

Inside this Issue:

News from NMTA	1
News from NMDOT	2
Highlighting a New Mexico Member	4
North Central RTD	5
Rio Metro RTD	7
ABQ Ride	8
Santa Fe Trails	10
Upcoming Events	11
NMTA Board of Directors	12

News from the NM Transit Association President



Dear NMTA Members,
Happy New Year, and Happy New Decade. I hope that all of you had a wonderful and safe Holiday season to close out 2019.

My wish for everyone is a very safe and productive year for all members.

2019 was a very eventful year for NMTA and its members. Past President Philo Shelton reported in his Spring Newsletter last year the activities of NMTA. Since Philo's departure in June and my becoming President in July, we have continued to make great strides in training and advocacy for legislation, utilizing our legislation committee of Anthony Mortillaro, Keith Wilson, and Stan Cooper.

Since July NMTA has hosted the following trainings:

- The first Quarterly Training of FY2020, was held in the fall. The topic was Two Critical Transit Marketing Tools: Websites and Social Media, presented by Selena Barlow of Transit Marketing, LLC. It was an 8-hour training with Fifteen (15) members in attendance.
- In addition to the 2019 NM Transit Bus Road-éo and Annual Conference at Buffalo Thunder last April, as reported by Philo Shelton, we had the fall NM Transit Managers Leadership Conference at Santa Anna Pueblo Hotel. The one day conference was on Servant Leadership and Succession Planning. Mr. Mike Mowery of SGR in Dallas was the presenter. There were 39 Members in attendance.

Upcoming Events:

On February 5th the Winter Quarterly Training will be held in Albuquerque, NM at the Nusenda Federal Credit Union Training Center. Ream Lazaro, Consulting and Training Services will be presenting Overview of Emergency Management and Preparedness. There is still room to register for this training session. Please see page for more information.

In April, NMTA will be hosting the NM Transit Association Bus Road-éo and Conference. It will be held at the Santa Anna Star Casino and Hotel. Registration Packets will be emailed in the near future. Dates for the 2020 NM Transit Road-éo, Conference and Expo are as follows:

- 2020 NM Transit Bus Road-éo: Sunday, April 19, 2020
- 2020 NM Transit Conference and Expo: Monday and Tuesday, April 20 - 21, 2020

Hope to see all of you there.

Along with NMTA Staff, the NMTA Board of Directors Subcommittees are a vital part of all that happens within NMTA. Subcommittee Members are listed below.

Please feel free to contact NMTA Staff or NMTA Subcommittee Members with any questions/comments that you may have. Subcommittees are listed below:

Conference, Road-éo and Training

- **Elizabeth Carter** (Subcommittee Chairman), NMTA Vice President and Rio Metro Regional Transit District
- **Mary Collins**, NMTA Director and Clovis Area Transit System
- **Joseph Hardin**, NMTA President and Zia Therapy Center/Z Trans
- **Ed Powers**, NMTA Secretary and All Aboard America!

Legislative and Communications

- **Anthony Mortillaro** (Subcommittee Chairman), NMTA Director and North Central Regional Transit District
- **Stan Cooper**, NMTA Director, AARP Representative
- **Joseph Hardin**, NMTA President and Zia Therapy Center/Z Trans
- **Keith Wilson**, NMTA Director and Santa Fe Trails - City of Santa Fe

Membership and Sponsors

- **Gary Guinn**, NMTA Director and Creative Bus Sales
- **Mike Bartholomew**, NMTA Director and RoadRUNNER Transit - City of Las Cruces

The NMTA Board of Directors would like to recognize Melissa Drake for all of her hard work for this association and for the recent Financial Audit with no findings. This is the fourth year with an unmodified audit opinion. Excellent work Melissa.

Sincerely,

Joseph Hardin
NMTA President



**News from New
Mexico
Department of
Transportation**

News From NM Department of Transportation

Funding Opportunity for Transit Pilot Projects

As previously announced, NMDOT Cabinet Secretary Michael Sandoval has authorized \$1M in funding for a statewide transit pilot program to expand transit services to transit-dependent populations and improve access to medical and social services. Applications were due to NMTA on September 21, 2019.

Thank you to all who submitted applications for this pilot program. We received requests for funding in excess of the \$1M available and

were not able to fund every organization that applied. NMDOT has selected the following applicants for funding: Clovis Area Transit System, Gallup Rural Transit, North Central Regional Transit District, Rio Metro, South Central Regional Transit District, and Zia Therapy, Inc.

National Transit Database (NTD) Reporting

Staff is currently working with Section 5311 subrecipients and NTD staff to complete our NTD reporting for the 2019 program year. This is the first year that NMDOT will have to report progress on meeting our statewide Transit Asset Management Plan targets, so it is important for everyone to have updated vehicle inventory data in Blackcat. This data will be used to update the vehicle inventories in NTD. As most of you are aware, there are

usually some data validation flags that come up during the process. It is critical for everyone to respond as quickly as possible to any data validation questions so that we can meet the hard deadlines that the NTD staff gives us. If we miss those deadlines, the missing data will not be used when FTA applies the formula to determine each state's portion of Section 5311 funds.

Section 5310 and 5311 Program Updates

We are currently conducting technical site visits for Section 5310 and 5311 programs. We have been 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.

Thank you to all who have applied for funding for FY 2021 (October 1, 2020 – September 30, 2021). The RTPO meetings to review and rate applications started the week of November 18, and we appreciate your efforts to attend and present your applications. As stated in the State Management Plan, the presentations are mandatory for continued consideration for FY 2021 funding. Staff is collecting and compiling the RTPO rankings as part of the annual evaluation of applications. We will announce the application funding levels in May.

Transportation Day at the Roundhouse – Friday, February 12, 2020

This year's Transportation Day at the Roundhouse will be on Friday, February 12. This is a great chance to shine a spotlight on the importance and benefits of public transportation and services that provide enhanced mobility for seniors and individuals

with disabilities. NMDOT Transit and Rail will be represented, and NMTA will have a table as well. We hope that all of you will be able to attend, but if not, please make sure that NMTA has any promotional material that you would like to have distributed.

Transit Bureau Contact List

Kevin Olinger

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

Deborah Bach

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

Jennifer Camp

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

NMTA Upcoming Events - Save the Date

Emergency Management and Preparedness

Facilitated by Ream Lazaro

When: Wednesday, February 5, 2020

Where: Nusenda Credit Union Training Center
4100 Pan American Fwy NE
Albuquerque, NM 87107

2020 NM Transit Road-ee, Conference and Expo

Road-ee: Sunday, April 19th

Conference and Expo: Monday, April 20th -
Tuesday, April 21st

Where: Santa Ana Star Casino and Hotel
54 Jemez Canyon Rd.
Santa Ana Pueblo, NM 87004

**Fleet Management: Maintenance Records -
Pre-trip/Post-trip records, Recall Follow up,
Warranties and Bus Upkeep**

Facilitated by: Halsey King

This training will be held in May or June. Exact time and location will be announced as scheduled.



**Highlighting
A
New Mexico
Transit
Member**



Rio Metro

Meet Matthew Stone, Operations Supervisor for the Rail Runner



There's a red vest in Matthew Stone's office that reminds him of how far the New Mexico Rail Runner Express has come, and we are not talking miles. The vest is from the earliest days of Rail Runner operations during which Stone worked as an engineer, conductor, and ticket agent.

"Actually, I started with the Rail Runner before we had trains," says Stone.

He takes pride in what he calls putting his "fingerprints" on just about everything it takes to operate the Rail Runner – from those early start-up days to his current position as Operations Supervisor. That title means he wears a lot of different hats.

One of those hats includes supervision and training of the Rail Runner dispatchers, who work around the clock to keep the trains moving. Stone oversees and participates in "efficiency tests" – sporadic train and field audits to ensure that the train's operations are working safely and by the rules. He is also an emergency responder for any major incident in the territory. Writing the timetables, day-to-day and special event schedules, amendments and updates to operating rules are just some of the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) and Transportation Security Administration (TSA) safety documents Stone is required to do on a regular basis.

In addition, Stone is part of the General Code of Operating Rules Committee, where he was elected to be a voting member, representing passenger trains across America.

Read the full article online at www.riometro.org.

Share Your Story!!!

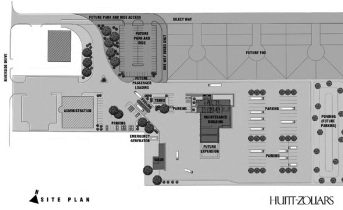
It is always so exciting to hear what transit is doing throughout New Mexico. NMTA is working diligently to highlight our New Mexico agencies through the NMTA Quarterly Newsletter, Social Media, and Op-eds.

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!

FUNDING SECURED FOR NEW NCRTD MAINTENANCE FACILITY AT ESPAÑOLA HEADQUARTERS: PROJECT KICKS-OFF



The North Central Regional Transit District has officially kicked-off the final design and construction phase of its new \$7.7 million, 12,000 square foot facility that will be built on the District's land at its Española headquarters.

The District received \$3.6 million as part of a US Department of Transportation/Federal Transit Administration (FTA) grant "to modernize and improve America's bus

infrastructure." An additional \$1.29 million was received from the US Department of Transportation through its Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant program. An additional \$1.09 million was received in Federal Transit Administration 5311 Rural Area Transportation Grant 5311. \$1.14 million was allocated in New Mexico State Capital Outlay and \$580,082 was budgeted in NCRTD funds.

The new facility will include a maintenance facility, fueling station and wash bay and be constructed directly behind the Jim West Regional Transit Center.

Construction is expected to begin in September 2020 and be completed in October 2021.



NCRTD ADA TRANSITION PLAN EXPANDS TO TAOS COUNTY: District celebrates opening of RTD Park & Ride Taos Facility



Work on Phase V and VI of the NCRTD Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) Transition Plan continued in earnest throughout FY 2019 and into FY 2020 and has centered its focus on the Taos area.

Most significant in this current phase is the construction of NCRTD's first park and ride facility now completed at the southeast corner of US Highway 64 and NM 150 in Taos County. The RTD Park & Ride Taos is a fully-developed and improved, ADA compliant parking facility to accommodate 83 cars on the RTD Blue Bus TSV Green, evening Night Rider and Questa routes. It will also accommodate future routes needing to connect at this location.

The Park & Ride has included the buildout and paving of the pre-existing dirt lot and the addition of an ADA compliant bus shelter, concrete pads, lighting, and will provide a more efficient and safer access for buses moving in and out of the stop. The development is the result of a long-term usage agreement with New Mexico Department of Transportation (NMDOT) on the property.

Construction was also done on the southbound stop opposite Cid's Market on Paseo del Pueblo Norte which included a bus pullout with ADA accessible concrete pad and shelter.

Continued on Page 6

News from



North
Central
Regional
Transit
District

Continued from Page 5

Additional improvements for a new shelter and pad are earmarked for the Taos Public Library, the Guadalupe Church parking lot, the northbound stop outside Cid's Market and the northbound stop located on Paseo del Pueblo Sur and Bertha St, all in the Town of Taos.

The NCRTD applied for funding under the Transportation Alternatives Program through the Northern Pueblos Regional Planning Organization and the New Mexico Department of Transportation for federal fiscal years 2018, 2019 and 2020.

The District's efforts in implementing its ADA plan received a huge boost with a \$1.02 million award from the Federal Highway Administration's Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP), through NMDOT, to modify RTD bus stops and facilities to assure they meet all federal accessibility requirements. This allows for the completion of the fifth (design) and sixth (construction) phase of the project by the end of FY 2020.

Phase V of the ADA Transition Plan, the design portion, identified a series bus stops in the Taos-area. Work

then began on Phase VI, with the construction of bus stop infrastructure such as concrete pad work; sidewalk transition work and bus stop area backfill; installation of bus stop facilities; traffic and safety controls; bus shelters; and associated site improvements.

During the initial Phase I, an ADA Transition Plan was created and identified ADA noncompliant bus stops and shelters throughout the District and provided ADA compliant bus stop location templates that were used to guide modifications to bring the bus stops into ADA compliance. During Phase II, III and IV of the project, the ADA Transition Plan findings began to be implemented to bring existing ADA noncompliant bus stops and shelters into compliance in the Española area and at the Jim West Regional Transit Center.

Albuquerque-based Wilson & Company, is the on-call engineering firm as well as the contractor that completed the original system-wide bus stop assessment. HO Construction completed the construction of the Taos-area ADA Transition Plan.

NCRTD RECEIVES \$5.25 MILLION IN FTA FUNDING FOR TAOS OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE FACILITY



The Federal Transit Administration (FTA), through the New Mexico Department of Transportation, has awarded NCRTD with \$5.25 million towards the design and construction of a new Taos Operations and Maintenance Facility. The grant was awarded through the Federal Fiscal Year 2019 Bus and Bus Facilities Projects program.

Due to the growth in Taos area services, the District has identified the need to replace and expand its aged Administrative and Fleet Maintenance Facility in Taos, NM. The current $\frac{3}{4}$ acre site is inadequate in size and design to accommodate required administration, operational and maintenance functions that are needed at the location. Additionally, the current building does not meet current building code requirements.

The new facility is anticipated to be on an approximately five acres and within an area near the existing facility. It will include an enlarged operations center, an enhanced maintenance garage, a vehicle wash bay, a fueling station and a larger bus yard. The current facility does not have a vehicle wash bay or fueling station and all other components of it are incapable of handling current and future operations safely and effectively. The new building will be designed to allow for the greatest room for capacity expansion as well as future transit-oriented development.

In November of 2018, Albuquerque-based Huitt-Zollars completed a Preliminary Design and Master Plan for the Taos facility on behalf of the District. The total projected cost for the completion of the project is \$6.56 million not inclusive of land acquisition. Additional funding is being sought through the state legislative process.



A Look Back at Santa's Village



Thousands turned out on Saturday, December 14 to ring in the holidays during Rio Metro's 7th Annual Santa's Village at the Santa Fe Railyard. Revelers of all ages enjoyed crafts, entertainment, games, and shared their holiday wishes with Mr. Claus himself. Thanks to all of our partners and volunteers, including the New Mexico Autism Society, Toyota of Santa Fe and Albuquerque Job Corps, and for helping to make this event a huge success!

Transit Connections to Ski Santa Fe

It's officially ski season in New Mexico! Did you know that winter sports fanatics can take transit to Ski Santa Fe from as far south as Belen? Skiers can ride the New Mexico Rail Runner Express north to the South Capitol Station and then catch the NCRTD 255 Mountain Train Route bus to this popular destination. Passengers can also access a variety of popular Santa Fe destinations along the route, including Ten Thousand Waves, various points downtown, and several hotels. Find the train schedule online at www.riometro.org and view the 255 Mountain Train Route schedule, with corresponding train connections, at www.ncrtd.org.



More Parking at Los Ranchos / Journal Center Station

Rio Metro recently completed construction of parking and pedestrian improvements at the Los Ranchos/Journal Center Rail Runner Station. The new parking lot opened to the public on Monday, December 23, 2019. The primary purpose of this project was to increase the parking capacity at one of the most popular park-and-ride based stations.

Improvements included a 130-space parking lot with lighting, security cameras, fencing, landscaping, and drainage. For the benefit of

pedestrians, a six-foot wide sidewalk was constructed along the north side of El Pueblo Rd. and extended through the railroad crossing, where relocated crossing gates provide additional protection. A new multi-use trail also connects the parking lot to the existing Paseo del Norte Trail to the north. Finally, the number of ADA-accessible parking spaces was increased in the original parking lot because it is closer to the platform.

News from



Rio Metro Regional Transit District



News From ABQ Ride



ABQ RIDE Is Still Hiring!

The City of Albuquerque Transit Department/ ABQ RIDE is still looking to fill a number of key positions, especially Motor Coach Operators.

That's why it is participating in two job fairs during the first part of 2020. On Saturday, Feb. 1, ABQ RIDE will be taking applications for jobs at the 2020 One Albuquerque Youth Job and Volunteer Fair at the Albuquerque Convention Center. The job fair runs from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Then, on Thursday, March 5, ABQ RIDE will once again be taking applications for Motor Coach Operators, mechanics, vehicle servicers and Communication Center Specialists and Dispatchers (candidates for this job must list any two-way radio and/or dispatcher experience). The job fair will run from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the Albuquerque Convention Center.

ABQ RIDE provides over nine million passenger trips every year on its fixed route and Sun Van paratransit services; all of it possible through the hard work and dedication of qualified bus drivers, mechanics, and support staff. And it needs more people to help the Transit Department keep Albuquerque moving forward, especially now that Albuquerque Rapid Transit is actively running its nine mile route through Central Ave.

These jobs provide good wages, benefits and professional training as a city employee. Anyone with these skills is encouraged to apply for these jobs.

For more information, call (505) 724-3100. You can also apply for these jobs at www.governmentjobs.com/careers/cabq.

**ONE
ALBUQUE
RQUE** transit





Save the Date!!!

Announcements:

Upcoming Quarterly Training Sessions and Annual Conference...

Winter Quarterly Training:

Emergency Management and Preparedness

Facilitated by Ream Lazaro

When: Wednesday, February 5, 2020

Where: Nusenda Credit Union Training Center

4100 Pan American Fwy NE

Albuquerque, NM 87107

Summer Quarterly Training:

Fleet Management: Maintenance Records - Pre-trip/Post-trip records, Recall Follow up, Warranties and Bus Upkeep

Facilitated by: Halsey King

This training will be held in May or June. Exact time and location will be announced as confirmed.

2020 NM Transit Road-ee, Conference and Expo

Road-ee: Sunday, April 19th

Conference and Expo: Monday, April 20th - Tuesday, April 21st

Where: Santa Ana Star Casino and Hotel

54 Jemez Canyon Rd.

Santa Ana Pueblo, NM 87004

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 At Large
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

Keith Wilson, Treasurer

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

Ed Powers, Secretary

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

Ex-Officio Director

David Harris

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

Directors

Michael Bartholomew

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

Mary Collins

Director Representing Rural Transit Providers
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: stanleycooper@gmail.com

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

Director At Large currently available on the NMTA Board of Directors. Please contact Melissa Drake if you are interested in running for this position.



P.O. Box 15272
Rio Rancho, NM 87174

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