

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

DEPARTMENT: MAYOR AND COUNCIL

AGENDA DATE: February 1, 2022

CONTACT PERSON NAME AND PHONE NUMBER:

City Representative Aleksandra Anello, 212-0002

DISTRICT(S) AFFECTED: All

STRATEGIC GOAL: (Goal 7 - Enhance and Sustain El Paso's Infrastructure Network)

SUBJECT:

APPROVE a resolution / ordinance / lease to do what? OR AUTHORIZE the City Manager to do what? Be descriptive of what we want Council to approve. Include \$ amount if applicable.

Discussion and action to approve a resolution to modify the eligibility criteria for reduced fares from Sun Metro riders experiencing a Serious Mental Illness (SMI) and related conditions, as well as a modification to the medical certification letter requirements for applicants with medical conditions and disabilities as well as adding new eligibility criteria to the reduced fare program for individuals in court mandated drug rehabilitation therapy.

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION:

Discussion of the what, why, where, when, and how to enable Council to have reasonably complete description of the contemplated action. This should include attachment of bid tabulation, or ordinance or resolution if appropriate. What are the benefits to the City of this action? What are the citizen concerns?

This resolution would expand the categories and conditions listed within those categories of Sun Metro's reduced fare program. There is currently a list of qualifying health disorders in the Sun Metro Disability application – Section 8. The current language needs to be modified to compel approval for Serious Mental Illnesses such as Schizophrenia, PTSD and Bipolar disorder in line with the "Adult Mental Health Priority Population" definition used in the Texas Administrative Code.

This resolution would also add an entirely new eligibility section to the reduced fare application for individuals who are enrolled in drug rehabilitation therapy mandated by court orders.

PRIOR COUNCIL ACTION:

Has the Council previously considered this item or a closely related one?

N/A

AMOUNT AND SOURCE OF FUNDING:

How will this item be funded? Has the item been budgeted? If so, identify funding source by account numbers and description of account. Does it require a budget transfer?

N/A

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

Resolution

Whereas, Strategic Goal 7 of the City of El Paso is to implement and activate programing that supports and promotes multimodal transportation; and

Whereas, Sun Metro is a public transportation provider that offers reduced fares for individuals with disabilities; and

Whereas, it is important to bring the definitions used by Sun Metro in determining eligibility for reduced fairs in line with the Adult Mental Health Priority Population (“AMHPP”) definition used by the State of Texas; and

Whereas, the Texas Administrative Code defines Adult Mental Health Priority Population as adults who have severe and persistent mental illnesses such as schizophrenia, major depression, bipolar disorder, post-traumatic stress disorder, obsessive compulsive disorder, anxiety disorder, attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder, delusional disorder, bulimia nervosa, anorexia nervosa, or other severely disabling mental disorders which require crisis resolution or ongoing and long-term support and treatment.; and

Whereas, the expansion of the reduced fare eligibility to those who are enrolled in a drug rehabilitation therapy would remove transportation impediments to the individual from receiving such treatment; and

Whereas, it is the mission of Sun Metro to provide transportation services as widely and as equitably as possible; and

Whereas, the City of El Paso finds that reduced fares to El Pasoans suffering from mental health conditions, syndromes and offering the same reduced fare to El Pasoans recovering from addiction constitutes an important public benefit to the citizens of El Paso;

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

THAT Sun Metro will expand its eligibility criteria in the Application for Disability Identification Card to include the following language after the “Organic brain syndrome/emotionally disturbed” category:

“Adults who have severe and persistent mental illnesses which require crisis resolution or ongoing and long-term support and treatment such as schizophrenia, major depression, bipolar disorder, post-traumatic stress disorder, obsessive compulsive disorder, anxiety disorder, attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder, delusional disorder, or other severely disabling mental disorders.”

THAT Sun Metro will add a new Section to the Application for Disability Identification Card to include eligibility for those who are enrolled in drug rehabilitation therapy, as mandated by court orders based upon the following criteria:

1. The individual attending a drug rehabilitation program must be enrolled:
 - a. with a Licensed Chemical Dependency Counselor;
 - b. be current with all appointments; and
 - c. have court orders in file that mandate the applicant to receive treatment.

THAT language shall be added to the Application for Disability Identification Card that approves people applying for reduced fares on the basis of their being diagnosed with such conditions by a medical certification letter as required by the reduced fare application;

THAT licensed professionals from whom Certification letters would be acceptable for purposes of determining eligibility for Reduce Fares will include the following:

1. Nurse Practitioners (NPs),
2. Clinical Nurse Specialists (CNSs),
3. Physician Assistants (PAs),
4. Licensed Chemical Dependency Counselors (LCDCs),
5. Medical Doctors [MDs], and
6. Doctors of Osteopathy [DOs]

In addition to any currently authorized licensed professionals on Sun Metro's Reduced Fare application.

THAT the City Manager is authorized to effectuate any budget transfers necessary to ensure that the funds are properly expended for such purpose and is authorized to execute any related agreements, amendments to such agreements, and documents necessary to carry out the purpose of this Resolution.

THAT the above actions, as specified in this Resolution, will be implemented before the 4th Quarter of Fiscal Year 2022.

APPROVED this ___ day of _____, 20__.

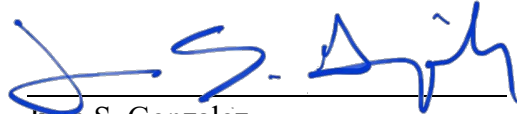
CITY OF EL PASO, TEXAS:

Oscar Leeser
Mayor

ATTEST:

Laura D. Prine
City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Juan S. Gonzalez
Sr. Assistant City Attorney