

News from the NM Transit Association President

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An election was held at the NMTA Annual Business meeting on April 9th and I would like to welcome and congratulate the new

members to the NMTA Board. They are Elizabeth Carter with Rio Metro Regional Transit District, and Keith Wilson with Santa Fe Trails - City of Santa Fe. Also, congratulations to Stan Cooper of Santa Fe, and Joe Hardin with Alamogordo Z-Trans who were re-elected. Finally, I would like to thank Tony Mortillaro for his leadership and dedication as president of NMTA and look forward to his continued service as past-president on the board.

The main mission of NMTA is to offer quality training to transit agencies statewide. As a board, we are constantly looking for new topics to include at the quarterly trainings, annual conference, and fall managers' conference. Should you have a training need, please contact Melissa Drake and let her know and she can add this request as we prepare our annual training calendar. NMDOT helps support these trainings offerings through the Rural Transit Assistance Program (RTAP) and I encourage you to allow your staff the opportunity to attend these trainings and sharpen their skills.

The NMTA Board not only works with Melissa Drake in offering quality trainings, the Board has a goal to receive approval in this next legislative session for a State dedicated fund for public

transit. To this end NMTA has retained Griffin and Associates to develop a communications and outreach program. In this month's newsletter featuring Stan Cooper, AARP Volunteer and NMTA Board Member is an example of an Op-ed prepared by Griffin (Op-ed can be found on page 2). Griffin needs our membership's help and if you know of a choice rider story in your agency please contact Jamie Dickerman at (505) 764-4444 so she can interview and prepare an Op-ed that can be professionally written and published on behalf of your choice rider. This will help us promote the State of Transit in New Mexico and these stories will be helpful as we move into the 2019 legislative session.

Finally, all these communication and outreach efforts are being coordinated with NMTA legislative support consultant, J.D. Bullington. He will be engaged with gubernatorial candidates and their staff on the need for dedicated transit funding as well as key committees with our legislators in crafting a proposed bill for dedicated transit funding. Your stories will be important evidence, as we can present to these legislative committees regarding the need for transit in our communities. Thank you for your continued support of NMTA.

Sincerely,

Philo Shelton, NMTA President
Director of Public Works - Los Alamos County

Public Transportation Key to Boosting Health for Aging New Mexicans

Stan Cooper, AARP Volunteer and NM Transit Association Board Member

Most of us take for granted that we can wake up each day, get in our car, drive to work, drive home, drive to the grocery store or to a movie, and get wherever we want to go. But for some of us, the time will come when we can no longer drive a car and we must give up the keys.

The loss of a vehicle can often lead to cases of isolation, which causes a decrease in physical activity, and mental engagement. People are no longer able to participate in everyday activities like visiting friends, going to social events or church because they no longer have a way to get there. Individuals can't rely on friends and family to make up the difference because they have their own lives and schedules.

For these individuals, public transportation will provide a vital role toward keeping older adults connected and engaged in their communities.

That is why it is critical that the state of New Mexico take a more active role in funding public transportation. New Mexico has long been a car-centered state, and our wide expanses of rural areas make establishing a viable public transportation system both daunting and expensive. But, it is time to make such systems more of a priority. We cannot continue to rely solely on federal and local dollars to fund public transportation.

Public Transportation in New Mexico is funded by three sources: federal, state and local. We are missing the state. The state of New Mexico does not allocate general fund money into transportation, and it's time for the state to step up and act as a partner in public transit, along with the federal and local government partners.

Having worked for AARP for 34 years, I am a passionate advocate for public transportation in New Mexico. AARP believes that in order for a community to be more livable -- a place people can live and grow as they age -- providing good public transportation is a key component.

In addition to providing freedom and independence, public transportation can help improve the health of older individuals. Research shows that staying connected and engaged in one's community boosts an older person's physical and mental health. Public transportation allows people to keep their "connection" to the world around them by getting them to and from appointments, allowing them to visit friends, and social events.

We also need to do more to educate people about the transportation options available to them. While many individuals seem to be aware of senior center vans that could transport them to get a hot meal at a senior center or to the doctor, quite a few were unaware of programs like dial-a-ride funded by the Federal Transit Administration grants managed by the New Mexico Department of Transportation. There are options for seniors to stay connected to their community and many can be found through the New Mexico Aging and Disability Resource Center (1-800-432-2080) or www.nmresourcedirectory.org.

The New Mexico Transit Association, a non-profit organization of public and private transportation providers in rural and urban New Mexico, advocates for increased state funding for public transportation to expand these programs and offer more options for seniors and for other riders. While there are some existing options, increased funding would greatly improve public transit with additional routes, services and hours.

Continuing to expand and improve public transportation not only helps older individuals but our communities as whole -- helping to connect people to vital services, everyday activities and social events across demographics. Increased funding for public transportation would be a wise investment by our state leaders.

News From NM Department of Transportation

FY 2019 Program Awards

The [FY19 program awards for Section 5310 and 5311 funds](#) are now available on the NMDOT website. On June 23 and 24, Transit Bureau Staff presented the awards packages to all of our subrecipients. For FY19, we have awarded over \$1.3 million in federal funds to Section

5310 participants, and more than \$12.7 million in federal funds for Section 5311 programs. This is a slight decrease from the program awards in FY18. Over the next few months, we will be working with each of you to execute the MOAs and set up your FY19 budgets in eGMPS.

FY 2020 Application Process

The FY20 application process will also kick off in June, beginning with our request for Letters of Intent to Apply, followed by the opening of the application process in eGMPS, with all

applications due by August 31, 2018. We will also hold an Application Workshop on June 27 at 10:00am in the Transit and Rail Conference Room.

Transit Asset Management (TAM)

We are continuing to make progress on our statewide TAM Plan, which must be submitted to FTA before October 1, 2018. Thank you to all of the programs that have updated their vehicle inventories in eGMPS. Those updates

need to be completed by June 8. The next step in the process is to use the vehicle inventory information in eGMPS to generate a replacement schedule and costs over time.

NM Park and Ride

As part of Dump the Pump Day (June 21), NM Park and Ride will celebrate its four millionth rider by giving away two monthly NM Park and Ride passes and two bicycles. NM Park and Ride has been in operation since 2003 and

currently serves almost 250,000 riders per year on 11 routes. In FY2017, Park and Ride passengers reduced their gasoline consumption by over 393,000 gallons and saved about \$637 per month over driving a personal vehicle.



Staff Changes

Both Antoinette Wright and Brett Clavio have left the Bureau for other career opportunities. We thank them for their contributions and wish them all the best. We hope to be able to fill both positions in the near future.

We are pleased to welcome two new employees and one returning employee to the Bureau. Jennifer Camp has joined the team in

Transit Finance and will be responsible for reviewing and processing payments. Vijay Ummadi is our new Federal Transit Grants Specialist, the position previously held by Gabrielle Chavez. Gabrielle, in turn, has returned to the Bureau as our new Transit Planning and Service Coordination Manager, the position previously held by Marcy Eppler.



News from New Mexico Department of Transportation

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**Highlighting
A
New Mexico
Transit
Member**

RoadRUNNER Transit



**RoadRUNNER
Transit - City
of Las Cruces**

Electric Buses to Come to Las Cruces

RoadRUNNER Transit, the City of Las Cruces' public transportation system is going to be a bit greener thanks to several federal grants that will be applied to the purchase five electric buses over the next two to three years, according to Mike Bartholomew, transit administrator for Roadrunner Transit. On September 12, 2017, the City was notified that it had been awarded \$1.45 million in the competitive Federal Transit Administration Section 5339 Low-No Program. This award will be combined with \$997,714 of local funding and \$1,997,119 from seven other federal grant awards to create a \$4,444,833 project budget to fund project management, the bus purchases, and charging infrastructure.

Bartholomew noted the City officials are very supportive of greener technology to reduce the local carbon footprint. These new buses, which will have specifications developed in the project management phase, will be procured in

a competitive solicitation. Each 35-foot heavy-duty bus will have approximately 32 seats and will each carry another 20 standing passengers. The buses will be "depot charged" at the bus maintenance facility and will have an anticipated range of approximately 200 miles per charge. These buses will replace five aging diesel buses that are already 14 years old. Roadrunner Transit's current fleet includes 20 large diesel buses and 19 smaller mostly gasoline buses used in its Dial-A-Ride service (the City's origin-to-destination demand response service for persons with qualifying disabilities and for senior citizens ages 60 and over).

Bartholomew said the city tested the electric buses in late 2016 on a demonstration route and the feedback was enthusiastic. Las Cruces will become the second city in New Mexico to use electric buses. Albuquerque will be first.



Electric bus tested on demonstration route in 2016

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 m Drake@nm-ta.com today!

Portales Area Transit That's How We Roll

Southeastern New Mexico is home to vast fields, amazing archeology and friendly people. The Portales Area Transit, also known as PAT, is located in the small community of Portales New Mexico. While we deliver passengers from point A to point B, it's more than that for us. Since we are a small community and a rural transit system, many of our passengers are weekly or daily riders and the drivers get to know them quite well. We share funny stories about our children, congratulate each other on good news and wish each other happy birthday every year.

And the transportation itself is excellent too. "The PAT bus is helpful to those who can't get around so well," said Joe Perez. "It's easy to schedule and is always on time," agreed Bill Parson. As a small transit system, we develop our schedule around the passenger rather than fixed routes. It's more flexible for both the drivers and the passengers. Not only do we pick up people on our schedule, we can be available to those needing a return trip home, and most of them love the door-to-door service. "I'm from L.A. and you have to walk pretty far to get to the closest bus station, and then wait fifteen to twenty minutes for the bus to arrive, not to mention the traffic and the many stops the bus makes. I had to leave home almost an hour before work, just to get there on time." Austin Lewis said. "With PAT, I can call them and schedule a



specific time, and they show up right to my door, and then drop me off ten minutes later."

The Portales Area Transit delivers more than safe, reliable transportation. We provide a relaxed, comfortable atmosphere for passengers, some of whom may only be able to leave home once or twice a week. Many of them enjoy the company so much they want to ride longer than the actual trip takes. Freeda McBride said "when I leave home, I get to see the city and enjoy the weather away from my front porch. It's hard to be able to do that without the PATS bus. And the customer service the drivers provide is excellent. It really shows how important I am to the PATS bus and the drivers". Our drivers display professionalism and excellence in all they do, and it reflects through the word-of-mouth of our passengers. For the PAT drivers, it's more than a job, it's a lifestyle.

Dump the Pump Day is June 21, 2018

NMDOT - Park and Ride, North Central Regional Transit District, Santa Fe Trails, Rio Metro Regional Transit District, the New Mexico Rail Runner and NM Transit Association will be co-hosting an event at the South Capitol Rail Runner Station from 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.

What is your agency doing? Email your story to Melissa Drake at mdrake@nm-ta.com or add what your agency will be doing to the NMTA Facebook Dump the Pump event page @NMTransitAssociation.



News From ABQ Ride



ABQ RIDE Implements First Major Route and Schedule Changes since 2011

On Saturday, May 12, 2018, ABQ RIDE made its first major route and schedule changes since 2011. They were proposed by the previous city administration and approved by City Council to cover routes that either needed enhanced service or were underperforming.

The changes meant an end to Route #40-D-Ride. However, with the reallocation of the D-Ride’s resources, six routes had an increase in service, two other routes were modified, as well as the creation of a Downtown Modified Free Fare Zone, which will increase the number of routes and buses that Downtown residents and employees could use for free for short **inbound** trips in an expanded Downtown service area.

“Last year, the previous city administration reviewed the routes and schedules in an effort to make them more productive,” said Bernie Toon, the recently-appointed Director of ABQ RIDE. “These changes are the result.”

ABQ RIDE is now utilizing these reallocated resources toward improvements for Routes #36 -12th St. /Rio Grande, #1-Juan Tabo, #50-Airport/Downtown, #141-San Mateo, #5-Montgomery/Carlisle and #155-Coors. The Downtown routings of the #8-Menaul and #36-12th St. / Rio Grande were also changed to provide service on portions of what used to be the #40-D-Ride.

Here are the fixed route service changes:

Reallocation:

Route #40-D-Ride

Reallocated resources used to create or expand service on other routes, modifying the Downtown circulation of two routes (#8-Menaul and the #36-12th St./Rio Grande), adding a new route (#37-12th St./Rio Grande) and creating a free fare zone for all inbound routes (except for Routes #66, 766, 777 and 790) to the Alvarado Transportation Center.

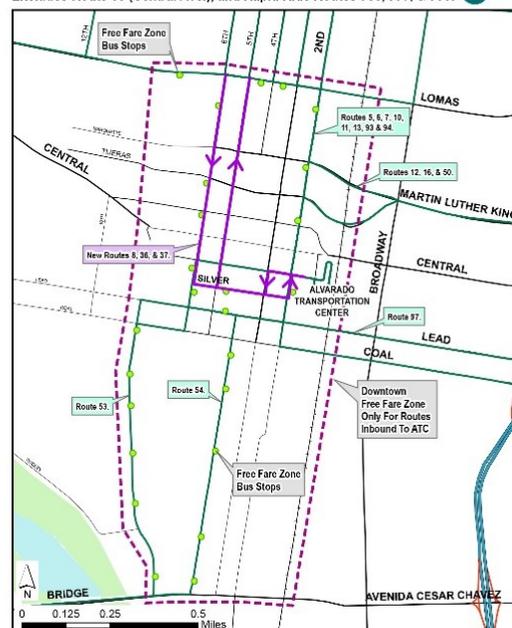
Additions:

Downtown Modified Free Fare Zone

Increasing the number of routes and buses that Downtown residents and workers can use for

free short trips in an expanded Downtown service area. These include inbound Routes #8-Menaul and the #36/37-12th St. /Rio Grande and all other **inbound** routes to the Alvarado Transportation Center (except for Routes #66, 766, 777 and 790). **This will not affect passengers on the New Mexico Rail Runner Express who connect with outbound buses at the Alvarado Transportation Center.**

Downtown - Free Fare Bus Stops Effective: May 12, 2018
Only for inbound routes that end at the Alvarado Transportation Center. Excludes Route 66 (Central Ave.), and Rapid Ride Routes 766, 777, & 790.



Rt. #36/37-12th St. /Rio Grande

Weekdays-Rt. #36 has been making a large, counterclockwise one-way loop in the North Valley. Now, a new route, #37-12th St. /Rio Grande is making the same loop in the opposite direction to provide two way service. Both the #36 and #37 now have a 60 minute frequency.

Rt. #1-Juan Tabo

Weekdays –The service frequency on Rt. #1 is now up to 45 minutes (from 70 minutes) during the midday (9:30 a.m. to 2:10 p.m.), which nearly doubles midday service.

Rt. #50-Airport/Downtown

The #50 adds Sunday service from 9:15 a.m. to 5:55 p.m., with a frequency of 60-70 minutes. There had been no bus service on Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd., Yale or to the Sunport on Sundays.

Rt. #141-San Mateo

Rt. #141, the most productive ABQ RIDE route (riders-per-revenue hour) on Saturdays & Sundays now has more weekend service. It added:

Saturdays –one earlier northbound trip (6:18 a.m.), one later northbound trip (8:50 p.m.), and two later Southbound trips (9 p.m. and 9:30 p.m.).

Sundays – increased frequency to 30 minutes (from 40 minutes) from 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Rt. #5-Montgomery/ Carlisle/ Lomas

Rt. #5, the third-most productive ABQ RIDE

route (riders-per-revenue hour) on Saturdays, added one earlier trip in each direction (7:40 a.m. eastbound and 7:25 a.m. westbound) and two later eastbound trips (6:20 p.m. and 7 p.m.).

Rt. #155-Coors

On Sundays, this route added one earlier northbound trip (9:15 a.m.) and one later southbound trip (4:54 p.m.).

Route Modifications:

Rt. #8-Menaul & Rt. #36/37-12th St. / Rio Grande Blvd.

For all service days, the downtown path of these routes now utilizes 5th and 6th Streets, Silver Ave., 2nd St., and Gold Ave. (the same path the D-Ride took) to and from the Alvarado Transportation Center instead of Lomas Blvd. and 2nd St.



Seniors Ride Free Through September

About three years ago, Rio Metro started a program offering Seniors 62+ free Rail Runner

rides on Wednesdays. Seniors Ride Free encourages first-time ridership, as well as cultivates long-term relationships with passengers by providing transportation to many recreational activities in central New Mexico.

Since the program started, the numbers have grown each year with more than 22,500 seniors taking advantage of this opportunity. Due to its success, this program will be on-going with year's being offered now through September 2018. So far this year, the program has already provided more than 4,500 rides for seniors.

Bike Share: More Bikes, More Stations!

Rio Metro worked with Zagster, a leading provider of bike share programs, to roll out

Pace Bike Share in April 2018. Residents and visitors can now rent one of the 250 bikes from any of Pace's 50 dedicated stations or from any public bike rack available throughout Albuquerque. This mix of intelligently placed stations, plus the freedom of being able to lock Pace bikes to public racks, enables true point-to-point travel while ensuring riders can reliably add bike sharing to their daily transit mix.

To use Pace, riders download the free "Pace Bike Share" app, available in the [App Store](#) or [Google Play](#). Riders find available bikes and parking locations in the app and can unlock bikes at the touch of a button. Rides cost \$1 per 30 minutes, and the first 30-minute ride for every new user is free.



News from



Rio Metro Regional Transit District

More from Rio Metro Regional Transit District...



Look for Trax at Isotopes Park this Season

Albuquerque Isotopes fans have the opportunity to meet Trax, the Rail Runner mascot, once again this year during the team's home games. Trax, everyone's favorite giant red roadrunner, will be at Isotopes Park on the following Fridays this season: May 18, June 15, July 20, and August 17. During each game, he participates in on-field promotions between innings and also walks the concourse visiting with fans, promoting rail safety, and handing out his baseball cards. Having Trax at the games is part on an ongoing partnership between Rio Metro and the Albuquerque Isotopes. This will be his 5th consecutive season of appearances.

Shakespeare on the Rail

Since 2010, a small team of local actors has been bringing short comedic Shakespeare scenes to the New Mexico Rail Runner Express each June. Shakespeare on the Rail features actors performing in street clothes and use a variety of fun props. The program's director, Lauren Albonico, is also Director of Education and Outreach for Shakespeare on the Plaza in Albuquerque. Part of her outreach includes this site-specific Shakespeare project aboard the Rail Runner for 3 consecutive Saturdays. This year's presentations will take place on June 9, 16, and 23. Passengers can see a free (with normal train fare) afternoon showing on either the #704 northbound or the #705 southbound between the Sandoval Co./US 550 and Santa Fe Co. /NM 599 Stations.

To learn more about the Rio Metro Regional Transit District and all of this summer's exciting programs, visit riometro.org.



RIO METRO
REGIONAL TRANSIT DISTRICT

Series of RTD Route Modifications Implemented April 9



In an effort to run routes at their most efficient, a series of route modifications were implemented on Monday, April 9. The routes included the 100 Riverside, 110 Westside, 160 Santa Clara, 200 Santa Fe, 220 Tesuque, 270 Turquoise Trail, 330 Peñasco, 340 Chile Line Red, 360 Tres Piedras and 400 Los Alamos.

While many of the modifications were minor, some under-utilized stops were eliminated, some requested stops were added and some bus stop times had slight changes to tighten up running times along the route.

This is the first series of modifications utilizing the new Remix route planning and scheduling software that allows us to create routes and schedules to operate at their most time efficient and effective.

The modifications also included the addition of the new NCRTD Bus stop at the Taos Public Library on the RTD Chile Red route. On April 13, members of the Taos Library Advisor Board, Friends of the Library, patrons, and RTD drivers and staff, gathered for a ribbon-cutting celebrating to kick-off the new stop. RTD Chair and Taos Mayor Dan Barrone, and RTD Board member and Taos County District 1 Commissioner, Jim Fambro, also attended and cut the ribbon as the first bus of the day pulled into the parking lot.

Perhaps, most significantly in Taos, the RTD is now providing Demand Service within ¼ of a mile of the 340 Chile Line Red route that will allow residents to call and schedule a pick-up and drop off at a cost of \$1.00 each way anywhere within that ¼ mile buffer.

SUNSET BALLOT QUESTION TO GO TO VOTERS IN NOVEMBER



***To reauthorize the Transit Gross Receipts Tax**

At the time the Regional Transit Gross Receipts Tax was enacted, a January 1, 2024 sunset of the tax was imposed by the four counties which would require the NCRTD to

go back to the voters to extend the tax beyond that date. The sunset was never part of the voter referendum and was not voted on by the public.

The NCRTD 2015 Long Range Strategic Plan, prepared for the District and ratified by the NCRTD Board, recommended that the NCRTD seek to repeal the sunset provision, by ballot question, as early as the November 6, 2018 general election, rather than wait until 2022 general election or a 2023 special election prior to the January 2024 sunset. This will allow multiple opportunities to go before the voters again in general elections, or by special election to remove the sunset and allow for continuation of the RTGRT.

In preparing for the 2018 election, the NCRTD contracted Research and Polling, Inc. to

News from



**North
Central
Regional
Transit
District**

More from North Central Regional Transit District...

conduct voter/public opinion research in the four-county area and assess community support for a repeal of the sunset. Specifically, to better understand constituent opinion, assess the likelihood of success of different approaches and ensure voters are accurately informed and understand the outcome of their vote associated with an election to repeal the sunset.

Telephone surveys have now been conducted among a random sample of 850 registered voters living in the counties of Santa Fe, Los Alamos, Rio Arriba, and Taos. All telephone surveys were conducted using a combination of random digit dialing of cell phone numbers and landlines.

The results were encouraging showing that 81% support reauthorizing the existing 1/8 of a percent tax, while only 9% were either

somewhat opposed or strongly opposed. The research also showed that support for public transit, throughout the four counties was very high.

Additionally, a public education campaign spearheaded by Griffin & Associates, is now underway in the four-county area to educate and inform the public on who the NCRTD is, what services it provides, its vision and mission, provide overall background on the District and its contribution to furthering community and benefitting the society at large. With this, the District desires to create greater awareness amongst constituents and stakeholders to ensure that voters are better informed and understand what the upcoming ballot question is all about. The program will also educate voters on the fact that this is not a new tax, but simply a reauthorization to keep the current one in place.

NCRTD TO RECEIVE \$3.6 MILLION FTA GRANT TO CONSTRUCT NEW MAINTENANCE FACILITY AT ESPAÑOLA HEADQUARTERS



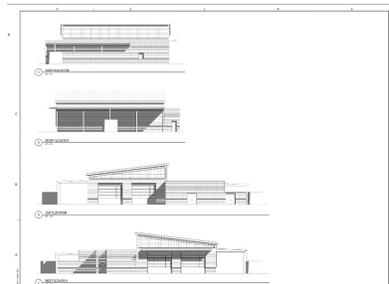
The North Central Regional Transit District will be the recipient of \$3.6 million as part of a US Department of Transportation/Federal Transit Administration (FTA) grant "to modernize and improve America's bus infrastructure" and construct a new 12,000 sq.

ft maintenance facility at the District's Espanola headquarters. The facility will be constructed to service the District's fleet of 65 vehicles and include fueling station and a separate building to house vehicle washing bays.

The award comes through the New Mexico Department of Transportation. The facility will fulfill current vehicle maintenance and upkeep needs and accommodate future operations and fleet expansion.

At a total cost of \$6.1 million, the District will be responsible for covering the difference of \$2.5 million.

In April of 2018, the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Transit Administration (FTA) announced approximately \$264 million in project selections to improve the safety and reliability of America's bus systems and enhance mobility for transit riders across the country. A total of 139 projects in 52 states and territories will receive funding from FTA's Buses and Bus Facilities Infrastructure Investment Program.





Save the Date!!!

Announcements:

NMTA is currently working on the FY 2019 Training Calendar.

Please contact Melissa Drake with any training topic needs that your agency may have.

Office: (505)796-8377

Email: mdrake@nm-ta.com

Upcoming Events in Transit!!!

- **Dump the Pump Day - June 21st**
Please email Melissa Drake with your Dump the Pump Day plans. NMTA is working on promoting all Dump the Pump Day events on Facebook and Twitter.

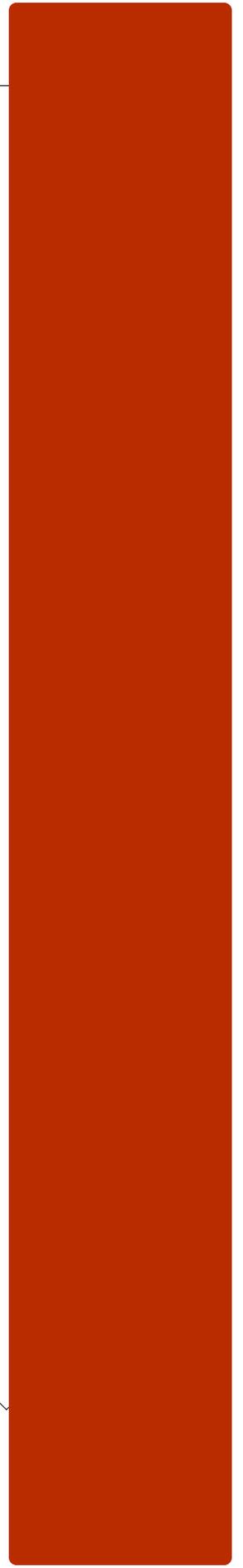
Please check nm-ta.com regularly for upcoming news, upcoming legislative agendas, events in transit and more.

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

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Twitter @NM_Transit



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