MASS TRANSIT DEPARTMENT BOARD MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
SEPTEMBER 1, 2026

A meeting of the Mass Transit Department Board was called to order at 11:35 a.m. Board Chair Renard U. Johnson was present and presiding and the following Board Members answered roll call: Alejandra Chávez, Josh Acevedo, Deanna Maldonado-Rocha, Ivan Niño, Art Fierro, Lily Limón, and Chris Canales. Cynthia Boyar Trejo was absent.

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC:

Motion made by Board Member Limón, seconded by Board Member Canales, and unanimously carried to **APPROVE, AS REVISED,** all matters listed under the Consent Agenda (Items approved, postponed, or deleted pursuant to the vote on the Consent Agenda will be shown with an asterisk {*}.)

AYES: Board Chair Johnson and Board Members Chávez, Acevedo, Maldonado-Rocha, Niño, Fierro, Limón, and Canales
NAYS: None
ABSENT: Board Member Boyar Trejo

CALL TO THE PUBLIC – PUBLIC COMMENT:

Ms. Patricia Osmond, member of the public, commented.

CONSENT AGENDA – APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

1. *Motion made, seconded, and unanimously carried to **APPROVE** the minutes of the Regular Mass Transit Board meeting of August 4, 2026 and the Special Mass Transit Department Board meetings of August 17 and 18, 2026.

CONSENT AGENDA – REQUEST TO EXCUSE ABSENT MASS TRANSIT BOARD MEMBERS:

2. *Motion made, seconded, and unanimously carried to **EXCUSE** Board Member Cynthia Boyar Trejo from the Mass Transit Department Board meeting of September 1, 2026.

CONSENT AGENDA – RESOLUTIONS:

3.

***RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS, The Federal Transit Administration ("**FTA**") provides urbanized area formula funding for transit capital, operating assistance and transportation related planning in urbanized areas under various Urbanized Area Formula Funding programs ("**Formula Funds**"); and

WHEREAS, the City of El Paso is located within the El Paso Urbanized Area; and

WHEREAS, the City of El Paso's Mass Transit Department ("**Sun Metro**"), provides public transit within the City of El Paso and is the designated recipient of certain El Paso Urbanized Area Formula Funds ("**EPUZA Formula Funds**"); and

WHEREAS, Sun Metro, as a designated recipient for specific EPUZA Formula Funds, must apportion these EPUZA Formula Funds for the El Paso Urbanized Area, including apportioning such funds among transit agencies operating in jurisdictions within the El Paso Urbanized Area that are not currently served by Sun Metro; and

WHEREAS, The Mass Transit Department Board of the City of El Paso approved the Sun Metro Service Expansion Policy ("**SEP**") on November 9, 2021, which provides the process for service to jurisdictions within the El Paso Urbanized area that are not currently served by Sun Metro, as well as provides the process for eligible transit agencies to access EPUZA Formula Funds; and

WHEREAS, the SEP requires that in order for a transit agency to have access to EPUZA Formula Funds, the transit agency must meet the minimum requirements of SEP, be eligible for service expansion in accordance with one of the four methods listed in the SEP and must enter into a Service Expansion Agreement with the City which must be approved by the City of El Paso Mass Transit Board, with recommendation from the El Paso Metropolitan Planning Organization; and

WHEREAS, The El Paso Area Transportation Services, Local Government Corporation ("**ETA**") is requesting access to EPUZA Formula Funds as it provides transit services within the El Paso Urbanized area; and

WHEREAS, The MPO issued its recommendation for ETA and the City of El Paso to enter into the Interlocal Agreement for Service Expansion; and

WHEREAS, ETA, a Texas local government corporation organized and existing pursuant to Subchapter D of Chapter 341 of the Texas Transportation Code, and the City of El Paso are authorized to enter into an Interlocal Agreement, pursuant to the Interlocal Cooperation Act, Chapter 791 of the Texas Government Code; and

WHEREAS, the Parties wish to enter into an Interlocal Agreement for Service Expansion to allow ETA to access EPUZA Formula Funds in order to continue to provide reliable public transit in the region; and

WHEREAS, the Interlocal Agreement for Service Expansion supports the public purpose of improving the transit system within the region and supporting a high quality of life for the City of El Paso community.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MASS TRANSIT DEPARTMENT BOARD OF THE CITY OF EL PASO:

THAT, the Mayor be authorized to sign an Interlocal Agreement for Service Expansion by and between **City of El Paso** and **El Paso Area Transportation Services**, Local Government Corporation ("**ETA**"), to allow ETA access to El Paso Urbanized Area Formula funds in order to improve the transit system within the region and support a high quality of life for the City of El Paso community.

THAT, the City Manager or designee be authorized to accept, reject, alter, amend or terminate the resulting Interlocal Agreement after review and approval by the City Attorney's office.

THAT, the City Manager or designee be authorized to sign a split letter directed to the appropriate funding agency and any other documentation required to allow ETA to access El Paso Urbanized Area Formula funds.

THAT, the City Manager or designee be authorized to sign any related agreements, verifications and documents, after review and approval from the City Attorney's office, as well as be authorized to effectuate any budget transfers and submit necessary revisions to the operational plan, and take any actions necessary to carry out the intent of this resolution.

4.

***RESOLUTION**

WHERAS, The Federal Transit Administration **("FTA")** provides urbanized area formula funding for transit capital, operating assistance and transportation related planning in urbanized areas under various Urbanized Area Formula Funding programs **("Formula Funds")**; and

WHEREAS, the City of El Paso is located within the El Paso Urbanized Area; and

WHEREAS, The City of El Paso's Mass Transit Department **("Sun Metro"),** provides public transit within the City of El Paso and is the designated recipient of certain El Paso Urbanized Area Formula Funds **("EPUZA Formula Funds");** and

WHEREAS, Sun Metro, as a designated recipient for specific EPUZA Formula Funds, must apportion these EPUZA Formula Funds for the El Paso Urbanized Area, including apportioning such funds among transit agencies operating in jurisdictions within the El Paso Urbanized Area that are not currently served by Sun Metro; and

WHEREAS, The Mass Transit Department Board of the City of El Paso approved the Sun Metro Service Expansion Policy **("SEP")** on November 9, 2021, which provides the process for service to jurisdictions within the El Paso Urbanized area that are not currently served by Sun Metro, as well as provides the process for eligible transit agencies to access EPUZA Formula Funds; and

WHEREAS, the SEP requires that in order for a transit agency to have access to EPUZA Formula Funds, the transit agency must meet the minimum requirements of SEP, be eligible for service expansion in accordance with one of the four methods listed in the SEP and must enter into a Service Expansion Agreement with the City which must be approved by the City of El Paso Mass Transit Board, with recommendation from the El Paso Metropolitan Planning Organization; and

WHEREAS, Socorro is requesting access to EPUZA Formula Funds as it provides transit services within the El Paso Urbanized area; and

WHEREAS, The MPO issued its recommendation for City of Socorro and the City of El Paso to enter into the Interlocal Agreement for Service Expansion; and

WHEREAS, the City of Socorro and the City of El Paso are both municipal corporations organized and existing under the laws of the State of Texas and therefore are authorized to enter into an Interlocal Agreement, pursuant to the Interlocal Cooperation Act, Chapter 791 of the Texas Government Code; and

WHEREAS, the Parties wish to enter into an Interlocal Agreement for service expansion to allow City of Socorro to access EPUZA Formula Funds in order to continue to provide reliable public transit in the region; and

WHEREAS, the Interlocal Agreement for Service Expansion supports the public purpose of improving the transit system within the region and supporting a high quality of life for the City of El Paso community.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MASS TRANSIT DEPARTMENT BOARD OF THE CITY OF EL PASO:

THAT, the Mayor be authorized to sign an Interlocal Agreement for Service Expansion by and between City of El Paso and The City of Socorro, to allow City of Socorro access to El Paso Urbanized Area Formula Funds in order to improve the transit system within the region and support a high quality of life for the City of El Paso community.

THAT, the City Manager or designee be authorized to accept, reject, alter, amend or terminate the resulting Interlocal Agreement after review and approval by the City Attorney's office.

THAT, the City Manager or designee be authorized to sign a Split Letter directed to the appropriate funding agency and any other documentation required to allow The City of Socorro to access El Paso Urbanized Area Formula funds.

THAT, the City Manager or designee be authorized to sign any related agreements, verifications and documents, after review and approval from the City Attorney's office, as well as be authorized to effectuate any budget transfers and submit necessary revisions to the operational plan, and take any actions necessary to carry out the intent of this resolution.

REGULAR AGENDA – OTHE BIDS, CONTRACTS, PROCUREMENTS:

5.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the City of El Paso ("City") currently relies on several ticket vending machines ("TVM") manufactured by Genfare Limited Liability Company ("Genfare"), to collect fares, validate bus passes and issue transfers for the public use of its Mass Transit Department ("Sun Metro"); and

WHEREAS, the TVMs require maintenance and replacement of parts due to the standard
wear and tear from the use of the equipment; and

WHEREAS, Sun Metro requires functioning and reliable, modern fare collection equipment and related services to maintain efficient transit operations; and

WHEREAS, Genfare is the maker of the TVMs and therefore the company that can provide replacement parts for these TVMs; and

WHEREAS, the parties wish to enter into an Agreement for a term of 3 years for Genfare to provide TVM parts to the City for TVMs manufactured by Genfare on an as-needed basis for a total amount of $225,000 inclusive of shipping and handling; and

WHEREAS, the execution of this Agreement will allow for the continued functionality of the Genfare TVMs which contributes to a reliable and efficient public transit operation and enhances the quality of life for the citizens of the City of El Paso.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MASS TRANSIT DEPARTMENT BOARD OF THE CITY OF EL PASO:

1. **THAT** the City Manager or designee be authorized to sign the Terms and Conditions Agreement for Equipment between the City of El Paso, through its Mass Transit Department, and Genfare, LLC, for an annual amount of $75,000 and a total of $225,000 for the total term of 3 years inclusive of shipping and handling.

2. **THAT**, the City Manager or designee be authorized to take actions necessary and effectuate any budget transfers, sign any related agreements and amendments to such agreements after review and approval by the City Attorney's office, as well as sign any documents necessary to carry out the intent of this resolution.

Motion made by Board Member Limón, seconded by Board Member Canales, and unanimously carried to **APPROVE** the Resolution**.**

AYES: Board Chair Johnson and Board Members Chávez, Acevedo, Maldonado-Rocha, Niño, Fierro, Limón, and Canales
NAYS: None
ABSENT: Board Member Boyar Trejo

6.

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 2026-2027 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 $212,800 per year, with a total of $425,600 for both fiscal year 2026 and 2027; and

WHEREAS, the Grant requires a cash match of $53,200 per year, with a total of $106,400 for both fiscal year 2026 and 2027.

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 2026-2027 Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Grant Program which offers funding in the amount of $212,800 per year, for a total of $425,600, and requires a cash match of $53,200 per year for a total of $106,400.

2. **THAT** the City shall provide all matching funds, in the amount of $53,200 per year, with a total of $106,400 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, after review and approval by the City Attorney's office, as well as sign any related verifications and documents required to apply for this grant and carry out the purpose of this resolution.

Mr. Jerry DeMuro, Deputy Transit Officer, commented.

Motion made by Board Member Limón, seconded by Board Member Canales, and unanimously carried to **APPROVE** the Resolution**.**

AYES: Board Chair Johnson and Board Members Chávez, Acevedo, Maldonado-Rocha, Niño, Fierro, Limón, and Canales
NAYS: None
ABSENT: Board Member Boyar Trejo

7.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Federal Transit Administration ("FTA") is currently accepting applications for the Fiscal Year 2026 Low or No Emission Grant Program; and

WHEREAS, the City of El Paso, Texas ("City"), through its Mass Transit Department ("Sun Metro"), wishes to submit a grant application for the Fiscal Year 2026 Low or No Emission Grant Program ("Grant"); and

WHEREAS, the Grant funding is in the amount of $5,555,000.00 and requires a total match of $1,388,750.00; and

WHEREAS, the City will be requesting Transportation Development Credit from the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) to reduce the City's match portion; and

WHEREAS, if awarded, the funds received under the Grant would improve reliability and efficiency to public transit through the purchase of electric compressors, infrastructure, and appurtenances; and

WHEREAS, the project will improve the City's transit system, further the City's goal to improve air quality 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 Fiscal Year 2026 Low or No Emission Grant Program, which offers funding in the amount of $5,555,000.00 and requires a cash match of $1,388,750.00.

2. **THAT** the City Manager, or designee, is authorized to establish the funding sources, effectuate any budget transfers and sign any agreements, after review and approval by the City Attorney's office, as well as sign any related verifications and documents required to apply for this grant and carry out the purpose of this resolution.

3. **THAT** the City shall provide all matching funds, in the amount of $1,388,750.00, for said grant.

The following City staff members commented:

- Mr. Jerry DeMuro, Deputy Transit Officer
- Mr. Anthony DeKeyzer, Director of Mass Transit

Board Member Limón commented.

Motion made by Board Member Limón, seconded by Board Member Niño, and unanimously carried to **APPROVE** the Resolution**.**

AYES: Board Chair Johnson and Board Members Chávez, Acevedo, Maldonado-Rocha, Niño, Fierro, Limón, and Canales
NAYS: None
ABSENT: Board Member Boyar Trejo

ADJOURN

Motion made by Board Member Canales, seconded by Board Member Limón, and unanimously carried to **ADJOURN** the meeting at 11:51 a.m.

AYES: Board Chair Johnson and Board Members Chávez, Acevedo, Maldonado-Rocha, Boyar Trejo, Niño, Fierro, Limón, and Canales
NAYS: None
ABSENT: Board Member Boyar Trejo

Approved as to content:

Anthony DeKeyzer
Anthony DeKeyzer, Director of Mass Transit