

AGENDA ITEM 2 C
Action Item

MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 5, 2026
TO: El Dorado County Transit Authority
FROM: Kate Hewett, Finance Manager
SUBJECT: Fiscal Year 2026/27 Preliminary Operating Budget

REQUESTED ACTION:

BY MOTION,

Receive and File the Proposed Fiscal Year 2026/27 Preliminary Operating Budget

BACKGROUND

The Bylaws of the El Dorado County Transit Authority (El Dorado Transit) require the Executive Director to submit preliminary operating and capital budgets on or before the March meeting of each year and Board adoption of the preliminary budgets by April 15th of each year. Final operating budgets are to be proposed to the Board on or before June 15th of each year with final adoption required by July 15th.

DISCUSSION

El Dorado Transit is required to operate within a balanced budget. The Fiscal Year (FY) 2026/27 Preliminary Operating Budget as presented is balanced to anticipated operating revenues and provides for the potential restoration and/or expansion of transit services.

The El Dorado Transit management team anticipates that Transportation Development Act (TDA) funding will remain stable as projected by the State Controllers' Office (SCO) and the El Dorado County Auditors' office. This funding is based on sales tax revenue generated within the County of El Dorado and allocated through the El Dorado County Transportation Commission (EDCTC) for the provision of public transit services on the western slope.

PRELIMINARY FISCAL YEAR 2026/27 OPERATING BUDGET

The FY 2026/27 Preliminary Operating Budget assumes full employment of the current allocated regular full-time and part-time positions including Management, Administrative staff, Operations, and Maintenance. The final operating budget and allocation plan may include additional staffing adjustments based on operational need.

The preliminary operating budget report presented includes a comparison of the current fiscal year adjusted mid-year budget utilizing the following factors:

- Projected expenses using an analysis of the first six (6) months of the current fiscal year's actual expenses and liabilities.
- Preliminary budget assumes current level of service with some restoration and/or expansion of services over the course of the fiscal period.
- Costs for insurance premiums are not available in March. Renewals go into effect on May 1, July 1, and January 1.

Revenue Accounts

Transportation Development Act (TDA)

Following the draft apportionment of TDA funds by the El Dorado County Transportation Commission (EDCTC), the projected amount available to transit for operations is \$6,653,232. This amount is an increase from the prior years' allocation in the amount of \$6,116,668.

Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5311 Grant

The FTA Section 5311 program provides funding through the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), for public transportation projects in non-urbanized areas. There are two (2) types of programming in Section 5311; 1) County/Regional apportionment by formula and 2) Competitive Discretionary for Intercity connection projects. Historically, El Dorado Transit receives funds under the formula program for operating assistance or capital projects. This years' allocation has not been received so a placeholder of last years' amount has been provided.

Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5311(f) Grant

The call for projects has not been issued yet this year from Caltrans. This years' allocation has not been received so a placeholder of last years' amount has been provided.

Fair Shuttle AB2766 Grant

El Dorado Transit has submitted a grant application to the El Dorado County Air Quality Management District (EDCAQMD) for shuttle service to the 2026 and 2027 County Fairs.

Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5311 ARPA Grant

Allocation of American Rescue Plan Act (APRA) to aid public health and economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic administered through the Caltrans FTA Section 5311 program.

State Transit Assistance (STA)

This allocation is based off the El Dorado County Sales Tax which can be used for either operating or capital expenses. Due to the decrease in TDA funding, we have elected to use STA funding for operating assistance.

Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5307 ARPA Grant

Allocation of American Rescue Plan Act (APRA) to aid public health and economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic administered through the Caltrans FTA Section 5307 program.

Cash Fares

This includes the following line items: Cash Fares, Contract Service revenues, Commuter Route Fare Media, Local Route Fare Media, and Paper Scrip sales. Estimates are based on the most recent six (6) months of actual receipts. Management is predicting an increase in this revenue.

Contract Services

Contract Services revenue is based on an agreement with ALTA Regional California (ALTA) to transport ALTA clients to and from Motherlode Rehabilitation Enterprises, Inc. (M.O.R.E.). El Dorado Transits' current agreement with ALTA has expired. Management is working closely with ALTA staff for contract resolution.

CCJPA

El Dorado Transit has a third-party contract for the operation of the South Lake Tahoe route. The Capital Corridor Joint Powers Authority contract for the current year will be presented at a later date.

Advertising Revenue

El Dorado Transit has a third-party contract for bus shelter advertising.

Offset Reserve Fund – CalTIP (restricted)

These funds are held by El Dorado Transit's liability and vehicle physical damage insurance pool. Each year revised amounts are provided to pool members in April or May. If available, these funds can be used to offset the current year's premiums or held for future premiums.

Salary and Benefits Accounts

Regular Employees and Overtime

The regular employee and overtime line items include funding for eligible merit step increases and longevity.

Temporary Employees

The preliminary budget includes \$110,000 for Extra-Help employees to provide relief driving and fill-in Transit Dispatch assignments on an intermittent basis. These employees fill in when regular Operators and Dispatchers are off work.

Employee Retirement

Employee Retirement is based on a CalPERS formula. El Dorado Transit has a "Classic" and a "PEPRA" plan for regular employees. The employer contribution is approximately \$629,308.07 or 13.38% of base wages (based on actuarial reports); the employee contribution is estimated at \$338,026.07. The Employer current portion of the Unfunded Liability is \$364,000 and will be paid as a lump sum in July 2026.

Health Insurance

- The Health Insurance line item includes the El Dorado Transit contribution towards health, vision, and dental coverage for enrolled employees. Plan coverage is calendar year; therefore, premium increases will occur in January 2027.
- The Human Resources Department administers agreements and/or insurance policies for services and insurance coverage's that automatically renew each year. The following are perpetual contracts and agreements for employee insurance coverage and benefits:
 - Health Insurances
 - **Regular Full/Part-Time Unrepresented Employees**
 - ❖ CalPERS Health Plan with OptumRX Pharmaceutical
 - ❖ Delta Dental
 - ❖ Vision Service Plan (VSP)
 - **Regular Full/Part-Time Represented Transit Drivers**
 - ❖ Operating Engineers Plan – Health, Pharmaceutical, Dental, Vision
- Sun Life Financial - Long Term Disability
Coverage provides wage loss protection for regular full/part-time employees in the event of prolonged disability.
- Sun Life Financial – Life Insurance
\$10,000 policy coverage for regular full-time represented transit operators
\$20,000 policy coverage for regular full-time unrepresented employees
\$50,000 policy coverage for the Executive Director
- Paylocity
Flexible Benefits Plan (Cafeteria Plan) allows regular full/part-time employees to pay the employee portion of premiums and certain benefits offered under the plan with pre-tax dollars.

Workers Compensation

Workers Compensation premiums are a percentage of payroll (regular hours). Management and staff are taking the necessary steps to take advantage of credit incentives that could reduce premiums by up to 18%.

Service and Supply Accounts

Service and supply account budgets are based on the first six (6) months' actual expenses plus a projection for the upcoming fiscal year's needs. Minor adjustments have been made to accounts with the largest changes addressed below:

Vehicle Maintenance – In-House

Projected increase includes additional service miles and warrantee expiration.

Insurance Premiums/Liability

The preliminary budget is based on premium estimates only.

Service Contracts/Equipment

This line item includes costs associated with annual service agreements, license renewals etc.

Contingency

Contingency is projected at \$383,328 representing 3.44% of the overall operating budget expenses.

SUMMARY

Management's opinion is that the financial position of El Dorado Transit is stable. The proposed preliminary budget for fiscal year 2026/27 reflects \$11,130,128 in total operating expenditures balanced to projected available Federal, State and project specific revenues.

Staff is requesting that the Board receive and file the proposed Fiscal Year 2026/27 Preliminary Operating Budget, as presented.

**EL DORADO COUNTY TRANSIT AUTHORITY
PROPOSED PRELIMINARY OPERATING BUDGET 2026/2027**

OPERATING BUDGET		FY 2025/2026	FY2026/27	
		Mid Year	Prelim Operating	
REVENUE ACCOUNTS		Adopted 02/05/26	Proposed 03/05/26	Difference
4000.00	Transportation Development Act (TDA/LTF)	\$6,116,668	\$6,653,232	\$536,564
4100.00	Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5311 Grant	\$777,840	\$777,840	\$0
4100.05	Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5311(f) Grant	\$150,000	\$75,000	-\$75,000
4100.06	Federal Transit Administration (FTA) ARPA Act Section 5311 Grant	\$277,750	\$0	-\$277,750
4107.03	Fair Shuttle AB2766 Grant	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$0
4112.00	Federal Transit Administration (FTA) ARPA Act Section 5307 Grant	\$567,661	\$0	-\$567,661
4270.00	State Transit Assistance (STA)	\$1,893,660	\$1,722,451	-\$171,209
4300.00	Cash Fares	\$115,000	\$118,000	\$3,000
4310.00	Contract Services	\$170,000	\$175,000	\$5,000
4330.00	Commuter Route Fare Media	\$675,000	\$740,000	\$65,000
4350.00	Local Route Fare Media	\$104,000	\$114,000	\$10,000
4360.00	Paper Scrip	\$11,000	\$11,500	\$500
4370.00	CCJPA	\$145,000	\$150,500	\$5,500
4400.00	Advertising Revenue	\$27,000	\$30,000	\$3,000
4970.00	Interest Income	\$300,000	\$400,000	\$100,000
4990.00	Misc. Revenue	\$400	\$400	\$0
5060.00	Offset Reserve Fund - CalTIP (restricted)	\$137,205	\$137,205	\$0
TOTAL REVENUES		\$11,493,184	\$11,130,128	-\$363,056
SALARY & BENEFIT ACCOUNTS				
5010.00	Regular Employees	\$4,406,718	\$4,600,000	\$193,282
5010.02	Temporary Employees	\$150,000	\$110,000	-\$40,000
5010.07	Overtime	\$200,000	\$120,000	-\$80,000
5010.08	On Call Pay	\$7,000	\$6,500	-\$500
5010.09	ARBRK and Shift Pay	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$0
5020.01	Employee Retirement	\$750,000	\$700,000	-\$50,000
5020.02	Health Insurance	\$1,570,000	\$1,550,000	-\$20,000
5020.03	Unemployment Insurance	\$15,000	\$10,000	-\$5,000
5020.04	LT Disability/Life Ins	\$46,000	\$50,000	\$4,000
5020.05	Worker's Comp	\$245,000	\$340,000	\$95,000
5070.01	OASDI - Payroll Tax - FICA	\$8,500	\$7,000	-\$1,500
5070.02	MEDICARE - Payroll Tax	\$60,000	\$65,000	\$5,000
TOTAL SALARY & BENEFITS		\$7,518,218	\$7,618,500	\$100,282
SERVICE & SUPPLY ACCOUNTS				
5030.00	Professional Services	\$250,000	\$180,000	-\$70,000
5030.10	Employee Medical Exams	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$0
5030.30	Background Checks	\$5,000	\$3,000	-\$2,000
5040.00	Vehicle Maintenance (In-House)	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$0
5040.01	Fuel Purchase	\$800,000	\$750,000	-\$50,000
5040.02	Vehicle Maintenance/Tires & Tubes	\$125,000	\$125,000	\$0
5040.03	Vehicle Maintenance/Lubricants	\$50,000	\$45,000	-\$5,000
5040.04	Vehicle Maintenance/Small Tools - Shop	\$7,000	\$5,000	-\$2,000
5040.80	Vehicle Maintenance/Sales Tax/ Fuel & Lub.	\$45,000	\$45,000	\$0
5050.01	Communications - Phone	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$0
5050.02	Utilities	\$61,000	\$60,000	-\$1,000
5050.03	Utilities/ Park & Rides	\$30,000	\$25,000	-\$5,000
5060.01	Insurance Premiums/Public Liability	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$0
5060.02	Insurance Premiums/Physical Damage	\$40,000	\$40,500	\$500
5060.03	Insurance Premiums/Commercial	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$0
5060.04	Insurance Premium EPLI Package	\$28,000	\$32,000	\$4,000
5090.00	Operating Expense - Other	\$3,500	\$2,500	-\$1,000
5090.01	Household Expenses	\$23,000	\$25,000	\$2,000
5090.02	Shop Clothing & Supplies	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$0
5090.05	Uniforms - Other	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$0
5090.06	Service Contracts/Equipment	\$225,000	\$200,000	-\$25,000
5090.08	Pubs/Legal Notices	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$0
5090.20	Communications - Radio	\$500	\$500	\$0
5090.30	Staff Development/Travel	\$80,000	\$80,000	\$0
5090.40	Memberships	\$8,000	\$8,000	\$0
5090.50	Safety Equipment/Training	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$0
5090.70	Office Expense	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$0
5090.72	Bank Charges	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$0
5090.73	Credit Card Charge Fees	\$6,000	\$6,500	\$500
5090.74	Connect Card Administration Expenses	\$11,000	\$9,000	-\$2,000
5090.75	Printing	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$0
5090.80	Postage	\$5,000	\$5,500	\$500
5120.00	Rents/Leases	\$16,000	\$16,000	\$0
5140.01	Equipment Purchase - Data Processing	\$2,000	\$2,500	\$500
5140.05	Equipment Purchase - Office	\$1,800	\$1,800	\$0
5150.00	Special Department Expense	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$0
5150.01	Marketing	\$7,500	\$7,500	\$0
5160.00	Maintenance/Other	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$0
5160.01	Maintenance/Buildings	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$0
5160.03	Maintenance/Equipment Repair	\$5,000	\$3,000	-\$2,000
5160.05	Maintenance/Grounds	\$3,500	\$3,500	\$0
5160.07	Park and Ride Maintenance	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$0
5160.09	Maintenance/Bus Stop	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$0
4108.03	Fair Shuttle AB2766 Grant	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$0
5008.01	MY RIDE - Mileage Expenses	\$175,000	\$190,000	\$15,000
6270.00	Contingency	\$704,666	\$383,328	-\$321,338
TOTAL SERVICES AND SUPPLIES		\$3,974,966	\$3,511,628	-\$463,338
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES		\$11,493,184	\$11,130,128	-\$363,056