

CITY of ALBUQUERQUE

TWENTY-FIFTH COUNCIL

COUNCIL BILL NO. R-23-163

ENACTMENT NO. R-2023-080

SPONSORED BY: Isaac Benton

1 RESOLUTION

2 DIRECTING THE CITY OF ALBUQUERQUE TRANSIT DEPARTMENT AND RIO
3 METRO REGIONAL TRANSIT DISTRICT TO CONDUCT A STUDY FOR
4 CONSOLIDATING ABQ RIDE AND RIO METRO AND DEVELOP A
5 CONSOLIDATION PLAN; APPROPRIATING FUNDING TO FUND THE STUDY
6 AND PLAN.

7 WHEREAS, consolidating transportation systems at the regional level has
8 been an effective mechanism for improving efficiencies and reducing costs
9 across jurisdictions; and

10 WHEREAS, the City of Albuquerque Transit Department is responsible for
11 operating fixed route service, paratransit service, and BRT service within the
12 City limits; and

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

21 WHEREAS, ten local governments participate in the RMRTD, including the
22 City of Albuquerque, Town of Bernalillo, Bernalillo County, Village of Bosque
23 Farms, Village of Corrales, Village of Los Lunas, Los Ranchos de
24 Albuquerque, City of Rio Communities, City of Rio Rancho, Sandoval County,
25 and Valencia County; and

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

3 WHEREAS, consolidating transit agencies can be a complex process that
4 involves merging and/or integrating existing entities into a single, unified
5 organization; and

6 WHEREAS, municipalities, counties, and regions in other states have
7 recently consolidated their transit agencies and, as a result, have improved
8 efficiencies and reduced costs across their jurisdictions; and

9 WHEREAS, the Federal Transit Administration recommends factors that
10 should be considered in the process of consolidating transit agencies include
11 but not be limited to transit planning, operational cost effectiveness, regional
12 collaboration, resource allocation, grant application and management,
13 compliance with federal and state regulation, and quality of service; and

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

- 16 • Reducing administrative and management costs through the elimination of
- 17 duplicative functions and organizations,
- 18 • Reducing overall operating costs by reducing the sum of operating costs for
- 19 the current individual agencies,
- 20 • Using savings generated through consolidation to meet current and future
- 21 needs with in-house personnel or other resources,
- 22 • Improving fleet maintenance through the consolidation of maintenance
- 23 management systems, parts inventories, and other maintenance activities,
- 24 • Improving technology and workflows through the implementation of
- 25 integrated, updated systems such as demand-response scheduling software
- 26 (improving communications and performance, and potentially reducing
- 27 operating costs),
- 28 • Enabling operational efficiencies by streamlining demand-response
- 29 operations and adjusting service levels to meet demand on an ongoing basis,
- 30 • Increasing ridership and revenue by making a regional transit system that is
- 31 more interconnected, convenient, and understandable to riders,
- 32 • Streamlining and integrating management functions to be more responsive
- 33 to transit and shared-ride needs,

1 • Consolidating service by participating in a joint powers agreement with the
2 RMRTD, which has an existing consolidated board consisting of one or more
3 representatives from each of the participating local governments; and
4 WHEREAS, other municipalities, counties, and regions have co-conducted
5 studies and developed consolidation plans for their transit agencies; and
6 WHEREAS, the Transit Department and RMRTD could benefit from co-
7 conducting a similar study for consolidating their transit agencies and
8 developing a Consolidation Plan; and
9 WHEREAS, general assessment steps that should be included in the Study
10 of the consolidation process include the following: evaluating the need,
11 conducting a feasibility study, examining financial implications, taking an
12 inventory of legal and regulatory requirements, developing a workforce
13 development plan, and establishing avenues for public input; and
14 WHEREAS, the Study should provide a comprehensive understanding of
15 the benefits, challenges, and potential risks associated with consolidation;
16 and
17 WHEREAS, the development of the Consolidation Plan should be based on
18 the findings of the Study and should include a detailed plan that outlines the
19 objectives, timelines, and steps for consolidating the transit agencies. The
20 Consolidation Plan should consider various aspects of consolidation, such as
21 measures for communicating, engaging, and collecting community input from
22 stakeholders, including but not limited to employees, transit unions,
23 passengers, local government officials, and community organizations. These
24 measures should be able to address concerns from stakeholders, build
25 support for the consolidation process, and establish clear expectations and
26 communications throughout the consolidation process, and should include
27 but not be limited to:
28 • Potential legal barriers or requirements for consolidation and ensure
29 compliance with federal and state regulations,
30 • A proposed unified organizational structure for the consolidated transit
31 agency within the NMRTD responsible for decision-making, defining roles and
32 responsibilities, developing clear reporting lines, and identifying the size,
33 scope, and operational requirements of the consolidated entity,

- 1 • Strategies to integrate operations and services of the different transit
2 agencies. This may involve reassigning roles, negotiating labor agreements,
3 providing training or retraining opportunities, and ensuring a fair and smooth
4 transition for affected employees,
- 5 • Plan to integrate funding sources and budgets. This should involve
6 considering how revenues, grants, subsidies, and expenses will be
7 consolidated and allocated within the unified agency. This should also involve
8 identifying any potential cost savings or revenue generation opportunities
9 through consolidation,
- 10 • Performance metrics and monitoring mechanisms to assess the
11 effectiveness and efficiency of the consolidated transit agency. This should
12 involve regularly evaluating the consolidated transit agency's performance,
13 gathering feedback from stakeholders, and making necessary adjustments to
14 ensure the desired outcomes are achieved.

15 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL, THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF
16 ALBUQUERQUE:

17 SECTION 1. Upon the enactment of this resolution by both the City and
18 RMRTD, the Transit Department and Rio Metro shall conduct a Study for
19 consolidating ABQ Ride and Rio Metro and use the findings to develop a
20 Consolidation Plan.

21 SECTION 2. The City encourages RMRTD to pass a companion resolution
22 to carry out the Consolidation Plan.

23 SECTION 3. The Study recommendations and resulting Consolidation Plan
24 shall ensure that current union employee positions in the City of Albuquerque
25 Transit Department will continue to be unionized. The Study shall also explore
26 the potential for extending union representation to RMRTD employees in
27 equivalent positions to those that are unionized at the City Transit
28 Department.

29 SECTION 4. That the following amounts from the City of Albuquerque are
30 appropriated to fund the Study and the Consolidation Plan. These amounts
31 will be matched by Rio Metro by resolution.

32 GENERAL FUND - 110

33 City Support

1 Transfer to Other Funds:

2 Transit Operating Fund (661)

3 150,000

4 TRANSIT OPERATING FUND (661)

5 Transit Department

6 150,000

7 SECTION 5. EFFECTIVE DATE. This resolution shall take effect five days
8 after publication by title and general summary.

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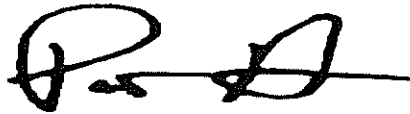
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1 PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 2nd DAY OF October, 2023
2 BY A VOTE OF: 7 FOR 2 AGAINST.

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4 For: Benton, Davis, Fiebelkorn, Grout, Jones, Lewis, Sanchez
5 Against: Bassan, Peña
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11 _____
12 Pat Davis, President
13 City Council
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16 APPROVED THIS 15 DAY OF October, 2023

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19 Bill No. R-23-163



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22 _____
23 Timothy M. Keller, Mayor
24 City of Albuquerque
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27 ATTEST:



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29 _____
30 Ethan Watson, City Clerk
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