Northern Pueblos RTPO FY 2026 TPF Proposal: Española Solar Array Planning and Design Project

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NORTH CENTRAL REGIONAL TRANSIT DISTRICT

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Planning: Secured other Funding Sources, Matching Funds

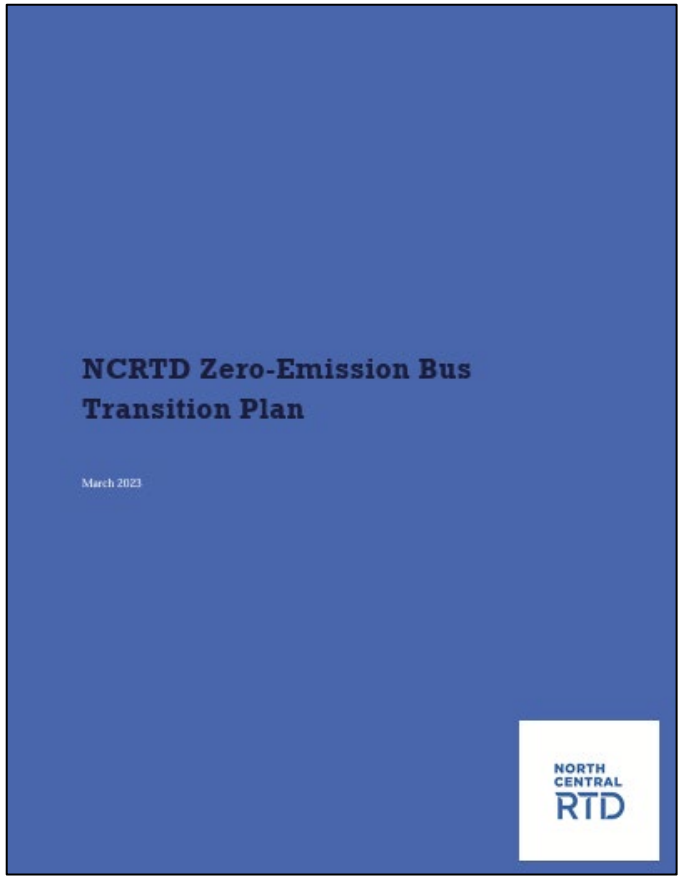
Total Project Cost: $550,000

Funding Request: **$522,500**

Local Match: $27,500

No federal funding has been used on this project as this is Step One.

Planning: Support from existing planning documents and/or federal or state agencies



Statewide ICIP Plan

Project Description: Location of Project, and Details of Proposed Development

Location	2010	2020	% Change	ACS 2023
Española Population	10,224	10,526	+2.95%	10,472

Project Description: Level of coordination with RTPO and NMDOT in project development

The District will work with the Project Oversight Division of NMDOT to ensure project is delivered effectively and efficiently.

The District commits to collaborating with the Environmental Bureau Chief in the NMDOT to ensure guidelines, procedures, and best practices are integral to project success.

Additionally, the District has committed support from Santa Fe County, Kit Carson Electric Company and Clean Cities recent grant applications to share expertise for highest success.

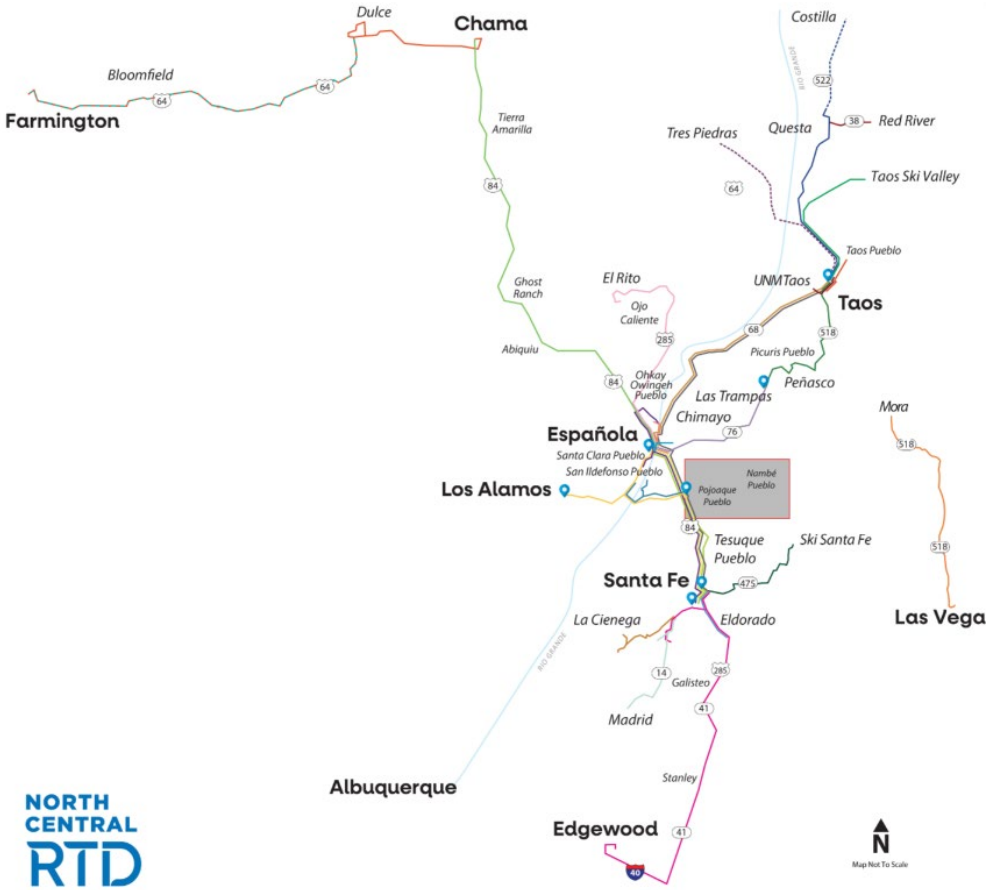
The District also aims to document the process for nationwide scalability.

Justification: Economic Impact and Project Need

- **Cost Savings:** Fuel costs can be minimized at the NCRTD with use of solar energy. Maintenance costs are lower for electric and hybrid vehicles compared to traditional fleets. Volatility reduced as NCRTD can predict costs in budgeting operations.

- **Job Opportunities*:*** Reliable transportation through Blue Bus services increases job options across network powered by solar energy.

- **Project Needs**: NCRTD can provide reliable transit services even in catastrophic weather conditions, ensuring riders can access critical services and employment. RTD vehicles could also be used to assist in emergency management - transporting evacuees, acting as back up battery systems during for emergency services during blackouts and brownouts, etc.



Justification: Quality of Life, Safety, and Environmental Sustainability

- **Quality of Life*:*** Historically disadvantaged communities across route 100, 110, and 190 especially will benefit in increased reliability and trust to use the NCRTD's fare-free services. Health benefits from better air quality and reduction in noise pollution.
- **Safety**: Reduction in traffic congestion by converting single occupancy drivers to transit riders
- **Disaster and Combustion Risks*:*** NCRTD can provide safe transport during natural disasters or extreme weather. Also, electric and hybrid vehicles have lower fuel-related fire risk compared to diesel. Battery storage safety features will be a focal point of capacity and storage research to minimize risk of fire.
- **Energy Resilience and Sustainability:** The NCRTD's ability to store solar energy reduces dependence on grid electricity and as an on-site system and can reduce emissions for a cleaner public transit future. Anticipating vulnerabilities tied to natural disasters and climate-induced events will boost durability and adaptability for current and future transit operations.

Request Readiness: R-O-W Acquisition, Clearances, Planning Docs, Timeline

- **Land Ownership:** No R-O-W clearances needed
- **Collaboration and Education:** Engage local entities on solar project and identify opportunities to collaborate
- **Planning and Design Timeline:** 12-18 months depending on environmental and permitting needs prior to construction

Project Summary

Planning and Preliminary Engineering and Design for solar arrays at Española Headquarters to store and power electric and hybrid vehicles for NCRTD current and future public transit system.

Funding Request: **$522,500** *($27,500 local match)*

Timeline: **12-18 months from award date**