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**NEWS  
RELEASE**

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# City of El Paso Receives \$40 Million in Recovery Funding for Public Transit

**El Paso, Texas**—The City of El Paso is receiving \$40,781,532 in federal funding to help Sun Metro continue to provide services throughout the COVID pandemic.

“I am pleased to share that El Paso is the recipient of federal funding for Sun Metro,” Mayor Dee Margo said. “This multi-million dollar grant is critical to continuing transportation services to the community during the pandemic.”

The grant award was announced by the Office of U.S. Senator John Cornyn. The funding was appropriated by Congress in March as part of the CARES Act.

Ellen Smyth, City of El Paso Managing Director for Sun Metro and the Environmental Services Department said the funding will assist Sun Metro as it prepares to ramp up mobility by bringing back weekday and weekend routes on August 2, 2020. The department had scaled back transit operations due to the pandemic.

Route schedules returning are available at [www.SunMetro.net](http://www.SunMetro.net). Some of the operational changes related to Sun Metro’s recovery plan taking effect next month include:

- Reinstating fare rates and front-door boarding. (Fares have been waived since April 2020.)
- Keeping seat-closed signs on every other seat to promote social distancing.
- Requiring operators and passengers to wear face coverings, unless the individual is exempt under the local emergency ordinance.

The federal grant is intended to support operating, administrative, and preventive maintenance costs in order to respond to and recover from the pandemic.

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