



CITY OF EL PASO: SUN METRO

Legislative Update Briefing

Updated March 2014

OUR VISION



The mission of Sun Metro is to provide a first-class public transportation service to all El Pasoans and visitors so they can experience safe, reliable, professional, courteous customer service and economic opportunity.

- Support a long-term bill that
 - establishes a dedicated trust fund mechanism that supplements existing revenues,
 - preserves dedicated revenues to the Mass Transit Account, and
 - maintains a strong federal program for public transportation

TRANSIT REAUTHORIZATION

- Restoration of the bus capital funding to the pre-MAP 21 level of \$948 million
 - Bus and Bus Facilities program was reduced from \$984 million in FY 2012 to \$422 million in FY 2013—a cut of more than 57 percent at a time of increasing ridership
 - Support to adjust Bus and Bus Facility (Sec. 5339), State of Good Repair (SGR) (Sec. 5337), and New Starts (Sec. 5309) funding and reestablish a 20/40/40 capital investment ratio among these three grant programs



PRESIDENT'S FY2015 BUDGET INCLUDES \$302 BILLION, 4-YEAR REAUTHORIZATION

Sun Metro supports President Obama's Fiscal Year 2015 budget proposal for increasing investment in transportation and for recognizing the need to address the imminent shortfall in the Highway Trust Fund and the Mass Transit Account before the current transportation legislation, (MAP-21) expires on September 30



ALTERNATIVE FUELS TAX CREDIT

- The Alternative Fuels Tax Credit provides public transportation providers with financial assistance in the form of a tax credit, to assist with converting their bus fleets from diesel to compressed natural gas
- Sun Metro's tax credit is over \$2.5 million annually
- Alt fuels tax credit expired Dec 2013
- *Support extension of the Alternative Fuels Tax Credit, retroactive Jan 2014*



COMMUTER TAX BENEFIT

- In 2013, commuters who use public transportation could receive tax free benefits up to \$245 per month
- Public transit and vanpool commuters will now see their maximum allowable pre-tax and tax-free benefit plunge to \$130 per month
- Support to re-establish the Commuter Tax benefit to 2013 levels of \$245 per month



SNAPSHOT OF SUN METRO

- 17 million bus passengers in 2013
- 200,000+ paratransit trips
- 166 buses
- 65 ADA (LIFT) buses
- 12 JARC (Job Express) vans
- 100% CNG bus fleet
- 643 employees (city and under contract)
- Annual operating budget over \$66 million
- Fixed Route managed by First Transit

SUN METRO'S MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS

- 2008 Texas Transit Association Outstanding Metropolitan System Award
- Texas Municipal League Intergovernmental Risk Pool recognized Sun Metro for reducing accident claims by 45%
- First Transit Award for Lowest Collision Rate per 100,000 Miles
 - Gold 2009
 - Silver 2010
 - Bronze 2011 & 2012





SUN METRO'S MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS

- Southwest Transit Association Spotlight Awards (2009, 2010, 2011 and 2012)
- **2011 American Public Transportation Association Outstanding Public Transportation System**
- Ranked 4th in the nation by Brookings Institute for Share of Working-Age Residents with Access to Transit (94.3%)





CURRENT AND FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS



- New Operations & Maintenance Facility (\$38M: FTA \$712K)
- Four BRT Corridors known as Sun Metro Brio (\$140M: 42.6% FTA)
- Five Points Transit Center Renovation (\$1.25M: FTA and local)
- Two additional transfer centers (\$10M: FTA and local)
- Proposed Streetcar System (\$95M: State and local)
- Three Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) communities
 - Northgate Transfer Center & TOD (\$10M Tiger/\$5M local)
 - Far-East Transfer Center & TOD
 - Five Points Terminal & TOD

NEW TRANSIT OPERATIONS CENTER OPERATIONAL MAY 2014

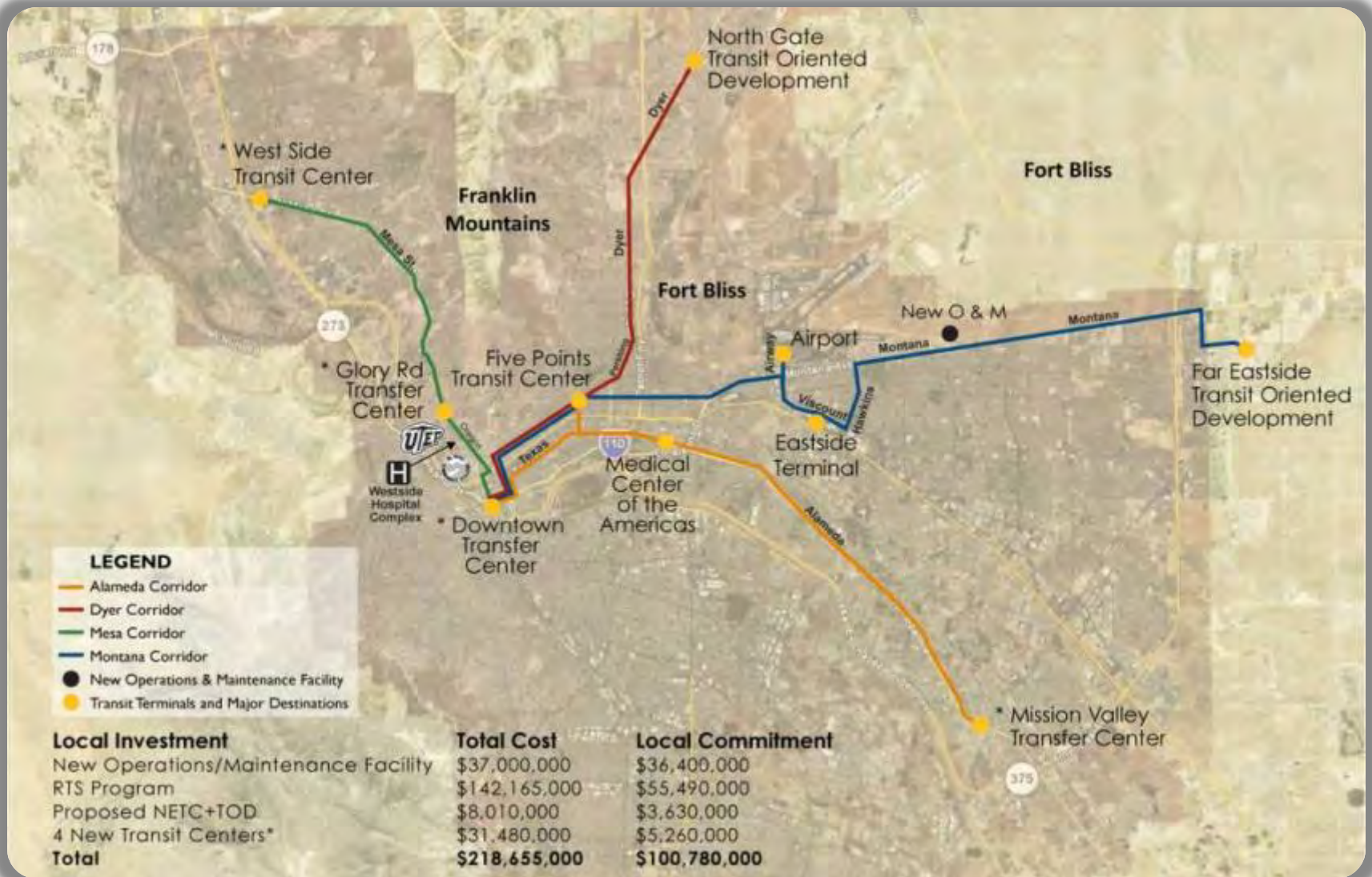




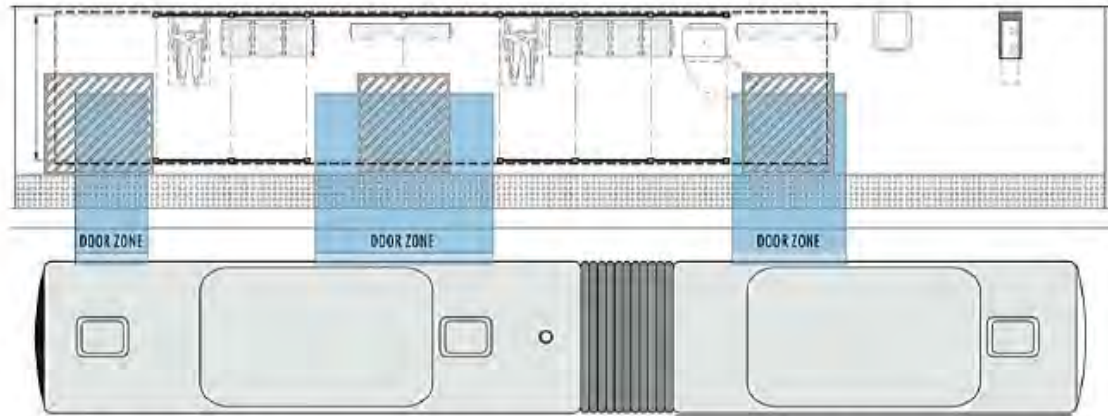
ABOUT THE TRANSIT OPERATIONS CENTER

- **Location:** Montana at Lorne Road
- **Built on 35.5 acre site:**
 - 26,099 sq. ft. Operations Building
 - 95,778 sq. ft. Maintenance Building
 - 13,913 sq. ft. Fueling Dispenser Facility
 - 9,227 sq. ft. Bus Wash Facility
- **Construction Cost:** approx. \$27.6 million
- **Fueling Facility:** public-private partnership with Clean Energy
- Bus parking area with canopy to house fleet

BRIO RAPID TRANSIT SYSTEM



ABOUT BUS RAPID TRANSIT

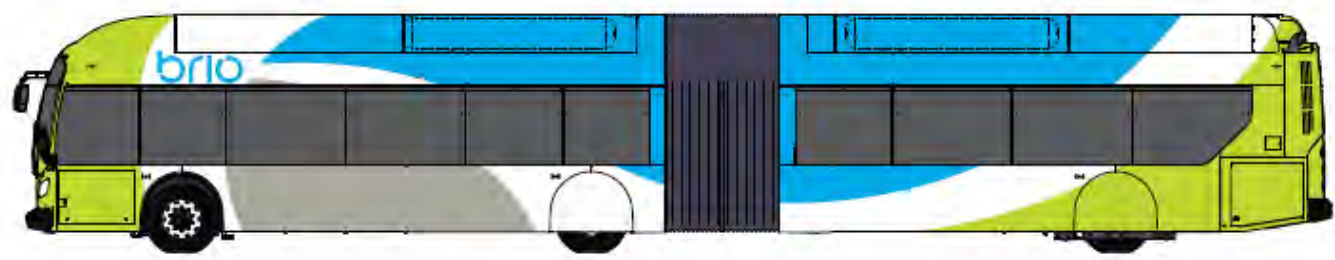
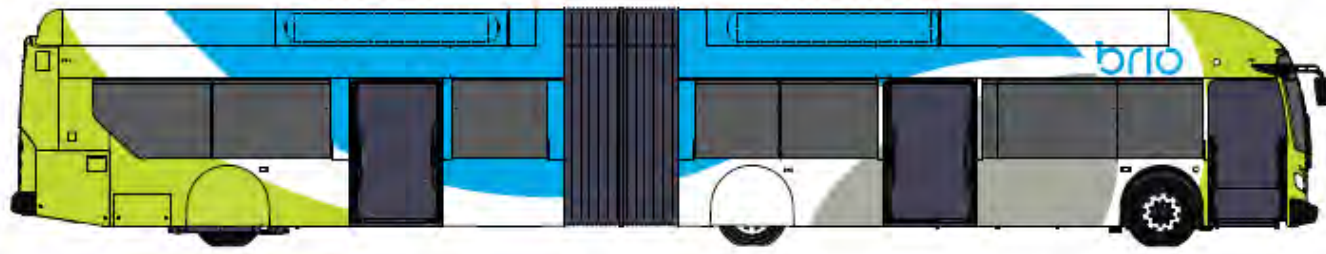


FLOOR PLAN

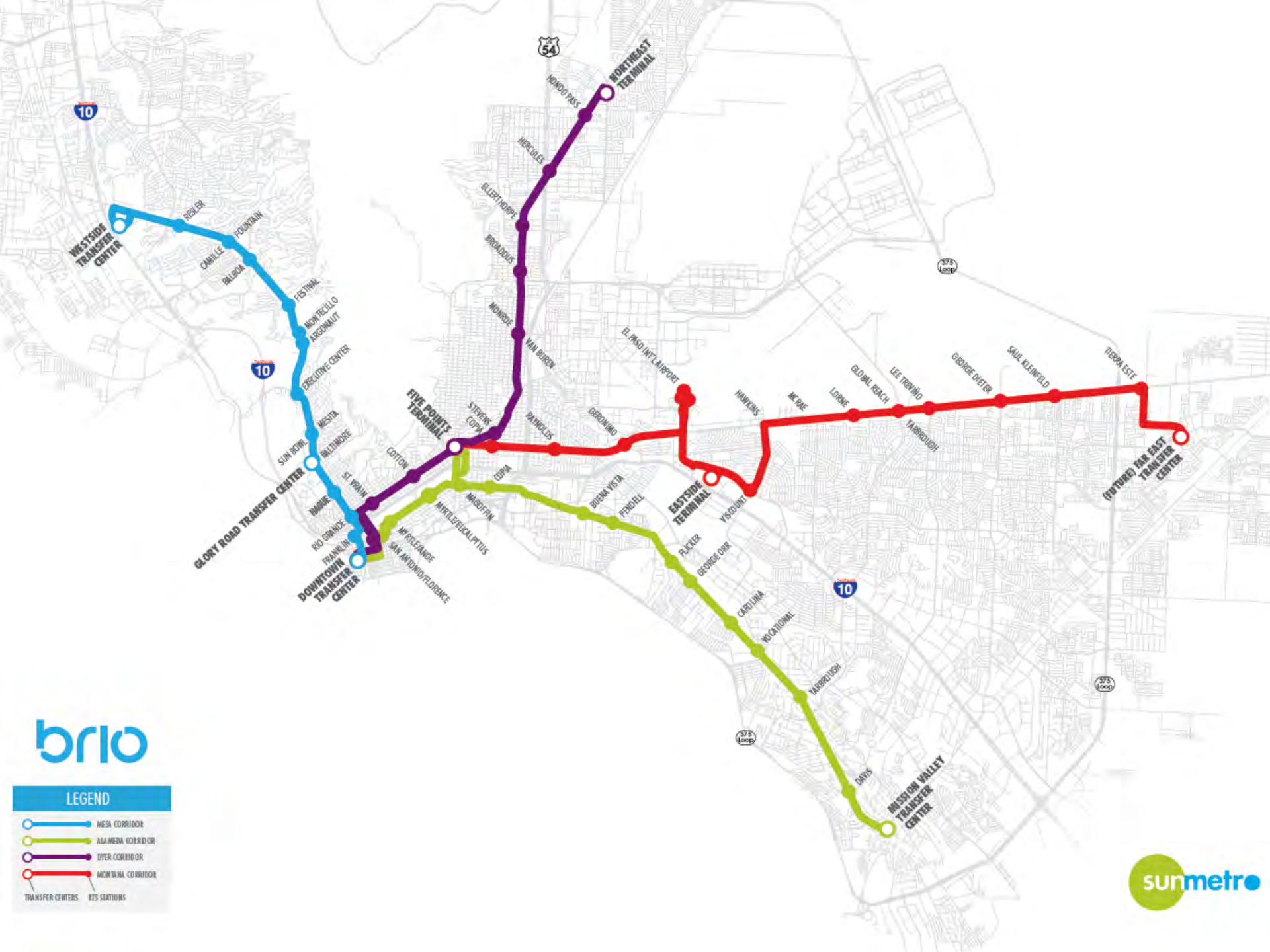


FRONT ELEVATION

ABOUT BUS RAPID TRANSIT



ARTICULATED BUS



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LEGEND

- MESA CORRIDOR
- ALAMEDA CORRIDOR
- DYER CORRIDOR
- MOUNTAIN CORRIDOR
- TRANSFER CENTERS
- BTS STATIONS



ABOUT THE MESA BRT CORRIDOR



Length: 8.6 miles

Beginning of route:

Downtown Transfer Center

End of route:

Westside Transfer Center

Total no. of buses: 10

No. of stations: 22

Total: \$27.1 million

FTA funding: \$13.5 million

Operational: July/Aug 2014



ABOUT THE ALAMEDA BRT CORRIDOR



Length: 14.5 miles

Beginning of route:

Downtown Transfer Center

End of route: Mission Valley

Transfer Center

Total no. of buses: 14

No. of stations: 29

Total: \$35.5 million

Funding: 100% City of El Paso and Sun Metro

Operational: Feb 2016

brio

ALAMEDA CORRIDOR



ABOUT THE DYER BRT CORRIDOR



Length: 10.2 miles

Beginning of route:

Downtown Transfer Center

End of route: Future Northeast Transfer Center

Total no. of buses: 10

No. of stations: 22

Total: \$35.7 million

FTA funding (applied):
\$20.4 million

Operational: Jan 2018



ABOUT THE MONTANA BRT CORRIDOR



Length: 16.8 miles

Beginning of route: Five Points Transfer Center

End of route: Future Far East Side Transfer Center

Total no. of buses: 14

No. of stations: 26

Total project cost: \$43.3 million

FTA funding (anticipated): \$25.7 million

Operational: May 2019



Current
Terminal



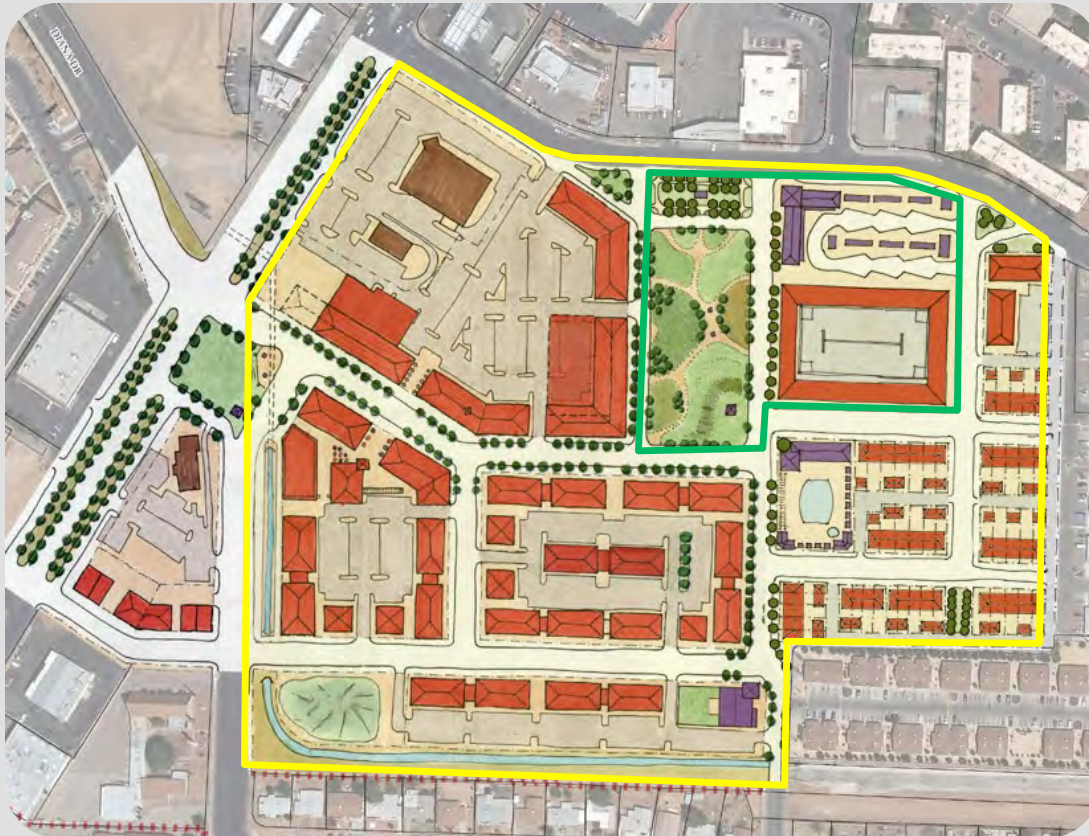
NORTHEAST TOD: AFTER ACQUISITION



Current
Terminal

Aerial View of Northeast Property (Current)

NORTHEAST TOD: DOVER KOHL LAND USE RECOMMENDATIONS



About the **Northeast Transfer Center**

- Houses multiple fixed-route services for local community
- Includes an additional structure and bays that are to be used by Sun Metro Brio Rapid Transit System



ABOUT THE NORTHEAST TOD: TIGER GRANT



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ABOUT THE NORTHEAST TOD

- 7 acres to be used for development of the Northeast Transfer Center: TIGER grant
- Remaining 23 acres to be a Public-Private Partnership venture as a Transit-Oriented Development
- Proposed Build-out recommended by Dover-Kohl
 - 130,000 sq. ft. of retail
 - 500 to 800 residential units
 - Mid-block parking structure for 480 parking spaces
 - 7,300 linear feet of new streets

Sun Metro Funding for 7 acres:

- Tiger V Grant Award \$10.3 Mill
- Local Match \$ 4.7 Mill
- \$15.0 Mill

- Project Components
 - Transit Center
 - Multi-level parking garage with retail around parameter
 - Connecting street infrastructure

- Developer selection for city owned 23 acres – Mar/
Apr 2014

PROPOSED FIVE POINTS TRANSFER CENTER & TOD



- Project is currently in its design stages
 - Designed to be a Public-Private Partnership project
- Located at Montana Ave. and Piedras St.
- Five Points will be the major connection between three Brio RTS lines (Alameda, Dyer, Montana)
- Project development based on the El Paso Smart Code and New Urbanism standards
 - Pedestrian, Bicycle and Transit Friendly

PROPOSED FAR-EAST TRANSFER CENTER & TOD





FAR-EAST TRANSFER CENTER & TOD

- Project is currently in its design stages
 - Designed to be a Public-Private Partnership project
- 4.93 acre site located at RC Poe and Edgemere
- Construction: \$5 million
- Station to the future Brio RTS Montana corridor
- Fire Station #37 will be part of TOD
- Project development based on the El Paso Smart Code and New Urbanism standards
 - Pedestrian, bicycle and transit friendly

- Local Business Groups
 - CBA, DMD, CVB, Chamber of Commerce
- Federal, State & Local Agencies
 - FTA, FHWA, TxDOT
 - LULAC, El Paso County, City of El Paso
 - Ft. Bliss Army Post
 - NMDOT (Gold Route)
 - Amtrak
- Managed by First Transit
- Privatization of paratransit service by MV Transportation
- Academic Institutions
 - UTEP, EPCC, Texas Tech



PUBLIC AND PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS

- Bus Bench Franchises
 - El Paso Bench Ads, River Elms, Pinnacle Media
- Private Business
 - Big Boy Concessionaire
 - Sun City Cabs
 - Mansfield Gas Equipment Services
- Community Events
 - Arts in Motion by Creative Kids
 - Chalk the Block by MCAD
 - Mayor's Thanksgiving Meal/CVB
- TOD Communities
 - Monticello, Northgate, Far-East, Five Points & Geltmore