

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

AGENDA DATE: January 4, 2022
PUBLIC HEARING DATE: Not Applicable

CONTACT PERSON(S) NAME AND PHONE NUMBER:
Astrid L. Bunner, Managing Assistant Director (Sun Metro), (915) 212-6007

DISTRICT(S) AFFECTED: All

STRATEGIC GOAL: No. 7 – Enhance and Sustain El Paso's Infrastructure Network

SUBGOAL: 7.3 – Enhance regional comprehensive transportation system.

SUBJECT:

Discussion and action of a resolution delegating signature authority from the Mass Transit Board to the City Manager and/or Mayor to sign a letter of commitment/support and allow Sun Metro to apply for the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) FY2021 Enhancing Mobility Innovation Funding Opportunity competitive grant which requires a 20% match.

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION:

Sun Metro seeks letters of support and commitment from the Mayor and City Manager to include in grant application. Sun Metro seeks grant funding for the purchase of an on-demand transit software solution to allow the implementation of on-demand/microtransit service to the City. Requested grant funding is in the amount of \$300,000.00 with a 20% match of \$60,000.00 for a total project cost of \$360,000.00.

PRIOR COUNCIL ACTION:

N/A

AMOUNT AND SOURCE OF FUNDING:

Amount: \$60,000.00 (local match)
Funding Source: Sun Metro Operating Funds
Account: 560-3200-60040-521120-P6015

HAVE ALL AFFECTED DEPARTMENTS BEEN NOTIFIED? X YES ___ NO

PRIMARY DEPARTMENT: Mass Transit (Sun Metro)
SECONDARY DEPARTMENT: N/A

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

DEPARTMENT HEAD:

Astrid Bunner

Astrid L. Bunner, Managing Assistant Director (Sun Metro)

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Enhancing Mobility Innovation FY 2021 Grant is currently accepting grant applications; and

WHEREAS, the funds received under the Enhancing Mobility Innovations grant will be utilized for a demand response transit service in areas where a traditional transit bus cannot be accommodated due to street limitations; and

WHEREAS, the project would implement a software solution in order to provide the in-demand services; and

WHEREAS, the City of El Paso, Texas (“City”) wishes to submit a grant application for the Enhancing Mobility Innovation FY 2021 Grant.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MASS TRANSIT AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF EL PASO:

1. That the City Manager or his designee is authorized to sign the Enhancing Mobility Innovation FY 2021 Grant and any agreements or verifications required to submit an application to the Enhancing Mobility Innovations FY 2021 Grant; and
2. That the City shall provide all matching funds, if applicable, for said grant.

APPROVED this ____ day of _____ 2022.

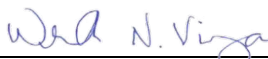
**MASS TRANSIT DEPARTMENT
BOARD:**

Oscar Leeser
Chairman

ATTEST:

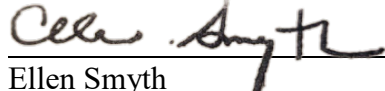
Laura D. Prine
Secretary

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Wendi N. Vineyard
Assistant City Attorney

APPROVED AS TO CONTENT:



Ellen Smyth
Managing Director, Sun Metro

To be placed on official letterhead

Current Date

Mr. Pete Buttigieg
U.S. Secretary of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue,
SE Washington, DC 20590

Re: City of El Paso Mass Transit Department (Sun Metro) application for the FY 2021 Competitive Funding Opportunity: Enhancing Mobility Innovation for the acquisition of software to allow potential riders to directly request service via a mobile device and integrate with Sun Metro's existing mobile application.

Dear Secretary, Buttigieg:

Please accept this letter of support on behalf of the City of El Paso's Mass Transit Department (Sun Metro) application for the FY 2021 Enhancing Mobility Innovation Funding Opportunity for the acquisition of software to allow transit riders to directly request service via a mobile device and integrate with Sun Metro's existing mobile application.

The City of El Paso (COEP) respectfully requests \$300,000 to acquire an on-demand transit software to solution.

We thank you for your consideration and hope this letter of support will aid in the application process of our request for Enhancing Mobility Innovation Program funding. The completion of this project will help Sun Metro to achieve its goal to enhance transit to improve the transportation alternatives available to the area's residents and to add a new type of service to Sun Metro, by incorporating micro-transit with on-demand service, it would allow Sun Metro to still provided transit accessibility to underserved communities. The on-demand software solution would allow Sun Metro to better plan the use of resources and dispatch smaller Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) capable vehicles to serve the need of the community where traditional transit service has been curtailed.

I look forward to working with you in the near future. Thank you for your leadership and commitment in helping the El Paso community. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Oscar Leeser
Mayor of El Paso

To be placed on official letterhead

Current Date

Mr. Pete Buttigieg

U.S. Secretary of Transportation

1200 New Jersey Avenue,

SE Washington, DC 20590

Re: City of El Paso Mass Transit Department (Sun Metro) application for the FY 2021 Competitive Funding Opportunity: Enhancing Mobility Innovation for the acquisition of software to allow potential riders to directly request service via a mobile device and integrate with Sun Metro's existing mobile application.

Dear Secretary, Buttigieg:

The City of El Paso Mass Transit Department (Sun Metro) is requesting grant funding in the amount of \$300,000 (80 % of total project cost). The funding of the FY 2021 Competitive Funding Opportunity: Enhancing Mobility Innovation Grant will be allocated to cover the cost to purchase software to allow potential riders to directly request service via a mobile device and integrate with Sun Metro's existing mobile application. The amount will be matched with \$60,000 (20 % local match) for a total project cost and funding of \$360,000.

Sun Metro identifies this competitive grant as an opportunity to fulfill the financial requirements to support the implementation of a demand response transit service to the Sun Metro system. This new service will supplement traditional fixed route service and will be provided to areas that currently have no or little fixed route service or to areas where a traditional transit bus cannot be accommodated due to street and right-of-way limitations. A core element of this project is the implementation of a software solution in order to provide on-demand service.

This funding of \$360,00 would significantly benefit our community and transit system. Sun Metro serves a population of approximately 680,000 people. Like many transit agencies, Sun Metro has felt the effects of COVID-19 to not only our ridership but also our ability to service portions of the city. The city is geographically unique in that the city is split in half by the Franklin Mountains, which has an effect in the types of fixed routes Sun Metro is able provide. Over the past year Sun Metro has struggled to maintain some fixed routes due to lack of ridership. These routes have been discontinued as the cost benefit of a traditional transit vehicle outweighed the benefit. This project proposes to add a new type of service to Sun Metro, by incorporating micro-transit with on-demand service, it would allow Sun Metro to still provided transit accessibility to underserved communities. The on-demand software solution would allow Sun Metro to better plan the use of resources and dispatch smaller Americans with Disabilities

Act (ADA) capable vehicles to serve the need of the community where traditional transit service has been curtailed.

This letter is to confirm and document that the City of El Paso will commit the following matching funds for the purchase and implementation of an on-demand transit software solution.

Funding Type	Amount	Percent
City Match	<i>\$60,000</i>	20%
Requested Federal Funding	<i>\$300,000</i>	80%
Total Project Cost and Funding	\$360,000	100%

We thank you for your consideration and hope this letter of support will aid in the application process. The City of El Paso fully supports this endeavor as it seeks to improve the transportation alternatives available to the area's residents and to rebuild economically disadvantaged neighborhoods in our community.

Sincerely,

Tomas Gonzalez-City Manager

cc: Cary Westin, Senior Deputy City Manager
Ellen A. Smyth, Managing Director Mass Transit Department