# RESOLUTION 2022-02

# REGARDING CERTIFICATION OF SUN VAN AND OTHER COMPLEMENTARY PARATRANSIT FOR APPLICANTS WHO ARE BLIND OR VISUALLY IMPAIRED

WHEREAS, Sun Van, the paratransit service of ABQ-Ride, and other complementary paratransit systems in New Mexico are valuable transportation options, allowing the blind and others with permanent or temporary physical disabilities to travel independently to employment, medical care, shopping and other destinations; and

WHEREAS, until recently, blind or visually impaired applicants for Sun Van could have their applications certified by qualified individuals outside the medical profession, including Certified Rehabilitation Counselors (CRC)s, Certified Teachers of the Visually Impaired (CTVI)s, Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialists (COMS), Certified Teachers of the Blind (CRTB) and those holding the National Orientation and Mobility Certification (NOMC), giving applicants more options and greater flexibility in who can provide certification; and

WHEREAS, other applications for other complementary paratransit systems in New Mexico have similar requirements for certification by medical professionals; and

WHEREAS, it is often difficult for people who are blind or visually impaired to obtain services from a medical professional to certify their Sun Van or other complementary paratransit service application,  including the fact that it can now often take many months to be seen by a health care provider; and

WHEREAS, the certification process for blind or visually impaired Sun Van or complementary paratransit applicants in other communities in New Mexico could be completed by a fully qualified and certified vocational rehabilitation Counselor or education professional for adults and children who are blind or visually impaired with greater accuracy of information regarding travel function and needs:

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the National Federation of the Blind of New Mexico, assembled in convention in the city of Albuquerque this 28th day of August, that the National Federation of the Blind of New Mexico call upon ABQ-Ride's Paratransit Board and ABQ-Ride to review policies regarding certification of Sun Van applications for individuals who are blind or visually impaired and to consider expanding the types of qualified professionals authorized to certify these applications to include CRCs, CTVIs, CRTBs, COMSs and those holding the NOMC; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the National Federation of the Blind of New Mexico call upon other communities throughout the state who offer complementary paratransit service review their application procedures to likewise allow for qualified and certified professionals who serve blind and visually impaired adults and children, allowing for appropriate options and greater flexibility in certification of applications.