

New Mexico State Legislature Interim Committee

Zero Fares in Albuquerque & Las Cruces



Zero Fares Speakers

Israel Chávez is an activist and attorney in southern New Mexico, specializing in civil rights, criminal defense and personal injury. He is the founder of the Doña Ana Village Association and an ardent advocate for transit equity. He is the current president of the Southern New Mexico Bar Association and an executive member of the board of the Las Cruces Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. His family has been in the Mesilla valley for more than 10 generations and he continues their tradition of service through his work. Learn more at www.ichavezlaw.com.

Christopher Ramírez brings an extensive amount of anti-racism, community organizing, consulting, facilitation, fundraising and strategic planning as Executive Director of Together for Brothers. Building power with boys and young men of color (BYMOC) and making space at decision making tables are core values he lifts up at T4B and in the community. He has recently served on the City of Albuquerque Transit Advisory Board and Governor's Advisory Council on Racial Justice Public Safety & Law Enforcement Subcommittee. Learn more at www.togetherforbrothers.org.

Zero Fares

Eliminating fares for public transportation, which is part of larger **transit equity** and **mobility sovereignty**, addresses social determinants of health and health equity while increasing access for low income New Mexicans and New Mexicans of color who use public transit at higher rates to:

- Education
- Employment
- Healthcare
- Healthy Food
- Outdoor Recreation

History of Zero Fares

Many New Mexican communities have offered free public transportation days for Earth Day, voting and other holidays including most recently Transit Equity Day on February 4 to recognize Rosa Parks birthday.

With community support Albuquerque offered free summer youth passes in 2018 and 2019. In 2020 with the COVID pandemic made public transit free. Seniors and veterans were added in 2021. City council passed legislation including budget in 2021 for Zero Fares for FY2022 and again in FY2023. ParaTransit and bus rapid transit was made permanent in February 2023. City council will be voting for fixed rates to be permanent in November 2023.

With community support Doña Ana County approved Zero Fare in June 2002 and Las Cruces city council in October 2022.

Albuquerque Zero Fares Report - March 2023 (Fixed Routes)

RIDERSHIP



Fixed Route Ridership					
Month	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23
JUL	781,280	755,491	370,222	393,282	525,529
AUG	880,079	805,880	333,389	395,706	589,100
SEP	795,408	770,017	349,035	389,426	508,877
OCT	837,665	815,378	378,371	438,310	563,424
NOV	758,173	694,714	295,324	418,177	540,232
DEC	670,554	746,344	276,468	387,785	579,365
JAN	716,045	729,005	275,283	422,724	547,662
FEB	698,976	764,293	275,242	401,963	523,320
MAR	757,396	630,292	356,489	469,247	572,142
APR	779,357	315,901	356,158	458,194	
MAY	755,731	306,544	345,151	462,601	
JUN	729,045	336,563	365,471	477,309	
Total	9,159,709	7,670,422	3,976,603	5,114,724	4,949,651

- 9% increase from February, 2023
- 22% increase from March, 2022

Albuquerque Zero Fares Report - March 2023 (ParaTransit)

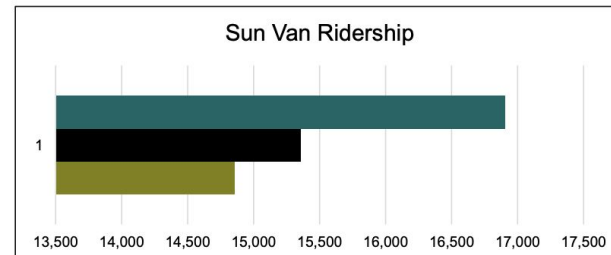
PARATRANSIT/SUN VAN



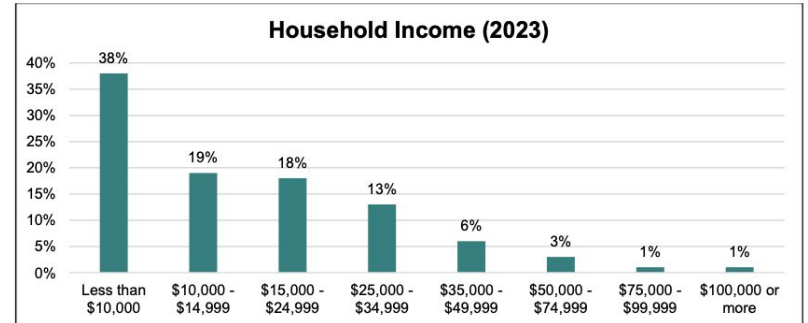
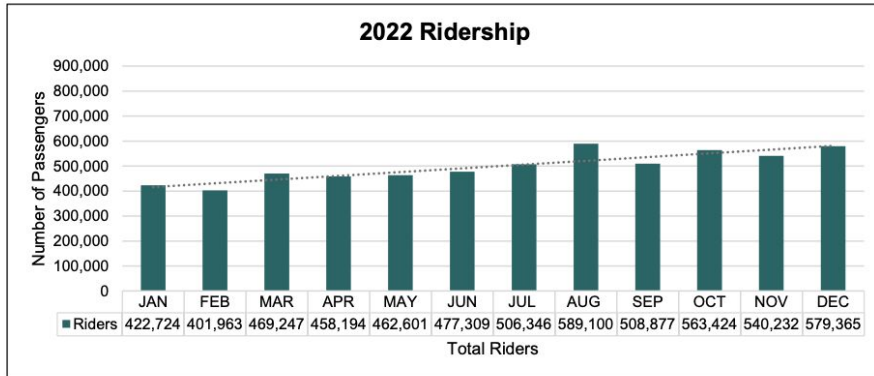
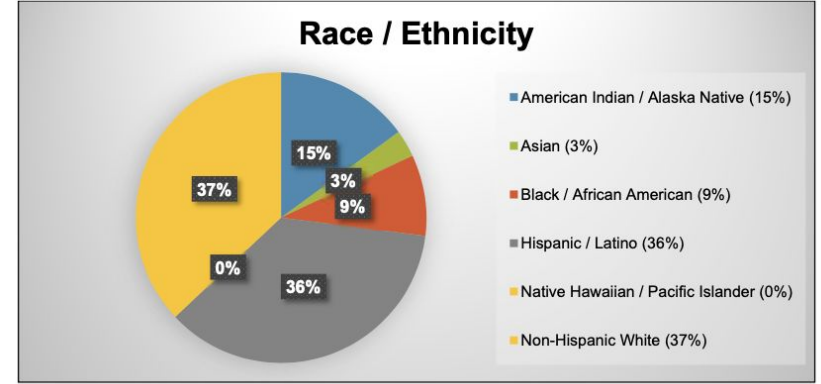
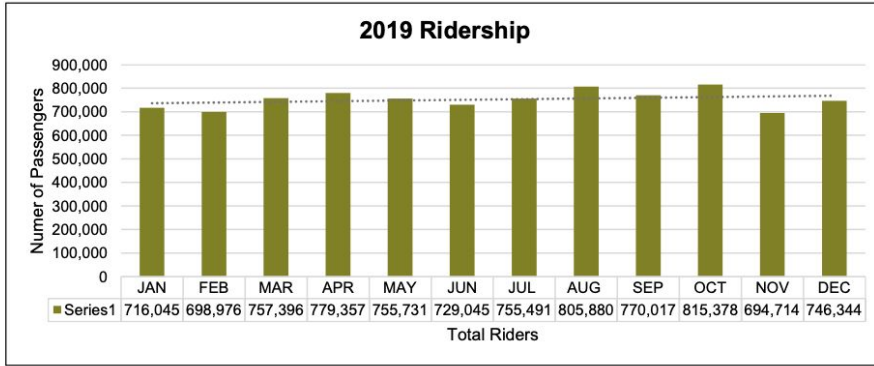
Sun Van Applications					
Month	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23
Jul	78	76	18	37	59
Aug	91	91	22	86	50
Sep	67	82	26	67	105
Oct	90	88	32	58	95
Nov	63	72	25	39	104
Dec	66	84	19	44	32
Jan	70	64	20	37	52
Feb	91	75	29	50	40
Mar	83	42	34	44	51
Apr	94	7	47	37	
May	112	20	37	93	
Jun	89	30	67	64	
Total	994	731	376	656	628

- 10% increase from February 2023
- 18% increase from March 2022

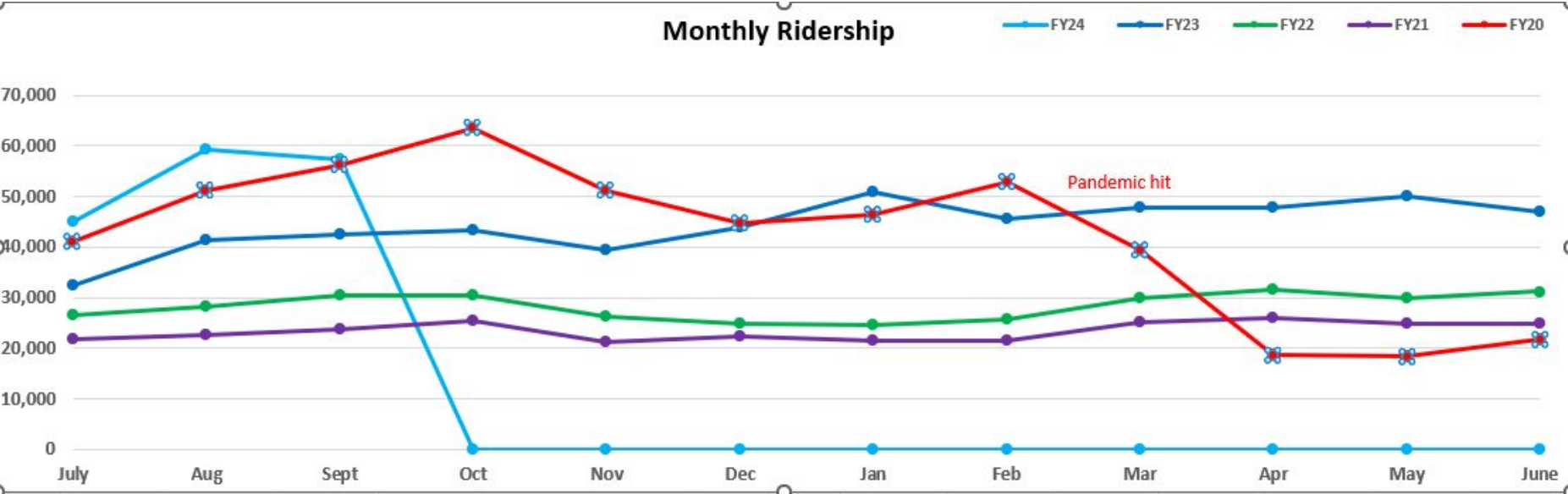
Paratransit (Sun Van) Ridership					
Month	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23
Jul	20,659	20,732	6,786	10,901	13,623
Aug	23,534	22,168	7,031	12,623	16,343
Sep	21,363	21,228	7,127	13,165	15,423
Oct	24,424	23,554	7,479	14,007	15,611
Nov	21,388	19,867	5,800	12,727	13,002
Dec	19,004	19,496	6,094	12,097	14,208
Jan	22,085	21,475	6,331	12,064	14,855
Feb	20,686	20,618	6,179	11,874	15,359
Mar	21,993	12,795	8,165	14,412	16,903
Apr	22,936	3,809	9,589	14,395	
May	20,937	4,296	9,519	14,267	
Jun	19,741	6,348	10,215	13,756	
Total	258,750	196,386	90,315	156,288	137,274



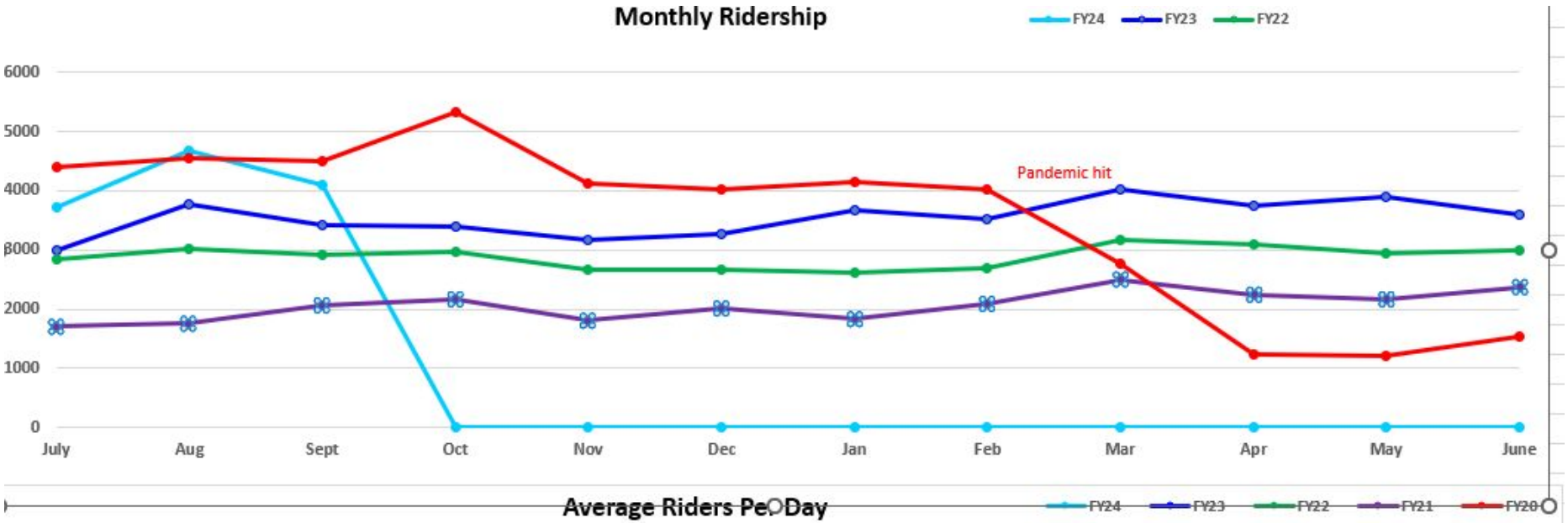
Albuquerque - Fixed Route Ridership



Las Cruces - Fixed Route Ridership



Las Cruces - ParaTransit Ridership



Zero Fares in New Mexico Next Steps

- Connecting with other NM communities including Española, Gallup, Las Vegas and Santa Fe
- NMDOT and “FLEX” funding from bipartisan infrastructure and inflation reduction federal funding for public transit operations
- State support for Zero Fares