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**News from the NM Transit Association President**



Dear NMTA Members;

I hope everyone had a wonderful time with their family and friends over the holidays. There are many things to be thankful for. As we enter the New Year, it is a time where we can look back and reflect on where we have been and what we have accomplished as well as looking forward.

On September 21, NMTA honored New Mexico State Representative Roberto “Bobby” Gonzales for his untiring efforts to champion public transportation. Representative Gonzales, who chairs the New Mexico House of Representatives Transportation, Public Works and Capital Improvements Committee, carried NMTA’s “yield to bus” legislation in 2017, which passed both houses of the Legislature, but was pocket-vetoed by the Governor. The legislation would have required drivers to yield the right-of-way to a transit bus when an illuminated sign was displayed in the rear window and the bus was attempting to move into traffic. We look forward to working through the next legislative session again with State Representative Gonzales to continue to advance our efforts for legislation that will benefit all New Mexicans who use public and private transit.

In respect to our ongoing advocacy efforts, Board Member Stan Cooper authored a “white paper” with input from other board members titled “Transportation Challenges Facing State Lawmakers in 2018 and 2019”. The contents of this document were presented to the State Legislative Transportation Subcommittee by Board Members Philo Shelton and Stan Cooper at their meeting on October 10, 2017. A copy of this document is available on the NMTA web site.

The Board has also endorsed going forward with a very targeted advocacy and education plan for the 2018 and 2019 legislative session. As a result, we will be retaining the services of Griffin & Associates to assist the Association with further refining our strategic plan and tactics as well developing stakeholder alliances, ongoing presentations to not only state legislators but to gubernatorial candidates, elected officials in our member

organizations, op-ed campaigns, editorial board meetings and a social media campaign. As we roll out this undertaking, we will be providing you with information and documents that you can use to get our message out. This endeavor will require all Members of the Association to participate in this communication effort.

I am pleased to announce that the NMTA FY 2017 annual audit was recently completed and the Association received an “unqualified opinion” which is the best that an agency can receive. In addition, there were no findings this year. This is the second year in row. A big thank you to Melissa Drake for continuing to ensure that our audits are finding free.



NMTA Board President Anthony Mortillaro honoring New Mexico State Representative Roberto “Bobby” Gonzales for his untiring efforts to champion for public transportation

2017 proved to be another productive year for the Association. Please see a listing of all the training and attendance numbers on page 12.

At Large Board Member Bruce Rizzieri, Transit Director for the City of Albuquerque has announced his retirement. Bruce has served NMTA as President and as a Board Director on many occasions. Bruce was very instrumental in the Albuquerque Rapid Transit (ART) project and it recently was awarded the Gold Standard Designation from the Institute for Transportation and Development Policy. This is first ever bus rapid transit system in the United States to receive this coveted award and puts Albuquerque on an international footing in transit. This is an amazing achievement! Congratulations Bruce and City of Albuquerque.

The Board wishes to thank Bruce for his contributions to NMTA and a happy retirement and we know that he will continue to advocate for public transit. The Board will not be soliciting to fill this vacancy since Bruce occupied an At-Large Board seat and his term is expiring in April 2018. The following Board vacancies will be open for election:

- 3 Director At Large seats, and
- 1 Business Director seat

I would encourage members to consider running for one of these positions. It is good to have new perspectives on the Board.

For 2018, the NMTA Board is looking forward to again offering a number of training sessions geared to the needs of our membership,

continuing to pursue state legislation to obtain state funding for transit capital outlay, and again putting on an outstanding training and an Annual Conference & Rodeo scheduled for April 8-10, 2018 in Santa Fe.

The Board and I consider it an honor and privilege to have served you in 2017. We encourage you to contact any of us if you have questions or ideas on how we can better serve you through 2018. On behalf of the Board and staff, we want to wish each and every one of you a prosperous and successful 2018!!!

Sincerely,

Anthony J. Mortillaro  
NMTA President



**News from New  
Mexico  
Department of  
Transportation**

**News From NM Department of Transportation**

**New Drug and Alcohol Testing Rule**

The US Department of Transportation (USDOT) has issued a final rule regarding changes to drug and alcohol testing and compliance. This new rule goes into effect **January 1, 2018**. USDOT has detailed information on the changes here:

[https://www.transportation.gov/odapc/Part\\_40\\_Final\\_Rule\\_Summary\\_of\\_Changes](https://www.transportation.gov/odapc/Part_40_Final_Rule_Summary_of_Changes)

The most significant change is that drug tests will be expanded to cover semi-synthetic opioids.

The rule adds four semi-synthetic opioids to the testing – hydrocodone, oxycodone, hydromorphone, and oxymorphone. Some common names for these are OxyContin, Percodan, Percocet, Vicodin, Lortab, Norco, Dilaudid, and Exalgo.

These are all available by prescription, but their misuse or abuse can present a safety risk.

If an employee tests positive for any of these substances, the Medical Review Officer (MRO)

will consult with the employee’s prescribing physician to determine if the use of the drug creates a safety risk. The MRO will make that decision and communicate with you only if a safety risk is identified.

Please make sure your safety-sensitive employees are aware of this change. The USDOT Office of Drug and Alcohol Policy and Compliance has prepared a brief explanation of the change for employees at this link:

[https://www.transportation.gov/odapc/Part\\_40\\_DOT\\_Employee\\_Notice\\_2017](https://www.transportation.gov/odapc/Part_40_DOT_Employee_Notice_2017)

We will provide more information and/or training as it becomes available. In the meantime, if you have any questions or need more information, please do not hesitate to reach out to your NMDOT program manager.

More from NMDOT on Page 3

## eGMPS

Our electronic Grants Management and Performance System (eGMPS) is now live. **All Section 5311 programs should be using it to submit your October claims. We also need all Section 5310 recipients to begin entering their ridership data into the system.** Thank you all for working with us to get the system

up and running and for helping us troubleshoot system errors we have encountered along the way. If you have any questions or need technical support, please contact your program manager.

## National Transit Database

All FY17 National Transit Database reporting is due to FTA no later than January 31, 2018. Thank you to everyone who has already submitted their reports. There are some changes to the NTD reporting process coming

up for the FY18 program year, and we will provide guidance and training beforehand. If you need help or have any questions, please reach out to Kevin Olinger.

## Staff Changes

We have two new staff members in the Transit Bureau. Kevin Olinger is our new Transit Bureau Chief, and Antoinette Wright is our new Urban and Regional Planner. Antoinette is the new program manager for many of you who had previously been working with Gabrielle Chavez. Gabrielle is moving over to a grants management position in the Bureau.

Marcy Eppler has attained a new position with another state agency. We are sad to see Marcy go, but wish her the best in her new position. Her last day in the office was December 22. Best of luck and happy trails, Marcy!

## Transit Asset Management

Our Group Transit Asset Management Plan (TAM Plan) must be in place by October 1, 2018. That may seem like a long time from now, but we need to compile at the state level an updated inventory of vehicles and facilities, assess the condition of each item, and prepare projections of resources needed

to maintain a State of Good Repair for the system state-wide. We will be following up with all of our Section 5311 programs to update existing fleet inventories and collect information about facilities. If you have questions or need information, please contact Kevin Olinger.

## Transit Staff contact list

Deborah Bach 505-819-9112  
 Gabrielle Chavez 505-469-4413  
 Kevin Olinger 505-469-3595  
 Jason Park 505-490-5347  
 Antoinette Wright 505-469-0436



**News from New  
 Mexico  
 Department of  
 Transportation**

**Highlighting  
A  
New  
Mexico  
Member**



**Hobbs  
Express**

**“Annual Ridership Reaches Record High 60,000 Riders in FY 17”**

Hobbs Express, the local public transportation system serving the City of Hobbs, exceeded its peak annual ridership with more than 60,000 trips in Federal Fiscal Year (FY) 2017 surpassing the record set in FY 2016 of 58,000 trips. Operated with partial funding from the Federal Transit Administration, the program operates under the Federal fiscal year which is October 1 to September 30.

“The use of public transportation continues to remain steady in the daily lives of our Hobbs residents,” said Jan Fletcher, City Clerk and Public Transportation Director.

Ridership has seen a slow but steady growth over the last few years, increasing by 60% over FY 2012. Hobbs Express first began operations in 1989 with an annual ridership of 3,900 riders.

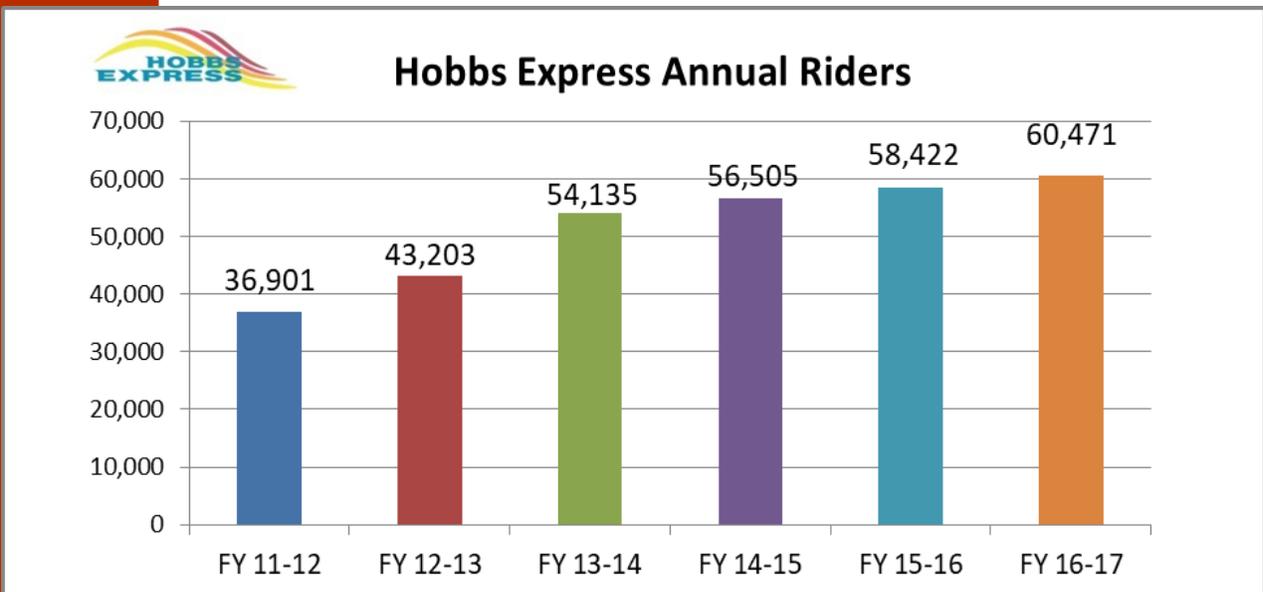
Manny Gomez, Acting Hobbs City Manager, stated, “We continue to plan and build a transportation system for the future growth of our community. We want all of our residents to know that public transportation services are available for everyone to use.”

“These ridership numbers bring into focus how important public transit is to our residents,”

said Hobbs Mayor, Sam Cobb. “We will continue to make the public transportation options the best they can possibly be and to provide our riders with an experience that will make them want to continue to use public transportation.”

Hobbs Express offers three fixed routes operating hourly throughout the City of Hobbs along with a rapid route which serves the more frequently-used bus stops. The red, blue and green routes each stop at multiple points along a fixed route at the same time each hour, with connecting points to transfer to a different route. Fare cost is \$1.00. Hobbs Express operates Monday through Saturday from 7:00 am to 5:00 pm. Demand response/paratransit services are available by reserving a ride 24-hours in advance by calling Hobbs Express at 397-9290. All buses are ADA accessible. Veterans ride free!

Get the latest news by following Hobbs Express on Facebook or visiting the website at <http://hobbsnm.org/transportation.html>





Certification for Sustainable Transportation  
 University of Vermont Extension  
 23 Mansfield Avenue, Burlington, VT 05401  
 Phone: 802-656-9141 | email: info@eRating.org

Mesa, AZ - Local bus company, All Aboard America! Inc. and The Certification for Sustainable Transportation (CST) announced that 110 employees have completed the CST's EcoDriver and Idle Free Certification Programs and 95 of their vehicles have been eRating certified. Company officials were pleased with the announcement and expressed their enthusiasm for the program. Scott Duncan, General Manager said "With our strong commitment to the environment, All Aboard America! is thrilled by the engagement of all of our employees in the University of Vermont's eRating Sustainability Program. Our clients are responding well to this new certification along with the latest equipment technology on our newly purchased vehicles."

The CST is a mission-driven, not-for-profit program housed at the University of Vermont. Its mission is to: reduce the emission of greenhouse gases and other harmful emissions, increase energy efficiency, and promote the use of alternative fuels and new technologies. Similar to how Energy Star works in the appliance sector, the CST accomplishes its goals largely through three programs: its eRating vehicle certification, an Eco-Driver certification program, and an Idle-Free driver certification program.

All Aboard America! and its employees began the process over a year ago to have its vehicles and drivers certified. Since then all of their employees have completed the CST's EcoDriver and Idle Free training courses. The training courses teach drivers an array of

EcoDriving practices as well as how to avoid unnecessary idling. These programs can help drivers save fuel and reduce the environmental impacts of their vehicles.

Each qualifying vehicle in the company's fleet received an eRating certification based on a variety of environmental criteria. The CST's Director, Dave Kestenbaum, said of All Aboard America!;

"We were very pleased with the level of commitment All Aboard America! and its employees have made to incorporate EcoDriving and Idle Free practices. It's great to see a company get invested from the top down to reduce their environmental impacts. Additionally, we are really amazed that All Aboard has so many vehicles qualify for the eRating label. This is not an easy certification to get, and it shows that they can move people from point A to point B extremely efficiently!" Now that All Aboard America! has completed the certification program, they will continue to work with the CST to promote efficiency internally. All Aboard America! is celebrating over 80+ years of Chartering Confidence. If you would like more information about this topic, please visit [www.allboardamerica.com](http://www.allboardamerica.com) or [www.erating.org](http://www.erating.org). Also, feel free to contact Scott Duncan.

Contact:  
 Scott Duncan  
 Phone: 480-962-6202  
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## Highlighting A New Mexico Member (continued)



## All Aboard America!



News from

Clovis Area Transit System (C.A.T.S.)

Lost Ring Must Have A Story

By David Stevens, Editor of Clovis Media Inc.

"Semperfi"

- Marine Corps motto, meaning always faithful or always loyal.

You could probably find one just like it on eBay, or maybe in one of the second-hand shops on Clovis' Main Street.

The ring is not unusual or expensive. But there is evidence it once held great value to someone.

Mary Lou Kemp, director of the Clovis Area Transit System, said a CATS employee found it about a year ago while doing some yard work outside the office.

It's most likely a man's ring - at least it was made for someone with a large ring finger - and is stamped with references to the U.S. Marine Corps and "Tun Tavern ," the Philadelphia brewery where Marines first organized during the American Revolution.

But what makes this ring interesting is that it was resized for its most recent wearer.

" It had a lot of tape in it to make it smaller ," Kemp said. "Whoever was wearing it was probably not the (original) owner - maybe a child or a spouse."

Kemp removed the tape in hopes the ring might be engraved with a name or some other clue about how to return it to the person who

lost it. But the ring is not engraved.

She called a local Marine Corps recruiting office and Clovis ' Veterans Affairs office for help in spreading the word about the lost ring, but it remains today at the CATS office at 401 E. Seventh St.

Rube Render, a retired Marine, is among those asking around.

"Nobody I know buys a Marine Corps ring unless you served in the Marine Corps," he said. But such a ring might well have been gifted by the original owner. "If somebody spent time to wrap it with tape like they did so they could wear it, it has sentimental value ," Render said.

"The first thing I thought of was it may have been worn by the wife or a child of somebody who didn't come home." .

We may never know. But that possibility is the reason Kemp is still holding on to the mystery ring and trying to learn its story.

Semper fi.

If you have any ideas to find the owner or how to get information about the ring, please contact David Stevens the editor for Clovis Media Inc. at: dstevens@thenews.email



## ART System Begins Partial Service; Receives Rare Gold Standard from ITDP

*First-Ever BRT System in United States to Get This Top Designation*

The long-awaited ART System began service, or at least partial service on Saturday, Nov. 25, 2017. Outgoing Albuquerque Mayor Richard J. Berry, who spearheaded the drive to put the system in along Albuquerque's Central Avenue corridor, opened the system with a mid-morning news conference.



News conference with Mayor Berry officiating

Mayor Berry announced that the first service provided by the ART buses would be a free ride to the annual River of Lights events at the ABQ BioPark. The rides would be on Friday and Saturday nights from Nov. 25 through Dec. 30 from the Central and Unser Transit Center to the ART BioPark station.

During the news conference, Albuquerque Rapid Transit (ART) also received yet another recognition for its design; and this time, it was on an international scope. ART is now the first-ever, bus rapid transit system in the United States to receive the coveted Gold Standard from the Institute for Transportation and Development Policy the highest internationally recognized standard for BRT systems.

The ITDP uses its Bus Rapid Transit Standard to evaluate BRT corridors worldwide. This is based on different, commonly-shared criteria that recognizes BRT systems with either Bronze, Silver or Gold rankings. The ART system is now the only recognized Gold Standard-rated BRT system in the United States.

**“ART placed ahead of such groundbreaking and successful BRT systems as Cleveland’s HealthLine, which with a Silver Standard had been the highest ranked BRT system in the U.S.,” said Mayor Richard J. Berry. “ART was also ranked ahead of such noteworthy systems as Eugene, Oregon’s Emerald Express (EmX), Los Angeles’s Orange Line BRT and San Bernardino, California’s sbX system, all of which received Bronze Standards.”**

According to the ITDP, the BRT Standard evaluates BRT corridors with a wide range of metrics to establish what BRT basics are. Particularly high-quality corridors are then recognized with either Bronze, Silver or Gold Rankings.

Albuquerque Rapid Transit, as well as other BRT systems around the world, was graded in 30 different categories with up to 100 points possible. For instance, some of the criteria included:

- BRT Basics, such as off-board fare collection, dedicated right of ways and platform level boarding;
- Service Planning, such as hours of operation and location in top ten corridors;
- Infrastructure, such as stations set back from intersections, center stations and minimizing bus emissions;



IDTP Gold Standard plaque



News  
From  
ABQ Ride



- Stations, such as distances between stations and number of doors on the bus;
- Communications, such as passenger information and branding;

Access and Integration, such as pedestrian access and secure bicycle parking;

Points could also be deducted by the ITDP for such things as gaps between the bus floor and the platform and lack of enforcement on the dedicated lanes.

Overall, ART scored a total of 88.5 out of a possible 100 points on the BRT Standard Scorecard, which topped the previous best U.S. total of 76 given to Cleveland’s Health Line. In receiving the Gold Standard, Albuquerque Rapid Transit joins cities in Brazil (Curitiba, Rio de Janeiro, Belo Horizonte), China (Guangzhou, Yichang) Colombia (Bogota, Medellin), Mexico (Guadalajara) and Peru (Lima) in earning the highest possible ranking by the ITDP.

**“This rating is the culmination of hard work and planning by Transit and City staff that began in 2011 and will continue into the future,” said Bruce Rizzieri, Director of ABQ RIDE. “But we believe what put us into the Gold Standard was attention to detail; zero-emissions buses and other touches which make ART a world class, Bus Rapid Transit system.”**

Along Central Avenue, some 14,000 transit users per day previously boarded both traditional buses and curb side, mixed-flow BRT, accounting for about 40 percent of all transit users in the city. But growing ridership and slow boarding procedures had combined with traffic to reduce on-time performance to unreliable levels.

About 16 miles of sidewalks were replaced or upgraded as part of the project, and new landscaping and pedestrian lighting added signature aesthetic features throughout the corridor. The project also replaced and upgraded signalization at 39 intersections to give priority to BRT vehicles.

Nicknamed “ART”, the new system includes 19 level-boarding transit stations — four curb side and 15 in the median — and addresses service deficiencies in one of the city’s most congested corridors: Central Avenue. “We wanted to help ABQ RIDE improve mobility for all while offering a world-class transit experience,” Dayna Crawford, Deputy Director and Project Manager for ART said. “The city’s commitment and vision, combined with community participation and support, made it possible to deliver a BRT system that exceeded all objectives.”

Full service is expected to begin in the New Year.



ART bus

## NCRTD HONORED BY GFOA WITH AWARD FOR DISTINGUISHED BUDGET PRESENTATION



For the second consecutive year, the NCRTD has received the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for its Fiscal Year 2018 budget from the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) of the United States and Canada.

According to a statement by the GFOA, “The award represents a significant achievement by the entity. It reflects the commitment of the governing body and staff to meeting the highest principles of governmental budgeting. In order to receive the budget award, the entity had to satisfy nationally recognized guidelines for effective budget presentation. These guidelines are designed to assess how well an entity's budget serves as:

- a policy document
- a financial plan
- an operations guide
- a communications device

Budget documents must be rated ‘proficient’ in all four categories, and the fourteen

mandatory criteria within those categories, to receive the award.”

In June of this year, the NCRTD Finance Department also received its second consecutive Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting by the GFOA for its Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR).

In announcing the award, NCRTD Executive Director Anthony Mortillaro stated, “We are honored to have now received this distinction for the second consecutive year. This also follows our award for the annual CAFR we received from GFOA earlier this year. These awards are the highest form of recognition in governmental accounting and I am proud of our Finance Department.”

The Government Finance Officers Association is a major professional association servicing the needs of approximately 18,700 appointed and elected local, state, and provincial-level government officials and other finance practitioners. It provides top quality publications, training programs, services, and products designed to enhance the skills and performance of those responsible for government finance policy and management. The association is headquartered in Chicago, Illinois, with offices in Washington D.C. The GFOA's Distinguished Budget Presentation Awards Program is the only national awards program in governmental budgeting.

## News from



## North Central Regional Transit District

## RTD ‘BLUE BUS’ CUSTOMER FRIENDLY TRIP PLANNER NOW AVAILABLE THROUGH GOOGLE MAPS

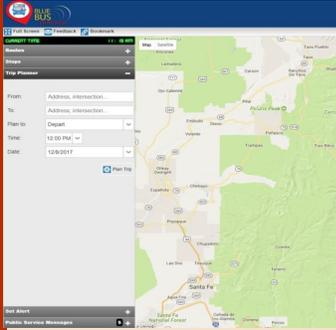
The North Central Regional Transit District is now offering a customer friendly trip planning feature, in partnership with Google Maps, that offers convenience and ease in planning a trip utilizing any of the transit district’s RTD “Blue Buses.”

In Google Maps you can access transit directions and departure times, and have your trip planned for you. It also provides seamless information for connecting from

RTD routes to the NM Rail Runner Express for trips into Albuquerque and connecting to Rio Metro Regional Transit District Buses and ABQ Ride, as well as NMDOT Park and Ride. Users can access the feature through the NCRTD website, [RidetheBlueBus.com](http://RidetheBlueBus.com)

“The availability of NCRTD transit information on Google Maps now makes trip planning easy for everyone from transit novices to seasoned travelers alike,” commented

NCRTD Executive Director Anthony Mortillaro. “The ability to connect data with neighboring transit agencies will greatly improve inter-agency connectivity and improve transit options to residents as well as visitors to our region.”



The Google Maps transit interface will also be included within the NCRTD suite of technology-based features under the Blue Bus Tracker which currently provides customers with the ability to track their bus in real-time and know the precise time at which it will arrive at their stop.

Among the many features that riders, visitors and the public in general can enjoy:

#### **Customize your route**

Riders don't have to sort through timetables and schedule brochures — one can simply enter the date and time that they need to arrive at their destination (or depart for the trip) and the trip planner will provide the most convenient options.

#### **Walking directions**

Google Maps can provide walking directions, so you can find out exactly how to get to the nearest transit stop, and how to get to your destination once you exit the bus.

#### **Data rich integration**

The online mapping service will also provide other useful information, such as real imagery, business listings, user reviews, and street-level views. It gives users a thorough understanding of the neighborhood before they set foot on it.

#### **Information accessible by mobile device**

Google Maps for Mobile makes transit trip planning available on mobile phones and smart devices so users can access information from wherever they are.

#### **Using business names or place names instead of addresses**

With integrated local search results, you can search by landmark or business name — or even type of food (“pizza”); in the “to” and “from” fields, you can enter a business name (“Century Bank”) or category (“medical center”) even if you don't know the address.

#### **Street View imagery of locations**

Google Maps offers Street View ground-level images in hundreds of cities and towns across the country; this allows riders to preview a transit center or bus stop, to see things such as whether there is a covered shelter or bench, where exactly the stop is located, how far it is from a business, and other practical uses.

#### **Support for over 40 languages**

Google Maps provides support in multiple languages which makes it very convenient for foreign language riders, whether residents or international tourists, to find directions and information in their spoken language.

## **RECORD RIDERSHIP IN FY 2017 CONTINUES TO BUCK THE NATIONAL TREND: NCRTD Logs 6.1 Percent Increase in Rides**

In fiscal year 2017 the NCRTD again celebrated record ridership posting a 6.1 percent increase in rides and marking the largest number of passengers served within a given year.

Passenger trips for all NCRTD-operated routes totaled 284,285 in FY2017 over a total of 268,050 in FY2016. The NCRTD provided service on 24 fixed routes throughout North Central New Mexico, two demand response routes, one dial-a-ride service and complementary paratransit service in the Taos area.

Among the routes seeing the greatest increase in passenger trips were the 100 Riverside and 110 Westside/Crosstown in Española, the 255 Mountain Trail to Ski Santa Fe, 341 TSV Green to Taos Ski Valley, 190 Chama Route, 320 Questa Route and 150 Chimayo Route.

Earlier this year, the American Public Transportation Association (APTA) reported that, nationally, in calendar

year 2016, unlinked transit passenger trips among bus systems providing between 100,000 to 499,000 trips saw an average decrease of 5.7 percent across the United States.

The District is pleased to be reversing a national trend and posting “increased” ridership for NCRTD-operated routes. Reduced gas prices nationwide have played a big role in decreased bus transit ridership numbers, which might make it easier for some commuters to fill up their tanks and drive, but it still doesn't do anything to reduce the carbon being released into the atmosphere, nor reduce the amount (or the cost) of wear and tear on our highways and roads.

With a national decrease in ridership for bus public transit overall, it is especially gratifying to see this increase in rural north central New Mexico as it, hopefully, reflects a growing acceptance of alternate means of transportation.

## All Aboard the Special Event Train!

Fall is a busy season in the Land of Enchantment. The cooler temperatures paired with New Mexico's famous sunshine make it a prime time of year for festivals, events, and outdoor activities. Over the past few months, the Rio Metro Regional Transit District partnered with several local event organizers to provide special New Mexico Rail Runner Express train service for attendees, and even hosted a special event of our own.

**The Burning of Zozobra** – As part of an ongoing collaboration with the Santa Fe Kiwanis Club and Santa Fe Trails, the Rail Runner once again operated a special late night train for the Burning, giving visitors the opportunity to take transit to this one-of-a-kind event on September 1st.

**Mountain West Brew Fest** – New Mexico is a leader in the production of craft beer, and we have amazing festivals to prove it! The Rail Runner operated an expanded schedule for this event over Labor Day Weekend.

**Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta** – For the third year in a row, Rio Metro collaborated with Balloon Fiesta to provide a train, shuttle, and event admission combo pass for both weekends of the world's largest hot air ballooning event this October.

**Day of the Tread** – The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Rail Runner Family Ride has become a signature ride of the Day of the Tread. Partnering with the organizers



**Day-of-tread:** The Rail Runner Family Ride has become a signature event during Day of the Tread.

of this Day of the Dead themed bike ride and fundraising event, the 12-mile Family Ride ends at the Los Ranchos/Journal Center Station, and participants take the train back to the start line in Downtown Albuquerque.

**Bugg Lights Opening Night** – The Belen Harvey House Museum is now home to the Bugg Lights, a dazzling display of holiday lights, decorated trees, and whimsical characters. Rio Metro collaborated with the City of Belen and the Belen Consolidated School District to provide an expanded train schedule and free shuttles to the event for their opening night celebration on November 25<sup>th</sup>.



**Bugg-lights:** Rio Metro provided expanded train service for opening night of the Bugg Lights holiday display.

**Santa's Village** – Rio Metro hosted the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Santa's Village at the Santa Fe Railyard on December 9th. The event featured games, crafts, interactive displays, mini-train rides, and pictures with Santa. The Rail Runner offered expanded train service, and carried people from all along the 100 mile corridor to and from the event.

**New Transit Services in Valencia County and the Pueblo of Isleta** – The Rio Metro Regional Transit District partnered with the Pueblo of Isleta to begin two new transit services on December 4, 2017. Bus route 208 provides weekday bus service between Belen and Downtown Albuquerque, with stops in Los Lunas, Peralta, Bosque Farms, and the Pueblo of Isleta. Rio Metro also began operating a Dial-a-Ride service within the Pueblo.

News  
from



Rio  
Metro  
Regional  
Transit  
District



**Route-208:** Rio Metro’s new Route 208 provides morning/midday service between Belen and Downtown Albuquerque.

New Rio Metro Bus Route 208

Bus route 208 connects Belen, Los Lunas, Peralta, Bosque Farms, the Pueblo of Isleta, and the Alvarado Transportation Center (ATC) in Downtown Albuquerque during the morning/midday when the Rail Runner does not operate. Route 208 features three northbound and three southbound trips on weekdays.

“This new bus route will give riders from Isleta Pueblo and Valencia County some viable options”, said Dewey Cave, Executive Director of the Mid-Region Council of Governments. “They can get to Downtown Albuquerque in mid-morning and return by taking the Rail Runner in the evening. They’ll also be able to transfer to ABQ RIDE bus routes at the ATC and to the Isleta Resort and Casino shuttle at the Isleta Pueblo Rail Runner Station – so accessing and taking transit to and from their area is about to expand.”

Pueblo of Isleta Dial-a-Ride

Rio Metro, again in partnership with the Pueblo of Isleta, began operating its Dial-a-Ride service within the Pueblo on December 4. This reservation-only service operates on weekdays from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., providing trips within the Pueblo including to the ABQ RIDE Route 53 bus stop on NM 314. Limited service to Wal-Mart in Los Lunas is also provided on Wednesdays from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

For more information on these, and all Rio Metro services, visit [www.riometro.org](http://www.riometro.org).



**More from NMTA ... Continued from Page 1**

2017 Annual Roadeo, Conference and Expo

- Road-eo attendees: 25 competitors (5 van, 8 Bus, 12 Large Bus)
- Conference Attendees: 122 + 23 Vendors (145 total!)
- 15 training opportunities held at conference on the following topics:
  - o Cost Allocation
  - o Drug and Alcohol: Common Program Management Mistakes and How to Fix Them
  - o Passenger Information and Technology
  - o FTA and Legislative Update
  - o Transit Asset Management (TAM)

- o Translating Data into Wisdom Through Performance Measures
- o NM Implementation of TAM
- o National Rural Transit Assistance Program (RTAP) Overview and Update with a focus on the National RTAP eLearning system that launched in 2015
- o Pre-trip Inspections and Preventative Maintenance: Why, How and Where Do You Start?
- o Electronic Grants Management and Performance System
- o Powerful Public Speaking Tips for Transit Professionals
- o Drug and Alcohol Program Manager Training

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- o Roll 'Em! An Insider's Look at How Riding the Bus with My Sister Went from The Page to The Screen
- o Cost Allocation - Intensive
- o Section 5310 Site Visit Compliance Review
- o Plus, Keynote Speaker Rachel Simon, Author of *Riding The Bus With My Sister*
- o Reviews and How to Fix Them held on Wednesday, October 25th, 2017
  - Session Two: Drug and Alcohol Testing and Program Management
- Winter Quarterly Training: Transit Dispatch and Supervisor Training scheduled for Monday February 5th - Tuesday, February 6th, 2018
- Summer Quarterly Training: Driver Training for the Never Ever Driver or the Seasoned Professional scheduled for Saturday, May 5th, 2018

**Quarterly Trainings**

- Fall Quarterly Training:
  - Session One: Common Mistakes Found During the 2017 Site
- **2017 NM Transit Managers Leadership Conference** - 61 attendees plus 5 vendor



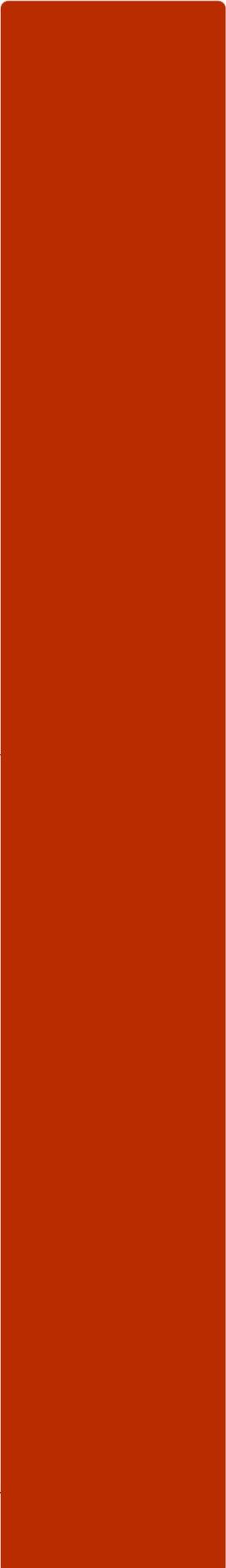
**Save the Date!!!**

**Quarterly Training Sessions**

<p><b>Monday and Tuesday, February 5th and 6th</b>  <b>Transit Dispatch and Supervisor Training</b>                  Nusenda Credit Union - Training Center                  4100 Pan American Fwy NE                  Albuquerque, NM 87107</p>	<p><b>Saturday, May 5th</b>  <b>Driver Training in Los Lunas</b>                  Village of Los Lunas Transportation Center                  751 Juan Perea Road, SE                  Los Lunas, NM 87031</p>
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**2018 NM Transit Rodeo, Conference and Expo**

<p><b>Sunday, April 8th</b>  <b>Cutaway and Large Bus Rodeo</b>                  Exact Location To Be Announced</p>	<p><b>Monday and Tuesday, April 9th and 10th</b>  <b>NM Transit Conference and Expo</b>                  Hilton Santa Fe - Historic Santa Fe Plaza</p>
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