



Public Transportation Is Important for New Mexico

New Mexicans in both rural and urban areas of the state utilize public transportation. According to the New Mexico Department of Transportation's Transit and Rail Division, there were 14.5 million trips made on public transportation in fiscal year 2017, of which 1.6 million were in rural New Mexico. Surveys of public transportation providers show that the largest users of public transportation are people getting to work.

Additional public transportation users include students, the elderly, veterans, people with disabilities and medical issues and people who want to reduce their carbon footprint.

In addition to helping people with no other means of transportation, public transportation is widely beneficial to all New Mexicans by:

- Reducing roadway related costs by millions per year. A New Mexico legislative report (New Mexico Legislature Transportation Infrastructure Revenue Subcommittee 2016 Interim Final Report updated in February of 2017) showed that the state's road system has 53% of what is needed for construction, maintenance, and repairs. The report said to fix remaining roads would cost about \$7 billion. By decreasing the number of cars on the road, we can

alleviate the need to continually increase capacity for highways and roads or the frequency of repairs due to wear and tear.

- Enabling many who would otherwise be unable to get to and from work to hold steady employment and contribute to economic growth.
- Providing access to learning and vocational schools.
- Providing an affordable, smart option for people who have been drinking to get home safely.
- Providing reliable transportation to and from work, increases the number of people who are employed and contributing back to the state through taxes.
- Enabling people to reduce their carbon footprint. According to a fact sheet in December 2017 from the New Mexico Department of Transportation's Transit and Rail Division, in fiscal year 2017, 96.9 million vehicle miles were saved because of public transportation, eliminating 46,333 tons of carbon dioxide emissions.

Public transportation in New Mexico is largely funded through a combination of federal and local government monies. While there are slight increases projected for federal funding in the coming years, the amount is inadequate to keep up with rising inflation, and local funds are not enough to fill the funding gap or to support bus and facility replacement needs of transit systems. There is currently insufficient funding to provide the transit needs of New Mexicans, and additional state funding is necessary.

For more information, visit www.nm-ta.com

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

State funding is needed to meet the transit needs of New Mexican families. Looking forward, we need to consider various funding sources including: the state general fund, state gas tax, bond proceeds, registration/license/title fees,

gross receipts tax, state transportation funds, motor vehicle/ rental car sales tax, weight and distance fees, or creating a new type of assessment.

