

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

AGENDA DATE: September 10, 2024

PUBLIC HEARING DATE: N/A

CONTACT PERSON(S) NAME

AND PHONE NUMBER: Anthony R. DeKeyzer, Director of Mass Transit, (915) 212-3306
Jerry DeMuro, Deputy Transit Officer, (915) 212-3470

DISTRICT(S) AFFECTED: All Districts

STRATEGIC GOAL: 7.0 – Enhance and Sustain El Paso's Infrastructure Network

SUBGOAL: 7.3 – Enhance a Regional Comprehensive Transportation System

SUBJECT:

Discussion and action on a Resolution that City staff is authorized to submit an application to the FY 2025-2026 El Paso Metropolitan Planning Organization (EPMPO) requesting funds from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Grant Program, in the amount of \$448,000 (\$224,000 per fiscal year) in total, with a required match of \$112,000 (\$56,000 per fiscal year) in total from the City, for the Sun Metro Paratransit Service Software Project; and that the City Manager, or designee, is authorized to sign any documents necessary for the proper submission of said application; and that the City Manager, or designee, is authorized to sign any documents necessary to accept a grant resulting from said application, after consultation with the City Attorney's Office; and the City Manager, or designee, is authorized to sign any documents related to a grant resulting from the application, including, but not limited to, revisions to the project scope, and revisions that increase, decrease or de-obligate program funds; and the City Manager, or designee, is authorized to explore funding sources and partnerships that leverage the strength of said application and any grant resulting from said application.

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION:

Sun Metro previously applied for and was awarded funds from the FY 2023-2024 Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Grant Program to purchase cloud-based software for the LIFT service. The department is now applying to the EPMPO/FTA for funds to purchase a different cloud-based software for the LIFT service. Additionally, the department will apply for transportation development credits (TDC) administered by the El Paso MPO to cover the \$56,000 per year cash match (\$112,000 total), if awarded.

PRIOR COUNCIL ACTION:

N/A

AMOUNT AND SOURCE OF FUNDING:

N/A

HAVE ALL AFFECTED DEPARTMENTS BEEN NOTIFIED? YES ___ NO

PRIMARY DEPARTMENT: Sun Metro

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

DEPARTMENT HEAD:

Jerry DeMuro for

Anthony DeKeyzer

Name

Jerry DeMuro

Signature

08/23/24

Date

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the El Paso Metropolitan Planning Organization (“El Paso MPO”) administers, manages and oversees implementation of the Federal Transit Administration (“FTA”) Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Grant Program; and

WHEREAS, the MPO is currently accepting applications for the FY 2025-2026 Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Grant Program (“Grant”); and

WHEREAS, the City of El Paso, Texas (“City”), through its Mass Transit Department (“Sun Metro”), wishes to submit an application for Grant; and

WHEREAS, the Grant funding is in the amount of \$224,000 per year, with a total of \$448,000 for both fiscal year 2025 and 2026; and

WHEREAS, the Grant requires a cash match of \$56,000 per year, with a total of \$112,000 for both fiscal year 2025 and 2026.

WHEREAS, if awarded, the funds received under the Grant would be utilized for improving public transit and funding the purchase of cloud-based software for the LIFT service; and

WHEREAS, the project will improve City’s transit system, further the City’s goal to improve accessibility throughout the City and therefore support a high quality of life for the El Paso community.

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

1. **THAT** the City Manager, or designee, is authorized to sign the documents related to the FY 2025-2026 Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Grant Program which offers funding in the amount of \$224,000 per year, for a total of \$448,000, and requires a cash match of \$56,000 per year for a total of \$112,000.
2. **THAT** the City shall provide all matching funds, in the amount of \$56,000 per year, with a total of \$112,000 for said grant.
3. **THAT** the City Manager, or designee, is authorized to establish the funding sources, effectuate any budget transfers and sign any agreements, verifications and documents required to apply for this grant and carry out the purpose of this resolution.

(signatures begin on the following page)

APPROVED this _____ day of _____ 2024.

MASS TRANSIT DEPARTMENT BOARD:

Oscar Leeser, Chairman

ATTEST:

Laura D. Prine, Secretary

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Joyce Garcia
Assistant City Attorney

APPROVED AS TO CONTENT:

Deputy Transit Officer
 for

Anthony R. DeKeyzer
Sun Metro/Mass Transit Department



City Manager's Office

MAYOR
Oscar Leeser

September 10, 2024

CITY COUNCIL

District 1
Brian Kennedy

District 2
Dr. Josh Acevedo

District 3
Cassandra Hernandez

District 4
Joe Molinar

District 5
Isabel Salcido

District 6
Art Fierro

District 7
Henry Rivera

District 8
Chris Canales

CITY MANAGER
Dionne Mack

Mr. Eduardo Calvo
EPMPO-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 2025-2026 Competitive Funding Opportunity: FTA Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility for Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities

Dear Mr. Calvo:

The City of El Paso's Mass Transit Department, Sun Metro, respectfully seeks your support for the FY 2025-2026 Competitive Funding Opportunity: FTA Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility for Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Grant Program. The project will focus on the purchase of cloud-based integrated software to elevate Sun Metro's paratransit service, Living Independently Facilitated Transportation (LIFT). The total grant request is \$224,000 per fiscal year (\$448,000 in total) and will have a local match of \$56,000 per fiscal year (\$112,000 in total).

Our plans to modernize Sun Metro and ensure a viable public transportation system, aligns with the City of El Paso's Strategic Plan to deliver exceptional services to support a high quality of life and place for our community. Currently, the LIFT is utilizing software that is not meeting the standards of the required service. Sun Metro's request for federal support would provide funding to purchase new cloud-based software for the purpose of ensuring accurate scheduling, on-time pick-ups and drop-offs, and ease of use for drivers and dispatchers.

The City of El Paso is considered a historically disadvantaged and low-income community. Therefore, public transportation is considered a lifeline for many individuals. The funding will ultimately provide seniors and individuals with disabilities reliable, accessible, and flexible paratransit service.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. If awarded, this project will help enhance Sun Metro's paratransit service, improve transit sustainability, and maximize our community's livability, economic development, and infrastructure.

Dionne Mack – City Manager
City Manager's Office • 300 N. Campbell • El Paso, TX 79901
915.212.0023 • citymanager@elpasotexas.gov





City Manager's Office

MAYOR

Oscar Leeser

Sincerely,

CITY COUNCIL

District 1

Brian Kennedy

Dionne Mack
City Manager

District 2

Dr. Josh Acevedo

cc: Ellen A. Smyth, Chief Transit and Fields Operation Officer

District 3

Cassandra Hernandez

District 4

Joe Molinar

District 5

Isabel Salcido

District 6

Art Fierro

District 7

Henry Rivera

District 8

Chris Canales

CITY MANAGER

Dionne Mack

Dionne Mack – City Manager
City Manager's Office • 300 N. Campbell • El Paso, TX 79901
915.212.0023 • citymanager@elpasotexas.gov



DELIVERING EXCEPTIONAL SERVICES

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

September 10, 2024

Mr. Eduardo Calvo
EPMPO-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 2025-2026 Competitive Funding Opportunity: FTA Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility for Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities

Dear Mr. Calvo:

Please accept this letter of support on behalf of The City of El Paso Mass Transit Department, Sun Metro application for the FY 2025-2026 FTA Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility for Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Grant Program. The total project cost is \$280,000 per year (\$560,000) and will focus on the purchase of cloud-based integrated software for Sun Metro's paratransit service, Living Independently Facilitated Transportation (LIFT).

Sun Metro's current software does not accommodate the LIFT's needs and requirements. Sun Metro's request for capital funding to purchase new cloud-based software will allow flexible, prompt, and efficient LIFT services, creating an overall elevated experience for paratransit eligible clients and transit employees. Clients will have peace of mind knowing their ride will be on-time and drivers will have confidence in a user-friendly management system.

The City of El Paso is home to the largest public transit provider in West Texas along the U.S. – Mexico border. A substantial proportion of our community rely on Sun Metro for their daily commute – specifically seniors and individuals with disabilities who are low-income and eligible for paratransit service. The funding will improve the efficiency of the LIFT service and connect vulnerable populations to reliable transportation services.

Thank you for your leadership and commitment to helping the El Paso community maintain and sustain our public transit system. Furthermore, thank you for your consideration and I hope this letter of support will aid in the application process for the Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility for Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities. Please do not hesitate to contact my office if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Oscar Leeser
Mayor