

CITY of ALBUQUERQUE

TWENTY-FIFTH COUNCIL

COUNCIL BILL NO. R-23-181 ENACTMENT NO. _____

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 CONSIDERING CONSOLIDATION; APPROPRIATING FUNDING FOR THE
5 STUDY.

6 WHEREAS, the Albuquerque City Council passed R-23-163, which directed
7 the City of Albuquerque Transit Department and the Rio Metro Regional
8 Transit District (RMRTD) to conduct a Study for consolidating the City of
9 Albuquerque Transit Department and the RMRTD and to develop a
10 Consolidation Plan, encouraged RMRTD to pass a companion Resolution, and
11 appropriated funding for the Study and Plan; and

12 WHEREAS, the RMRTD Board of Directors passed their companion
13 Resolution, but amended the Resolution to exclude the development of a
14 Consolidation Plan, therefore, requiring the City of Albuquerque to repeal and
15 replace R-23-163 (Enactment No. R-2023-080) with this Resolution that mirrors
16 RMRTD's Resolution; and

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

20 WHEREAS, consolidating transportation systems at the regional level has
21 been an effective mechanism for improving efficiencies and reducing costs
22 across jurisdictions; and

23 WHEREAS, the City of Albuquerque Transit Department is responsible for
24 operating fixed route service, paratransit service, and BRT service within the
25 City limits; and

1 WHEREAS, the RMRTD Board of Directors is responsible for carrying out
2 the functions conferred by the provisions of the state's Regional Transit
3 District Act, with the establishment of a regional transit system that is
4 compatible with state and local transportation plans, the development of
5 policies and procedures to support the establishment of this system, and the
6 development of a sound financial plan that provides for the capital, operating,
7 and maintenance requirements of the regional transit system; and

8 WHEREAS, ten local governments participate in the RMRTD, including the
9 City of Albuquerque, Town of Bernalillo, Bernalillo County, Village of Bosque
10 Farms, Village of Corrales, Village of Los Lunas, Los Ranchos de
11 Albuquerque, City of Rio Communities, City of Rio Rancho, Sandoval County,
12 and Valencia County; and

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

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

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

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

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

- 28 • Reducing administrative and management costs through the elimination of
- 29 duplicative functions and organizations,
- 30 • Reducing overall operating costs by reducing the sum of operating costs for
- 31 the current individual agencies,
- 32 • Using savings generated through consolidation to meet current and future
- 33 needs with in-house personnel or other resources,

- 1 • Improving fleet maintenance through the consolidation of maintenance
2 management systems, parts inventories, and other maintenance activities,
3 • Improving technology and workflows through the implementation of
4 integrated, updated systems such as demand-response scheduling software
5 (improving communications and performance, and potentially reducing
6 operating costs),
7 • Enabling operational efficiencies by streamlining demand-response
8 operations and adjusting service levels to meet demand on an ongoing basis,
9 • Increasing ridership and revenue by making a regional transit system that is
10 more interconnected, convenient, and understandable to riders,
11 • Streamlining and integrating management functions to be more responsive
12 to transit and shared-ride needs,
13 • Consolidating service by participating in a joint powers agreement with the
14 RMRTD, which has an existing consolidated board consisting of one or more
15 representatives from each of the participating local governments; and

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

18 WHEREAS, the Transit Department and RMRTD could benefit from co-
19 conducting a similar study for consolidating their transit agencies; and

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

25 WHEREAS, the Study should provide a comprehensive understanding of
26 the benefits, challenges, and potential risks associated with consolidation;
27 and

28 WHEREAS, if the findings from the Study indicate that consolidation is
29 viable, and the City of Albuquerque and the RMRTD choose to proceed with a
30 Consolidation Plan the development of the Plan should be based on the
31 findings of the Study and should include a detailed plan that outlines the
32 objectives, timelines, and steps for consolidating the transit agencies. The
33 Consolidation Plan should consider various aspects of consolidation, such as

1 measures for communicating, engaging, and collecting community input from
2 stakeholders, including but not limited to employees, transit unions,
3 passengers, local government officials, and community organizations. These
4 measures should be able to address concerns from stakeholders, build
5 support for the consolidation process, and establish clear expectations and
6 communications throughout the consolidation process, and should include
7 but not be limited to:

8 Potential legal barriers or requirements for consolidation and ensure
9 compliance with federal and state regulations,

10 A proposed unified organizational structure for the consolidated transit
11 agency within the NMRTD responsible for decision-making, defining roles and
12 responsibilities, developing clear reporting lines, and identifying the size,
13 scope, and operational requirements of the consolidated entity,

14 Strategies to integrate operations and services of the different transit
15 agencies. This may involve reassigning roles, negotiating labor agreements,
16 providing training or retraining opportunities, and ensuring a fair and smooth
17 transition for affected employees,

18 Plan to integrate funding sources and budgets. This should involve
19 considering how revenues, grants, subsidies, and expenses will be
20 consolidated and allocated within the unified agency. This should also involve
21 identifying any potential cost savings or revenue generation opportunities
22 through consolidation,

23 Performance metrics and monitoring mechanisms to assess the
24 effectiveness and efficiency of the consolidated transit agency. This should
25 involve regularly evaluating the consolidated transit agency's performance,
26 gathering feedback from stakeholders and making necessary adjustments to
27 ensure the desired outcomes are achieved.

28 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL, THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF**
29 **ALBUQUERQUE:**

30 SECTION 1. R-23-163 (Enactment No. R-2023-080) is hereby repealed and is
31 replaced with this Resolution.

1 **SECTION 2. Upon the enactment of this Resolution by the City, the Transit**
2 **Department and the RMRTD shall conduct a Study for consolidating the**
3 **Transit Department and the RMRTD.**

4 **SECTION 3. The Study recommendations shall ensure that current union**
5 **employee positions in the City of Albuquerque Transit Department will**
6 **continue to be unionized. The Study shall also explore the potential for**
7 **extending union representation to RMRTD employees in equivalent positions**
8 **to those that are unionized at the City Transit Department.**

9 **SECTION 4. That the following amounts from the City of Albuquerque are**
10 **appropriated to fund the Study. These amounts have been matched by the**
11 **RMRTD by Resolution.**

12 **GENERAL FUND - 110**

13 **City Support**

14 **Transfer to Other Funds:**

15 **Transit Operating Fund (661)**

16 **150,000**

17 **TRANSIT OPERATING FUND (661)**

18 **Transit Department**

19 **150,000**

20 **SECTION 5. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Resolution shall take effect five days**
21 **after publication by title and general summary.**

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FISCAL IMPACT ANALYSIS

TITLE: Directing The City Of Albuquerque Transit Department And Rio Metro Regional Transit District To Conduct A Study For Considering Consolidation; Appropriating Funding For The Study R:23-181
FUND: Transit Operating Grants Fund 661
DEPT: Transit

- No measurable fiscal impact is anticipated, i.e., no impact on fund balance over and above existing appropriations.
- (If Applicable) The estimated fiscal impact (defined as impact over and above existing appropriations) of this legislation is as follows:

		2023	Fiscal Years 2024	2025	Total
Base Salary/Wages					-
Fringe Benefits at	1.4500%	-	-	-	-
Subtotal Personnel		-	-	-	-
Operating Expenses			-		-
Property			-	-	-
Indirect Costs	9.80%	(150,000)	-	-	(150,000)
Total Expenses		<u>\$ (150,000)</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ (150,000)</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Estimated revenues not affected					
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Estimated revenue impact					
Amount of Grant		-	-	-	-
City Cash Match					
City Inkind Match					
City IDOH		(150,000)	-	-	(150,000)
Total Revenue		<u>\$ (150,000)</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ (150,000)</u>

These estimates do not include any adjustment for inflation.

* Range if not easily quantifiable.

Number of Positions created _____

COMMENTS: \$150,000 will be transferred from the General Fund 110 to Transit Operating Grants Fund 661 to fund the Study. Another \$150,000 has already been appropriated by RMRTD for a total of \$300,000 to fund the Study.

COMMENTS ON NON-MONETARY IMPACTS TO COMMUNITY/CITY GOVERNMENT:

PREPARED BY:

APPROVED:

FISCAL ANALYST

DIRECTOR (date)

REVIEWED BY:

EXECUTIVE BUDGET ANALYST

BUDGET OFFICER (date)

CITY ECONOMIST