

News from the NM Transit Association President

Inside this Issue:

News from NMTA	1
News from NMDOT	2
Highlighting A	3
New Mexico Transit Member	
North Central RTD	4
Rio Metro RTD	6
South Central RTD	8
Upcoming Events	9
NMTA Board of Directors	10



Dear NMTA Members,

Wow! Here it is the end of June already, and we are quickly approaching half of the year gone. Time really does fly when you are

having fun. Transit is still moving people and helping the communities in different ways.

I can only imagine how difficult it has been in the areas with fires and for the Transit entities providing service in those areas. I am hoping that the monsoon season will continue to bring much needed moisture to the state.

It has already been a difficult year due to the increasing gas prices affecting everyone's fuel budget, difficulty in obtaining parts to fix buses, and ever increasing difficulties in finding and keeping quality employees. All I can say to those reading this is, "Hang in there; it's all good!"

It was nice to have an actual in-person conference this year, and now in person trainings.

NMTA has held the following three in-person training sessions

- April 19th—NMTA hosted the First Observer Plus (FOP) Security Awareness Training. This session was facilitated by the El Paso Transportation Security Inspector (TSA) - Surface Department of Homeland Security. It was a very informative training and really emphasized the importance of "See Something, Say Something." Thank you North Central Regional Transit District for allowing us to use your facility for this training.
- May 24th —Randy Pine and Mark Witt joined the NMTA Family and presented a training session called Active Shooter Response and Violence in the Workplace. It was very successful and well attended. What better time for this type of training.

- June 27th—NMTA held the last training session for FY2022. Brent Roy with Creative Bus Sales joined us to present "Transit Vehicle Supply Availability /Pricing Update." Then Dan Wagner and John Clair facilitated "Procurement- What You Need to Know." This was the first hybrid training that NMTA has hosted. Despite a few technical difficulties, it was a great success!

The NMTA, along with NMDOT, is now beginning to schedule training sessions for FY2023. If you would like to see training on a topic you consider important, then Email Melissa Drake at NMTA (mdrake@nm-ta.com). We appreciate ideas from all of you.



Everyone enjoy your summer and have as much fun as you can, but please stay safe.

Sincerely,
Joseph E. Hardin
NMTA President



**News from New
Mexico
Department of
Transportation**

News From NM Department of Transportation

FY2023 5310 and 5311 Awards Available

The award packet for 5310 and 5311 programs was presented to awardees on June 8 and 9, 2022. For the 2023 program year, the Bureau has awarded \$821,299.20 in Section 5310 funding and \$15,863,908.06 in Section 5311 and Section 5339 (capital) funding. Please visit the Transit Bureau webpage at

<https://www.dot.nm.gov/planning-research-multimodal-and-safety/modal/transit-rail/transit-bureau/> to view the award packet and to check for future updates to the packet as budgets are finalized for the 2023 program year.

Transit Bureau contact list

Kevin Olinger

(505) 469-3595

Kevin.Olinger@state.nm.us

Gabrielle Chavez

(505) 469-4413

Gabrielle.Chavez@state.nm.us

Jason Park

(505) 490-5347

Jason.Park@state.nm.us

Deborah Bach

(505) 819-9112

Deborah.Bach@state.nm.us

Alexis Corning-Padilla

(505) 699-4384

AlexisCorning.Padil@state.nm.us

Vijay Ummadi

(505) 469-7890

VijayK.Ummadi@state.nm.us



New Mexico DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION
MOBILITY FOR EVERYONE

Thank You From A RoadRUNNER Transit Passenger

I was blessed to be able to use the bus system for years. I was able to go to college to gain some knowledge and modify some of my behavior so that I could be an asset to the city.

While I was attending college, a pandemic came. That is when you offered me rides for free. I want you to know the cleanest and safest buses in the United States are here in Las Cruces. Every time I went on, someone was wiping everything on the bus. Bus drivers were doing a hard job by enforcing the mask mandate.

I also learned much about soft skills and life talking to the bus drivers. They are some of the sweetest, hardest working, and sometimes under-appreciated. This letter is to say how grateful I am for you all. My

closest friends in college were the bus drivers. Always willing to help a commuter to get to their location.

I might or might not graduate when grades come in. However, I have gained the knowledge I needed to start growing. College is not the end of a journey, but your journey is just beginning. I am so grateful for you guys.

I humbly apologize for my bad English and grammar.



Highlighting
New
Mexico
Transit
Members



RoadRUNNER
Transit



City
of
Las Cruces

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 all the positive service transit provides in our state. The more stories you contribute with us, the more information we have to share.

Articles can be highlights of special staff members who always go above and beyond to ensure quality service, stories from our passengers sharing their experience and the role that public transit plays in their lives, or about your agencies involvement in community activities/events.

Email your story to Melissa Drake at mdrake@nm-ta.com today!

News from



North Central Regional Transit District

NCRTD Board Changes and Election of Officers



April marked the start of a new era for the NCRTD Board as the District welcomed new Board members and elected new officers. They also took time to say goodbye to longtime Chair and former Mayor of the Town of Taos, Daniel Barrone. The District has been well served by Chair Barrone and is grateful for his

dedication and hard work over the years. He will be dearly missed.

Elected as its new Chair is City of Española Councilor, Dennis Tim Salazar, who previously served as Vice Chair. The new Vice-Chair is Santa Fe County Commissioner Hank Hughes and Chama Village Councilor Scott Flury retains his seat as Treasurer.

New Board members were welcomed including Pascual Maestas, Mayor of the Town of Taos; Ken Brennan, Town of Edgewood Commissioner; and Melanee Hand, Los Alamos County Councilor.

NCRTD Celebrates Transit Driver Appreciation Day



On March 18, the NCRTD was happy to celebrate Transit Operators on Transit Driver Appreciation Day.

This year was especially important as a time to acknowledge transit operators who have worked tirelessly these past two years, and always, to provide essential service to the people of Northern New Mexico!!



Operators and employees were treated to backpacks stuffed with snacks, sodas and supplies. There were hourly drawings for gift cards, and administrative staff offered a nacho buffet throughout the day. There were even Blue Bus cookies supplied by a local bakery. A certificate of recognition from the New Mexico State Senate was presented to each individual employee.



NCRTD and Food Depot

On March 17th, NCRTD had the pleasure of assisting the Food Depot in Santa Fe on one of their twice monthly drive-thru food distributions and had the opportunity to share information about RTD Blue Bus services!

In Northern New Mexico, one out of five people struggle with hunger. The most vulnerable are children and seniors, many of whom do not know where they will get their next meal. One out of every three children in New Mexico experience hunger. The Food Depot seeks to end food insecurity and hunger in Northern New Mexico by providing food, and also working on long-range strategies to end hunger. Food Depot solicits and collects surplus food from a variety of sources and redistributes it to more than 81 area nonprofit agencies that, in turn, provide it to people in need.

The NCRTD is looking forward to working with Food Depot on a series of food distribution events throughout the District to raise awareness in rural areas it serves including: Peñasco, Mora, Pojoaque, Chimayo, Truchas, Abiquiu and Eldorado.



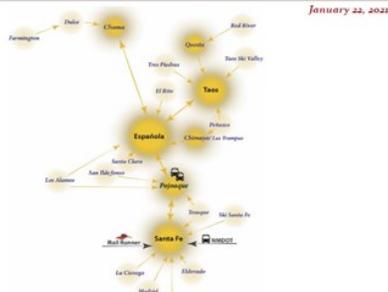
News from



North Central Regional Transit District

NCRTD Modifies Eight Routes as Part of Service Plan Update

NCRTD Transit Service Plan Update



On April 16, NCRTD began the first in a series of route modifications in response to recommendations in its recent Service Plan Update.

The ultimate goal of the modifications is to run routes more efficiently and improve connections to other RTD routes and to the NM Rail Runner Express, and to NMDOT Park & Ride buses.

The routes impacted are: 190 Chama, 200 Santa Fe, 300 Taos, 305 Taos Express, 320 Questa, 330 Peñasco, 340 Chile Line Red and 360 Tres Piedras. The 360 Tres Piedras route with service between Tres Piedras and Taos will now operate two days per week. It was initially launched with Wednesday service and now operates on Mondays as well due to heavy support from the rural community.

News from



Rio Metro Regional Transit District

75% Off Rail Runner Fares Promotion

To provide extra affordability for commuters as gas prices remain high, the New Mexico Rail Runner Express implemented a 75% off fares promotion. All One-Way, Day, and Monthly pass fares are included in the promotion, which runs April 18 to July 31, 2022. "This fare reduction will encourage many to get back on the train, and also attract others who have never commuted by rail to give it a try," said Terry Doyle, Director of the Rio Metro Regional Transit District. Learn more at riometro.org/farepromotion.



Rio Metro Implementing Dial-a-Ride Service in Corrales



In an effort to keep pace with growing demand for Rio Metro's transit services in Sandoval County, and to offer our customers more flexibility, Rio Metro is introducing a 12-month Dial-a-Ride pilot project to the residents of the Village of Corrales. Beginning June 6, 2022, Corrales dial-a-ride service will be incorporated into the current Rio Rancho dial-a-ride service and will provide transportation from 6:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Learn more at riometro.org/corrales.

Seniors 60+ Ride Free on Wednesdays!

The New Mexico Rail Runner Express has been offering free rides to Seniors 62+ on Wednesdays since 2016. On Wednesday, February 23, 2022, the age was lowered to 60+. The continued success of this program led to the decision to broaden the opportunity by allowing more seniors to ride free on Wednesdays. To ride free, seniors simply need to show a valid photo ID (with birth date) to the onboard ticket agent, and may ask for a free bus transfer slip to make a transit connection. Learn more at riometro.org/seniorsridefree.



Celebrating Our Transit Operators

Rio Metro recognized the hard-working operators and crew members on the New Mexico Rail Runner Express and Rio Metro buses this March for Transit Operator Appreciation Day. To celebrate, rail and bus passengers were asked to send in words of thanks and appreciation, which were published to the Rio Metro website. Posters were created and hung in each Rio Metro transit facility. The message asking folks to thank their operators and crew was spread across social media. A winner was randomly selected from the public posts and awarded Albuquerque Isotopes tickets. For the staff at the transit facilities, a drawing for box seat tickets to an Albuquerque Isotopes game was held at each location.



Rail Runner Ridership Survey

Rio Metro recently conducted a New Mexico Rail Runner Express ridership survey. The goal of the survey was to help Rio Metro transportation planners better understand how passengers' travel needs have changed since the onset of the COVID pandemic, and how they are using – or could use – the train

to get where they need to go. As a result of the survey, Rio Metro is reviewing the possibilities of its train service to better serve the needs of passengers.



News from



RIO METRO
REGIONAL TRANSIT DISTRICT

Rio Metro Regional Transit District

News from



South Central Regional Transit District

SCRTD Board Approves Transition to Zero-Emission Bus Fleet

The South Central Regional Transit District plans to be 100 percent emission free within the decade. On May 25th, the Board approved the district's first zero emission fleet transition plan, which is required by the Federal Transit Administration to apply for federal funds supporting the replacement of buses. The State of New Mexico's Transportation Department provided the district with grant funds for the development of the Zero Emissions Transit Plan.

This week, SCRTD submitted a \$3.1 million dollar grant application to fund the first of three electric emission buses with charging infrastructure. If awarded, the first electric buses would begin running in March 2024. Gillig was chosen to provide the electric buses based on their performance with electric vehicles and the district's experience with the hybrid-electric buses deployed in 2021.

The first electric buses will operate from the Sunland Park bus facility located at 295 Quinella, Sunland Park. David Armijo, Executive Director said, "The transition plan provides a guideline and target to reach district

goals for making the fleet zero emissions by 2032." "To reach this goal, the district will deploy both 25 and 35 foot buses to operate within the range possible with electric power."

The District will partner with the El Paso Electric Company to support technical requirements to install and operate the electric buses from the Sunland Park facility. Electric Company engineering staff helped assist district staff in the development of the Zero Emissions Plan. Sunland Park Mayor Javier Perea reported, "the transit district's plans will complement the city's plans to move forward with plans for electric vehicle use and the community will benefit from cleaner running buses on our streets."

Much of the funding in the plan will come from three sources, federal grants, Dona Ana County, and member agencies contributions. The Sunland Park facility will also serve as a training center for the district bus operations.



Hybrid-Electric bus operating in downtown El Paso on the Yellow bus route.



Upcoming NMTA Quarterly Training Sessions and Transit Conferences...

Stay tune for training topics, dates and conference information to be announced in the months ahead.

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:

Facebook [@New Mexico Transit Association](#)

Twitter [@NM_Transit](#)

NMTA Board of Directors Contact Information

Executive Board of Directors

Joseph Hardin, President

Director Representing Enhanced Mobility for Seniors and Individuals With Disabilities
Z-Trans/Zia Therapy
Contact Info:
Office: (575) 439-4900 ext. 152
Email: ztrans@ziatherapy.org

Elizabeth Carter, Vice President

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

Ed Powers, Treasurer

Director At Large
All Aboard America!
Contact Info:
Office: (505) 428-6316
Email: EPowers@allaboardamerica.com

Rebecka Hicks, Secretary

Director Representing Rural Transit Systems
Roswell Transit
Contact Info:
Office: (575) 624-6766
Email: b.hicks@roswell-nm.gov

Ex-Officio Director

Kevin Olinger

Transit Bureau Chief, NMDOT
Contact Info:
Office: (505) 469-3595
Kevin.Olinger@state.nm.us

Directors

James Barela

Director At Large
Atomic City Transit - Los Alamos County
Contact Info:
Office: (505) 661-7433
Email: james.barela@lacnm.us

Michael Bartholomew

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

(Currently Open)

Business Director

Christy Ladd

Director Representing Tribal Transit
PoPay Messenger - Ohkay Owingeh
Contact Info:
Office: (505) 852-4400
Email: christy.ladd@ohkay.org

Thomas S. Marking

Representing Professional Member
AARP
Contact Info:
Office: (505) 946-3603
Email: tom.marking@wans.net

Anthony Mortillaro

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



P.O. Box 15272
Rio Rancho, NM 87174

Phone: 505-796-8377
Fax: 505-212-0525
E-mail: info@nm-ta.com