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June 18, 2018

NEWS RELEASE

Sun Metro Unveils New Streetcar

WHO: City of El Paso Mass Transit Department – Sun Metro

WHAT: Streetcar Unveiling Event

WHEN: **10:00 a.m. Thursday, June 21, 2018**

WHERE: **Maintenance and Storage Facility at 601-A Santa Fe**

WHY: The City of El Paso invites the public to the El Paso Streetcar unveiling event. The event will feature a first glimpse at the future of transit in El Paso and behind-the-scenes access to the new streetcar maintenance facility, music and more.

“This is a chance to be among the first El Pasoans to view the El Paso Streetcar,” Sun Metro Director Jay Banasiak says. “The historic streetcar, once a staple of the Sun City’s public transportation system, will be riding through city streets again thanks in part to a collaboration between the City of El Paso and the Camino Real Regional Mobility Authority.”

Two of the six vehicles have arrived in El Paso from Brookville, Pennsylvania – based Brookville Equipment Corp., with the remaining four vehicles set to be delivered in the coming months. All six vintage El Paso streetcars, the same vehicles that ran through El Paso streets until 1974, will be housed in the Maintenance and Storage Facility undergoing daily inspections and service.

The streetcars are already undergoing on-street testing at night, and will begin testing along the route this summer during daytime hours. All six vehicles will undergo a four-to-six-month safety approval process. A series of testing including Overhead Contact Systems (OCS) tests, track testing and other safety certifications will need to be completed and approved by the Texas Department of Transportation prior to starting revenue service. The community is asked to please follow safety guidelines for pedestrians, motorists, and bicyclists during testing phases.

The 4.8 mile-route will run in two loops through El Paso’s uptown and downtown areas. Both loops will interconnect through a single-tracked corridor an international bridge, an array of businesses, restaurants, government buildings, convention center, downtown ballpark, and the University of Texas at El Paso among many other prominent locations.

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The El Paso Streetcar will undergo an operating costs simulation during its pre-revenue service. Ongoing operation costs are expected to be fulfilled through a combination of fare box revenue, advertising, corporate sponsorships, federal funding opportunities and partnerships. Upon the completion of Federal Transit Administration and State Safety Oversight requirements, reviews and final sign-offs, passengers can get onboard the streetcars. Revenue service is expected to start in late 2018.

The El Paso Streetcar amenities will feature:

- Streetcar branding along the route and signage at designated stops
- Pavement, sidewalk and driveway improvements at designated stops
- Free Wi-Fi on the streetcars
- Modern controls housed in an old-fashioned console
- Upgrades for safety, air conditioning, and ADA provisions
- Modern propulsion

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