

EPC Comments for Comprehensive Plan Update

This comment is in response to the amendment shown on page 24 of the Action Matrix, Action 6.7.2.6 Regional Systems. This action was identified in a feedback survey or listening session in the Age Friendly Action Plan. The proposed new action is to “Explore the option of allowing Sun Van [and] DSA transportation to travel outside Albuquerque City limits [t]o medical facilities more convenient for patrons living on the edge of city limits. [A]”

ABQ RIDE provides fixed route service and Sun Van paratransit service outside City limits in Bernalillo County and Los Ranchos, which is paid for by Bernalillo County. Rio Metro pays ABQ RIDE to provide fixed route service in southern Rio Rancho in Sandoval County. Our agreement states that any paratransit service in Sandoval County is Rio Metro’s responsibility. The FTA does not require a transit provider to serve another jurisdiction.

Expanding ABQ RIDE service into other jurisdictions has significant operational and budget impacts. ABQ RIDE can communicate this action recommendation with Rio Metro with the understanding that adding paratransit service in Sandoval County is their decision. ABQ RIDE recommends this action identify DSA as the lead agency along with Rio Metro. We also recommend adding an “and” between “Sun Van” and “DSA” because those are two different transportation providers and this is not clear the way it is currently written.