



AGENDA FOR THE MASS TRANSIT DEPARTMENT BOARD MEETING

August 02, 2022
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL, 300 N. CAMPBELL AND VIRTUALLY
10:00 AM

Teleconference phone number: 1-915-213-4096
Toll free number: 1-833-664-9267
Conference ID: 487 453 246#

AND

AGENDA REVIEW MEETING
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL, 300 N. CAMPBELL AND VIRTUALLY
August 1, 2022
9:00 AM

Teleconference phone number: 1-915-213-4096
Toll free number: 1-833-664-9267
Conference ID: 667 015 091#

Members of the public may view the meeting via the following means:

Via the City's website. <http://www.elpasotexas.gov/videos>
Via television on City15,
YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/cityofelpasotx/videos>

In compliance with the requirement that the City provide two-way communication for members of the public, members of the public may communicate with Council during public comment, and regarding agenda items by calling either of the numbers listed above and entering the corresponding conference ID.

The public is strongly encouraged to sign up to speak on items on this agenda before the start of this meeting on the following links:

<https://www.elpasotexas.gov/city-clerk/forms/>

<https://elpasotx.seamlessdocs.com/f/SpeakerSignUpFormItem>

A quorum of the Mass Transit Department Board must participate in the meeting.

ROLL CALL

CALL TO THE PUBLIC – PUBLIC COMMENT:

This time is reserved for members of the public who would like to address the Mass Transit Department Board on items that are not on the Mass Transit Department Board Agenda.

Members of the public may communicate with Board Members during public comment, and regarding agenda items by calling 1-915-213-4096 or toll free number 1-833-664-9267 at the prompt please enter the following Conference ID: 487 453 246#

A sign-up form is available on line at:

<https://elpasotx.seamlessdocs.com/f/SpeakerSignUpFormPublic>

for those who wish to sign up in advance of the meeting date. Requests to speak must be received by 9:00 a.m. on the date of the meeting. 30 Minutes total is allotted for speakers. Three to five minutes may be allowed for each speaker.

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC:

All matters listed under the CONSENT AGENDA, including those on the Addition to the Agenda, will be considered by Mass Transit Department Board to be routine and will be enacted by one motion unless separate discussion is requested by Board Members. Prior to the vote, members of the audience may ask questions regarding items on the consent agenda. When the vote has been taken, if an item has not been called out for separate discussion, the item has been approved. The Mass Transit Department Board may, however, reconsider any item at any time during the meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA - APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Goal 6: Set the Standard for Sound Governance and Fiscal Management

1. Approval of minutes of the Special Mass Transit Department Board Meeting of July 19, 2022. [22-959](#)

All Districts

Sun Metro Mass Transit, Ellen A. Smyth, (915) 212-6000

2. CONSENT AGENDA – REQUEST TO EXCUSE ABSENT MASS TRANSIT BOARD MEMBERS

REGULAR AGENDA - OPERATIONAL FOCUS UPDATES

Goal 7: Enhance and Sustain El Paso’s Infrastructure Network

3. Management Update - Sun Metro State of the System presentation from Nelson Nygaard. [22-960](tel:22-960)

All Districts

Sun Metro Mass Transit, Ellen A. Smyth, (915) 212-6000

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Mass Transit Department Board of the City of El Paso may retire into EXECUTIVE SESSION pursuant to Section 3.5A of the El Paso City Charter and the Texas Government Code, Chapter 551, Subchapter D, to discuss any of the following: (The items listed below are matters of the sort routinely discussed in Executive Session, but the Mass Transit Department Board of the City of El Paso may move to Executive Session any of the items on this agenda, consistent with the terms of the Open Meetings Act.) The Mass Transit Department Board will return to open session to take any final action and may also, at any time during the meeting, bring forward any of the following items for public discussion, as appropriate.

- Section 551.071 CONSULTATION WITH ATTORNEY
- Section 551.072 DELIBERATION REGARDING REAL PROPERTY
- Section 551.073 DELIBERATION REGARDING PROSPECTIVE GIFTS
- Section 551.074 PERSONNEL MATTERS
- Section 551.076 DELIBERATION REGARDING SECURITY DEVICES OR SECURITY AUDITS
- Section 551.087 DELIBERATION REGARDING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT NEGOTIATIONS
- Section 551.089 DELIBERATION REGARDING SECURITY DEVICES OR SECURITY AUDITS; CLOSED MEETING

ADJOURN

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC:

Sign Language interpreters are provided for this meeting. If you need Spanish Interpreter Services, you must email CityClerk@elpasotexas.gov at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting.

MASS TRANSIT BOARD AGENDAS ARE PLACED ON THE INTERNET THE THURSDAY PRIOR TO EACH MEETING AT THE FOLLOWING ADDRESS:

<https://elpasotexas.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>

<http://www.elpasotexas.gov/>



Legislation Text

File #: 22-959, Version: 1

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

DISTRICT, DEPARTMENT, CONTACT INFORMATION:

*Please choose District and Department from drop down menu. Please post exactly as example below.
No Title's, No emails. Please use ARIAL 10 Font.*

All Districts

Sun Metro Mass Transit, Ellen A. Smyth, (915) 212-6000

AGENDA LANGUAGE:

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

Approval of minutes of the Special Mass Transit Department Board Meeting of July 19, 2022.



**MASS TRANSIT DEPARTMENT BOARD MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS AND VIRTUALLY
July 19, 2022**

A meeting of the Mass Transit Department Board was called to order at 10:43 a.m. Board Chair Oscar Leeser present and presiding and the following Board members answered roll call: Peter Svarzbein, Alexandra Anello, Isabel Salcido, Claudia Rodriguez, Henry Rivera and Cissy Lizarraga. Board Member Cassandra Hernandez participated via video conference.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC – PUBLIC COMMENT

This time is reserved for members of the public who would like to address the Mass Transit Department Board on items that are not on the Mass Transit Department Board Agenda.

No members of the public commented.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion made by Board Member Rivera, seconded by Board Member Salcido, and unanimously carried to **APPROVE** all matters listed under the Consent Agenda unless otherwise noted. (Items approved, postponed, or deleted pursuant to the vote on the Consent Agenda will be shown with an asterisk (*).)

AYES: Board Members Svarzbein, Anello, Hernandez, Salcido, Rodriguez, Rivera and Lizarraga and Board Chair Leeser.

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Board Member Molinar

CONSENT AGENDA – APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Goal 6: Set the Standard for Sound Governance and Fiscal Management

1. *Motion made, seconded and unanimously carried to **APPROVE** the minutes of the Mass Transit Board Meeting of July 6, 2022.

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CONSENT AGENDA – REQUEST TO EXCUSE ABSENT MASS TRANSIT BOARD MEMBERS

2. *Motion made, seconded and unanimously carried to **EXCUSE** Board Member Joe Molinar from the July 19, 2022 Mass Transit Board Meeting.

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REGULAR AGENDA – OPERATIONAL FOCUS UPDATES

Goal 7: Enhance and Sustain El Paso’s Infrastructure Network

3. Presentation and discussion on the Fixed Route Performance Indicators for Q3 of FY22 period ending May 31, 2022.

Ms. Ellen Smyth, Chief Transit and Field Operations Officer presented a PowerPoint presentation.

NO ACTION was taken on this item.

4. Presentation and discussion on the Paratransit/LIFT Performance Indicators for Q3 of FY22 period ending May 31, 2022.

Ms. Ellen Smyth, Chief Transit and Field Operations Officer presented a PowerPoint presentation.

NO ACTION was taken on this item.

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REGULAR AGENDA – OTHER BIDS, CONTRACTS, PROCUREMENTS

Goal 7: Enhance and Sustain El Paso’s Infrastructure Network

5. Motion made by Board Member Rivera, seconded by Board Member Anello, and unanimously carried to **AUTHORIZE** the Purchasing & Strategic Sourcing Department to issue Purchase Orders for 2022-0511 Remix Software to Remix Technologies, LLC, for a term of three (3) years for a total estimated amount of \$755,080.00, with the stipulation that the vendor provides an updated sole source letter and affidavit each year. The award of this contract will allow for the purchase of Cloud based software, hardware, and support. Remix software will provide route planning, design and evaluation.

Contract Variance:

N/A

Department: Mass Transit (Sun Metro)
Vendor: Remix Technology, LLC

Item(s): New York, NY
All
Initial Term: 3 years
Total Estimated Award: \$755,080.00
Account No: 560-3200-60020-521020-P6008
Funding Source: Sun Metro Operating Funds
District(s): All

This is a Sole Source Service Contract.

The Purchasing & Strategic Sourcing and Mass Transit (Sun Metro) Departments recommend that the contract be awarded as indicated to Remix Technology, LLC, the sole source and authorized distributor.

Additionally, it is requested that the City Attorney's Office review and that the City Manager be authorized to execute any related contract documents and agreements necessary to effectuate this award.

Ms. Claudia A. Garcia, Interim Director of Purchasing & Strategic Sourcing, commented.

AYES: Board Members Svarzbein, Annello, Hernandez, Salcido, Rodriguez, Rivera, Lizarraga and Board Chair Leeser.

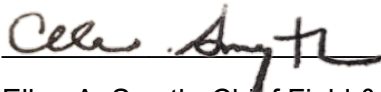
NAYS: None

ABSENT: Board Member Molinar

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ADJOURN

Motion made by Board Member Rivera, seconded by Board Member Salcido, and unanimously carried to **ADJOURN** the meeting at 10:56 a.m.

Approved as to content:



Ellen A. Smyth, Chief Field & Transit Operations Officer



Legislation Text

File #: 22-960, Version: 1

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

DISTRICT, DEPARTMENT, CONTACT INFORMATION:

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All Districts

Sun Metro Mass Transit, Ellen A. Smyth, (915) 212-6000

AGENDA LANGUAGE:

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

Management Update - Sun Metro State of the System presentation from Nelson Nygaard.

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

AGENDA DATE: August 2, 2022
PUBLIC HEARING DATE: N/A

CONTACT PERSON(S) NAME AND PHONE NUMBER: Ellen A. Smyth, P.E., (915) 212-6000

DISTRICT(S) AFFECTED: All

STRATEGIC GOAL: Strategic Goal 7.3: Enhance a regional comprehensive transportation system

SUBGOAL:

SUBJECT:

Management Update – Sun Metro State of the System presentation from Nelson Nygaard

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION:

N/A

PRIOR COUNCIL ACTION:

N/A

AMOUNT AND SOURCE OF FUNDING:

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)



Project Update

Mass Transit Board

August 2, 2022



Agenda

- 1 Study Objectives and Timeline
- 3 System Strengths
- 3 Rider Survey Findings
- 4 Challenges and Opportunities
- 5 Next Steps



Study Objectives



Analyze evolving ridership and travel patterns



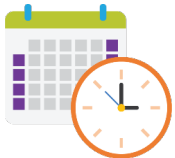
Engage riders, stakeholders, and Sun Metro staff



Improve connectivity between BRIO and local routes



Maximize the potential of El Paso Streetcar



Redesign Sun Metro service to meet community needs



Identify funding opportunities and potential partnerships

Timeline

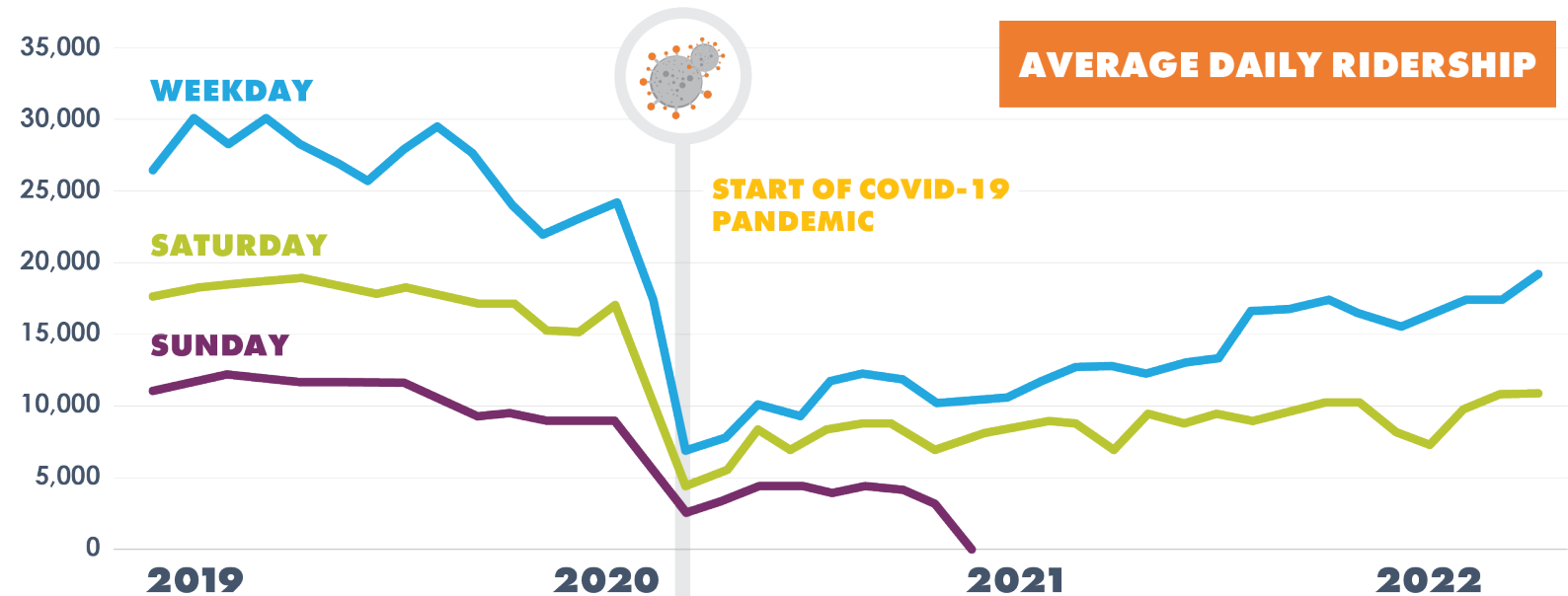


Recent Major Investments



Ridership Recovery

- Ridership has been increasing steadily since March 2020.
- System ridership is now at 63% of pre-pandemic levels.



BRIO

- Riders have been shifting from local routes to BRIO.
- BRIO routes alone account for 40% of system ridership.





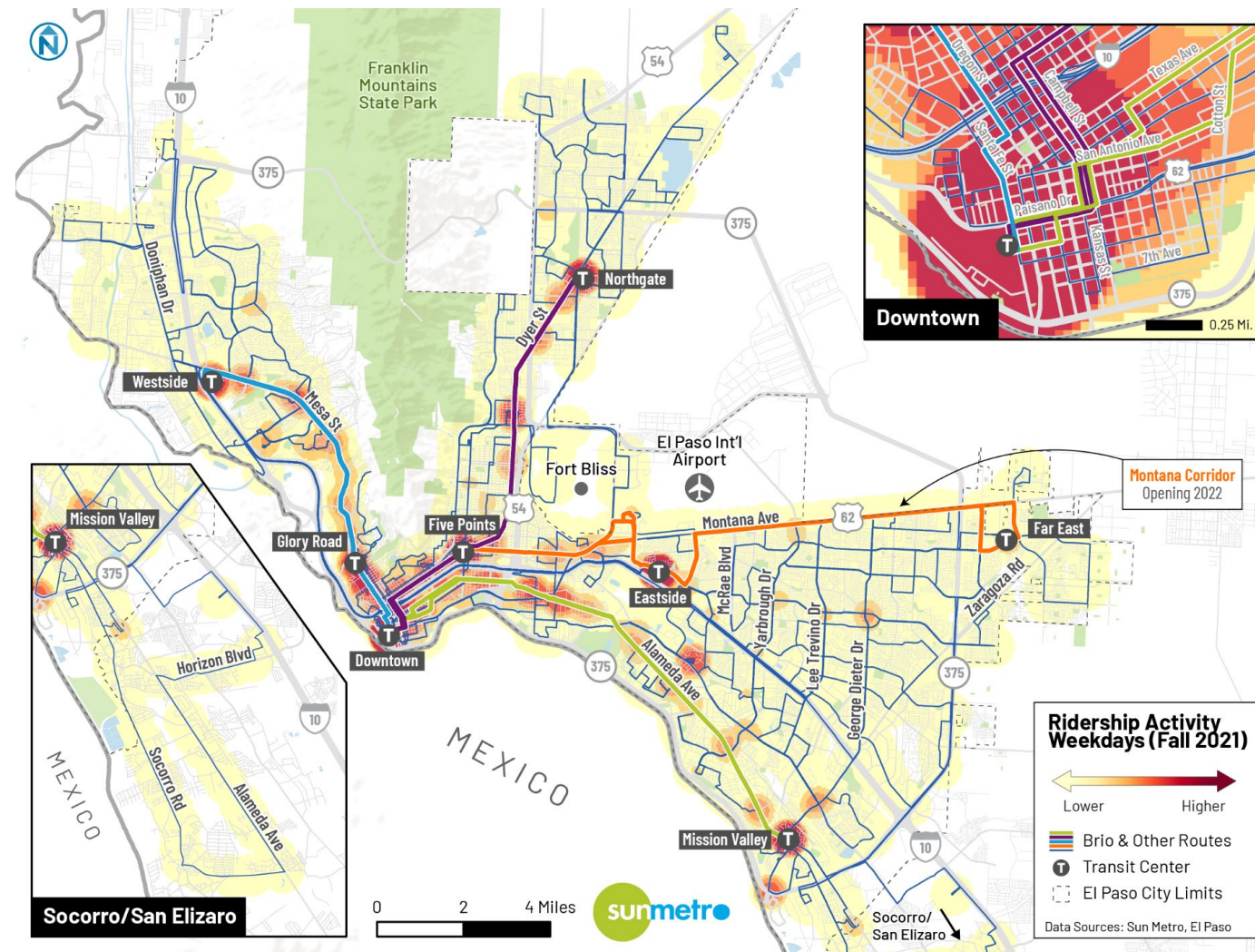
Transit Centers

- Safe and comfortable connections points for riders.
- Vital layover locations for bus operators.



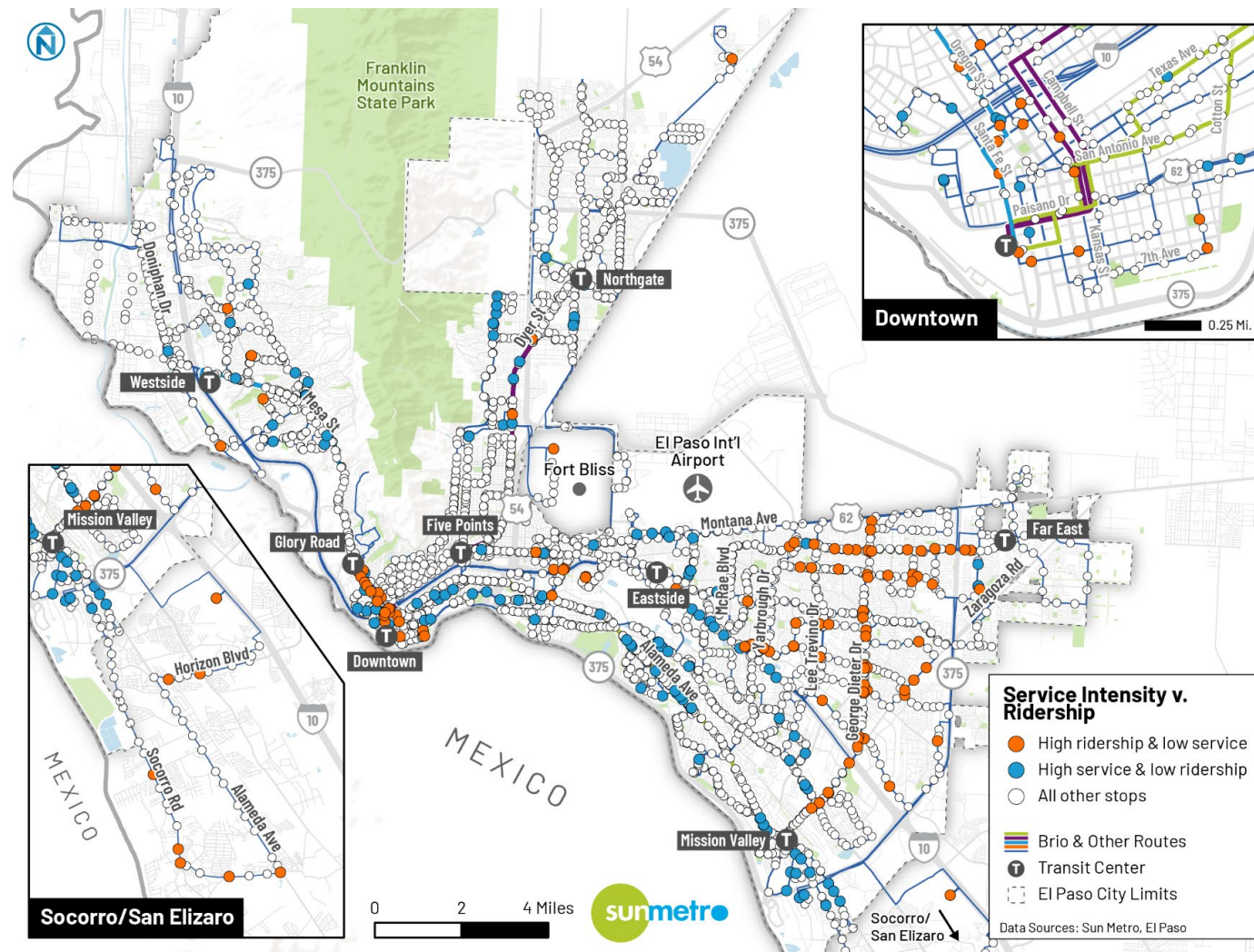
System Ridership

- Major destinations
 - El Paso Community College
 - UTEP
 - Zaragoza Bridge Port of Entry
 - University Medical Center
 - Sunland Park Mall
 - Montwood Square
 - Walmart Supercenter stores

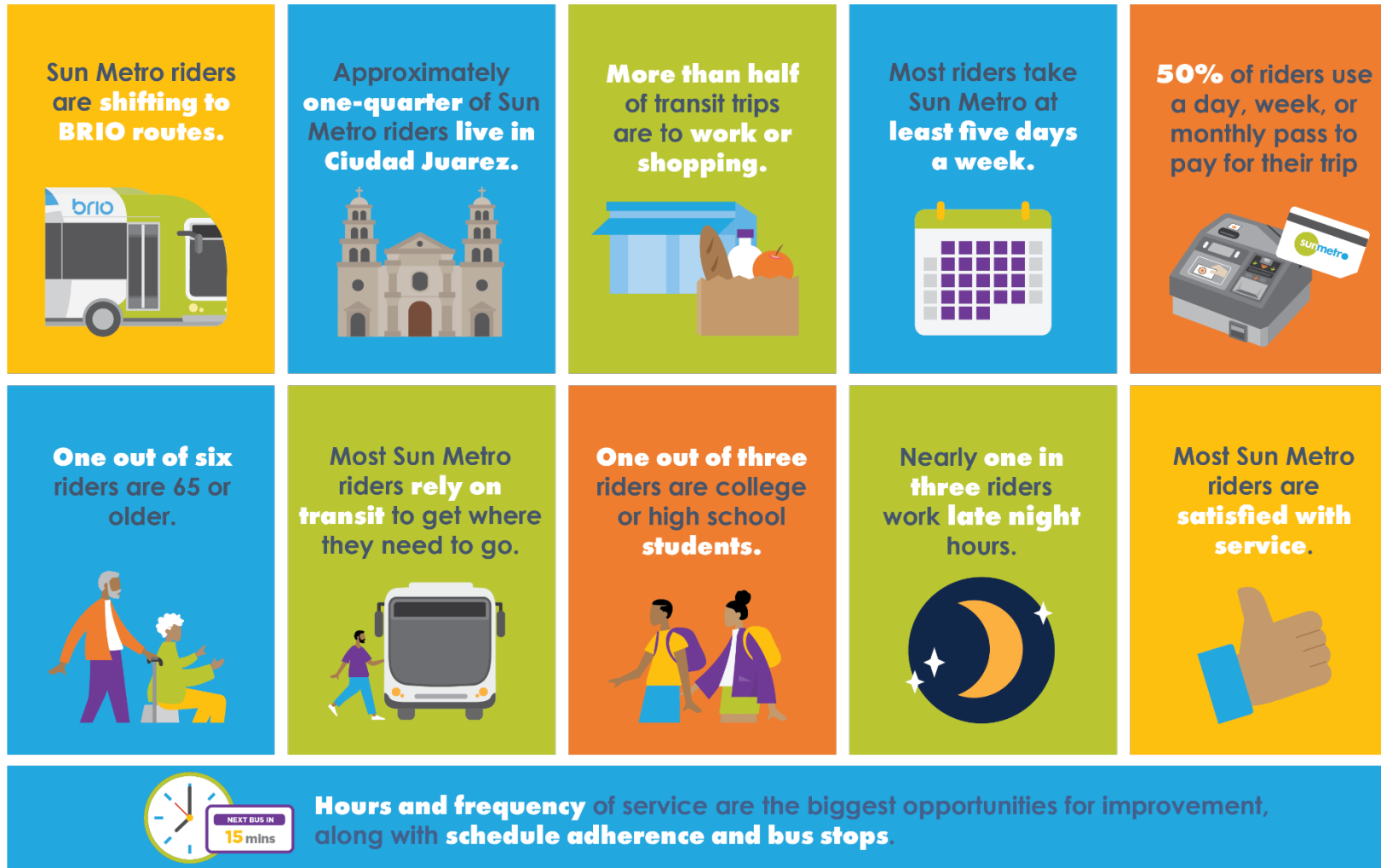


Service Intensity

- Underserved corridors
 - George Dieter
 - Pebble Hills
 - Edgemere
 - Zaragoza

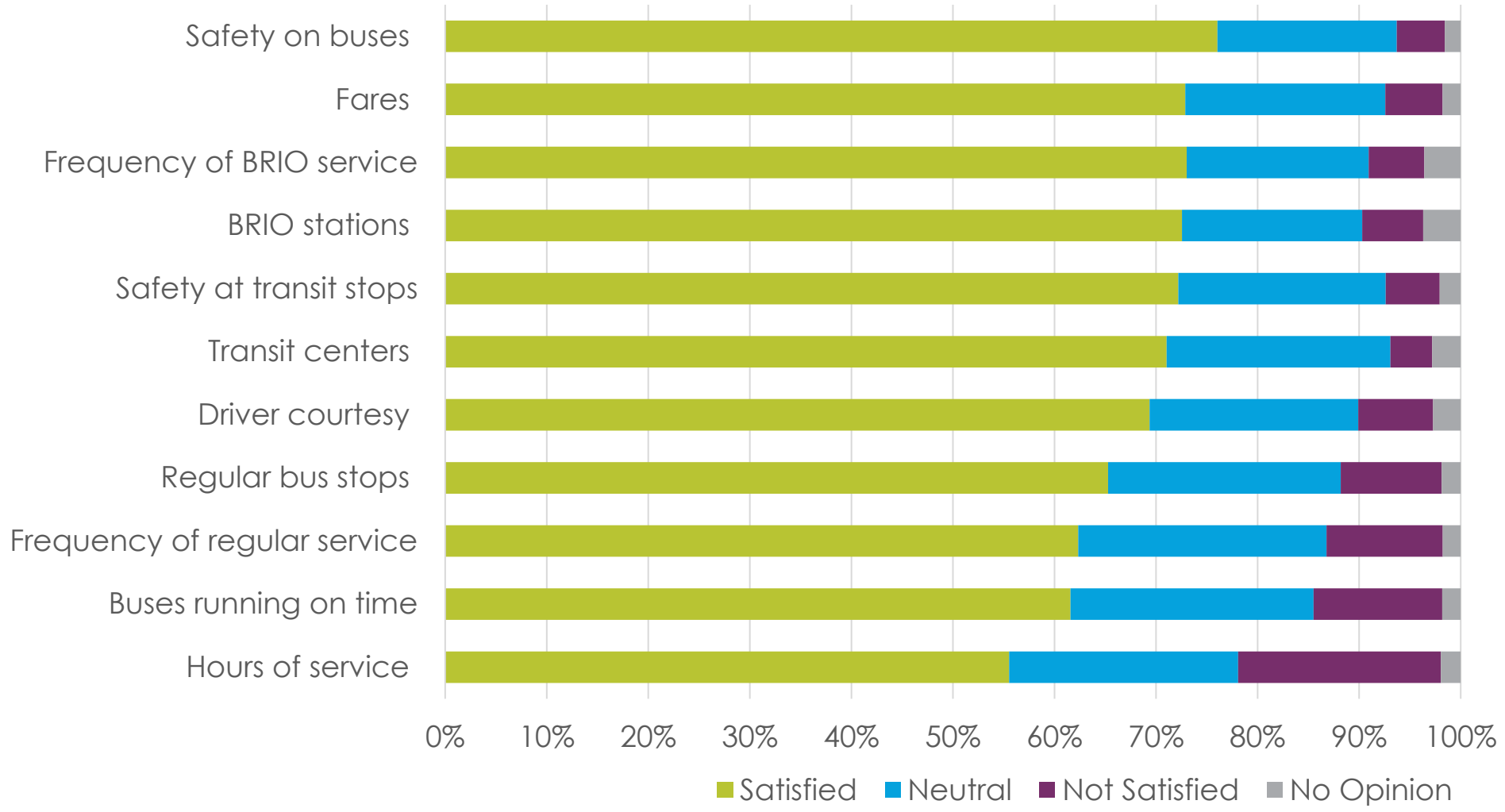


Rider Survey Findings





Rider Satisfaction





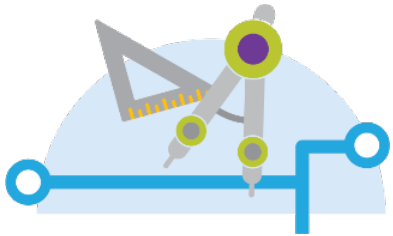
Challenges and Opportunities



Development Patterns

Sun Metro has built a strong transit network despite operating in a challenging urban environment.

Sprawling development and barriers require creative transit solutions.



Route Design

While BRIO corridors are direct and intuitive, several local routes have circuitous alignments, one-way segments, or large loops.

Simplifying local routes can reduce travel times for many riders.

Challenges and Opportunities



Bus Stop Amenities

Shelters and seating are important factors that influence rider comfort and perceived safety.

Shelters are currently present at only 20% of Sun Metro bus stops.



Downtown Circulation

Route 4 is a downtown circulator bus route that connects the Downtown Transit Center with adjacent districts.

The study will explore the possibility of activating the southern loop of the Streetcar during the day to enhance downtown mobility.



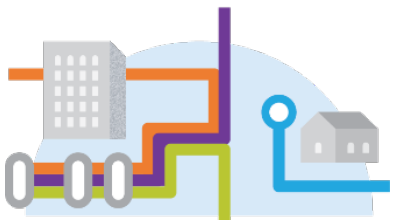
Challenges and Opportunities



Service Frequency

While BRIO corridors and Route 59 boast frequent service, most other routes run every 45-90 minutes, making service difficult to use.

Untimed connections between infrequent lines result in long waits and are a common complaint from riders.



Service Gaps and Redundancies

Sun Metro provides extensive coverage across El Paso.

However, some corridors have excess service that could potentially be reallocated to other areas.



Challenges and Opportunities



Sunday Service

Sunday service was suspended in December 2020 due to low ridership compared to weekday and Saturday service.

Sunday was restored for 7 routes in June 2022. Sun Metro plans to further increase Sunday service as operators become available.



Limited Funding for Operations

Since early 2020, Sun Metro has overcome a dire financial situation and restored its fiscal stability.

The next phase of this study is a review of peer transit systems, which may present new strategies and opportunities for funding operations.

Next Steps

- Conduct peer review and best practices analysis
 - Comparable Cities: Albuquerque, Tucson, San Antonio, Fort Collins
 - Aspirational Systems: Phoenix, Salt Lake City, Denver
 - Texas Agencies: Austin, Dallas, Corpus Christi
- Develop initial network concepts and cost estimates
- Prepare for upcoming community outreach
 - Project website and online outreach
 - Transit center pop-up meetings
 - Stakeholder discussions



Thank you!

James Gamez

jgamez@nelsonnygaard.com