

Region: West Texas/El Paso (Upper Rio Grande)

Constraint # __

Brief description of the Constraint

Shortage of knowledgeable mechanics in the region to repair and maintain propane-powered engines.

Source of Constraint

Vehicles purchased with funds from TxDOT must have alternative fuel engines.

Specifically describe how this Constraint is limiting or restricting coordinated regional service.

Attach additional pages as required to describe in detail and with supporting facts.

Many vehicles are not operating due to this situation.

What is your Region doing to take Local initiative to address and resolve constraint?

The regional coordinated transportation effort has included plans to work with local community college to develop mechanic training that covers alternative fuel engines. We also will ask for more TxDOT alternative fuel training sessions throughout our region.

Do you need additional assistance on how other Regions have tackled and resolved similar Constraints? Would you like to post a request for advice or suggestions from other Regions on the RSP website?

Need TxDOT to offer more alternative fuel training in the region. We would also like assistance in setting up the training for mechanics in alternative fuel engines.

Person Identifying Constraint:

Name: Bob Geyer Phone: (915) 834-8242 Email: bgeyer@epcounty.com

Agency: El Paso County Transit

Responder:

Name:

Phone:

Email:

Agency:

Region: West Texas/El Paso (Upper Rio Grande)

Constraint # __

Brief description of the Constraint

SAFETEA-LU Sections 5310 and 5311 transit providers are unable to fuel at the TxDOT alternative fuel stations.

Source of Constraint

Not identified, although TxDOT communicates that this is set in law or regulations (state?)

Specifically describe how this Constraint is limiting or restricting coordinated regional service.

Attach additional pages as required to describe in detail and with supporting facts.

Many of the region's transit operators, particularly in the remote rural communities of our region, cannot easily access alternative fuel. Often the only convenient stations in the region with alternative fuel belong to the TxDOT. There are also large distances between existing fueling stations with alternative fuels.

What is your Region doing to take Local initiative to address and resolve constraint?

We are asking for TxDOT to authorize all transit operators with section 5310 and 5311 vehicles that operate on alternative fuel to be able to fuel at TxDOT alternative fuel stations.

Do you need additional assistance on how other Regions have tackled and resolved similar Constraints? Would you like to post a request for advice or suggestions from other Regions on the RSP website?

Yes we would like to know how other regions are addressing this problem.

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Agency: El Paso County Transit

Responder:

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Region: West Texas/El Paso (Upper Rio Grande)
Constraint # __ Brief description of the Constraint Sun Metro (Section 5307 provider) is only allowed to provide transit services within the El Paso city limits
Source of Constraint Texas Transportation Code Chapter 453
<u>Specifically</u> describe how this Constraint is limiting or restricting coordinated regional service. <i>Attach additional pages as required to describe in detail and with supporting facts.</i> Section 5311 funds received by El Paso County are limited, not allowing El Paso County Transit to provide adequate service in the area of the county outside city limits.
What is your Region doing to take Local initiative to address and resolve constraint? The El Paso MPO is researching various possibilities to create a countywide transit system operated by one entity.
Do you need additional assistance on how other Regions have tackled and resolved similar Constraints? Would you like to post a request for advice or suggestions from other Regions on the RSP website? Yes, we would like to find out how other regions addressed a similar constraint.
Person Identifying Constraint: Name: Bob Geyer Phone: (915) 834-8242 Email: bgeyer@epcounty.com Agency: El Paso County Transit
Responder: Name: Phone: Email: Agency:

Region: West Texas/El Paso (Upper Rio Grande)
Constraint # ____ Brief description of the Constraint No entity with authority to oversee regional coordinated transportation plan after it is submitted to TxDOT
Source of Constraint State law offers no infrastructure, oversight authority or funding to see that plan is implemented
<u>Specifically</u> describe how this Constraint is limiting or restricting coordinated regional service. <i>Attach additional pages as required to describe in detail and with supporting facts.</i> Without such an entity (with both funding and authority) the separate partners are likely to fall back into their separate operations and protocols. Many of the partners see the Regional Service Plan as short-lived and having no basis in law to be complied with; if the plan is to be complied with it will only be to the individual will and commitment of partners. Neither state nor federal law has mandates for compliance or any repercussions for failure to follow plan. Further, once planning grant ends, there are no funds for any entity to ensure that the plan is implemented.
What is your Region doing to take Local initiative to address and resolve constraint? Not anything that can be done at this level. Both state and federal agencies must consider how to institutionalize this coordinated planning and plan implementation.
Do you need additional assistance on how other Regions have tackled and resolved similar Constraints? Would you like to post a request for advice or suggestions from other Regions on the RSP website? Yes, there is interest in receiving technical assistance.
Person Identifying Constraint: Name: Robin Roberts Phone: (915) 546-2146 Email: rroberts@epcounty.com Agency: El Paso County Transit
Responder: Name: _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____ Agency: _____

Region: West Texas/El Paso (Upper Rio Grande)

Constraint # __

Brief description of the Constraint

No common cost allocation methodology across the many programs that fund transportation services

Source of Constraint

Federal law and regulations for programs have different and conflicting cost accounting procedures

Specifically describe how this Constraint is limiting or restricting coordinated regional service.

Attach additional pages as required to describe in detail and with supporting facts.

Differences in accounting for costs make it difficult to share vehicles and/or trip purposes but ensure that transit operator is reimbursed for the trip purpose of each rider (depending upon the programs paying for the services)

What is your Region doing to take Local initiative to address and resolve constraint?

Trying to develop an ITS architecture but having troubles setting up a fare card system so that all programs with clients/riders from various programs are accounted for is proving difficult due to the lack of a cost allocation model that meets all the federal program requirements.

Do you need additional assistance on how other Regions have tackled and resolved similar Constraints? Would you like to post a request for advice or suggestions from other Regions on the RSP website?

Yes, we want technical assistance

Person Identifying Constraint:

Name: Robin Roberts Phone: (915) 546-2164 Email: rroberts@epcounty.com

Agency: El Paso County Transit

Responder:

Name:

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Region: West Texas/El Paso (Upper Rio Grande)

Constraint # __

Brief description of the Constraint

Lack of total transportation funding being spent in the region (particularly for the health and human services and workforce systems)

Source of Constraint

There is no requirement and/or means for some transportation “providers” to track their transportation expenditures separate from their other program expenditures.

Specifically describe how this Constraint is limiting or restricting coordinated regional service.

Use additional pages as required to describe in detail and with supporting facts.

Without full understanding of the total funds being spent on transportation services in our region, it is impossible to build a comprehensive system and plan. Many of these agencies contract out these transportation services, and their resources are essential to determining the costs for any coordination actions to improve services (e.g., use of a broker to arrange for all regional transportation services or for devising a more efficient and effective procurement of transportation services).

What is your Region doing to take Local initiative to address and resolve constraint?

We have approached the state agencies and the local workforce board but they either don't have the ability to track the funds (health and human services agencies) or the interest (workforce board) in tracking the transportation services expenditures separately.

Do you need additional assistance on how other Regions have tackled and resolved similar Constraints? Would you like to post a request for advice or suggestions from other Regions on the RSP website?

Yes, there is interest in receiving technical assistance.

Person Identifying Constraint:

Name: Robin Roberts Phone: (915) 546-2146 Email: rroberts@epcounty.com

Agency: El Paso County Transit

Responder:

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