



MEMORANDUM

Project: RMRTD Visioning (Long-Term Strategic Vision and Implementation)
Date: September 24, 2015
From: RMRTD Project Team
To: Project Record
Subject: Strategic Vision Public Meetings, September 15 – 18, 2015, Summaries

Valencia County

Tuesday, September 15, 2015

Los Lunas Transportation Center

Meeting times: 5:00pm and 6:30pm (coinciding with the #513 and #515 trains).

Staff: Tony S, Liz C. (RMRTD) and Gary and Jeremy (consultants)

Total attendance (non-staff): 5

- Rio Communities (an elected official and staff person from Rio Communities in attendance) is looking at the possibility of a Park and Ride location near Route 47 and 304. The Park and Ride could serve the Rail Runner station, UNM Valencia, industrial park, and service on Route 47 between Belen and Los Lunas.
- Rio Communities is looking at a Phase 2 TOD opportunity near the site, with potential municipal uses.
- Opportunity: transit connection to industrial park, which is a key current and future employment location. Service would address key challenge presented by lack of labor force availability to sites.
- Complaint: long gap in Rail Runner service requiring long stays in Albuquerque and Santa Fe. More Rail Runner runs needed.
- Complaint: Clean-up busses (in ABQ) – they are a significantly different (lesser) experience than the Rail Runner.
- Opportunity: more weekend and evening service is needed to get to the amenities in the City.
- Employers could be more flexible with their work schedules to accommodate for transit.
- Questions about increasing Rail Runner fares (person in favor of it). GRT increase would be needed to keep fares low, RTD should also look for other revenue sources as well.
- “People may pay more for better of cleaner busses.”
- “As the population ages the mobility issues becomes more important” it also is important to keep younger populations from leaving.
- Opportunity: Direct service from Valencia County to VA hospital and Airport.
- Is there are plan for extending the 207 / 209 routes? (this was clarified / satisfied with schedule).
- Opportunity: Extend service over the bridge(s)
- Support voiced for more fixed route service
- Opportunity: transit ambassadors to go to senior centers to inform folks about the Rio Metro services

Sandoval County

Town of Bernalillo Workforce Building, Wednesday, September 16, 2015

Meeting times: 5:30pm and 6:15pm (coinciding with the #515 and #101x trains).

Staff: Jenna (RMRTD), Aaron (COG) and Gary and Jeremy (consultants)

Total attendance (non-staff): 16

- 528 from Southern to 550 or a little further south / north is a key growth corridor that needs more transportation choices.
- “Where’s the rest of Rio Rancho on the map?” Add the rest of Rio Rancho to the service concept. The map excludes a lot of facilities / population to the north.
- There are 3 nodes for future growth / development in Rio Rancho: Rail Runner station, ABQRIDE node at Southern and Unser, NW transit center. Currently, these three nodes are “transit voids.”
- Discussion of Cuba and Jemez Springs and Santa Ana schedule on existing service and potential test of enhanced service.
- Limited Rail Runner service and long headways.
- Board Structure biased against Sandoval County. Albuquerque is overrepresented on the Board
- Cost sharing / “skin in the game” for the service that enhance our communities will be supported by our communities.
- Transit enhancements (e.g. capital projects like bus stops or new service) or transit incentives (e.g. purchasing transit passes for employees or residents of new buildings) could be cost-share opportunities with private employers / developers to add local feeders to RMRTD regional service.
- What can we do to get better service? 1) prioritize our consensus projects (e.g. “speak with one voice” as a county) as part of the Transit Service Concept Plan to follow this Vision Plan 2) support enhanced regional funding that will pay for our consensus projects, 3) bring some money to the table to provide local cost-sharing match on priority projects; and 4) revise local land use policies to better support transit service and ridership.
- Exceptional customer service could be clarified that what we’re talking about is “good value for the money” not necessarily “free transit.”
- Follow-up: attendees and Lonnie in particular would like to hear more about the FTA guidelines for funding new transit expansions (e.g. sustainability, public health, and economic development metrics, not just the traditional New Starts metrics of cost per new rider, etc.). More info here: <http://reconnectingamerica.org/what-we-do/policy/final-new-starts-small-starts-regulation/>

Bernalillo County

MRCOG, Thursday, September 17, 2015

Meeting time: 5:30pm

Staff: Terry and Tony (RTD) and Gary and Jeremy (consultants)

Total attendance (non-staff): 2

- Recognized the value and appropriate first step of developing a vision framework and a general direction for the future of transit in the region.
- Confirmed that the themes and strategies were good, and felt that some of the key tactics were on target.