

News from the NM Transit Association President

Inside this Issue:

News from NMTA	1
News from NM DOT	2
Highlighting a New Mexico Member	4
ABQ Ride	5
North Central RTD	6
Rio Metro RTD	8
NMTA Board of Directors	10
Upcoming Events	11



First, I like to invite you to the Transit Managers Leadership Training in Las Cruces, NM on November 5th and 6th. Registration

will be open at the conference if you wish to attend. Now that summer is over it is a good time to attend a training and improve our skills. NMTA received a \$10,000 grant from APTA to use towards legislative advocacy activities. The NMTA board is seeking \$3 million per year to use as local matches to federal funds for both operating and capital needs statewide in this next legislative session. As the NMTA board continues to work with the state legislature, we may ask you to attend meetings with your local legislator to help support this proposed bill and help provide a list of choice riders to be interviewed for Op-Ed pieces to help increase the awareness and need for transit statewide.

As president of NMTA, I have the privilege to also serve on the board of South West Transit Association (SWTA). SWTA represents an eight state region that is affectionately called "SWTA Nation." The membership includes the states of Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Kansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas. SWTA offers an annual conference, a summer university, member and legislative support. At our annual board meeting in September, we started the planning for next spring's conference in El Paso, TX from March 3rd to 6th 2019. Since El Paso is a suburb of Las Cruces, NM, it should be easy for us New Mexicans to attend this next spring's SWTA

conference. Please check out the conference at www.swta.org.

During the board meeting, there were some discussions about last mile solutions such as e-bikes and electric scooters, autonomous vehicles, and that paratransit 24-hour reservation system is not meeting the needs our transit customers. Many members of the SWTA Nation are taking same day reservations in order to meet customer demands as space allows. With Uber and Lyft operating in their cities, the customer expectations are for more immediate service. Most transit agencies are seeing a drop in ridership because of the Uber and Lyft services that compete with our services to some degree.

I continue to believe transit will not be replaced by these services, however, we need to be aware of how to adapt as service and technology improvements occur. Why do I believe this? Well, I had a couple of hours after the SWTA Board Meeting to tour Dallas before I needed to catch a plane home. I got to see where JFK was shot and while I was walking around this area of Old Dallas it began to lightly rain and looked like it may rain heavier soon. I decided to seek shelter in a nearby bakery and there I overheard people who were gathering there to catch an Uber to the game. While they were waiting for their last friend to arrive, it began to down pour and one of the guys said the Uber ride just went up in price from \$20 to \$40 for the same ride. My cost to the airport was \$3 on the DART System!



**News from New
Mexico
Department of
Transportation**

News From NM Department of Transportation

DRAFT State Management Plan Update

NMDOT is proposing an update to the State Management Plan (SMP) that would allow Section 5311 subrecipients to use in-kind contributions as local match in cases of hardship. The draft plan is available at this URL: http://dot.state.nm.us/content/dam/nmdot/Transit_Rail/DRAFT_FINAL_SMP_October2018.pdf.

Please submit any comments you have on the Draft SMP to Kevin Olinger (see contact info below) no later than November 6, 2018.

FY 2020 Application Process

We are preparing the application review packages for the MPOs and RTPOs to use in their evaluations. Each MPO and RTPO will have a meeting in the fall or winter where Section 5310 and 5311 applicants are required to give a presentation in support of their applications. Please make sure that you are on

the distribution and/or mailing list to receive meeting notices. If you have any questions about your FY 2020 application or the process, please contact Deborah Bach, Jason Park, or Vijay Ummadi (see contact info below).

National Transit Database

On October 1, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) kicked off the National Transit Database (NTD) process for reporting FY 2018 data. The deadline for NMDOT to submit NTD data is January 31, 2019. Over the next 3 months, Transit Bureau staff will reach out to each local Section 5311 program manager to collect the required information. The major change to NTD this year is that all

inventories will be linked to the Transit Asset Management (TAM) Plan, meaning that 1) each NTD vehicle fleet record will have a Useful Life Benchmark associated with it, and 2) there will be new inventories of facilities included in the TAM Plan.

Transit Asset Management (TAM)

On September 28, we published the 2019 – 2022 Statewide Group Tier II Transit Asset Management Plan covering 21 subrecipients that receive Section 5311 funding. The TAM Plan is available at this URL: http://dot.state.nm.us/content/dam/nmdot/Transit_Rail/2019-22_TAM_Plan_FINAL.pdf. The TAM Plan contains an inventory and

condition assessment of rolling stock and certain facilities and equipment as defined by FTA, and a four-year projection of replacement needs and expenditures. Thank you to everyone who provided data and comments on the draft plan. If you have any questions or would like to discuss the TAM Plan, please contact Kevin Olinger.

FTA Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (PTASP) Final Rule

On July 19, FTA published the Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan Final Rule (available here: <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2018-07-19/pdf/2018-15167.pdf>). The PTASP Final Rule requires recipients of Section 5307 funding to develop safety plans that include the processes and procedures to implement Safety Management Systems (SMS). At this time, FTA has deferred applying this rule to programs that receive only Section 5310

and/or Section 5311 funding. NMDOT is working with all of the local transit agencies that are required to have a PTASP to map out a process for complying with the Final Rule. The Final Rule goes into effect on July 19, 2019, and all PTASPs must be completed by July 20, 2020.

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New Mexico DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION
MOBILITY FOR EVERYONE

**Highlighting
A
New Mexico
Transit
Member**



**Clovis
Area
Transit
System**



City of Clovis Distinguished Employee Award

Teresa Mendoza, CATS Operator

The City of Clovis Distinguished Award program recognizes employees who have unusual contributions and/or performance to the public service and to the improvements at any level of employment. These quarterly awards are made to an outstanding supervisor and outstanding line employee who are honored at an employee luncheon.

We are proud to announce that CATS operator, Teresa Mendoza was selected as this quarter's outstanding line employee. She was chosen for her exceptional performance on the job,

her actions benefiting the department and her contributions in enhancing City operations. Besides the awards she received at the Employee Luncheon, she will also be recognized at the October 18th City Commission meeting.

We applaud Teresa's hard work and dedication to the transit department, to her customers, and to the success of the overall program. Her willingness to assist wherever is needed has earned her this award and the appreciation of City of Clovis Administration.



Share Your Story!!!

It is always so exciting to hear what transit is doing throughout New Mexico. NMTA is working diligently to highlight our New Mexico agencies through the NMTA Quarterly Newsletter, Social Media, and Op-eds.

As you all know, transit does so much in each of our communities. The goal of NMTA is to let New Mexico residents and government know what all transit does in our state. The more stories you share with us, the more information we have to do this.

Articles can be to highlight that special staff member who always goes above and beyond to ensure quality service, stories from our passengers sharing their stories of the importance of transit in their lives, or what your agency is doing in your community to assist with community activities/events.

Email your story to Melissa Drake at mdrake@nm-ta.com today!

ABQ RIDE Secures ART Funding from the Federal Government City Recouping \$75 million in Federal Funds for the ART Project

In a news conference on Aug. 21, 2018, Mayor Tim Keller announced that his administration's work to secure Federal Transit Administration Funding for the Albuquerque Rapid Transit project was successful and the City will be awarded \$75 million in increments through the Small Starts Program. Previous federal budget uncertainty and initial application and design issues left funding in limbo for almost a year after funding was initially portrayed as a certainty in 2017.

Since Mayor Keller took office, City officials have worked diligently to revise the application for the Small Starts Program and kept in close contact with the FTA to update the agency on recent developments.



"Our team invested time, sweat and energy into recouping our City's funds for building the ART project, and now we have word from the Federal Transit Administration that a big portion of the federal funding is on the way," said Mayor Tim Keller. "This outcome alleviates the burden of having to cover the cost of the project with City funds or new tax dollars. This project has been a long road for our city and frankly we've had to clean up a big mess. There is still a ways to go, but at least now we can balance the books with our residents' tax dollars restored."

Earlier in 2018, the City coordinated with New Mexico's federal delegation to ensure the Small Starts Program funding was included in this year's federal budget.

Since taking office, Mayor Keller has been transparent about the challenges facing ART, including the fact that funding was never guaranteed under the previous administration. Mayor Keller appointed new Transit Director Bernie Toon to oversee salvaging the inherited project. Together, they have delivered

periodic updates on ART in an effort to keep the community informed about the progress of the project.

"We have worked tirelessly to make the best out of the project we inherited, and this funding announcement shows that the hours we spent securing the federal funding paid off," said Albuquerque Transit Department Director Bernie Toon. "Though the project still faces some uphill battles as we work to get it up and running, we are pleased we can focus on making it work for folks in our city."

In addition, the City has secured funding from a small group of other federal grants meant to complete the funding for the project.

Additionally, Mayor Tim Keller, city officials and guests broke ground the same day on a new transit center at the intersection of Central and Unser, which will double in size to accommodate upcoming Albuquerque Rapid Transit (ART) service while also making updates to enhance service for both the ART buses and the five bus routes that stop there.

The Central and Unser Transit Center has anchored four ABQ RIDE routes and one Rio Metro route for more than 14 years. Now, this transportation hub is undergoing a reconstruction that will not only enlarge it, but also change its function for the future.

"The measure of any great city is the degree to which people and places are connected and we are trying to accomplish this type of place making on the west side," stated Mayor Tim Keller. "Rebuilding this transportation hub will allow us to serve more Burqueños more efficiently in this part of the city, especially once ART is up and running."

Continued on page 6



News
From
ABQ Ride



ABQ RIDE Secures ART Funding ... continued from page 5

The Central and Unser Transit Center has been an important part of ABQ RIDE's service since 2004, when it was built to anchor the western end of the #777-Rapid Ride/Green Line, along with other routes expanding into the west mesa.

T.A. Cole and Sons is the general contractor for the project, which includes the widening of the existing bus platform to accommodate buses on both sides of platform, the renovation and addition to the platform canopy and additional landscaping.

Operations of the transit center had moved just a few hundred feet east a few days before the groundbreaking to a temporary Park and Ride fronting Unser Boulevard. As it has in the

past when other repair work has been done at the CUTC, this location is temporarily taking buses and passengers for Routes:

- #54-Bridge/Westgate
- #66-Central
- #198-98th/Dennis Chavez
- #766-Rapid Ride/Red Line
- #366-Rt. 66 Casino (Rio Metro)

The temporary lot is equipped with lighting, signage and shelters for passengers. Once the reconstruction is complete, operations will shift back to the new Central and Unser Transit Center.

News from



North Central Regional Transit District

NCRTD RECEIVES FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION ADMINISTRATOR'S AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING PUBLIC SERVICE IN RURAL PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

The North Central Regional Transit District has received the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Administrator's Award for Outstanding Public Service in Rural Public Transportation. This marks the second time in four years that the District has received this top honor.

The Award was presented to NCRTD Chair and Mayor of the Town of Taos, Daniel Barrone and Executive Director Anthony Mortillaro by FTA Acting Administrator, K. Jane Williams, during the 23rd National Conference on Rural Public and Intercity Bus Transportation conference in Breckenridge, Colorado on October 1, 2018.

The winners of this year's Administrator's Award were selected under the criteria by which rural transit providers demonstrate how their transit system is integral to the infrastructure of the community. "Changing Lives and Strengthening Communities by Creating Value and Enhancing Infrastructure," was the moniker under which the winners were chosen.

In acknowledging the Award, the FTA stated that, the Administrator's Awards "are made to

rural transit providers that have improved the mobility of Americans in rural areas, providing them better access to employment, health care, and other community services."

David Harris, Transit and Rail Division Director for the New Mexico Department of Transportation, nominated the NCRTD and stated, "To say that the NCRTD has more than fulfilled the goals of the New Mexico Regional Transit District Act since it began service would not overstate its impact. It continues to set the standard for rural transit in New Mexico, and nationally, but most importantly for the communities it serves."

NCRTD Board Chair and Mayor of the Town of Taos, Daniel Barrone stated, "It is an honor to be receiving this award from the Federal Transit Administration. I would like to acknowledge NCRTD current and past members who have served on this Board, as well as the employees, who have all worked hard to ensure that we achieve our mission reflected in this national award of prominence."

According to Anthony Mortillaro, Executive Director at the NCRTD, "I think all the residents of north central New Mexico can share and take pride in this award. When the NCRTD was certified as the first regional transit district in the state of New Mexico, there were many who dreamed that a more than 10,000 square mile, four-county area of northern New Mexico could be connected by a network of bus transit routes to provide residents of urban and rural areas access to jobs, education, medical and quality-of-life services. This acknowledgement shows that

we can make it happen and to receive this prestigious honor twice in four years is truly an accomplishment," he concluded.



NCRTD HONORED BY GFOA WITH AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN FINANCIAL REPORTING FOR THIRD CONSECUTIVE YEAR

The NCRTD has received the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for its Fiscal Year 2017 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR), from the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) of the United States and Canada.

Acknowledged in the Certificate of Achievement was the NCRTD Finance Department comprised of Finance Director Hector Ordoñez and Financial Analyst Pat Lopez.

"It is with great pleasure that we accept this prestigious award on behalf of the NCRTD for

the third consecutive year," stated Ordoñez. "This award reflects the commitment of the NCRTD to meet the highest principles of governmental accounting, financial reporting and standards of communication and accountability to the constituents of Northern New Mexico. We were graded proficient in each category and this is the highest rating available in government accounting. It is a significant achievement for the District."

In November of 2017, the department received its second consecutive Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for its Fiscal Year 2018 budget by the GFOA.

RTD To Launch New Evening Service in Taos this December

The NCRTD's RTD Blue Buses will begin a pilot program to provide Friday and Saturday evening service between the Town of Taos and the Taos Ski Valley.

RTD 380 Night Rider, as it's being called, would coincide with the District's 341 TSV Green route between the Town and the Taos Ski Valley. The service begins Saturday, December 15 and will operate through March 23.

Service will be provided on two roundtrips beginning in the Town at 6:10 PM and run through 10:10 PM. The route will service hotels, restaurants and bars along Paseo del Pueblo, the famous town Plaza, and the communicates of El Prado, Arroyo Seco, Valdez and the Taos Ski Valley.

"This is a significant move for the NCRTD," stated Daniel Barrone, Mayor of the Town of Taos and NCRTD Chair, "as it represents the first time the District has offered

nighttime service."

He continued, "We look forward to support from the community to make this an on-going service. I would also like to acknowledge the Village of Taos Ski Valley's support in making this happen."

Mark Fratrack, Village Administrator for the Village of Taos Ski Valley commented that, "the Village has long wanted to provide a bus service to its residents and visitors that offers access to the Town in the evenings as well as provides the Town with access to services and amenities here on the mountain. We're thrilled to see this happening."



News from



Rio Metro Regional Transit District

Rail Safety Week

The Rio Metro Regional Transit District and the New Mexico Rail Runner Express collaborated with Operation Lifesaver, Inc. (OLI), the national rail safety and education nonprofit, for this year's National Rail Safety Week. The campaign, which took place from September 23-29, 2018, was designed to educate current and prospective rail passengers about the importance of safety on and around the train and the tracks.

Leading up to and throughout the week, Rio Metro featured safety messaging on our train, at our platforms, on our social media, and through other means of passenger communications. We also took the message directly to the public by having a table at the 2926 Steam Locomotive and Railroad History Open House with rail safety information and



giveaways. The campaign was a success, reaching nearly 6,000 people on social media, approximately 1,500 people in person, and thousands more with posters, ads, and newsletter communications.

Pace ABQ Bike Share Expanded to CNM



The Rio Metro Regional Transit District and Zagster, the leading provider of bike share programs, partnered with Central New Mexico Community College (CNM) to bring Pace ABQ bike share to CNM's main campus this fall. Students, faculty and staff can now zip across campus, get to and from class, grab a bite to eat, or just enjoy a ride. Pace ABQ features a unique "lock-to" dockless bike share model in which bikes lock to fixed objects - not just to specific Pace bike racks - offering riders a more convenient and predictable experience. Learn more about Pace ABQ at riometro.org.

Express Magazine Cover Art Contest

Calling all artists! The Rio Metro Regional Transit District is currently hosting an art contest. The selected entry will be featured on a future cover of Express, the official magazine of the New Mexico Rail Runner Express. The contest is open to all artists and ages. The deadline to enter is January 18, 2019. For more information visit riometro.org.



Rio Metro and MRCOG Employee Recognition

Congratulations goes out to Ben Ramirez, who was named Rio Metro Employee of the Year at the 2018 Mid-Region Council of Governments (MRCOG) Annual Event in September. Ben works at the Valencia Division doing light duty repairs to the buses among other tasks. Ben was singled out for being a team player and for his positive attitude.

Among other recognitions and awards at the event was MRCOG Employee of the Year which went to Transportation Planner Steven Montiel, and a MRCOG Public Partnership Award for those involved with the “Handle With Care” Initiative – a program that helps

schools be responsive to children who have witnessed or experienced a traumatic event.



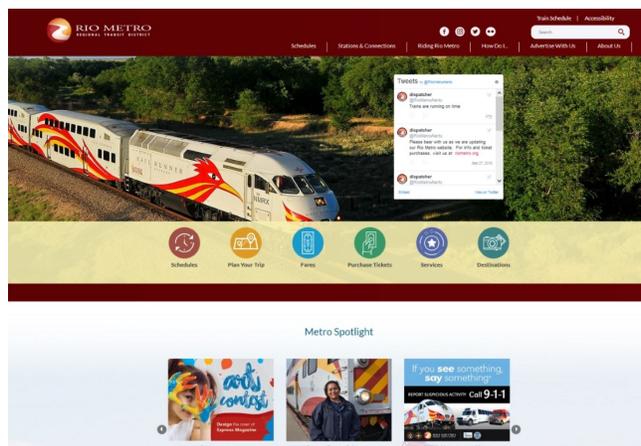
Rio Metro’s Website Got an Upgrade

The Rio Metro Regional Transit District debuted a new, mobile friendly website in September 2018. The website includes a variety of updated features, making it convenient for customers to use from either a desktop or mobile device. Some of the updated features include:

- **Language Translation** – Ability to translate the website into more than 100 languages
- **Metro Spotlight** – A feature that allows Rio Metro to highlight upcoming events and important announcements

- **Interactive Events Calendar** – View events by day, week or month
- **Social Quick Links** – Ability to quickly follow Rio Metro on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and more

Rio Metro is also working with a developer to create an interactive train schedule, expected to go live in upcoming months. The interactive schedule will allow passengers to select their travel starting point and destination, and will quickly generate train times and information based on the selections made.



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Save the Date!!!

Announcements:

Quarterly Training Topics to be presented in FY 2019 (exact dates, location and presenters to be announced)

- Train the Trainer: New Hire Driver
- Fundamentals of Bus Collision Investigation
- Transportation & ADA Workshop

Upcoming Events in Transit!!!

2018 Fall Manager's Leadership Conference

Monday & Tuesday, November 5th - 6th
The Las Cruces Convention Center

2019 NM Transit Road-ee

Sunday, March 31st
Buffalo Thunder Resort and Spa

2019 NM Transit Conference and Expo

Monday & Tuesday, April 1st - 2nd
Buffalo Thunder Resort and Spa

Please check nm-ta.com regularly for upcoming news, upcoming legislative agendas, events in transit and more.

The Myth Busters Brochure is also available for your review and use at the nm-ta.com website .

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