

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

AGENDA DATE: May 10, 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:

That the City Manager or his designee is authorized to sign the FY2022 Low or No Emission Grants for Buses and Bus Facilities Competitive Program and any agreements or verifications required to submit an application to the FY2022 Low or No Emission Grant for Buses and Bus Facilities Competitive program; and that the City shall provide all matching funds, if applicable, for said grant.

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION:

Sun Metro seeks letters of support and commitment from the Mayor and City Manager to include in grant application. Sun Metro is seeking \$11,095,890.00 as a total project cost, with the local match being \$2,219,178.00 (20%). This application complements federal efforts to create good jobs while delivering better commutes and cleaner air to American communities by transitioning bus fleets and facilities to low or zero emission programs. This grant would provide for workforce development to retrain our workforce to operate and maintain the 50 zero emission microtransit passenger vehicles and 25 charging stations to be purchased with federal funds.

PRIOR COUNCIL ACTION:

N/A

AMOUNT AND SOURCE OF FUNDING:

Funding Source: FTA Low-No Emissions Funding ; Match: Sales Tax Revenues

HAVE ALL AFFECTED DEPARTMENTS BEEN NOTIFIED? 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 FY2022 Low or No Emission Grant for Buses and Bus Facilities Competitive program is currently accepting grant applications; and

WHEREAS, the funds received under the Low or No Emission grants will be utilized for assisting in the transformation of the current buses, bus facilities and purchasing new equipment for Sun Metro; and

WHEREAS, the projects would implement lower to no emissions from Sun Metro buses; and

WHEREAS, the City of El Paso, Texas (“City”) wishes to submit a grant application for FY2022 Low or No Emission Grant for Buses and Bus Facilities Competitive Program for grants to assist in the low to no emissions from Sun Metro.

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 FY2022 Low or No Emission Grants for Buses and Bus Facilities Competitive Program and any agreements or verifications required to submit an application to the FY2022 Low or No Emission Grant for Buses and Bus Facilities Competitive program; and
2. That the City shall provide all matching funds, if applicable, for said grant.

APPROVED this ___ day of _____ 2022.

CITY OF EL PASO:

Oscar Leeser, Chairman
Mass Transit Authority

ATTEST:

Laura D. Prine
Secretary

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Wendi N. Vineyard
Wendi N. Vineyard
Assistant City Attorney

APPROVED AS TO CONTENT:

Ellen Smyth
Ellen Smyth
Managing Director, Sun Metro

To be reported on your official headed paper

Current Date

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

Re: City of El Paso Mass Transit Department (Sun Metro) application for FY 2022 Low or No Emission and Grants for Buses and Bus Facilities Competitive Programs

Dear Mr. Pete Buttigieg:

The City of El Paso Mass Transit Department (Sun Metro) respectfully seeks your strong support within the FY2022 Low or No Emission Grants for Buses and Bus Facilities Competitive Programs for \$11,095,890.00 to overcome a major financial hurdle in positioning our aging para-transit fleet to become low to zero polluting and energy efficient transit vehicles.

Our application complements federal efforts to create good jobs while delivering better commutes and cleaner air to American communities by transitioning bus fleets and bus facilities to low or zero emission programs. The application award will be matched with \$2,219,178.00 (20 % local match) for a total project cost and funding of \$11,095,890.00.

The heart of any organization is its workforce and Sun Metro's request for federal support would provide for workforce development to retrain our exiting workforce to operate and maintain the fifty zero emission micro transit passenger vehicles, and twenty-five charging stations to be purchased with the federal funds. Our plans to modernize Sun Metro into a green and sustainable public transit system aligns support federal green initiatives and 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. Our application specifically supports Goal 2.4 of our strategic plan to enhance and increase EV fleet and chargers at municipal facilities.

Improving public transit is essential to meeting the needs of our El Paso community. As the largest public transit provider in West Texas along the U.S.-Mexico border, a substantial proportion of our residents, workers and visitors rely on Sun Metro. Our success in providing transit accessibility serves a lifeline underserved communities. Better public transit would improve our community's livability, air quality, and economic development.

Our municipality has a record of success in performance improvement through diversity, social policies, innovation, process improvements, and implementation of technology. Federal funding support will make our vision for a greener public transit system, better trained workforce and cleaner air achievable.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. I am confident that this project will achieve the objectives of the Low or No Emission Grant Program to renew our transit system, reduce greenhouse emission from public transportation, advance racial equity, maintain and create good paying jobs, and connecting the communities.

Sincerely,

Tomas Gonzalez-City Manager

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

To be reported on your official headed paper

Current Date

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

Re: City of El Paso Mass Transit Department (Sun Metro) application for FY 2022 Low or No Emission and Grants for Buses and Bus Facilities Competitive Programs

Dear Mr. Buttigieg:

Please accept this letter of support on behalf of the City of El Paso Sun Metro application for the FY 2022 Low or No Emission and Grants for Buses and Bus Facilities Competitive Programs.

El Paso is located in a tristate, binational region that connects Texas, New Mexico, and the Mexican state of Chihuahua. Based on recent U.S. Census data, our region is home to more than 2.6 million. El Paso Sun Metro's well-researched application envisions a green public transit system for El Paso that protects our region's air and connects our residents and visitors with accessible, affordable, and dependable transportation service.

The City of El Paso (COEP) respectfully requests \$11,095,890.00, a much-needed investment to provide workforce development to operate and maintain the fifty zero-emission paratransit vehicles and twenty-five charging stations to be purchased with the federal funds. Our community has a sizeable population that is transit-dependent. This application would provide El Paso with federal support to make substantial transit-focused investments that will significantly improve our region's mobility.

A grant award for El Paso would be transformative for our community. It would position Sun Metro as a public transit system that makes a positive impact with every dollar of transportation funding to support federal goals of greener transit, stronger economic recovery, and healthier livable communities.

Thank you for your leadership and commitment to helping the El Paso community develop its workforce with infrastructure investments that clean our air and help modernize our public transit fleet. We thank you for your consideration and hope this letter of support will aid in the application process of our request for support within the Low or No Emission and Grants for Buses and Bus Facilities Competitive Programs. I look forward to working with you in the near future. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

I trust the application meets all the criteria and will receive all due consideration.

Sincerely,

Oscar Leeser

Mayor of El Paso



OSCAR LEESER
MAYOR

May 3, 2022

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

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Sincerely,

Oscar Leeser
Mayor