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**NEWS
RELEASE**

07/31/2024

Sun Metro Celebrates \$30.6 Million Federal Transit Administration Grant

EL PASO, Texas—The City of El Paso, Sun Metro and Congresswoman Veronica Escobar are thrilled to celebrate the award of a \$30.6 million grant from the Federal Transit Administration's FY24 Low or No Emission and Buses and Bus Facilities Grant Program.

This funding will enable the purchase of 32 new compressed natural gas (CNG) buses and the construction of four new bus canopies, significantly advancing El Paso's public transportation infrastructure.

"We are thrilled and grateful for this generous grant from the Federal Transit Administration and we are proud of our Sun Metro and Grants Team who helped secure the competitive funding," said Mayor Oscar Leeser. "The addition of 32 new CNG buses and the construction of four bus canopies will greatly enhance our public transportation system, providing cleaner, more efficient, and reliable service for our community. This is a significant step towards a greener and more sustainable El Paso."

Sun Metro's entire fleet, which includes over 300 units from fixed-route buses to paratransit for the disabled and all support vehicles, runs on compressed natural gas, which is cleaner than gasoline and diesel because it is lead and sulfur free.

While Sun Metro has been using CNG since the 1990s, the system is also looking toward the future and is expecting 45 electric vehicles for its paratransit fleet to arrive in late 2025.

Congresswoman Veronica Escobar also expressed her enthusiasm for the grant's impact on El Paso's transit system.

"The transportation sector plays a disproportionate role in climate change but, through the historic Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, the federal government is investing \$30 million to support cleaner busses in our community, a critical addition to the millions already allocated to El Paso since it passed in 2021. I was proud to champion legislation that touches the lives of so many El Pasoans to provide cleaner, more reliable, and more economically sound public transportation," Escobar said.

The Low or No Emission Grant Program aims to assist communities in transitioning to zero-emission and low-emission transit buses, including the necessary supporting facilities.

This grant is part of a broader initiative under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, which continues to deliver essential resources to enhance public transportation across the nation.

To learn more about Sun Metro, call (915) 212-3333 or visit www.SunMetro.net.

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