



NMTA Spring 2025 Newsletter

News from the NM Transit Association President



NMTA Treasurer and Board Member, Ed Powers resigned from the Board effective May 30, 2025.

I want to thank Ed for everything he has done on behalf of NMTA as Treasurer, Chair of the Conference, Roadeo and Training Subcommittee, as well as being NMTA's Bus Roadeo Announcer. Best wishes to Ed in his future endeavors. The Board held a special meeting on June 10, 2025, to elect a new Treasurer. NMTA congratulates Board Member Leslie Baca for being elected to Treasurer.

[Read More](#)

News from NM Department of Transportation



FY26 Budget Award Recommendation

The NMDOT Transit and Rail Division announced its FY 2026 federal transit grant awards during the annual Statewide Transit Budget Award Meetings on May 28, 2025. Subgrantees that were awarded submitted their applications for funding in September 2024. A total of **\$21,741,556.91** in federal transit grant funds was awarded for FY 2026.

[Read more about the FY26 Budget Award Recommendation](#)

NMDOT FY25 End of Year Closeout

NMDOT is preparing to close out FY2025 budget, we ask that you submit invoices for services or goods through June 30, 2025, no later than Wednesday, July 15, 2025. Submitting invoices before or by this date will ensure timely reimbursement of invoices received. All invoices submitted after this date will result in delayed payments.

If you have any questions please feel free to reach out to your Program Manager. The award packet can be found here **FY26 5310/5311/5339 Award Packet**.

Last Call for LIT Leadership Summit Scholarships

NMDOT Transit & Rail is offering a limited number of registration scholarships for the Latinos in Transit Leadership Summit. Scholarships will be limited to one request per agency and will be accepted on a first come first served basis.

The Latinos in Transit Leadership Summit is in Albuquerque, October 2-4, 2025.

The Summit brings together transit professionals in various stages of their careers interested in career development, workforce and leadership training, networking and mentorship opportunities.

If you are interested in attending, please email Delilah Garcia at delilah.garcia@dot.nm.gov.



Connect New Mexico: Statewide Public Transportation Plan

NMDOT Transit & Rail staff have finalized the Statewide Public Transportation Plan. Connect New Mexico outlines goals, and performance measures that support the NMDOT New Mexico 2045 Plan to include Asset Management, Safety, Mobility & Accessibility and Program Delivery.

The plan prioritizes strategies related to Transit Services, Programs and Policies and Reporting and Training, with each strategy tying back to the New Mexico 2045 Plan Goals and identifies partners to assist with meeting these goals. It also identifies opportunities to maintain and expand existing transit services in the State and highlights transit service gaps that need to be filled.

The final plan can be found here **Transit Bureau | NMDOT**.

NMDOT Park & Ride seeks public comment for the Santa Fe Shuttle schedule change

Public Comment Period June 10, 2025 through July 10, 2025

Beginning Tuesday, June 10, 2025, the NMDOT Park and Ride is soliciting public comments on a proposal to add a stop on Las Soleras Drive to the Santa Fe Place Shuttle.

[Read More](#)

NMDOT staff continue to work to promote, inform and educate commuters and partners across the state about NMGo! and the benefits of vanpools. Presentations to the Regional Transportation Planning Organizations (RTPO) are currently being scheduled. We recently presented it to NPRTO in Los Alamos on Wednesday, June 4, 2025.

Staff Update

It is with mixed emotions that we announce the departure of Alexis Corning Padilla from the Transit Bureau as she has accepted a position within the NMDOT Planning Division. We wish Alexis all the best in her new position and know that she will do amazing work in this new role. Alexis's last day with us was on Friday, June 20th.

We are pleased to announce that Delilah Garcia is the new Transit Bureau Chief. Her first day in her new role was June 9, 2025. Delilah has been a member of the New Mexico transit community for 21 years. Her previous roles in transit include driver, dispatcher, Federal grant manager, NMDOT technical advisor to local programs, fleet manager, operations director, and NMGo! vanpool project manager, among many other skills. Her achievements are numerous, and we are glad to have her in this new role.

Highlighting New Mexico Transit Members



SCRTD Launches the Sunland Park Mobility & Energy Hub Celebrating Sustainability, Innovation, and Regional Collaboration



On April 22, 2025—also celebrated as Earth Day—SCRTD officially opened its new Sunland Park Mobility & Energy Hub, marking a transformative step in Southern New Mexico's transit future. The event honored Earth Day with a vibrant community gathering spotlighting sustainable innovation, energy partnerships, and regional unity.

[Read More](#)



News from ABQ RIDE

Next Stop: ABQ RIDE Updates



Volunteer Opportunities are Worth the Investment

ABQ RIDE recently launched its second volunteer program. Now, the City of Albuquerque’s Transit Department is home to the ABQ RIDE Ambassadors in addition to Adopt-A-Stop. These programs provide tremendous value to the community and to the department.

[Read More](#)

ART Anticipated to Reach 10 Million Rides in June

Albuquerque Rapid Transit or “ART” is a fixed route service of ABQ RIDE primarily running up and down the Historic Route 66 and is distinct from other public transit services due to its high capacity and longer articulated buses, dedicated bus lanes that make it faster, signal priority, and distinctive stations. ART is ABQ RIDE’s most productive service, accounting for about 30% of total ridership with almost twice as many riders as the rest of the system per hour of bus service operated.



[Read More](#)



ABQ RIDE Hosts Summer Resource Fairs

For the second year in a row, ABQ RIDE brings Summer Resource Fairs to the community.

ABQ RIDE is here to serve the public and the diverse audiences that ride the bus. ABQ RIDE runs on its core values of dependability, respect, inclusivity, value, and excellence. This means meeting the public where they are at, prioritizing compassion at every turn, and providing resources to support the transit community, each with unique needs and experiences.

[Read More](#)

Rail Trail Construction Soon to Begin

Construction is set to begin in June on the Central Crossing Bridge next to ABQ RIDE's downtown transit center in part of the Albuquerque Rail Trail project.



[Read More](#)



Urgently Hiring Mechanics and Drivers

Calling upon the transit community to send interested applicants to ABQ RIDE. With staffing shortages and a demand for transit services, ABQ RIDE urgently needs to hire key positions including Motorcoach Operator, Sun Van Chauffeur, Mechanic II & III, Paint & Body Worker, Transit Vehicle Servicer, Mechanic's Helper, and more.

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News from Rio Metro Regional Transit District

Rio Metro Receives International Recognition



Since the beginning of the year, Rio Metro's marketing department has received 19 national and international awards. Recognition came from the International Academy of Visual Arts Communicator Awards, the Telly Awards recognizing excellence in video and television, and the American Public Transportation Association. Among the most recognized projects were the Rio Metro-A Region in Motion :30 and :60-second videos, as well as the Seniors 60+ Ride Free 2024 commercial.

Visit www.riometro.org/awards to view the full list. Watch the videos at www.youtube.com/NMRailRunnerExpress.

On Track with Bike Month

Rio Metro marked Bike Month in May with a full lineup of events and resources for cyclists across central New Mexico. Highlights included Bike to Work Day, Santa Fe Summer of

Bike, the NMDOT Bike to Work Resource Fair, and the New Mexico Law Enforcement Memorial Ride. We also featured the Sandoval County Rail Runner Loop in a special blog post, spotlighting a scenic cycling route in Bernalillo, Corrales, and Rio Rancho connected by three Rail Runner stations. To make bringing bikes on the train even easier, an additional 39 new racks were installed on Rail Runner cars. In addition, we shared bicycle safety tips and resources on our website and in a special newsletter, including information about the City of Albuquerque's Bike Rodeo program and the Free Bikes 4 Kids initiative.



Spring Recap

From community collaborations to memorable events, Rio Metro had a busy Spring. Here's a snapshot of the season's highlights:

[See Spring Recap Here](#)

Gearing Up for Summer

We're on track for another busy summer with exciting events, passenger perks, and lots of community outreach. Here's a look:

[Find Summer Events](#)



News from National Rural Transit Assistance Program

6th National RTAP Conference

Save the date for the 6th National RTAP Conference, Wrangling Access and Mobility in Rural and Tribal Transit, to be held December 7-10, 2025, in Austin, TX at the Hyatt Regency Austin! The event is co-sponsored by the National Rural Transit Assistance Program (National RTAP)

and the Transportation Research Board (TRB).

Conference workshops and panels will occur in five routes, plus pre-conference/conference workshops:

- Administration and Compliance
- Coordination and Planning
- Operations and Technology
- Training and Guidance
- Innovations and Research
- Workshops
 - Grant Writing
 - Financial Management
 - Planning
 - Others

Conference attendees will include rural and tribal transit managers, rural and regional planners, intercity bus operators, state DOTs, FTA, researchers, and others with an interest in rural or tribal transportation.

Call for Student Posters

Students are invited to submit a poster for the 6th National RTAP Conference to be shown on Sunday, December 7, 2025 in Austin, TX. This is a fantastic opportunity for students to share an original study on transportation with industry leaders at a national conference. Posters for consideration must be sent by October 1, 2025 to info@nationalrtap.org and students must be able to present their posters in-person. Winners will receive an award.

Nominate an Exemplary Individual for the 2025 National RTAP Walk of Fame

The National RTAP Walk of Fame will be exhibited at our 6th National RTAP Conference. The Walk of Fame is an event that recognizes exemplary staff in the rural and tribal transit industry for their dedication, innovation, customer service, and professionalism. Each honoree will be showcased on a special Walk of Fame tile, highlighted in a National RTAP YouTube video, and receive a commendation. Honorees that attend the conference will also receive an additional award.

To submit a nomination, email the information below to info@nationalrtap.org by October 10, 2025:

- Nominee's name, title, transit agency, email address, and phone number
- Photograph of the nominee (jpeg or png format)
- Paragraph describing why they should be honored (500-character limit)



**We want
YOUR
Feedback**



N-CATT and the Center for Urban Transportation Research (CUTR) are conducting a national survey on **data literacy and practices among small-urban, rural, and tribal transit agencies**. Your input will help shape future resources and technical assistance for agencies like yours. The survey takes 15–20 minutes and can be completed by multiple staff members across different roles.

[Take the survey now](#)

We want YOUR feedback!

The National Center for Applied Transit Technology (N-CATT) and the Center for Urban Transportation Research (CUTR) are conducting a national survey on **data literacy and practices among small-urban, rural, and tribal transit agencies**.

Your input will help shape future resources and technical assistance for agencies like yours. The survey takes 15–20 minutes and can be completed by multiple staff members across different roles. The survey will be available for just a few more days.

Take the survey now



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