



City of El Paso: Sun Metro Public Transportation Legislative Agenda FY2020-2021

About Sun Metro

- 13M bus pax in FY 2018
- 300K+ paratransit trips
- 189 fixed route buses
- 65 ADA (LIFT) buses
- 100% CNG bus fleet
- 714 employees
- FY20 adopted operating budget \$71.7M

Sun Metro provides public transportation options that connect the community to opportunities and economic development.

We ask Congresswoman Escobar of the El Paso Delegation to support Sun Metro in its development and advancement of public transportation projects that enhance the quality of life for residents, business, and visitors; and the ability to maintain, improve and grow our multimodal transportation network by supporting the following:

1. **Enact a long-term surface transportation authorization act** funded by dedicated, sustainable revenues (e.g., increasing federal motor vehicle user fees) that address the pending shortfall in the Highway Trust Fund (including the Mass Transit Account), and provide \$145 billion over six years to bring public transit systems to a state of good repair and meet growing community demands for increased mobility choices.
2. **Reestablish a 40-40-20 capital investment ratio among the Capital Investment Grants, State of Good Repair, and Buses and Bus Facilities programs.** Sun Metro endorses The Bus Coalition and APTA's funding recommendations for the 5339 Bus and Bus Facility Program. The reauthorization recommendation includes reestablishing a 40-40-20 capital investment ratio among Capital Investment Grants (\$5309), State of Good Repair (\$5337), and Buses and Bus Facilities (\$ 5339) programs within two years. To reestablish this ratio, bus funding receives a larger increased investment relative to other transit programs.

APTA Reauthorization Recommendations	FY2021	FY2022	FY2023	FY2024	FY2025	FY2026
5339 Bus and Bus Facilities	1,482.04	1,955.41	2,270.23	2,635.73	3,060.09	3,552.76
5339 (a) Bus Formula	792.47	1,029.16	1,186.57	1,369.32	1,581.50	1,827.83
5339 (b) Bus Competitive	689.57	926.25	1,083.66	1,266.41	1,478.59	1,724.93
5339 (c) Low or No Emissions	111.78	146.98	193.28	224.40	260.53	302.48

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3. **FY 2021 Appropriations Request:** Similar to FY20, we support The Bus Coalition's efforts for continued plus-ups to the Bus and Bus Facility competitive grant program (5339b). Sun Metro supports an increase of \$485 million, the same level of funding included in the FY20 House Transportation Appropriations bill.
4. **Infrastructure Package:** We strongly support a robust Infrastructure Package that includes \$7.14 billion in funding for bus transit programs. This level of funding will simply replace the approximately 14,874 buses operating past useful life.
5. **Support the Capital Investment Grant (CIG) Program:** Sun Metro supports an increase in funding beyond the FY20 levels. We also support further streamlining of the review process to allow projects to move through the CIG pipeline more quickly.
6. **Competitive bus procurements grants** have recently been awarded predominantly for electric/hybrid buses. Sun Metro might have been the first 100% CNG fleet in the nation, but now that seems to be a detriment when competing for grants. Agencies that cannot replace their entire fleet with the more expensive hybrids, should receive consideration in replacing present alternative fuel fleets through the competitive grant process.
7. **Create a new Mobility Innovation and Technology Initiative** to introduce cutting-edge technologies and integrate new service-delivery approaches and mobility options in the transit marketplace.





Major capital, funding, and operating projects

- *Construction and transitioning into revenue service*
 - Small Starts funded BRT Route: Mesa Brio RTS completed on Oct 2014 (\$27.1M)
 - Tiger Grant: Northgate Transit Center and parking facility construction, operational in May 2018 (\$15M). Hunt Companies developing a \$110M development in conjunction with the Transit Center.
 - City Funded BRT Route: Alameda Brio RTS construction, operational on September 2019 (\$35M)
 - Small Starts funded BRT Route: Dyer Brio RTS construction, operational on September 2019 (\$36M)
 - State and City funded Electric Rail System: EP Streetcar construction, operational on November 2018 (\$102M)
 - Small Starts funded BRT Route: Montana Brio RTS in design, to be operational in late-2021 (\$49.2M)
- *Increase accessibility and convenience of public transportation to all El Pasoans and visitors*
 - FTA and City funded: Implemented real-time service monitoring and planning for the public (2019)
 - FTA and City funded: Install Wi-Fi in all revenue service vehicles (2021)
 - FTA and City funded: Plan, purchase and implement a SMART card fare payment system (FY2020)
 - FTA and City funded: Bus stop sidewalk enhancement and accessibility program (\$500K annual investment)
 - FTA and City funded: 433 shelters and bus stop enhancements (\$8.5 M)
- *Revenue Service Bus and Van replacement program (105.6M)*
 - Paratransit low-floor vans:
 - 32 – cutaways 2012 model year = \$4.3M (2021)
 - 32 – cutaways 2014 model year = \$4.4M (2023)
 - Fixed route buses:
 - 22 – 35’ 2004 model year = \$15.0M (2022)
 - 35 – 40’ 2007 model year = \$28.5M (2023-2024)
 - 60 – 40’ 2008 model year = \$50.3M (2025-2026)
 - 10 – 28’ 2014 model year = \$3.1M (2022-2023)



