



City of Needles, California Request for City Council Action

☒ CITY COUNCIL ☐ NPUA

☒ Regular ☐ Special

Meeting Date: February 11, 2025

Title: Approve the Fort Mohave/Bullhead Shuttle Draft Operating Plan

Background: Both the Dial-A-Ride Medical Transport and Shopper Shuttle Pilot Program services have seen a decline in ridership and increased costs over the last few years and, in response, the San Bernardino County Transportation Authority (SBCTA) retained a consulting firm, AMMA Transit Planning, Inc., to evaluate the continued operation of these services. The Fort Mohave/Bullhead Shuttle Draft Operating Plan notes:

To address declining ridership and rising costs on the Dial-A-Ride Medical service and to recognize the community's need for access to grocery shopping, plans for a combined shuttle to Fort Mohave and Bullhead City were proposed in the 2020-2025 SRTP. Branded the Fort Mohave/Bullhead Shuttle, the new service is proposed to combine the Dial-A-Ride Medical service with the Shopper Shuttle service to provide more flexibility for medical appointments and more opportunities for residents to obtain groceries and other necessities. To achieve this, the Fort Mohave/Bullhead Shuttle proposes to run two trips per day between Needles, Fort Mohave and Bullhead City on Tuesday and Thursday, allowing passengers to ride for any trip purpose. Providing two trips per day—one morning round trip and one late morning round trip—reduces the length of time a passenger must wait to return home from medical appointments and grocery trips, while also creating new opportunities to travel later in the morning than is currently possible on existing services.

Combining the trip purpose of the Dial-A-Ride Medical and Shopper Shuttle services onto a single vehicle will maximize the vehicle's capacity and likely lead to increased productivity and cost efficiency. Increasing service frequency to provide four round trips over two days, as the Fort Mohave/Bullhead Shuttle, instead of three round trips over three days currently provided between the two existing programs will increase vehicle revenue miles traveled, but will reduce the number of required service days, service hours and the dwell time of the driver and vehicle waiting to return back to Needles once the last passenger is ready to return.

Reservations for the Fort Mohave/Bullhead Shuttle must be made in advance and are processed on a first-come, first-served basis. Parking Concepts, DBA Transportation Concepts has reviewed the Draft Operating Plan and supports its implementation without negotiating the current service hour rates provided for in our Agreement for the 2024-2025 fiscal year.

Fiscal Impact: The Dial-a-Ride Medical/Shopper budget should be sufficient to cover any additional costs that may be incurred for the remainder of the current fiscal year, however, if costs exceed expectations, SBCTA funding will be used to cover the additional expenses.

Recommended Action: Approve the Fort Mohave/Bullhead Shuttle Draft Operating Plan.

Submitted By: Cheryl Sallis, Community Services Manager

City Manager Approval: Patrick J. Martinez

Date: 2/6/2025

Other Department Approval (when required): Barbara DiLeo

Date: 2/6/2025

Approved: ☐

Not Approved: ☐

Tabled: ☐

Other: ☐