

SOUTHWEST AREA REGIONAL TRANSIT DISTRICT

Board Meeting

Tuesday, December 17, 2025

713 East Main Street, Uvalde, Texas

10:30 A. M.

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:35 A.M.

II. Roll Call

Roll call was taken, and a quorum was established with the following members present:

Judge Leodoro Martinez - TEAMS

Judge Souli A. Shanklin

Judge John Paul Schuster

Judge Martha Alicia Ponce

Judge William Bates

Judge Jesse Gonzales

III. Public Comment

There was no public comment

IV. Minutes

Discussion and approval of the October 22, 2025, Board of Directors Meeting Minutes.

Judge John Paul Schuster moved to approve the minutes as presented, and Judge Martha

Alicia Ponce seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

V. Discussion and Possible Action on the General Manager's Report

Sarah H Cook presented the General Manager's report informing the board of directors of various district updates, including the status of urban onboarding, the Eagle Pass MPO activities, and regional planning meetings, and provided a summary of the current Regional Planning status on goals and objectives met thus far. Judge Martha Alicia Ponce made a motion to approve the General Manager's report, which Judge John Paul Schuster seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

VI. New Business

A. Presentation on Upcoming Revised Regional 5-Year Plan – Hendrickson Transportation Group, Joseph Dvorsky Project Manager

Joseph and Sarah presented the TxDOT-required 5-Year plan revision for the Middle Rio Grande Region in which SWART as the Regional Lead Agency is responsible to update every five years. The major planning Elements include public outreach, geographic and demographic analysis, service assessment, needs and gaps analysis, goal and project development and project prioritization. The final plan is due in December 2026.

B. Discussion and Possible Action on TxDOT Call for Projects

Sarah presented proposed submissions under the Rural Discretionary Program, totaling approximately \$1.5 million in requests:

- **\$550,000 – Three Arriba SWART vehicles (including potential EVs)**
- **\$250,000 – Uvalde facility improvements (fencing, gate, drainage, façade)**
- **\$212,000 – IT upgrades (servers, AI tools, Starlink connectivity)**
- **\$300,000 - Additional requests: security cameras, digital signage, maintenance tools, Crystal City facility repairs, and small sedans for mobility managers**

Under the Rural Technical Assistance Program (RTAP), Sarah proposed requests for training materials and equipment.

Judge John Paul Schuster moved to approve the proposed projects and the submission of applications for the Call for Projects. Judge Jesse Gonzales seconded the motion, which was unanimously carried

C. Discussion & Possible Action on SWART Safety Manual

Cynthia Rodriguez, Assistant General Manager, informed the board that the safety committee meeting had met on September 29, 2022, and had revised the point structure in the Safety Policy. Judge Tully Shahan made a motion to approve the safety policy with the recommended changes as presented and Christine Cardona-Guerrero seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

D. Discussion and Possible Action on Eagle Pass UZA TIP/STIP Revisions

Sarah reported that the Eagle Pass 5307 funding allocation for FY 2024-FY 2026 needed to be updated in the TIP so the Eagle Pass MPO could update the amounts for the State TIP. She presented a spreadsheet depicting each fiscal year's set allocation, making a note that the FY 2026 was an estimated amount provided by FTA, while the other amounts were the actual award amount. She also explained that the revisions were made to not only show actual award amounts, but to move the funds between categories from capital into operations. Judge John Paul Schuster made a motion to approve the revised TIP and Judge Martha Alicia Ponce seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

VII. SWART Financials

a. Report on Bank Account Balances - handout

Maggie Flores, Chief Financial Officer, presented a handout on account balances and informed the board of the current balances in the bank.

b. Report on FY2026 Cash Flow Analysis

Maggie presented the board with an updated cash flow analysis for FY2026.

c. Discussion and Possible Action on Budgets Closeouts

Maggie presented the budget closeout for the following program:

- **GY 2025 Rural Discretionary – Uvalde Project -545**
- **GY 2025 Rural Discretionary – Security Cameras – 546**
- **GY 2025 Rural Discretionary – Security Cameras – 547**
- **GY 2025 Elderly & Disabled 5310 Program – 525**
- **GY 2025 Elderly & Disabled 5310 Program – 425**

- GY 2025 Elderly & Disabled 5310 Program – 530
- GY 2025 5339 Bus & Bus Facility

Judge John Paul Schuster moved to approve the budget closeouts. Judge Martha Alicia Ponce seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

d. Discussion and Possible Action of Grant Year Revenue & Expense Reports Ending November 2025

Maggie presented the revenue and expense reports for the following grants, which ended in November 2025.

- GY 2025 Federal 5311 Grant Program – 505
- GY 2026 Federal 5311 Grant Program – 505
- GY 2025 Urbanized State Program – 406
- GY 2026 Urbanized State Program – 406
- GY 2026 Rural State Program – 506
- GY 2025 State Expansion Program – 507
- GY 2026 Elderly & Disabled Program – 525
- GY 2026 5339 Bus & Bus Facility - 539
- GY 2026 Five-Year Regional Plan –
- GY 2026 Regional Planning – 515
- GY 2025 Planning Grant – Micro transit Planning – 516

Judge Martha Alicia Ponce made a motion to approve the revenue and expenditure reports, with Judge Jesse Gonzales seconding the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

e. Discussion and Possible Action on Check Register

Maggie presented the check registers for October 2025 and November 2025 to the board. Judge John Paul Schuster made a motion to approve the check registers as presented, and Judge Martha Alicia Ponce seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

f. Report on Bank Reconciliations

Maggie presented to the board the bank reconciliations for the Employee Savings account for October and November 2025, and for the operating account for the same months.

VIII. ADJOURN

Judge Martha Alicia Ponce moved to adjourn, and Judge Jesse Gonzales seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 11:35 a.m.


 Judge John Paul Schuster, Board Secretary/Treasurer