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News from the NM Transit Association President



NMTA wishes to thank everyone who was able to join us at the 2019 NM Transit Road-ee, Conference and Expo at

the Hilton Santa Fe – Buffalo Thunder. Your attendance ensured an extremely successful 2019 NM Transit Road-ee, Conference and Expo!!!

To kick off the Conference and Expo, the annual Bus Road-ee was held on Sunday, March 31st. There was a total of 37 bus operators who participated and over 60 judges/volunteers present. The annual Road-ee is a great way to celebrate the professional bus operators who serve New Mexico’s public transit agencies and daily riders. Thank you to all our members who participated in this event.

To conclude the Bus Road-ee, all who participated in the Bus Road-ee (either as a competitor or judge/volunteer) attended the 1st annual Road-ee Awards Dinner. This was a great time to celebrate all of our winners and to thank all who jumped in to ensure a successful event. Congratulations to our Road-ee Winners!

Paratransit:

- 1st place: Keith Dalrymple - North Central Regional Transit District (going to CTAA National Roadeo in Palm Springs to represent NM)
- 2nd place: Melissa Chavez - Carrot Express - Village of Milan
- 3rd place: Rachel Vargas - North Central Regional Transit District

Large Bus:

- 1st place: Lloyd Ami - Atomic City Transit - Los Alamos County (going to APTA International Roadeo in Louisville, Kentucky to represent NM)
- 2nd place: Ramon Trujillo - Atomic City Transit - Los Alamos County
- 3rd place: Melvin Roybal - All Aboard America!

The 2019 NM Transit Conference and Expo was held on April 1st and 2nd, also at the Hilton Santa Fe – Buffalo Thunder. We had a record number of attendees, with 165 attendees present! This includes presenters and vendors present.

An election was held at the NMTA Annual Business meeting on April 1st and I would like to welcome and congratulate the newest member to the NMTA Board. Dorothy Claw with Santa Ana Pueblo Transit who was elected to represent Enhanced Mobility of Seniors & Individuals with Disabilities – Section 5310 agencies. Also, congratulations to Mary Collins with Clovis Area Transit System who was re-elected as a Director At Large. Finally, I was re-elected to represent Rural Transit Section 5311 agencies and will continue as the NMTA Board President.

The NMTA Executive Board are as follows:

President: Philo Shelton, Los Alamos County – Atomic City Transit

Vice President: Joe Hardin, Zia Therapy/Z Trans

Treasurer: Elizabeth Carter, Rio Metro Regional Transit District

Secretary: Mary Collins, Clovis Area Transit System

In addition to the NMTA Executive Board, NMTA Board Members are also actively working on the following subcommittees. The subcommittees ensure that NMTA continues to effectively meet the needs of NMTA Membership. These subcommittees and their members include:

- Conference, Road-ee and Training - Elizabeth Carter, Mary Collins and Joe Hardin
- Legislative and Communications - Tony Mortillaro, Philo Shelton, Keith Wilson and Dorothy Claw
- Membership and Sponsors - Gary Guinn, Mike Bartholomew and Stan Cooper

Continued on Page 2

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 free trainings and sharpen their skills.

The next NMTA Quarterly Training is Fundamental of a Bus Collision Investigation.

This training will be facilitated by Walt Diangson with Southwest Transit Association on Thursday, June 27th and Friday, June 28th, 2019 (8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. each day) at the Nusenda Federal Credit Union, located at 4100 Pan American Freeway. NE in Albuquerque, NM 87107. Mark your calendars and plan to attend.

Thank you for your service in providing transit in your communities.

Warm Regards,
Philo Shelton
NMTA Board President



**News from New
Mexico
Department of
Transportation**

News From NM Department of Transportation

FY 2020 Section 5310 and 5311 Budget Awards

On May 15 and 16, we presented our budget awards to all Section 5310 and 5311 applicants for the Federal fiscal year 2020. The full list of awards is available at this link: http://dot.state.nm.us/content/dam/nmdot/Transit_Rail/FY%2020%20Final%20Award%20Packet.pdf. For this program year, we have awarded about \$16.3 million in Federal funding for capital expenses and rural public transit administrative and operating costs. This represents an 8% increase in federal transit

grant funding for Section 5310 programs and a 16% increase for Section 5311/5339 programs. We look forward to continuing to work with all of you to provide safe and reliable transportation for your customers. Over the next few months, we will be working with each of you to execute the Memorandum of Agreements (MOAs) and set up your FY20 budgets in *BlackCat*.

Coordinated Public Transit Human Services Transportation Plans

In accordance with federal transit law, we are updating the Coordinated Public Transit Human Services Transportation Plans (CPHSTP) that were prepared for each Rural Transportation Planning Organization (RTPO) and Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) in 2015. All projects selected for Section 5310 funding are required to be part of these plans, which are developed collaboratively with participation from seniors, individuals with

disabilities, representatives of public, private, and nonprofit transportation and human services providers and other members of the public. We will be presenting on the CPHSTP process with each of the RTPOs and MPOs during June and July. A draft copy of each plan will be available in August for review and public comment. NMDOT will then finalize the plans and present the final plans to each of the RTPOs and MPOs by September 30, 2019.

New Mexico Transit Conference



At the recent annual New Mexico Transit Conference (April 1-2 at the Hilton Santa Fe – Buffalo Thunder), two members of the Transit Bureau were singled out for surprise awards from Carrot Express in Milan, one of the rural public transit providers in the state. Both Deborah Bach and Jason Park received plaques from the Carrot Express staff in Milan thanking them for their outstanding service and support. Sarah Austin, the manager at Carrot Express,

said that she and her team wanted to acknowledge the work that Deborah and Jason do to provide technical assistance, support for grants management, and financial guidance. This public acknowledgement of their hard work was completely unexpected but well-deserved. Congratulations to Deborah and Jason!



Federal Discretionary Grant Funding Opportunities

On May 14, the Federal Transit Administration issued a Notice of Funding Opportunity for the Section 5339(b) Bus and Bus Facilities discretionary grant program for the replacement and rehabilitation of buses and bus-related facilities. States are required to submit one statewide application on behalf of all rural transit operators that want to apply. NMDOT is asking everyone who wants to apply to please submit your project information no later than June 7. The statewide application is due to FTA on June 21. If you have any

questions about this funding opportunity, please contact Vijay Ummadi (contact information below).

The Transit Bureau recently submitted an application on behalf of the North Central Regional Transit District (NCRTD) for FY 2019 Low or No Emission Bus Program discretionary funds. If selected, this award will allow NCRTD to purchase an E85 fuel compatible vehicle, along with a fueling station.

Transit Bureau contact list

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 Gabrielle Chavez, (505) 469-4413, Gabrielle.Chavez@state.nm.us
 Tony Gilbert, (505) 699-1442, Anthony.Gilbert@state.nm.us
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**Highlighting
A
New Mexico
Transit
Member**



**Pecos Trails
Transit - City
of Roswell**

The City of Roswell Gets A New Look

The community of Roswell and its visitors started seeing a new look Thursday, May 2, as the City of Roswell launched its new community brand. As one of the integration initiatives, citizens will see one of the city's public transportation buses sporting a "wrap" featuring the new city logo, brand and slogan.

The Pecos Trails Transit bus was on display outside the Roswell Convention Center May 2nd during the event to introduce the new city branding.

"We Believe" is a statement our community can take pride in, in a variety of aspects, whether that's aliens, our people, land and

culture. It's a message of hope for the future. We believe in the strength and viability of our future, destined for continued social and economic progress that will improve our quality of life and beckon new residents and visitors!

The new wrap for the bus contributes to our city's new look and feel. Our goal is to transition and update all buses in the next couple of years, as well as a new advertising program that will showcase the beauty of our buses and businesses in our community.



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!

NCRTD TO LAUNCH ANGEL FIRE TO TAOS ROUTE Represents First Service in Colfax County

Beginning this summer, the North Central Regional Transit District (NCRTD) will start a contracted bus transit service between the Village of Angel Fire in Colfax County and the Town of Taos.

The new service will be financed by the Village of Angel Fire with financial support from Colfax County and federal grants.

Fare-free service on the route will be provided seven days per week, including all holidays with three roundtrips per day. There will be three stops along the route including Angel Fire Resort, a park and ride location at the junction of US-64 and NM-434, and Taos County Administration Building in Taos. A fourth stop will be provided weekdays at Moreno Valley High School. The Taos County Admin building is the location for an NCRTD transit center providing connections

throughout the Town, the County and to Española and Santa Fe.

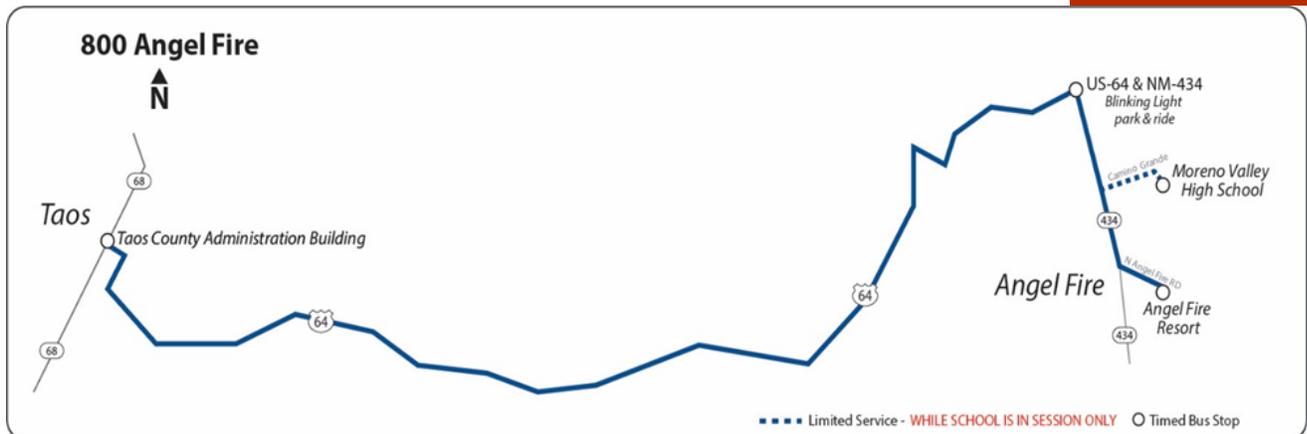
Angel Fire is a resort community that lies 41 miles east of Taos. The governing body of the resort community approached NCRTD with the interest in providing and funding a route to offer residents of Angel Fire access to services in Taos, students in Taos with access to Angel Fire schools and year-round outdoors enthusiasts with winter snow sports, mountain biking and hiking opportunities at Angel Fire Resort.

With the addition of Angel Fire Resort, the NCRTD will be providing service to four top New Mexico ski areas including Taos Ski Valley, Ski Santa Fe and Red River Ski and Summer Area.

News from



North Central Regional Transit District



News from



Rio Metro Regional Transit District

A New Way to View the Train Schedule

Finding the train schedule recently got easier for New Mexico Rail Runner Express passengers. In early April, Rio Metro introduced a new online responsive scheduler. Passengers viewing the schedule on the Rio Metro website can select their stations of origin and destination, and get a complete list of train departure and arrival times specific to their trip.

The new responsive schedule includes some unique features that help passengers find their trip information more quickly. These include the train number, station name, and direction listed within the departure time points, as well as red triangle denoting a quiet car on designated trains.

The full train schedule is still available online and easy to find for passengers that prefer to see all of the stops at once.

To check out the new responsive schedule visit www.riometro.org/226/weekday.

Weekday Schedule

New Bus Service in Los Lunas / Bosque Farms



In an effort to keep pace with growing demand for Rio Metro's transit services in Valencia County and to offer our customers more flexibility, Rio Metro will soon introduce a new "deviated fixed route". Effective **June 3, 2019**, bus Route 210 will provide weekday service

along NM 6 and NM 47 in the Los Lunas area, serving both designated bus stops on a regular schedule and also deviating up to 1/4 mile from the route by reservation.

Route 210 will provide individuals residing east of the Los Lunas Rail Runner Station with a new connection to the station. This will offer passengers taking the Rail Runner into Belen or Albuquerque more flexibility, and will reduce the need for individuals to call and schedule a trip the day before.

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Safety Improvements Completed Near Downtown Bernalillo Station

The area near the Downtown Bernalillo Rail Runner Station is now a safer place to walk and ride bikes. Following construction that began in October 2018, the area now has amenities such as a pedestrian crossing, better street and sidewalk connections, and fencing to keep people from getting too close to the railroad tracks. A dedication ceremony was held on April 29, 2019 to officially announce the improvements.

The project, which cost approximately \$900,000, is the result of a combined effort of

the Town of Bernalillo, Rio Metro, and the State of New Mexico. The construction phase took just over three months, and caused no impacts to Rail Runner service, station access, or parking during that time.



Spring Event Highlights

Spring 2019 was a busy season for Rio Metro. In addition to operational and safety improvements for both train and bus, spring

was flush with a variety of events and passenger experience initiatives. Below are some highlights from the first part of the year:

Transit Driver Appreciation Day -

March 18 marked the transit industry's annual Transit Driver Appreciation Day. Rio Metro thanked our hard-working train crew and bus drivers by bringing them snacks throughout

the day, and encouraged passengers to thank their drivers with social media posts and on-train digital images.

Miss Indian World on the Train -

To help kick-off the 2019 Gathering of Nations Powwow, 2018-2019 Miss Indian World Taylor Susan rode the Rail Runner on April 23 from Albuquerque to Santa Fe, and visited with passengers along the way.



Trax's 5th Birthday –



Rio Metro celebrated the mascot's 5th birthday by visiting Rail Runner

stations on Friday, May 3. Trax, along with Rio Metro staff, handed out snacks, giveaways, and Albuquerque Isotopes tickets.

NM Law Enforcement Memorial Ride –

On Saturday, May 4, cyclists rode from Downtown Albuquerque to Santa Fe in tribute to New Mexico's fallen officers. Participants

received a complimentary ride back to Albuquerque on the Rail Runner.

Free Rides for Cyclists / Bike to Work –

To help kick-off Bike to Work Week, Rio Metro offered free Rail Runner rides to anyone traveling with a bicycle on May 11-12 and May

18-19. Rio Metro also collaborated with Santa Fe Bike Week, May 11-19, and participated in Albuquerque's Bike to Work Day on May 17.

News from



South Central Regional Transit District

Meeting the Challenge to Transport Migrants in Doña Ana

The Emergency Operations Center (EOC), a partnership between Doña Ana County and the City of Las Cruces, and responsible for incident response and recovery operations, is coordinating the housing and transport of migrants. Beginning on April 12th, the Border Patrol began daily delivery of migrants to the Gospel Rescue Mission, over 2200 migrants to date.

Most of the migrants are seeking asylum and have families or sponsors waiting for them in some other part of the U.S. They not only need shelter, clothing, and food, they also (when they have contacted their sponsors and have tickets for travel) need transportation to bus stations or the airport. County and city staff and volunteers have helped transport people to departure points, as has the South Central Regional Transit District (SCRTD).

Shannon Reynolds, Doña Ana County Commissioner, reported that the SCRTD buses have assisted in transporting large groups, over 1200 migrants, to local shelters, bus stations in Doña Ana, El Paso and the airport. "The District's response has been exceptional. Having access to these buses has helped the EOC to respond quickly when needed," Reynolds said.

Being able to expedite the migrants' travel arrangements has helped reduce both the time and cost for their stay in Las Cruces. "The EOC is meeting this challenge and leveraging local resources to address the needs of the migrants," Reynolds said.

For more information on transportation call SCRTD at 575-323-1620 or via Google maps at <https://maps.google.com>



ABQ RIDE's Refurbished Central and Unser Transit Center Reopens

It has been the western terminus for several ABQ RIDE routes since 2004. Now, after several months of work, the Central and Unser Transit Center has received more than a facelift. It's now an ultramodern transportation hub which not only serves four ABQ RIDE routes and one Rio Metro route, but will also become an anchor for the west end of the Albuquerque Rapid Transit system.

On May 7, 2019, Mayor Tim Keller, city officials and guests cut the ribbon on the new transit center, which cost almost \$2.5 million and has doubled in size to expand its function for the future.

"This transit center will double the amount of

service to the Westside. It's a symbol of our commitment to helping Burqueños move efficiently, equitably, and affordably around our community," said Mayor Tim Keller. He added, "Albuquerque doesn't end at the river, and major pieces of transit infrastructure like this one tie our entire community closer together."

In addition to serving these local routes:

#54-Bridge/Westgate

#66-Central

#198-98th/Dennis Chavez

#366-Rt. 66 Casino (Rio Metro)



News From ABQ Ride





The Central and Unser Transit Center also anchors the western end of #766-Rapid Ride/Red Line, which runs to the Uptown Transit Center. When the ART project begins, its two routes will run from the CUTC to Central and Tramway and to Uptown, thereby doubling the current Rapid Ride service to the west side.

The new Central and Unser Transit Center features several new “ARTistic” touches. A new canopy designed to shelter the new ART buses and their passengers has a lighting accents echoing the lighting scheme at the 19 other ART platforms along Central from Coors to Louisiana. The station also has one of the iconic, lit ART station signs with a race car, as a tribute to the award-winning Unser racing family. The facility features ticket vending machines like those at the other ART stations, as well as technology to provide schedule and real-time information about the location of buses serving the center.

A series of new, decorative light shafts are not only interspersed throughout the facility, but the theme is also continued into the nearby Patrick J. Baca Library.

In addition to new pavement, general contractor T.A. Cole and Sons has added

landscaping and lighting in different areas to give the hub a brighter curb appeal. A new building on site houses new, climate-controlled restrooms for drivers and a utility room for cleanup. Finally, an electric transformer has been added on the northern end of the property, ready to bring electricity to charging stations should ABQ RIDE add electric buses in the future.

The new Transit Center is not only strategically placed to serve the neighboring UNM Southwest Mesa Center, Dialysis Clinic, Inc. and the Baca Library, but also the new Nuevo Atrisco development. It broke ground April 23. The development includes a four-story apartment complex, 30,000 square feet of office, restaurant and retail space and a 20,000 square foot community plaza. It is scheduled to be completed in 2021.

“The rebuilt Transit Center not only serves to funnel people more efficiently into the Patrick J. Baca Library, but will also have an important part in providing transportation to the Nuevo Atrisco development”, says City Councilor Ken Sanchez. “In about two years, the Transit Center will enable people to live, work and shop in the area as never before”.



Upcoming Quarterly Training Opportunity

Fundamentals of Bus Collision Investigation

Facilitated by: Walt Diangson, South West Transit Association (SWTA)
Lead Trainer & Chief Safety Officer

When: Thursday, June 27 to Friday, June 28, 2019 (8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.)

Where: Nusunda Federal Credit Union
Training Center
Room: La Luz
4100 Pan American Fwy. NE
Albuquerque, NM 87107

Course Summary:

The ability to gather critical information in response to a transit bus collision is a critical responsibility of transit staff. While local law enforcement responds to most significant transit accident scenes, a transit agency cannot rely solely on receipt of a final police report. The goal of a transit agency goes beyond the determination of fault and even classifying an accident as preventable or non-preventable.

Accidents (collisions and incidents), whether they result in injury and/or property damage, are warnings that there are uncontrolled hazards. We want these hazards identified and removed from the transit operating environment. It is critical that all injuries and accidents, including close calls, be reported so that they can be investigated, the causes determined and eliminated, and our safety performance improved.

To register or for more information, please contact:

Melissa Drake
Office: 505-796-8377
Cell: 505-350-4604
Email: mdrake@nm-ta.com

Please register by Friday, June 21st

This course draws from TSI's course *Fundamentals of Bus Collision Investigation*. The TSI course includes basic investigation tools and techniques relating to data collection, on-scene evidence documentation, damage and debris evidence analysis, witness interview techniques, computation of simple speed estimates, and report writing. SWTA's presentation will cover the same elements and more but limit the need to do complex speed estimates with mathematical formulas. When collisions and incidents are investigated, the emphasis should be concentrated on finding the root cause and contributing factors of the event so you can prevent the event from happening again or reduce the loss. The purpose is to find facts that can lead to corrective actions, not to find fault.

Hotel Suggestions near training center:

- Drury Inn
7439 Pan American Fwy. NE
(505) 345-7500
- Nativo Lodge
6000 Pan American Fwy. NE
(505) 798-4300
- La Quinta
2011 Menaul Blvd. NE
(505) 761-5600
- Embassy Suites
1000 Woodward Place NE
Albuquerque, NM 87102
(505) 245-7100

**Thank you to our
Breakfast Sponsor!**



All Aboard America!

Please note breakfast will be provided, all attendees are on their own for lunch.



Save the Date!!!

Announcements:

Remaining Quarterly Training Sessions to be presented in FY 2019

**Fundamentals of a Bus Collision Investigation
Facilitated by Walt Diangson, Southwest Transit Association**

When: Thursday, June 27th and Friday, June 28th, 2019
(8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. each day)

Where : Nusenda Federal Credit Union
4100 Pan American Fwy. NE
Albuquerque, NM 87107

More From NMTA...

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 .

Follow us in Social Media:

Facebook [@New Mexico Transit Association](#)

Twitter [@NM_Transit](#)

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