

Program Coordination Section 5311

Introduction

The Rio Metro Regional Transit District (RMRTD) is coordinating the preparation and submittal of the section 5311 grant application for rural public transportation with support from community stakeholders throughout the District.

The RMRTD service area is comprised of the counties of Sandoval, Bernalillo, and Valencia. Its member governmental entities formed the Regional Transit District to develop and implement an integrated and coordinated regional system of transit services. Therefore, the RMRTD coordination efforts are, first and foremost, grounded by its member communities represented on the Board of Directors. Board members meet monthly to discuss and set policy for regional intermodal services. Based on these regional policy directives, staff works with a wide variety of public and private agencies to ensure regional service coordination.

Coordinated Transportation Plan

The RMRTD participated in development of the regional coordination plan. For this effort, transportation providers, planners and partners associated with the Mid-Region Metropolitan Planning Organization (MRMPO) and the Mid-Region Regional Planning Organization (MRRPO) came together to develop the Connections 2040 -Long range plan (LRP). The LRP was publicly vetted resulting in approval by the Metropolitan Transportation Board during the spring of 2020. Generally the plan's intent is to promote interagency cooperation, to establish mechanisms to minimize duplication and gaps among public and private transportation services, and to enhance transportation options for those facing mobility challenges.

The Rail Runner and Rio Metro bus services are listed as highly important elements in the adopted Coordination Transportation Plan. Further, the Plan identifies seniors and residents with disabilities in critical need of transportation services throughout the region. Taken together, the CTP lends support to, and RMRTD services, are derived from, the Plan. The programs in this proposal constitutes critical linkages between rural transportation services and the urban transit system for these specialized populations that face additional mobility challenges.

Notification Letters

In addition, RMRTD efforts have resulted in significant coordination partnerships with the New Mexico Passenger Transportation Association, AARP, and the NM State Department of Aging and Long term Care. Further, Rio Metro continues to coordinate with the Santa Ana Tribal Transit and the Pueblo of Isleta Transit and had provided technical assistance to the Pueblo of Jemez transportation study. Rio Metro also has established partnerships and excellent working relationships with other service providers and organizations whose client base requires the use of public transportation. In this regard, almost a dozen agencies were sent "letter of intent to apply" to advise them of the service we are providing and to invite their comments or participation in the project. Letters have been sent to the following entities to notify them of Rio Metro's intent to apply for Section 5311 funds:

- ❖ Adelino Head Start
- ❖ Albuquerque Green Cab

- ❖ Bennett Transportation
- ❖ Desert Sun Transportation
- ❖ Disabled American Veterans
- ❖ La Vida Felicidad
- ❖ Parkwest Transportation Services
- ❖ Sandoval County Senior Program
- ❖ Z-Trip

Other agencies in which RMRTD has developed strong partnerships which include, but are not limited to, senior programs associated with Valencia and Sandoval Counties, City of Belen, Village of Los Lunas, Bosque Farms, Pueblos of Cochiti, Isleta, Jemez, Santo Domingo, San Felipe, Santa Ana, and Zia Tome, UNM-Valencia Campus, Jemez Springs, San Ysidro, Cochiti Lake, Cuba, Town of Bernalillo, ABQ Ride, All Aboard America, Workforce Investment Act of Central New Mexico (WCCNM), the New Mexico Department of Human Services (NMHSD-ISD) Catholic Charities, the New Mexico Works program and the New Mexico Human Services Department Income Support Division.