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News from the NM Transit Association President



First off, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate our previous President, Philo Shelton, on his

new position within Los Alamos County. I would also like to extend my heartfelt thanks for his leadership and organizational skills as the President of NMTA. We became a better organization under his guidance.

With my assuming the position of President we now welcome Elizabeth Carter with Rio Metro Regional Transit District as the new NMTA Vice President. Elizabeth has been serving as the NMTA Treasurer and has now been elected as the Vice President. We also welcome Dorothy Claw with Santa Ana Pueblo Transit as our Treasurer. Dorothy was recently elected to the NMTA Board in April 2019.

NMTA continues to advocate for, and assist all of the state transit agencies. The board subcommittees of Legislative and Communications chaired by Anthony Mortillaro, Conference, Road-éo and Training, chaired by Elizabeth Carter, and Membership and sponsors, chaired by Gary Guinn have all been working diligently to support the membership.

The legislative and communications committee, along with the board, has partnered again with J.D. Bullington for legislative guidance, and Joanie Griffin of Sunny505 for marketing and outreach. NMTA is working to build a strong voice within the state to further issues and matters of legislative concern that affect our membership.

The Training and Road-éo subcommittee actively sought ideas this year for training that association members wanted to see, or needed. They are currently coordinating with NMDOT to establish a training calendar based on the following:

For the Quarterly Training Calendar:

- Marketing, including websites and social media
- Emergency Management and Preparedness

- Fleet Management: Maintenance Records, Pre-trip/Post trip records, recall follow up, Bus upkeep

2019 NM Transit Leadership Fall Conference:

- Servant Leadership
- Succession Planning

2020 NM Transit Road-éo, Conference and Expo

- National Incident Management System (NIMS)
- Attracting and Retaining employees
- Transit Asset Management (TAM) Plan Review
- 5310 & 5311 Compliance Review by Dan Wagner)
- Safety Related Topics - to be determined by NMDOT staff

Melissa, Administrative Director, has been working tirelessly to secure a venue for the Annual Conference and Road-éo next year. Several sites have been contacted and NMTA is seeking proposals from them. NMTA will inform the members as soon as a site is chosen. The fall manager's conference is also being coordinated. Melissa Drake will notify members when a venue is chosen and a date set.

As always, NMTA is constantly striving to update its' membership and gain new members. There are benefits of being a member such as trainings, help with technical issues by other members, help with navigating the many guidelines of FTA and NMDOT, and advocacy. Although NMTA's main mission is providing training to the membership, we are also here to help all members by staying active and up to date on legislation being introduced by, or for, transit.

As Summer starts to wind down and Fall is just around the corner, I would like to encourage all members to continue to provide safe, and convenient services to the public. Many individuals rely on our transit services for jobs, medical, educational, and everyday activities. All of you in the transit are valuable assets. Drivers are the backbone of your systems and are the face that the public sees every day.

We could not operate without them. The most valuable assets, however, are our passengers. They are why we exist. Let us all do everything we can to elevate transit to a higher level of professionalism, and safety.

Thank You
Joe Hardin, President



News From NM Department of Transportation

Funding Opportunity for Transit Pilot Projects

All NMTA members should recently have received notice that NMDOT Cabinet Secretary Michael Sandoval has expressed an interest in providing up to \$1,000,000 in state funds for pilot transit projects in State fiscal year 2020.

The NMTA notice contains the details on the criteria for pilot project submissions. All submissions are due to NMTA (not NMDOT) no later than September 21, 2019.

Section 5310 and 5311 Program Updates

Staff and our consultant have started visiting local programs and collection sites for our annual technical reviews of compliance with FTA drug and alcohol rules and regulations. We appreciate your continued effort to work with us to gather information and resolve issues when needed.

We have been notified that FTA will be conducting its statewide Drug and Alcohol Compliance Review during the week of October 21-25, 2019. As part of that review, the FTA consultant team will visit with nine local Section 5311 programs to review their drug and alcohol policies and testing procedures in an effort to gauge how effective NMDOT is in our oversight. We are reaching out individually to the nine local programs that have been selected to discuss scheduling and submission of information prior to the site visits.

In November, we will be conducting another round of technical site visits for Section 5310 and 5311 programs. We will be reaching out to each program individually to schedule those meetings. It is important for everyone to upload your requested documentation in

BlackCat prior to your site visit. This gives us a chance to review everything and spend our time with you focusing on the topics that need the most attention. There are a few programs scheduled for a visit this year that have still not closed out all of their findings from their last site visits two years ago. Please address those findings as quickly as possible, or they will be carried over into your new review.

The Memoranda of Agreement for FY 2020 (October 1, 2019 – September 30, 2020) Section 5310 and Section 5311 funds have recently been mailed out to all award recipients. If you have not done so already, please make every effort to sign and return your MOA copies to the Transit Bureau before October 1.

Thank you to all who have applied for funding for FY 2021 (October 1, 2020 – September 30, 2021). We are reviewing those applications and will reach out to you individually if we have any questions or need more information.

**News from New
Mexico
Department of
Transportation**

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 RTPO and 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 have presented on the CPHSTP process with each of the RTPOs and MPOs, and draft versions of each plan are available on the NMDOT Transit and Rail website (https://dot.state.nm.us/content/nmdot/en/Transit_Rail.html). If you have any comments, please contact Gabrielle Chavez (see below for phone and email). All plans will become final on September 30, 2019. Thank you to all who have participated in these updates.

Staff Updates

On September 6, 2019, Tony Gilbert, our project manager for NMDOT Park and Ride, left the Transit Bureau for a position elsewhere

in NMDOT. We thank Tony for his management of the Park and Ride program and wish him all the best for the future.

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Highlighting A New Mexico Transit Member



Rocking 66 Express

Village of Milan

National RTAP announced the winners of the 2019 Photo Contest: Through the Seasons

National RTAP held the 2019 photo contest "Transit Through the Seasons." Agencies were asked to submit photos of vehicles, staff, and/or riders against a rural backdrop to showcase the beauty of transit through the season. Photos were voted on by National RTAP staff and were judged on photo quality, artistic design, originality, and creative depiction of a season.

Winners of the contest were announced on August 29, 2019 and one of our New Mexico Transit family members was the third place winner! Congratulations Tim Tobias, Senior Driver with Rockin 66 Express in Milan, NM for placing third with "Rockin 66 Express in Winter", shown below.



Tim Tobias took the "Rockin 66 Express in Winter" picture while waiting for his next passenger pick up. Sarah Austin, Transit

Director, submitted the picture because of its beauty with the hopes of Tim placing in the contest. Tim placed third in the country!

As the third place prize, Rockin 66 Express will receive \$100. In addition, all photos entered in this year's contest will be on display on a bulletin board at the National RTAP 4th Technical Assistance Conference, "Charting New Trails for Rural & Tribal Transit," held in Portland OR, September 15-18, 2019. All of the 2019 photo contest entries can be viewed Facebook. On Facebook, National RTAP can be found at @NationalRTAP.

Congratulations to all of the 2019 Photo Contest: Through the Seasons winners!

- The first place winner was Jennifer Balmes, Graphic Designer and Marketing Assistant, Roaring Fork Transportation Authority (RFTA), Carbondale, CO. RFTA will receive \$400.
- Second place went to "Inspiring Green," by Donna Bailey, Mobility Manager, DJ Transit, Laurel, MS. DJ Transit will receive \$200.
- Third place went to "Rockin 66 Express in Winter" by Timothy Tobias, Senior Driver, Rockin 66 Express, Milan, NM. Rockin 66 Express will receive \$100.
- Fourth place went to "Summer Fair" by Steve Lancaster, Mobility Management Specialist, Upper Cumberland Human Resource Agency (UCHRA), Cookeville, TN. UCHRA will receive \$50.

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 COMPLETING ITS FIRST SUMMER SERVICE TO TAOS SKI VALLEY!



For the first time this summer, the NCRTD provided non-winter service on its popular TSV Green route between the Town of Taos and Taos Ski Valley.

The service operated each Friday, Saturday and Sunday with three roundtrips along Paseo

del Pueblo through the Town of Taos, hitting the Plaza and El Prado before turning onto NM 150 through the communities of Arroyo Seco, Valdez and to Taos Ski Valley.

Christof Brownell, Mayor of the Village of Taos Ski Valley and NCRTD Board member commented that, “summer service to Taos Ski Valley is a great way for people to have safe, easy access to all that goes on in the Village in summertime. There are exciting events each weekend, great hiking, places to dine and shop, or even just to come up and enjoy the cool mountain air. We look forward to seeing the summer service operate on an annual basis.”

The TSV Green summer service operates on weekends through September 29.

Officials Gather to Kick-Off the NCRTD 800 Angel Fire Route

On Wednesday, August 14, officials from NMDOT, the Town of Taos and Village of Angel Fire joined the NCRTD for a ribbon cutting to celebrate the start of a route that will run seven days per week, including holidays, between Taos and Angel Fire. The group included Taos Mayor and NCRTD Chair, Daniel Barrone as well as Mayor Chuck Howe of Angel Fire and Gabrielle Chavez, NMDOT Transit Planning and Service Coordination Manager. It also included Angel Fire City Councilor D. Rogers Lanon, NCRTD Executive Director, Anthony Mortillaro and Director of Operations, Delilah Garcia.

The new 800 route, which extends outside of the District’s four-county area, is financed by the Village of Angel Fire with financial support from Colfax County and federal grants.

Fare-free service began on August 12 and the route will operate as a pilot program through September, 2020, during which time it will be assessed on the basis of ridership and future financing.

The service will offer three round-trips per day Monday through Friday and soon will expand

to include weekends and all holidays. There are four regular stops along the route including Angel Fire Resort, a park and ride location at the junction of US-64 and NM-434 in Angel Fire, Colfax County Airport and Taos County Administration Building in Taos. A fifth stop is provided weekdays at Moreno Valley High School and Holy Cross Hospital in Taos will be served once each day with return connections provided by the RTD 340 Chile Line Red route.



News from



North

Central

Regional

Transit

District

News from



Rio Metro Regional Transit District

Los Ranchos Station Expansion and Improvements



Construction of parking and pedestrian improvements at the Los Ranchos/Journal Center Rail Runner Station is currently

underway. When complete, the project will add 130 new parking spaces on the west side of the railroad tracks, a pedestrian crossing to the tracks on the north side of El Pueblo Rd. protected by lights and gates, and a multi-use trail connection to the Paseo del Norte Trail. The project also includes lighting, fencing, landscaping and drainage improvements. Construction began in early July 2019, and is scheduled to be completed in September 2019.

Rio Metro Wins National Awards

The Rio Metro Regional Transit District recently took home two Communicator Awards! The Communicator Awards is the leading international awards program recognizing big ideas in marketing and communications. Rio Metro received two Awards of Distinction – one in the Magazine category for the cover of the Summer 2018 issue of Express Magazine, and one in the Integrated Campaign category promoting the Seniors 62+ Ride Free program.



New Bus Service in Valencia County

Rio Metro has introduced a new bus service in Valencia County. Bus Route 210, which began service on June 3, 2019, provides weekday service along NM 6 and NM 47 between Los Lunas and Bosque Farms. This new “deviated fixed route”



serves both designated stops on a regular schedule and will also deviate up to ¼ mile from the route by reservation. Passengers using Route 210 can connect with Routes 208 and 209, as well as the New Mexico Rail Runner Express.

Emergency Preparedness Exercise



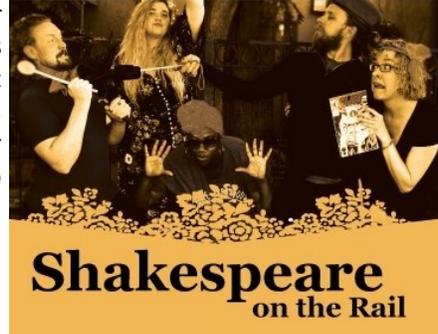
On Friday, June 14, 2019, a “real time” emergency training took place aboard the New Mexico Rail Runner Express. This full-scale emergency preparedness exercise was set up to allow members from area

law enforcement, fire, and rescue agencies to test their skills in the event of a true railway disaster. “Seventy-three individuals, including volunteers, observers, and emergency responders from across the state participated,” says Stephanie Paiz, Safety Coordinator for the Rail Runner. A full-scale emergency exercise is conducted once every two years.

Shakespeare on the Rail

Since 2010, a small team of local actors has been bringing short comedic Shakespeare scenes featuring street clothes and fun props onto the New Mexico Rail Runner Express every June. On June 1, 8 and 15, 2019, passengers were treated to another presentation of Shakespeare on the Rail with two shows per day featuring scenes from *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, *Romeo and Juliet*,

and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. This year's event was part of the Vortex Theatre's outreach program for the New Mexico Shakespeare Festival.



Free Ride Week in Valencia County

From August 12-16, 2019, the Rio Metro Regional Transit District offered free rides on all fixed and commuter route buses in Valencia County. Free Ride Week was offered during this timeframe to encourage students, faculty and staff to use transit to access the



many schools along Rio Metro's routes in Valencia County, as well as to promote the new Route 210, which also serves many local business and shopping destinations. This

special fare-free week was well received by the community. Several area businesses and government organizations helped to promote the initiative by hanging posters in their buildings and posting information to their websites and social media pages. During this week,

Rio Metro saw an increase in ridership, especially on the Route 210 bus, which operates weekdays between Los Lunas and Bosque Farms.

5th Annual Employment Event Hosted by Rio Metro

The New Mexico Workforce Connection and Rio Metro Regional Transit District once again joined forces to help those looking for work find a career connection during the 5th Annual Your Track to Success Employment Event. On August 20, 2019, more than 60 participating

employers spoke with hundreds of individuals about current job openings. The event took place at the Manzano Mesa Multi-Generational Center in Albuquerque. The first 200 attendees received a Rail Runner Day Pass and a free tote bag.



RIO METRO
REGIONAL TRANSIT DISTRICT



News From ABQ Ride



City of Albuquerque Launches Driver Education to Prepare for ART Buses Traveling the ART Lanes



The City of Albuquerque and APD began a months-long awareness campaign to get drivers ready for the full operation of Albuquerque Rapid Transit, which coincided with bus drivers starting training in the ART buses on July 22. If you drive on Central Avenue between Coors and Louisiana, you've likely seen drivers crossing over the ART lanes to make turns onto or off of Central Avenue.

APD has begun educating drivers who are improperly using the ART lanes with warnings, in an effort to give drivers as much lead time as possible to get used to the inclusion of buses in the ART lanes on Central Avenue.

"We are beginning a coordinated public outreach campaign to educate drivers about staying out of the ART lanes. As we prepare for full operation, we want drivers to be ready for the new normal along the corridor," stated Lawrence Rael, Albuquerque's Chief Operating Officer. "We're starting now, to give drivers as much lead time as possible to get used to the new flow of traffic. What better way to do it than with buses actually in the ART lanes during driver training."

According to Albuquerque Police, this is about driver safety education, not enforcement. "We haven't been giving warnings or tickets so far, because ART buses haven't been using the corridor. Now that they'll be running the full route on a regular basis, drivers can keep themselves and bus drivers safe by learning how to drive alongside the buses," said Traffic Commander Donovan Rivera of APD. "During training, we'll only issue warnings to remind people of the proper use of the lanes and why

it keeps them as well as ART drivers and passengers safe."

After training ends, APD will issue tickets to drivers violating the ART lanes, with fines of \$80 for failing to obey the "Bus Only" signs, or for crossing the double white line. It is possible for drivers to incur fines for both infractions at the same time.

Driver training will consist of:

- Docking at the stations
- Adjusting to the height of the ART platform
- Using the doors on both sides of the bus.
- Deploying the bridge plates for wheelchairs
- Testing of Transit Signal Priority along the corridor

Testing the automatic wheelchair restraint

As a reminder, message boards were also deployed for the first month along the nine mile long ART corridor to remind drivers to "Stay in Your Lane."



What's New at National RTAP?

There's always something new at the National Rural Transit Assistance Program (National RTAP), and the year 2019 was no exception. National RTAP is a program of the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) administered by the Neponset Valley TMA. Our mission is to create rural and tribal transit solutions through technical assistance, collaboration and training and transit industry materials. Here are just a few of the many products, services, and resources we have rolled out this year.



To celebrate the achievements of superlative individuals and agencies in rural and tribal transit, we have inaugurated the Tribal Transit Champions and Tribal Transit Systems Awards, are showcasing stunning rural and tribal transit photos in a Transit Through the Seasons Photo Contest, and honoring students who have completed exceptional research posters. The awards will be presented at the National RTAP Technical Assistance Conference in Portland, Oregon taking place September 15-18, 2019.

Have you seen our new, streamlined home page at nationalrtap.org? The page had a makeover with fresh graphics and simplified navigation. We've added direct links to frequently accessed web pages like our Conference, Web Apps, and eLearning. In addition, our featured events are listed, so you can be sure not to miss upcoming National RTAP webinars, peer roundtables, and conference attendance. Our website was also enhanced with a cross-referenced Site Index. Our Resource Library now includes magazine and journal articles, a citation feature, and a Resource Library Widget, so any organization can enable their website users to search our Resource Library of National RTAP and select

partner rural and tribal transit training modules, technical briefs, toolkits, videos, and more.

Our training and technical assistance products include training modules, eLearning, web apps, technical briefs, toolkits, and more. This year we were proud to offer many new and updated products. The revised ProcurementPRO 2.0 is easier and faster and allows users to fill out check lists and certifications online. Our brand-new Cost Allocation Calculator is a valuable application that enables users to input service, financial and operational data to allocate expenses by routes, travel modes, jurisdictions, and other common transit designations. The tool not only generates cost per service, but also measures service performance. A number of rural transit agencies used our Website Builder web app to create attractive and resourceful new websites. For example, CATA and Venango County Transit introduced a website that lets passengers purchase bus passes and transit fares online and an app for passengers to use their smartphones for fares.

Thousands of learners access our webinars and eLearning training modules each year. This year included training on some very important and timely topics. Busing on the Lookout's Transit and Human Trafficking training course is a new



4th National RTAP
Technical Assistance Conference
Charting New Trails
of
Rural & Tribal Transit

offering available on our eLearning platform. As members of the bus industry are uniquely positioned to provide an extra set of eyes and ears for law enforcement, this training helps them learn the signs of trafficking and how to help. Our On-Ramps, Intersections, and Exit Routes: A Roadmap for Transit Agencies to Prevent and Disrupt Human Trafficking webinar demonstrated ways our industry can make fundamental shifts to prevent, detect, and disrupt human trafficking.

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News From



National Rural Transit Assistance Program

We are always looking for new ways to reach our stakeholders. Our bimonthly Peer Roundtables for State RTAP Managers, Transit Managers and Tribal Transit Managers are informal phone conversations that have proved successful as a platform to discuss issues affecting these groups and an open information exchange.

National RTAP is very social. We enlarged our social family with an Instagram page of photographs showcasing the beauty of rural and tribal transit. We chatted away on the Twittersphere about Transit Marketing Matters and the Zero-Emission Transition. July heralded the nation's first annual Rural Transit Day, with an outpouring of celebrations and idea sharing throughout all our social media platforms. Stay tuned for our upcoming Transit Disaster Response Twitter Chat in October.

Other resources we have published or enhanced this year include our Transit Manager's Toolkit, which was thoroughly updated with new content, resources, charts, explanations, and

more. New sections include Driver Recruitment, Training and Retention and Federal Regulations and Circulars. In the pipeline is a thorough revision to our ADA Toolkit. We also released the following new resources - Plain Language for Rural Transit Technical Brief, Moving from Demand Response to a Deviated Fixed-Route Best Practices, Guidance for Rural and Tribal Transit Agencies During a Government Shutdown Technical Brief, What Transit Agencies Need to Inform the Public About Before Making Changes Technical Brief, a performance report worksheet, and a webpage on Engaging with Tribes. We also added new topic guides on procurement, electric vehicles, non-emergency medical transportation, and demand response to our website.

And 2019 isn't over yet! If you want to stay up-to-date on all our new endeavors, be sure to visit nationalrtap.org and sign up to receive our newsletter at nationalrtap.org/News/eNews.





Save the Date!!!

Announcements:

Quarterly Training Sessions currently being coordinated for the FY 2020 Quarterly Training Calendar. More information to come...

- Marketing, including websites and social media
- Emergency Management and Preparedness
- Fleet Management: Maintenance Records, Pre-trip/Post trip records, recall follow up, Bus upkeep

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 on Social Media:

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