



RIO METRO
REGIONAL TRANSIT DISTRICT

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Friday, October 20, 2023

12:00 p.m.

809 Copper Ave. N.W., Albuquerque, NM 87102

(Meeting will be Hybrid)

Zoom instructions below

AGENDA

Call to Order

The presence of a quorum will be noted.

Approval of the October 20, 2023 Agenda

Tab 1

Approval of the August 18, 2023 Action Summary

PUBLIC COMMENT

Tab 2

Anyone who wishes to address the RMRTD Board must register with the Secretary of the Board (via email to bthomas@mrcoq-nm.gov) at least 24 hours prior to the meeting.

FINAL ACTION ITEMS

Tab 3

Election of Officers

Tab 4

R-24-02 RMRTD

Approval of Consolidation Study Plan

DISCUSSION / INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Tab 5

Report from North Central Regional Transit District

Tab 6

Director's Report/Comments

OTHER BUSINESS AND NOTES

Next Scheduled Meeting: Friday, November 17, 2023 at 12:00 p.m.

Anyone requiring special accommodations is requested to notify Barbara Thomas at (505) 247-1750 or bthomas@mrcoq-nm.gov at least three days prior to the meeting.

Zoom link below

You are invited to a Zoom webinar.

When: Oct 20, 2023 12:00 PM Mountain Time (US and Canada)

Topic: RMRTD Board Meeting 10/20/23

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82662339745?pwd=8nXNuXPwGZgHGugGLivR5aI0qElvfg.VOhEz082i1m9gRR8>

Passcode: 516590

Or One tap mobile :

+17193594580,,82662339745#,,,,*516590# US

+12532050468,,82662339745#,,,,*516590# US

Or Telephone:

Dial(for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location):

+1 719 359 4580 US

+1 253 205 0468 US

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 669 444 9171 US

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

+1 360 209 5623 US

+1 386 347 5053 US

+1 507 473 4847 US

+1 564 217 2000 US

+1 646 931 3860 US

+1 689 278 1000 US

+1 929 436 2866 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

+1 305 224 1968 US

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Webinar ID: 826 6233 9745

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RIO METRO
REGIONAL TRANSIT DISTRICT

RMRTD Board of Directors (Virtual Meeting)

ACTION SUMMARY

Friday, August 18, 2023

12:00 noon

809 Copper Ave. N.W.

Hybrid Meeting

Isaac Benton, Chair

Steven Tomita, Vice Chair

ORGANIZATION		MEMBER		ALTERNATE
Bernalillo County		Adriann Barboa , Commissioner		Brian Lopez
		Steven Michael Quezada , Commissioner	X	Margarita Archibeque Brian Lopez
		Walt Benson , Commissioner	X	Elias Archuleta
Sandoval County	X	Michael Meek , Commissioner		Amy Griffin
Valencia County		Joseph Bizzell , Commissioner		Orlando Montoya
City of Albuquerque	X	Isaac Benton , Councilor, Chair		Nathan Molina
		Pat Davis , Councilor		Sean Foran Tom Menicucci
		Brook Bassan , Councilor		Rachael Hernandez Jeff Hertz
		Dan Lewis , Councilor	X	Giselle Alvarez
	X	Tammy Fiebelkorn , Councilor		Laura Rummier
		Lawrence Rael		Leon Espinoza Patrick Montoya
City of Belen	X	Steven Tomita		Roseann Peralta
City of Rio Communities		Lawrence Gordon , Councilor		
City of Rio Rancho		Bob Tyler , Councilor	X	B.J. Gottlieb
		Jim Owen , Councilor	X	Peter Wells
		Dan Stoddard		Jamie Marrufo
Town of Bernalillo		Jack Torres , Mayor		
Village of Bosque Farms		Russell Walkup , Mayor		
Village of Corrales	X	Mel Knight		Zachary Burkett
Village of Los Lunas		Michael Jaramillo	X	Brittany Armijo
Village of Los Ranchos de Albuquerque	X	Donald Lopez , Mayor		Maria Rinaldi Ann Simon
ASSOCIATE MEMBERS				
Isleta Pueblo		Vacant		Vacant
NON-VOTING ADVISORY MEMBERS				
ORGANIZATION		MEMBER		ALTERNATE
NCRTD		Anthony Mortarillo		Jim Nagle
MRCOG STAFF PRESENT				
Dewey Cave, Barbara Thomas, Conni Vigil, Tony Sylvester, Grant Brodehl, Robert Gonzalez, Matt Stone				

AGENDA

Call to Order

Chair Isaac Benton, City of Albuquerque, called the meeting to order at 12:10 p.m. and the roll was called. See attendance sheet above. The presence of a quorum was noted. (Jeff Hertz arrived following tabs 1 and 2)

Approval of Agenda of August 18, 2023

Action Taken:

Chair Benton, City of Albuquerque, made a motion to:

APPROVE THE AGENDA OF AUGUST 18, 2023

The motion was seconded by Donald Lopez, Village of Los Ranchos de Albuquerque, and passed on a vote of thirteen (13) in favor and none opposed. See attendance sheet above.

Tab 1

Approval of Action Summary of May 19, 2023

Action Taken:

Mayor Lopez made a motion to:

APPROVE THE ACTION SUMMARY OF MAY 19, 2023 AS PRESENTED

The motion was seconded by Steven Tomita, City of Belen, and passed unanimously on a vote of thirteen (13) in favor and none opposed. See attendance sheet above.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Tab 2

There were no comments from the public.

ACTION ITEMS

Tab 3
R-24-01
RMRTD

Approval of the RMRTD fiscal Year 2023 Final Quarterly Financial Report

Conni Vigil, RMRTD Director of Finance and Administration, explained that the reasons for this request for approval of R-24-01 RMRTD are

1. The RMRTD Board of Directors approved the RMRTD State Fiscal Year 2023 Budget at their May 19, 2022, meeting by passing R-22-06 RMRTD
2. The Fiscal Year 2023 Final Quarterly Report has been prepared and reviewed to ensure the accuracy of the beginning balances used in the fiscal year 2024 budget that was approved by the RMRTD Board at their May 19, 2023 meeting by passing R-23-10 RMRTD
3. The New Mexico Department of Finance and Administration Local Government Unit has provided interim approval of the RMRTD Fiscal Year 2023 budget and requires a resolution approving the fiscal year 2023 final quarter financial report to provide final

- fiscal year 2024 budget approval and
4. The contents in the Fiscal Year 2023 Final Quarterly Report are true and correct to the best of our knowledge

Ms. Vigil noted that the snapshot of the entire years spending is required in order to receive future funding.

Action Taken:

Chair Benton made a motion to:

APPROVE R-24-01 RMRTD AS PRESENTED

The motion was seconded by Mayor Lopez and passed unanimously on a vote of fourteen (14) in favor and none opposed. Note that Jeff Hertz, City of Albuquerque, arrived at the meeting in time for this vote. See attendance sheet above.

INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

Tab 4

Ridership or Coverage: ABQ RIDE Route Network Plan (ABQ RIDE Forward) – Leslie Keener and Michelle Poyourow, ABQ RIDE

Ms. Keener and Ms. Poyourow presented information regarding ABQ Ride services noting that ridership has been decreasing since 21014 and that funds have not been invested in this time period. They noted that although ridership has gone up, coverage has gone down and is not adequate for the community using bus services.

The full report is available on-line at abqrideforward.com.

A draft document on the subject will be available in early 2024.

Tab 5

Report from NCRTD

Anthony Mortarillo, Director of NCRTD (North Central Regional Transit District) noted that NCRTD provides service to Santa Fe County, Rio Arriba, Taos, Los Alamos and Santa Fe Counties. He reported that they operate 26 routes but currently only 13 routes are in service due to recovery from the pandemic. The non-operating routes are on a demand only basis. Ridership is now 50% of post pandemic ridership.

The main issue preventing operating all routes is driver shortages and they are down 20 drivers or 36% of their driver workforce. They are working diligently trying to fill these vacancies. In 2022, staff were given a 11% salary increase and in 2023, an 8 ½ increase as well as hiring incentives. Base pay for CDL drivers is \$20.06 per hour. This has helped but is remains a difficult situation.

The new fleet maintenance facility in Española has been completed. It includes an automated wash facility and fueling station. This was a \$12 million endeavor.

Work is beginning on the new maintenance facility in Taos which replaces a small, inadequate structure. The project was bid out twice and the cost for this new facility is \$17.1 million. FTA has awarded additional funding for completely the project.

They are moving forward to purchase electric buses and chargers.

Lawrence Rael, City of Albuquerque, asked that the NCRTD meet with the City to talk about

the electric fleet.

Tab 6

Director's Report/Comments

Dewey Cave, RMRTD Executive Director, reported that Rail Runner continues discounted fares which have worked to increase ridership. In April, it was determined to continue with the passes discounted at 50% until the end of the year. This may be made permanent.

Signal systems improvements are being made which will decrease travel times. Siding work is on-going to the North which also improve performance. Rehab of road crossings are going to begin soon.

The Rail Runner marketing department worked with The International Folk Art Market on a promotion which sold 576 Rail Runner tickets and tickets to the event. An award has been received from APTA for the "Seniors 66+ Ride Free on Wednesdays" initiative.

The Valencia County facility is going well and is 50% complete.

Mr. Cave noted that the election of officers for the RMRTD Board of Directors will take place at the October meeting and he reminded those present that the MRCOG Annual Event will take place on September 28th at the Embassy Suites.

Mr. Cave Stood for questions.

The meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

ATTEST:

Isaac Benton, Chair
Rio Metro Regional Transportation Board

Dewey V. Cave, Executive Director



TAB 3

STAFF ANALYSIS

Election of Board Chair and Vice-Chair

The Rio Metro Governmental Unit Contract describes the process for the election of the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Board in Section 3 E 1 b. Selection of Board Chair; and Section 3 E 2 b. Selection of Board Vice-Chair:

The names of those nominated shall be voted upon by successive ballots until a nominee receives a majority vote of the Directors in attendance. At the conclusion of each ballot when no nominee has received a majority vote, the nominee receiving the lowest vote total shall be eliminated from successive ballots.



R-24-02 RMRTD

DIRECTING THE CITY OF ALBUQUERQUE TRANSIT DEPARTMENT AND RIO METRO REGIONAL TRANSIT DISTRICT TO CONDUCT A STUDY FOR CONSOLIDATING THE CITY OF ALBUQUERQUE TRANSIT DEPARTMENT AND RIO METRO AND DEVELOP A CONSOLIDATION PLAN; APPROPRIATING FUNDING FOR THE STUDY AND PLAN.

1 **WHEREAS**, the Rio Metro Regional Transit District (RMRTD) was formed in
2 accordance with the Regional Transit District Act, 73-25-1 to 73-25-18 NMSA 1978,
3 and is a political subdivision of the state of New Mexico; and

4 **WHEREAS**, consolidating transportation systems at the regional level has been
5 an effective mechanism for improving efficiencies and reducing costs across
6 jurisdictions; and

7 **WHEREAS**, the City of Albuquerque Transit Department is responsible for
8 operating fixed route service, paratransit service, and BRT service within the city
9 limits; and

10 **WHEREAS**, the RMRTD Board of Directors is responsible for carrying out the
11 functions conferred by the provisions of the state's Regional Transit District Act, with
12 the establishment of a regional transit system that is compatible with state and local
13 transportation plans, the development of policies and procedures to support the
14 establishment of this system, and the development of a sound financial plan that
15 provides for the capital, operating, and maintenance requirements of the regional
16 transit system; and

17 **WHEREAS**, ten local governments participate in the RMRTD, including the City
18 of Albuquerque, Town of Bernalillo, Bernalillo County, Village of Bosque Farms,
19 Village of Corrales, Village of Los Lunas, Los Ranchos de Albuquerque, City of Rio
20 Communities, City of Rio Rancho, Sandoval County, and Valencia County; and

21 **WHEREAS**, the City of Albuquerque has five seats on the Board, four of which
22 are filled by City Councilors and one filled by the Mayor; and

23 **WHEREAS**, consolidating transit agencies can be a complex process that
24 involves merging and/or integrating existing entities into a single, unified
25 organization; and

26 **WHEREAS**, municipalities, counties, and regions in other states have recently
27 consolidated their transit agencies and, as a result, have improved efficiencies and
28 reduced costs across their jurisdictions; and

29 **WHEREAS**, the Federal Transit Administration recommends factors that should
30 be considered in the process of consolidating transit agencies include but not be
31 limited to transit planning, operational cost effectiveness, regional collaboration,
32 resource allocation, grant application and management, compliance with federal and
33 state regulation, and quality of service; and

34 **WHEREAS**, benefits of consolidation found in other parts of the country with
35 similar land use patterns and transportation needs include:

- 36 • Reducing administrative and management costs through the elimination of
37 duplicative functions and organizations,
- 38 • Reducing overall operating costs by reducing the sum of operating costs for
39 the current individual agencies,
- 40 • Using savings generated through consolidation to meet current and future
41 needs with in-house personnel or other resources,
- 42 • Improving fleet maintenance through the consolidation of maintenance
43 management systems, parts inventories, and other maintenance activities,
- 44 • Improving technology and workflows through the implementation of
45 integrated, updated systems such as demand-response scheduling software
46 (improving communications and performance, and potentially reducing
47 operating costs),
- 48 • Enabling operational efficiencies by streamlining demand-response
49 operations and adjusting service levels to meet demand on an ongoing basis,
- 50 • Increasing ridership and revenue by making a regional transit system that is
51 more interconnected, convenient, and understandable to riders,
- 52 • Streamlining and integrating management functions to be more responsive to
53 transit and shared-ride needs,

54 • Consolidating service by participating in a joint powers agreement with the
55 RMRTD, which has an existing -consolidated board consisting of one or more
56 representatives from each of the participating local governments; and

57 **WHEREAS**, other municipalities, counties, and regions have co-conducted
58 studies and developed consolidation plans for their transit agencies; and

59 **WHEREAS**, the Transit Department and the RMRTD could benefit from co-
60 conducting a similar study for consolidating their transit agencies and developing a
61 Consolidation Plan; and

62 **WHEREAS**, general assessment steps that should be included in the Study of
63 the consolidation process include the following: evaluating the need, conducting a
64 feasibility study, examining financial implications, taking an inventory of legal and
65 regulatory requirements, developing a workforce development plan, and establishing
66 avenues for public input; and

67 **WHEREAS**, the Study should provide a comprehensive understanding of the
68 benefits, challenges, and potential risks associated with consolidation; and

69 **WHEREAS**, the development of the Consolidation Plan should be based on the
70 findings of the Study and should include a detailed plan that outlines the objectives,
71 timelines, and steps for consolidating the transit agencies. The Consolidation Plan
72 should consider various aspects of consolidation, such as measures for
73 communicating, engaging, and collecting community input from stakeholders,
74 including but not limited to employees, transit unions, passengers, local government
75 officials, and community organizations. These measures should be able to address
76 concerns from stakeholders, build support for the consolidation process, and
77 establish clear expectations and communications throughout the consolidation
78 process, and should include but not be limited to:

- 79 • Potential legal barriers or requirements for consolidation and ensure
80 compliance with federal and state regulations,
- 81 • A proposed unified organizational structure for the consolidated transit
82 agency within the RMRTD responsible for decision-making, defining roles and
83 responsibilities, developing clear reporting lines, and identifying the size,
84 scope, and operational requirements of the consolidated entity,

- 85 • Strategies to integrate operations and services of the different transit
86 agencies. This may involve reassigning roles, negotiating labor agreements,
87 providing training or retraining opportunities, and ensuring a fair and smooth
88 transition for affected employees,
- 89 • Plan to integrate funding sources and budgets. This should involve
90 considering how revenues, grants, subsidies, and expenses will be
91 consolidated and allocated within the unified agency. This should also involve
92 identifying any potential cost savings or revenue generation opportunities
93 through consolidation,
- 94 • Performance metrics and monitoring mechanisms to assess the effectiveness
95 and efficiency of the consolidated transit agency. This should involve
96 regularly evaluating the consolidated transit agency’s performance, gathering
97 feedback from stakeholders, and making necessary adjustments to ensure
98 the desired outcomes are achieved.

99 **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE RMRTD BOARD OF**
100 **DIRECTORS, that:**

101 **SECTION 1.** Upon the enactment of this resolution by both the City and the
102 RMRTD, the Transit Department and the RMRTD shall conduct a Study for
103 consolidating the Transit Department and the RMRTD and use the findings to
104 develop a Consolidation Plan.

105 **SECTION 2.** The Study recommendations and resulting Consolidation Plan shall
106 ensure that current union employee positions in the City of Albuquerque Transit
107 Department will continue to be unionized. The Study shall also explore the potential
108 for extending union representation to RMRTD employees in equivalent positions to
109 those that are unionized at the City Transit Department.

110 **SECTION 3.** The RMRTD appropriates \$150,000 to fund the Study and the
111 Consolidation Plan. This amount will be matched by the City by resolution.

112
113
114 **PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED** this 20th day of October 2023 by the
115 RMRTD Board of Directors.

Isaac Benton, Chair
RMRTD Board of Directors

ATTEST:

Dewey Cave
Chief Executive Officer