

News from the NM Transit Association President

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NMTA board held their bi-monthly meeting at Rio Metro’s office on July 19th and the next board meeting is scheduled for September 6, 2018. In June, the NMTA formed three board sub-committees; Conference and Road-eo, Legislative and Communications, and Membership and Sponsors. The reason for these sub-committees are to divide up the work that NMTA does to have quality trainings, seek long term state funding for transit, and sustain our organization with robust membership and sponsorships. If these sub-committees are of interest please contact the chair of each sub-committee who are as follows:

Conference and Road-eo
Liz Carter
Office: (505) 843-1712
Email: ECarter@mrcog-nm.gov

Legislative and Communications
Tony Mortillaro
Office: (505) 629-4713
Email: anthonym@ncrtd.org

Membership and Sponsors
Gary Guinn
Office: (505) 328-8510
Email: GaryG@creativebussales.com

This past meeting, the board made decisions for our fall and spring conference locations, dates as well as quarterly training topics. They are as follows:

- 2018 Fall Manager's Leadership Conference: Monday & Tuesday, November 5th - 6th at the Las Cruces Convention Center

- 2019 NM Transit Road-eo: Sunday, March 31st at Buffalo Thunder Resort and Spa

- 2019 NM Transit Conference and Expo: Monday & Tuesday, April 1st - 2nd at Buffalo Thunder Resort and Spa

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

Finally, at our annual spring 2018 NMTA conference our first place Bus Road-eo winners went onto the respective national conferences in their categories to represent New Mexico. Below is how they did this year.

- 2018 International American Public Transportation Association Road-eo: Bea Sanchez with RoadRUNNER Transit in Las Cruces placed 15th out 31 competitors in the 35' bus operators division

2018 National Community Transportation Road-eo, Body on Chassis division: Keith Dalrymple with NCRTD placed 10th place out of 67 competitors

These are highly competitive events and congratulations to Bea and Keith in representing New Mexico at these national road-eo events!

New Mexico Transit Agencies Celebrate National Dump the Pump Day



To encourage New Mexicans to do their part, transit agencies from throughout northern and central New Mexico gathered at the South Capitol Rail Runner Station in Santa Fe, June 21, from 6:00 AM to 9:00 AM for coffee, donuts and giveaways.



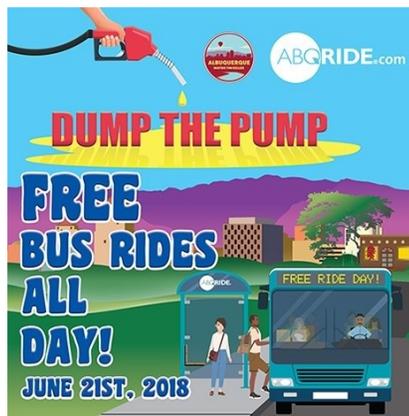
Participating at the event were NM Rail Runner Express, Santa Fe Trails, North Central Regional Transit District, NMDOT Park & Ride, Rio Metro RTD and the New Mexico Transit Association (NMTA) to share the message of how to save money, Dump the Pump and make public transit work!



The City of Santa Fe's, Santa Fe Trails bus system offered free fares throughout the day on all its buses. NMDOT Park & Ride celebrated its 4 millionth rider and held a drawing for a free bicycle and a free monthly pass at the event that morning.



The campaign included print, radio and digital ads, media outreach, social media, posters, bus wraps – and a commemorative coffee mug (seen in some of the photos). Local radio station, KBAC, did a live remote from the location.



NMTA was successful in getting transit agencies from throughout the state to participate including ABQ Ride, Las Cruces RoadRUNNER Transit and Carrot Express from Milan, NM.



CHALLENGE!

Ride a RoadRUNNER bus on National "Dump the Pump" Day on June 21 and Be Entered to Win A Prize!

Las Cruces RoadRUNNER Transit hosted events on June 21st where they gave out bus passes. They also offered fare-free rides the entire week of Dump the Pump.

WANTED!

Passengers to take the Dump the Pump Challenge on June 21, 2018 and Ride Public Transit!



CALL OR TEXT THE CARROT EXPRESS @ 505-290-2469 TO SET UP A FREE RIDE INSTEAD OF TAKING YOUR CAR!

News From NM Department of Transportation

FTA FY18 Section 5339(b) Discretionary Program

FTA has announced an opportunity to apply for FY18 Section 5339(b) (Bus and Bus Facilities) discretionary funds. Applications were due August 6, 2018. NMDOT Transit and Rail has submitted a statewide application. We are requesting funding for additional buses statewide and facility improvements for

individual local transit programs that expressed an interest in applying. More information is available at the FTA website (<https://www.transit.dot.gov/funding/applying/notices-funding/buses-and-bus-facilities-infrastructure-investment-program-fy-2018>).



NMED Volkswagen Mitigation Trust Fund Applications

The New Mexico Environment Department is now accepting applications for projects related to the Volkswagen Settlement Agreement. Applications are due September 14, 2018. Qualifying projects must demonstrate a reduction in NOx, and meet the criteria outlined in the Settlement Agreement. Replacement transit buses are eligible; however, the older vehicle needs to be disposed of. The Settlement Agreement allows

NMED to approve funding for up to one-third of the State's initial allocation in the first year. There will be at least two additional opportunities to submit applications for funding future projects. These opportunities will be available in 2019 and 2020, and possibly beyond. Please visit the NMED website (<https://www.env.nm.gov/vw-settlement/>) for more information and to access the application.

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 rural transit programs. This is a slight decrease from the program awards in FY18. Over the next two 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 kicked 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. If you have not submitted a Letter of Intent to Apply, please do so as soon as possible. If you have any questions about submitting your application in eGMPS, please reach out to:

Deborah Bach
(505) 819-9112
Deborah.Bach@state.nm.us

Jason Park
(505) 490-5347
Jason.Park@state.nm.us

Vijay Ummadi
(505) 469-7890
VijayK.Ummadi@state.nm.us

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. In August, we will hold a mandatory training for Section 5311

recipients to demonstrate how to evaluate facility conditions and sign off on the statewide Group Tier II TAM Plan in eGMPS.

News from New
Mexico
Department of
Transportation

More from NM Department of Transportation



NM Park and Ride

As part of Dump the Pump Day (June 20), NMDOT Park and Ride celebrated its four millionth rider. All Aboard America! gave away two monthly NMDOT Park and Ride passes and two bicycles. NMDOT 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.



April Longhair, monthly pass winner of the Northern Routes.



Yolanda Martinez, bicycle winner of the Northern Routes.
Photo courtesy of Gabrielle Chavez.



Anne Cobos, bicycle winner of the Southern Routes.
Photo courtesy of AAA!.



Rodney McKinnon, monthly pass winner of the Southern Routes.
Photo courtesy of AAA!.

Transit Bureau contact list

Kevin Olinger
(505) 469-3595
Kevin.Olinger@state.nm.us

Deborah Bach
(505) 819-9112
Deborah.Bach@state.nm.us

Gabrielle Chavez
(505) 469-4413
Gabrielle.Chavez@state.nm.us

Jason Park
(505) 490-5347
Jason.Park@state.nm.us

Vijay Ummadi
(505) 469-7890
Vi-jayK.Ummadi@state.nm.us

Tony Gilbert
(505) 699-1441
Anthony.Gilbert@state.nm.us

Jennifer Camp
(505) 470-6585
Jennifer.Camp@state.nm.us

Staff Changes

We are pleased to welcome a new employee to the Bureau. Tony Gilbert is our new Commute Options Program Manager, overseeing the

NMDOT Park and Ride Program.

Tony can be reached at (505) 699-1442, Anthony.Gilbert@state.nm.us

Red Apple Transit Contracts with Capacity Builders, Inc.

The City of Farmington awarded the contract for Public Transit Services to a local contractor to manage the daily ridership operations. Starting on June 1, 2018, the contract was awarded to Capacity Builders, Inc. (CBI). CBI started the first month great being accident free, providing great quality operations and excellent customer service. CBI is continuing the success the Red Apple Transit system has built over the last 20 years.



Photo: Farmington City Hall

The City of Farmington is located in northwestern New Mexico and encompasses 32 square miles. Farmington is the largest city in San Juan County and is located at the junction of the San Juan River and the Animas River. The population within the city limit is 45,877 while the population within the Farmington Metropolitan Planning Organization Boundary is approximately 96,925.



Photo: Fixed and Demand Response Vehicles

Beginning in 1999, the City of Farmington's Red Apple Transit began providing bus service with only one route. The service enjoyed tremendous growth with ridership increasing from 1,600 riders per month to over 11,000 per month current date.



Photo: CBI Administrative Dispatch Office

The transit system includes both fixed-route and demand response services. Routes extend to the surrounding San Juan County areas, including the communities of Aztec, Bloomfield, and Kirtland. Red Apple Transit also transfers with North Central Regional Transit District (NCRTD) and Navajo Transit which greatly expands the service.

Red Apple Transit contracts out for the daily ridership operation of the system and the provision of drivers. The contractor is to provide day-to-day ridership operations, provide an adequate facility for on-site administration, and supervise all hired personnel. CBI was selected to fulfill this vast mission consisting of 5 city routes, 3 regional routes, and the transfers with NCRTD and Navajo Transit. With a successful track record of managing millions of dollars of federal grant programs and years' experience in transportation operations, Capacity Builders, Inc. submitted a strong proposal to the Red Apple Transit in 2018. Their proposal went through a structured demanding process for selection and CBI was selected as being fully capable. They are excited for the opportunity to serve the unique community and surrounding areas for the City of Farmington.

CBI has dedicated its resources for a little over 20 years to improve the quality of life for tribal communities, nonprofits, and citizens through its capacity building support and direct services that lead to job creation, economic independence, wellness, and abundance. CBI established Lou Go's a safe

Highlighting
A
New Mexico
Transit
Member



Red Apple
Transit - City
of Farmington

More from Red Apple Transit

and reliable public transportation committed to raising awareness for DWI prevention and helping the local community stay safe on their travels. To demonstrate Lou Go's commitment to DWI prevention, Lou Go's actively promotes safe transportation for patrons in San Juan County (including local restaurants, bars, casinos and company-sponsored events). Lou Go's further helps our community by providing transport services for domestic violence victims through a referral arrangement with the Farmington Police Department and other local law enforcement agencies. Today, Lou Go's is a state certified taxi and ground travel service that provides Farmington and Four Corners residents with quick, reliable, professional, and affordable transportation solutions. Lou Go's has been continuously improving services and upgrading its fleet throughout the years. Lou Go's currently operates Taxi, Limo, Van, and Non-Emergency Medical transport services, with intentions on providing Sedan services in the near future.

Capacity Builders, Inc. has completed its first month of operations and is having a successful start full of many operational highlights:

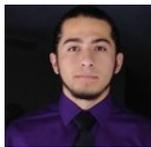
Accident free – CBI provided safe transport of community members.

Quality operations – CBI managed the daily ridership operations, supervised the drivers, and provided quality reporting to the Red Apple Transit Administrator.

Customer service –there were no complaints or issues from the community members recorded.

“Operations for the Red Apple Transit have been filled with many surprises, but it also has been very rewarding to service a broader range of our community. Customers are happy to give feedback on how to improve future operations and are excited to be heard,” says CBI Transportation Manager, Briana Smith.

In summary, Capacity Builders, Inc. is compliant of its requirements and is operating consistently. Along with its successful operations, a promising future seems to be at hand with the new contractor. To add value to its quality operations, CBI is a new member of the New Mexico Transit Association (NMTA) which shows their commitment to be a part of the State's transit association. NMTA provides high quality training opportunities to the New Mexico transit agencies and serves as a collective voice of the public transit sector to further the development and expansion of public transit in New Mexico. Red Apple Transit continues to grow and provide the City of Farmington with exceptional transit services and is now using the local contracted services of Capacity Builders, Inc.



Article written by: Eric M. Montoya,
Summer Intern, 2018

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 Expanding Its Sun Van Fleet with a New Look



On Wednesday, June 6, 2018, Mayor Tim Keller unveiled new Sun Vans that will be

added to the ABQ RIDE fleet. Making the new fleet vehicles even more special is the unique design on the vehicle itself. Despite retiring 38 older Sun Vans, ABQ RIDE is actually increasing its paratransit fleet to 84 vehicles, by adding 44 new vans.

As they began hitting the streets, these Sun Vans featured a distinctive sky blue as their base color. But it's the design on the sides that may get your attention; a stylized view of the Albuquerque skyline and Sandia Mountains, plus a few interesting details that will draw people's attention to the vans every time they see them. This includes a fictionalized Albuquerque crime kingpin.

"These new Sun Vans demonstrate our commitment to constantly improving service to thousands of paratransit riders," stated Mayor Tim Keller. "The vans are a critical part of making sure folks with disabilities can participate fully in our community, and are now also designed to help showcase Albuquerque."

The 44 new, 24 foot vans are manufactured by Glaval Bus of Elkhart, Indiana. Just like more recent models of Sun Vans, these new models still carry up to 14 riders, with room for as



many as three wheelchair passengers. But unlike the older vans, the seats and

wheelchair securements have been moved around to add more aisle room for passengers. Each new Sun Van still features the dependable Braun Millennium Series-2 Mobility Lift at the front of the van to load wheelchairs quickly, along with radio equipment and the latest *Seon* brand cameras. Samsung tablets still help drivers keep track of customers and their intended routes. **Utilizing tablets and mounts as opposed to mobile data terminals has saved the City over \$6,000 per van.**

The new Glaval vans still come with Ford E-450 unleaded-fuel engines, along with quieter, high-capacity Thermal King air conditioners



that give comfortable climate control. ABQ RIDE purchased the new Sun Vans for a little over \$4.17 million; with a combination of Federal Transit Administration (FTA) money (85%) and City of Albuquerque General Obligation bonds (15%). ABQ RIDE will continue to receive the

vans and outfit them through the end of May, 2018.

"Our goal is to provide the best service and provide added comfort for our passengers," said Bernie Toon, Director of ABQ RIDE. "This new fleet of vans will help us to serve more people and will do so with a unique design"



News
From
ABQ Ride



News from



North

Central

Regional

Transit

District

DROUGHT TEMPORARILY CLOSES SANTA FE NATIONAL FOREST IMPACTING RTD 255 MOUNTAIN TRAIL SERVICE



Photo courtesy of Ski Santa Fe

Extreme drought closed the Santa Fe National Forest this summer from June 1 until July 14

impacting the RTD 255 Mountain Trail route. Service on the 255, which takes hikers, bikers and joyriders from Downtown Santa Fe up into the Sangre de Cristo Mountains and the National Forest was suspended for the duration of the closure.

The RTD 255 Mountain Trail provides service from points throughout downtown Santa Fe up Hyde Park Road through Hyde State Park and into the Santa Fe National Forest. Bus stops along the route provide access to trailheads and picnic areas, service concludes at Ski Santa Fe. It is especially popular with bikers during the non-winter service.

NCRTD AND NMRX PROVIDES SPECIAL EVENT PUBLIC TRANSIT SERVICE FOR SANTA FE WINE FESTIVAL AT LAS GOLONDRINAS

The North Central Regional Transit District and Rio Metro RTD's, NM Rail Runner Express, this year teamed up to provide special event public transit services for the Santa Fe Wine Festival at El Rancho de las Golondrinas, a historic rancho and now living history museum, June 30th and July 1st.

RTD provided fare free service from downtown Santa Fe to key transit centers and park and ride locations with connections to the Santa Fe Trails bus system. The District provided nine roundtrips each day beginning at 11:10 AM. A second bus, provided fare free service, from the 599 Rail Runner Station approximately each half hour, beginning at 11:45 AM. In addition to providing connections to the NM Rail Runner Express, local residents have park and ride options at the 599 Station which allowed them to avoid parking congestion at Las Golondrinas.

The NM Rail Runner Express added an additional train to accommodate eventgoers from Albuquerque to its 599 rail station on Saturday and Sunday

NCRTD provided 716 trips over the two days which contributed significantly to a reduction of cars and traffic on the narrow streets in the historic community of La Cienega.

NCRTD will also be providing transit services for the first time this year to the Renaissance Fair at Las Golondrinas September 15 and 16.



12 Facts to Commemorate 12 Years of Rail Runner Service



July 2018 marks 12 years of commuter rail service in New Mexico. The New Mexico Rail

Runner Express has transformed public transportation in our state, providing access to areas as far north as Taos and as far south as Socorro.

By the Numbers

To commemorate our 12 year anniversary, here are 12 interesting facts* about the New Mexico Rail Runner Express:

1. **11,382,762:** Passengers carried since service began
2. **394,561:** Bicycle boardings since service began
3. **66,988:** PNA boardings (Passengers Needing Assistance) since service began
4. **500,000,000:** Passenger miles taken off

area roadways since service began

5. **134,612:** Number of trips taken by VA Veterans using the [Freedom Pass](#) since its inception in Nov. 2014
6. **13,540:** People that have taken the train as part of a scheduled [group travel](#) experience since Jan. 2014
7. **20:** Number of appearances by [Trax](#), the Rail Runner mascot, at Albuquerque Isotopes baseball games
8. **33,490:** Number of rides taken by seniors as part of the [Seniors 62+ Ride Free](#) promotion, which began in Feb. 2016
9. **136:** [Bicycle lockers](#) at NMRX stations along the corridor
10. **60+:** [Buses connecting](#) to the train between Taos and Socorro
11. **11:** Number of [Express Magazine](#) issues published since its inception in Fall 2014
12. **12:** Number of years that staff member Bob Trujillo has worked as a Ticket Agent on the New Mexico Rail Runner Express

*Numbers provided are current as of May 31, 2018

Expanded Service Area & Hours for Pueblo of Isleta Dial-a-Ride

On Monday, July 2, 2018, Rio Metro expanded both the service hours and service area for its Pueblo of Isleta Dial-a-Ride service. Residents of the Pueblo can now use the Dial-a-Ride between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. This expansion provides an additional three hours of service on each day of operation, compared with the original 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. schedule.

In addition to expanding service hours, Rio Metro has also increased the service area. People can now travel within the Pueblo, as well as schedule rides to the ABQ RIDE Route 53 bus stop on NM 314, and any destination within the limits of Los Lunas, Bosque Farms

and Peralta. Trips must originate in the Pueblo in order to qualify for a return trip to the Pueblo on the same day.



News
from



Rio
Metro
Regional
Transit
District

Rio Metro Staff Celebrate Country, Community

Rio Metro’s Valencia County staff showed off their patriotism by participating in the Annual Village of Los Lunas 4th of July Parade this summer. Staff walked along-side a shiny red Rio Metro bus and handed out candy and other goodies to the crowd.

“There were a lot of people,” said David Maes, Transit Manager for Rio Metro’s Valencia County Office. “We had fun, and the kids really enjoyed the puzzles and magnets we were handing out.”



Pictured from left to right: Socorro Telles, Joe Aragon, Josh Pena, Yvonne Perez, Denise Kurtz, Denise’s grandson, and Angela Galindo.

Thank you and Congratulations to Mitzi Barrows, Clovis Area Transit System - City of Clovis! Good Luck on your Retirement

By Mary Lou Kemp



I write this article with a myriad of emotions, but since so many of our transit peers know Mitzi, I wanted to announce that after 28 ½ years with the City of Clovis and the Clovis Area Transit System, Mitzi Barrows is retiring. Mitzi started her career with the City in 1989 in the Finance Department. During this time she worked with CATS part time as liaison between the two

departments. In January 2007 she came over to the Transit Department full time and was an integral part of the success in getting a new facility for the CATS program.

Mitzi’s accomplishments during her tenure are numerous, but Mitzi would not want me to go on about these. So I thought I would just say that as her supervisor and her friend we will all miss her greatly. I also wanted to share a few photos highlighting her life in transit!



A Special Note from Clovis Area Transit System



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 .

Follow us in Social Media:

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Twitter @NM_Transit

NMTA Board of Directors Contact Information

Executive Board of Directors

Philo Shelton, President

Director Representing Rural Transit Systems
Atomic City Transit - Los Alamos County
Contact Info:
Office: (505) 662-8106
Email: philo.shelton@lacnm.us

Joseph Hardin, Vice President

Director At Large
Z-Trans/Zia Therapy
Contact Info:
Office: (575) 439-4900 ext. 152
Email: ztrans@ziatherapy.org

Elizabeth Carter, Treasurer

Director At Large
Rio Metro Regional Transit District
Contact Info:
Office: (505) 843-1712
Email: ECarter@mrcog-nm.gov

Michael Bartholomew, Secretary

Director Representing Urban Transit Systems
RoadRunner Transit - City of Las Cruces
Contact Info:
Office: (575) 541-2500
Email: mbartholomew@las-cruces.org

Ex-Officio Director

David Harris

Transit and Rail Division Director, NMDOT
Contact Info:
Office: (505) 827-5420
Email: davidc.harris@state.nm.us

Directors

Mary Collins

Director At Large
Clovis Area Transit System - City of Clovis
Contact Info:
Office: (575) 769-7910
Email: mcollins@cityofclovis.org

Stan Cooper

Director At Large
AARP
Contact Info:
Office: (505) 670-7988
Email: stanleymcooper@gmail.com

David Falance

Director Representing Enhanced Mobility for Seniors
and Individuals with Disabilities
Presbyterian Medical Services
Contact Info:
Office: (505) 820-3471
Cell: (505) 660-6073
Email: david.falance@pmsnm.org

Gary Guinn

Business Director
Creative Bus Sales
Contact Info:
Office: (505) 328-8510
Email: GaryG@creativebussales.com

Anthony Mortillaro

Director Representing Regional Transit District
North Central Regional Transit Districts
Contact Info:
Office: (505) 629-4713
Email: anthonym@ncrtd.org

Keith Wilson

Director At Large
Santa Fe Trails - City of Santa Fe
Contact Info:
Office: (505) 955-2223
Email: kpwilson@santafenm.gov



P.O. Box 15272
Rio Rancho, NM 87174

Phone: 505-796-8377
Fax: 505-212-0525