Torch Transit by Sun Metro Microtransit Service at Ft. Bliss

The Mission of Sun Metro is to connect our El Paso community through high-quality transit services.

Sun Metro recognizes that serving the public is our reason for existing and will strive to do whatever possible to assure our public a pleasant experience.



Agenda

- Background
- Torch Transit
- Service Requirements
- On-Demand App-Based Technology
- Fort Bliss Service Area
- Sun Metro Recommendation



Background

- **First Department of Defense Transit Partnership with a municipality utilizing an IGSA**
 - (Intergovernmental Support Agreement)
- **Ft. Bliss goal** - provide transit service for active duty servicemembers and dependents on post.
- **City of El Paso / Sun Metro** - developed a service plan to meet the goal of FT Bliss Leadership.
- Transit Operation will be “**Torch Transit by Sun Metro**”



"Torch Transit by Sun Metro"

- Torch Transit by Sun Metro is **"No Cost"** to local tax payers
- The name "Torch Transit" reflects the rich history of 1st Armored Division.
 - Operation Torch was the first combat operation of the division in World War II.
- Leverages local transit resource Sun Metro, to **enhance the quality** of life for Ft. Bliss service members.



Service Requirements

- **On-Demand Service:**
 - **Free-Fare service** on the installation
 - All Active duty Department of Defense ID card holders (includes dependents)
- **Hours of Operation:**
 - 0600-1900 Monday through Thursday
 - 0600-2100 Friday
 - 1100-2100 Saturday
 - 1100-1800 Sunday and Federal Holidays
- **Vehicles:**
 - 10 Leased vehicles,
 - (9) 14-passenger vehicles and
 - (1) ADA will Fort Bliss Micro-Transit



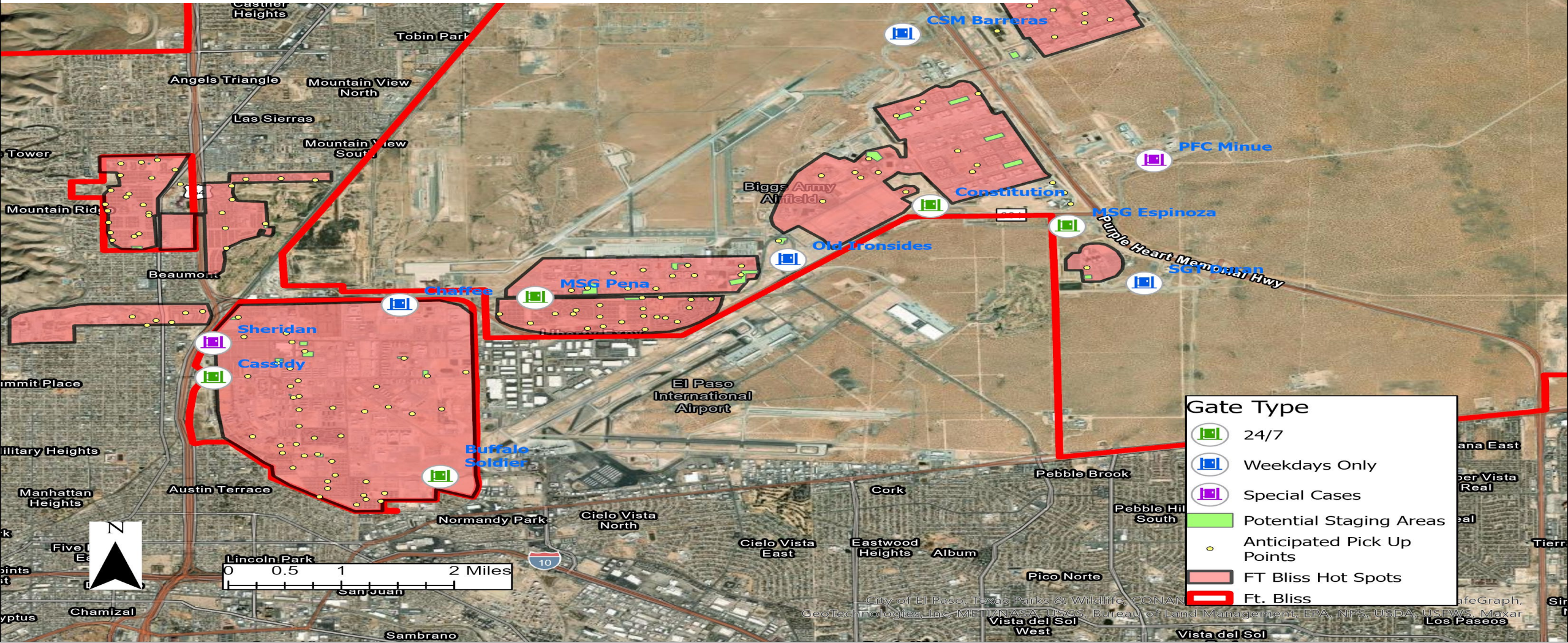
On-Demand Service

App-Based Technology

- **Scheduling a Ride:**
 - All reservations made via the mobile application
 - Customer service line will be available for assistance
- **Rider Interfaces:**
 - Facilitates easy booking, planning & managing trips
 - Features include account management, real-time trip updates, and booking flexibility
- **Driver Interface:**
 - Driver will have easier with real-time navigation, trip instructions, and updates on tablet devices



On-Demand Service Coverage



Sun Metro Recommendation

- Mass Transit Department Board approves Intergovernmental Support Agreement ("IGSA") between the City of El Paso and the United States Army to provide public transportation services, in the form of micro transit services.

Mission

Deliver exceptional services to support a high quality of life and place for our community

Values

Integrity, **R**espect, **E**xcellence,
Accountability, **P**eople

Vision

Develop a vibrant regional economy, safe and beautiful neighborhoods and exceptional recreational, cultural and educational opportunities powered by a high performing government



Legislation Text

File #: BC-2233, **Version:** 1

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Sun Metro Mass Transit, Claudia K. Garcia, (915) 212-3375

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Discussion regarding update on Sun Metro Rising Implementation.



Sun Metro Rising Update July 2026



Sun Metro Rising

Implemented on June 14, 2026

- **What it is:** A comprehensive system update designed for a faster, more efficient, and reliable bus network.
- **The Goal:** Streamline key corridors to improve travel times, increase frequency, and **establish a baseline for future growth.**



Post-Implementation Analysis

- **Document and analyze all public feedback** to identify common trends and pinpoint areas for improvement.
- **Evaluate performance metrics** including on-time performance, ridership, and travel times, to gauge system performance post launch.



Post-Implementation Update

- **Terminal Outreach:** Conducted extensive rider outreach at major terminals from May through post-launch to ensure a smooth transition.
- **Public Engagement:** Hosted informational meetings to educate the community, answer questions, and gather localized feedback.
- **Infrastructure Updates:** Updated all bus stops and shelters system-wide to reflect the new routes and schedules.
- **MicroTransit Pilot:** launched the on-demand pilot program in Upper East El Paso (District 5) to enhance local travel and connect passengers to the Upper East Transit Center.

Next Steps

- **Passenger Feedback Collection:** Gathering post-implementation community input via outreach events, customer service calls, social media and from Sun Metro operators.
- **Route-Level Analysis:** Conducting a thorough data review of ridership patterns and other metrics across the new transit network.
- **Upcoming Service Modifications:** Sun Metro will apply data from the collected feedback and Route analysis to determine possible route refinements and schedule adjustments (Implementation Date: **TBD**).



Legislation Text

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