



City of Santa Fe, New Mexico

200 Lincoln Avenue, P.O. Box 909, Santa Fe, N.M. 87504-0909

www.santafenm.gov

Alan Webber, Mayor

Councilors:

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Renee Villarreal, District 1

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JoAnne Vigil Coppler, District 4

August 18, 2020

Dear New Mexico Department of Transportation:

I am happy to support Life Circle New Mexico's proposal to obtain a handicap accessible van to transport seniors to their Adult Day Services Program.

Several travel and retirement magazines recently noted that Santa Fe is one of the top ten places to retire. We have a substantial and diverse senior population in our city. Presently Life Circle is the only non-profit organization in our city working to provide Adult Day Services to seniors and their families. The need for an increase in transportation options for clients is crucial to its everyday operations, and more importantly, for the safety of the clients they serve.

I hope you will grant them the funding they have requested. Keeping seniors safe and offering family caretakers transportation respite is a need that I take very seriously. What you do for this organization will ultimately make Santa Fe a better place for seniors, allowing them to participate in Life Circle's Adult Day Services Program and giving them the opportunity to continue to live their lives in a manner that respects and protects them.

Thank you for your consideration of providing Life Circle with the funding for a van. It is another layer of transportation safety that they can provide for seniors living in the city of Santa Fe.

Sincerely,

Alan Webber
Mayor

August 24, 2020



New Mexico Department of Transportation
Transit and Rail Division
Vijay Ummadi
P.O. Box 1149
Santa Fe, NM 87504-1149

RE: Life Circle New Mexico's FY 22 Intent to Apply

Dear Mr. Ummadi

On behalf of the Santa Fe Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), I would like to extend our support for the Life Circle New Mexico's application for federal funds to purchase a handicap accessible van to transport seniors to needed Adult Day Services Program. The Santa Fe MPO recently updated its now 2020 – 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan and in the plan, it details projected needs based on the sociodemographic analysis and trends we are seeing in Santa Fe. Specifically, it states *"As older adults (age 65 and older) in the United States increasingly seek to maintain active lives and are working past typical retirement age, their transportation needs and desires are evolving. The availability and quality of mobility options are important factors to many in deciding where to spend their senior years—while many prefer the freedom of driving their own vehicle, the ability to do so inevitably diminishes over time. The aging population is growing, with older adults expected to account for approximately 1 in every 4 residents of the Santa Fe Metropolitan Statistical Area by 2040. Given both the growing interest in active and independent living among older adults and their growing numbers, a focus on providing accessible transportation services that enable them to live their lives is critical. Safe, convenient, and affordable public transportation allows older adults to both meet their basic needs and remain socially engaged without having to drive or rely on others for mobility assistance."*

We appreciate the commitment and vision of Life Circle New Mexico to support the independence of senior citizens in the community. On behalf of the Santa Fe MPO Board, Technical Coordinating Committee and staff, we thank you for your consideration of their request. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Erick Aune
Erick J. Aune, Officer
Santa Fe Metropolitan Planning Organization
PO Box 909
Santa Fe, NM 87504
505.955.6664