

**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	5
Rio Metro RTD	6
More from NMTA	8
NMTA Board of Directors	9



Dear NMTA Members,

I hope by the time this newsletter is published, we will have seen the worst of the weather that Winter can throw at us. I look forward to Spring and the feel in the air of new beginnings. With this new year, we have made it through some very tough, and different years with Covid 19. It may still be around, but we have learned how to beat it and move on. As a result, we are once again experiencing a rise in ridership numbers across the state.

Unfortunately, the job market is being fickle as many of our providers are having a tough time recruiting and hiring employees. My own company has had to change or cancel routes across our service area, from Alamogordo West to Las Cruces, and North to Ruidoso. I know many other entities have had to do the same, and it can be frustrating, to say the least. However, it's all good!

On behalf of the board, I would like to thank everyone that attended the Drug and Alcohol Program Manager (DAPM) and Reasonable Suspicion Drug training held at the Route 66 Casino and Hotel. This was our highest attended training. It was an excellent training presented by Mr. Sean Oswald of RLS and Associates. I hope all of our future trainings are this well attended. The next scheduled quarterly training is Transit Dispatch and will be held at the DoubleTree by Hilton in Santa Fe, NM on April 25th and 26th.

In March, NMTA once again hosted a Bus/Van Roadeo and Annual Conference. Also scheduled to kick off the conference season was the Managers' Leadership Conference. Melissa Drake has been working diligently to secure the venues for this event. Because of her, NMTA has been able to procure our first indoor Roadeo. It was held at the Rio Rancho Event Center. I know all involved in this year's Roadeo greatly appreciated not being outside, especially since last year's Roadeo almost took place in Texas, due to the wind. This year's Roadeo was fantastic! Also, the Conference was held at the Santa Ana Star Casino and Hotel in Bernalillo. It was great to see so many of you there.

Sadly, the last item in this letter is a farewell. It is with a very heavy heart that I resign my position on the NMTA board. I have been on the board since 2005 and feel that it is time for me to go. This will free up a spot for some new blood. I have greatly enjoyed my time on the board and feel that the association has, and continues, to move in the right direction. I would like to thank all the other board members and all of the association members that I've come to know. I would like to also commend Melissa Drake for all her hard work, her attention to detail, her ability to keep me on the straight and narrow. That is no small feat. Again, I am really happy to have had this chance to help the people of New Mexico, and I will not forget what you all have done.

Thank You Very Much,  
Joseph E. Hardin



Thank you Joe Hardin for serving on the NMTA Board of Directors for 18 years! You will be missed.



## News from New Mexico Department of Transportation

### News From NM Department of Transportation

#### URGENT: 5311 Subrecipient Invoicing

**Please make sure your monthly billing is current.** Until the debt ceiling issue is resolved at the national level, there is a chance that the Federal government will eventually need to

temporarily suspend reimbursements to states, which could impact our ability to reimburse our subrecipients as quickly as we normally do.

#### Update of the New Mexico Statewide Public Transportation Plan

Our public transit community survey is now available through April 30th online at <https://www.connectnmstudy.com/>. We encourage everyone to complete this brief survey and share the link with others. We are currently scheduling in-person public meetings throughout the state. Public meetings (with Zoom attendance options) have been scheduled as follows.

- **Monday April 17 - Santa Fe**  
Santa Fe MPO  
500 Market Street  
Suite 200 (Second floor, above REI)  
Santa Fe, NM 87501
- **Tuesday April 18 - Gallup**  
El Morro Event Center  
210 S 2nd Street  
Gallup, NM 87301
- **Wednesday April 19 - Albuquerque**  
Mid-Region Council of Governments (MRCOG)  
809 Copper Ave. NW  
(Large meeting room )  
Albuquerque, NM 87102

- **Tuesday April 25 - Las Cruces**  
Mesilla Valley MPO  
City of Las Cruces City Hall  
700 N Main St, Las Cruces  
Room 2007A  
NM 88001
- **Wednesday April 26 - Roswell**  
SERTPO-Roswell Convention Center  
912 N Main St  
Room A  
Roswell, NM 88201

All meetings begin at 6:30pm. To register via Zoom, please visit the study web link. We appreciate everyone's support of this effort. For more information, please contact Gabrielle Chavez (see contact list on page 3 for details).

#### Update of the Transit Guide

The update of the 2019 Transit Guide is also underway. The Transit Guide serves as a resource for users to learn about the transportation options available in their area. We include public transit services, as well as transportation options for the elderly, people with disabilities, and veterans. Program descriptions typically include contact information (phone and web links) and when

applicable, hours of operation, service areas and/or routes, and fare structures. We appreciate everyone's help updating this valuable resource. For more information, please contact David Hadwiger at [David.Hadwiger@dot.nm.gov](mailto:David.Hadwiger@dot.nm.gov) or (505) 819-9757.

## Transit Bureau contact list – please note new email addresses

Kevin Olinger  
(505) 469-3595  
Kevin.Olinger@dot.nm.gov

Jason Park  
(505) 490-5347  
Jason.Park@dot.nm.gov

Deborah Bach  
(505) 819-9112  
Deborah.Bach@dot.nm.gov

Vijay Ummadi  
(505) 469-7890  
VijayK.Ummadi@dot.nm.gov

Gabrielle Chavez  
(505) 469-4413  
Gabrielle.Chavez@dot.nm.gov

Jason Lujan  
(505) 487-0177  
Jason.Lujan2@dot.nm.gov

Alexis Corning-Padilla  
(505) 699-4384  
AlexisCorning.Padil@dot.nm.gov

## Two RoadRUNNER Transit Drivers Credited with Saving a Life

Utilities Employees House and Hernandez



The quick thinking of two RoadRUNNER Transit drivers, Eugene House and Israel Hernandez, is being credited for saving the life of a Las Cruces man.

On Monday, Jan. 30, 2023, an unconscious man was found in a restroom at the Mesilla Valley Intermodal Transit Terminal, 300 W. Lohman Ave. An emergency call was made to Mesilla Valley Regional Dispatch Authority when MVITT employees believed the unidentified man may have overdosed.

Emergency dispatchers instructed House to administer Narcan to the man. Narcan, also known as naloxone, is a drug approved by the Food and Drug Administration to treat a known or suspected opioid overdose.

Narcan is kept at the MVITT for such kinds of emergencies since the building is frequented by the public. When used correctly, Narcan can reverse the effects of an overdose within minutes.

House called Hernandez for assistance, and together, they administered the Narcan. The man was able to regain consciousness a few moments later and was then assessed by medical personnel. The man refused further medical help.

The quick action of House and Hernandez saved this man's life.

Highlighting  
New  
Mexico  
Transit  
Members

City of  
Las Cruces—

 City of Las Cruces

RoadRunner  
Transit



Continued  
from page 3

Highlighting  
New  
Mexico  
Transit  
Members

Rockin' 66  
Express



## Get on the Express – Rockin' 66 Express Is Here for Cibola Faith Mosley, Reporter



David Segovia,  
Express Driver

MILAN, N.M. - When David Segovia packed up the family three years ago and left the central coast of California for Grants, NM and a job at Rockin' 66 Express, he had no idea that driving a small shuttle bus would become one of his all-time favorite

jobs. "Every day is a new adventure. I love meeting new people, serving the community, and helping the handicapped and veterans," he said while driving the red shuttle bus down old Route 66 after dropping off an elderly couple at their home in the Village of Milan. "This was a spiritual move that brought me here. It was the right move, and the people of Grants have welcomed us."

David works full-time and is one of four drivers that navigate the Village of Milan, Grants, Bluewater Village and San Rafael. The bus service also travels on State Road 605 ending at mile marker four. The transit service that began as Cibola Transit evolved into the Carrot Express (named because the Village of Milan was once the carrot capital of the world), and after a unanimous vote from the citizens of Milan, was renamed the Rockin' 66 Express in 2019.

Transit Director, Melissa Chavez, oversees the operation of the Rockin' 66 Express from her office in the Village of Milan. Even though she handles traffic control and all the paperwork, including dispatch, she is happy to jump in and work as a substitute driver when necessary. "I still have my CDL, and I'll still drive. I love helping the community. It's a good feeling."

Many community members do not know that the door-to-door bus service exists for all Cibola County Residents. Bus riders just need to call the Rockin' 66 Express phone number

(505-290-2469) and schedule their pickup. A driver will pick up a rider at their front door and transport the rider to their desired location. There are regulars who use the service every day to get to and from work. Others use the service to get to a doctor's appointment. Dialysis patients ride free and so do veterans with service ID. A regular trip costs \$0.75 per person per trip or \$2 all day, and \$0.30 for kids under eighteen. Riders are encouraged to schedule their trips as early as possible to ensure a timely pickup. Regular rider Patsy Williams said, "This is a lifesaver. We've depended on the bus for the doctor and everything."

Though the service is door-to-door, there are three regular bus stops: Millan Village Hall at 8:45 a.m. and 10:15 a.m., Smith's in Grants at 10:00 a.m. and 2:15 p.m., and the Walmart in Grants at 10:00 a.m. and 4:15 p.m.

The fleet consists of five shuttle buses, and last fiscal year the Rockin' 66 Express completed 11,639 trips, accumulated 67,000 miles traveled, and logged 2,744.5 hours of drive time. "The drivers are awesome employees who make all this happen. They go above and beyond every day. I'm truly blessed," Transit Director, Melissa Chavez said.



Melissa Chavez,  
Transit Director

## Electric Bus Conversion Program Update

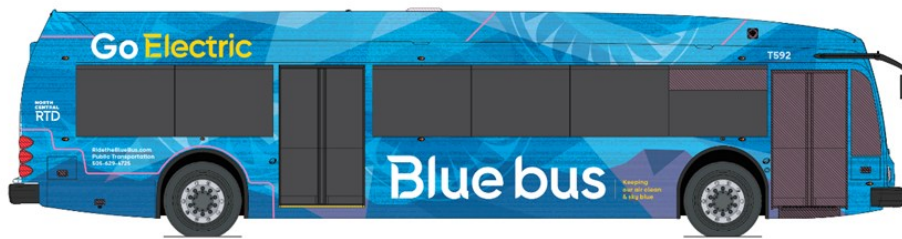
The North Central RTD has entered into a vehicle purchase contract phase on its conversion to electric low-no emission vehicles.

The District is negotiating with Proterra, the industry-leading electric vehicle provider, for the purchase of six Proterra ZX5 Max 40-foot electric vehicles. Delivery is expected in mid-calendar 2024. Additionally, the District will be purchasing four electric Ford Transit Vans and will align the delivery for those vehicles to match that of the Proterra buses as the electric vans have a shorter build and delivery window.

The conversion is being made possible through the FTA's Low-No Grant Funding awards. Five of the vehicles will be placed in the City of Española and five will go to the

Town of Taos. The \$9 million program also will provide for the purchase of associated charging infrastructure improvements and workforce training to maintain the vehicles.

NCRTD has retained the Center for Transportation and Environment (CTE) for project management and development of an implementation strategy, and AECOM for a technology needs analysis and recommendations for zero emissions bus transition plan.



## NCRTD Recognized by GFOA For FY 2021 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report and Popular Annual Financial Report

The North Central RTD was recognized by the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) of the United States and Canada as recipients of the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the Fiscal Year 2021 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) and Popular Annual Financial Report (PAFR)

This recognition by the GFOA is the highest achievement in Government accounting reporting. To qualify, each entity must meet the high standards established in each award program which recognizes governments that produce reports that communicate their financial stories in a transparent manner and meet applicable accounting standards set by the Government Accounting Standards Board (GASB)

This represents the sixth consecutive year the District has received the GFOA ACFR award and the fourth consecutive year for the PAFR.



News from

**NORTH  
CENTRAL  
RTD**

**North  
Central  
Regional  
Transit  
District**

## North Central RTD Taos Operations and Maintenance Facility Continues to Move Forward

With the purchase of six acres off Salazar Road and Este Es Road in the Town of Taos and the Architectural and Design phase completed, the District has moved forward towards the construction phase of its Taos Operations and Maintenance Facility.

The new facility will house the organization's existing and future fleet maintenance and operational needs and include operations areas, maintenance repair bays and support spaces, maintenance equipment and a fueling station. The construction will fulfill current

vehicle operations, maintenance and upkeep needs as well as be capable of accommodating future fleet expansion.



### News from



### Rio Metro Regional Transit District

#### Rail Runner Fare Update

New Mexico Rail Runner Express train passes resumed to full fare rates on April 3, 2023. The exception is the Monthly Pass, which is discounted at 50% off through December 31, 2023. Learn more about the fare update at [www.riometro.org/fareupdate](http://www.riometro.org/fareupdate).



#### Rio Metro Assumes Operations of 2 ABQ RIDE Bus Routes



Rio Metro recently assumed operations of ABQ RIDE Routes 222 and 251. Starting on March 27, 2023, the routes were replaced with Dial-a-Ride service. Both operate Monday through Friday and run along the same corridor that the ABQ RIDE buses did. Commuters need to call and schedule a ride by 12 Noon one business day in advance and buses will only stop at requested locations. To learn more about visit [www.riometro.org/newservice](http://www.riometro.org/newservice).

## Transit Operator Appreciation

Rio Metro celebrated our train and bus operators, crew, and staff in March for Transit Operator Appreciation Day. Posters featuring team members were created and hung at Rio Metro's three transit facilities and published along with a story on the website. A raffle was held for staff at each facility for a chance to win family 4-packs for Isotopes box seat tickets. Finally, posts featuring words of gratitude were shared to

social media, reaching more than 7,000 people and generating positive comments and words of thanks from followers. Rio Metro is grateful for each and every one of our operators, crew, and staff members for their hard work and ensuring the safety of our passengers while getting them where they need to go.



## Rio Metro Honored with Three Awards

Rio Metro's Marketing Department recently took home three awards for educational and awareness campaigns. The American Public Transportation Association honored Rio Metro in February with two first place AdWheel Awards, one for the Human Trafficking Awareness campaign and the other for the



Seniors 60+ Ride Free on Wednesdays video. Additionally, Rio Metro received a Silver Addy Award in March from the American Advertising Federation of New Mexico for the same Seniors 60+ Ride Free on Wednesdays video. View all awards at [www.riometro.org/awards](http://www.riometro.org/awards).

## Ground Broken on Valencia County Transit Facility



In December 2022, Rio Metro Regional Transit District kicked off the construction of the Valencia County Transit Facility (VCTF) with a groundbreaking celebration. Rio Metro CEO, Dewey V. Cave, acknowledged the contributions of key project partners, and Deputy Secretary Trent Doolittle spoke on behalf of NMDOT, who is leasing the property to Rio Metro. The VCTF is the future home of Rio Metro's bus services in Valencia County. Read more about the project at [www.riometro.org/vctf](http://www.riometro.org/vctf).

## Full-Scale Mock Train Emergency

Rio Metro conducted a Full-Scale Mock Train Emergency on the Rail Runner in December 2022. Full-scale trainings take place on a biennial basis to familiarize first responders on all aspects of reacting to a rail emergency. The primary exercise in the December training was how to respond in the event of a fire on the train. Albuquerque Fire Rescue and Rail Runner crew members went through a full drill on how to respond using volunteers as passenger victims.

These mock emergencies help crew members and first responders prepare for potential situations as well as develop and maintain good working relationships.





## Upcoming NMTA Quarterly Training Sessions and Transit Conferences...

### Save The Date:

- **Transit Dispatch Training**  
When: April 25th and 26th, 2023  
Where: DoubleTree by Hilton Santa Fe

### More From NMTA...

Please check [nm-ta.com](http://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](http://nm-ta.com) website .

#### Follow us on Social Media:

Facebook [@New Mexico Transit Association](https://www.facebook.com/NewMexicoTransitAssociation)

Twitter [@NM\\_Transit](https://twitter.com/NM_Transit)

### 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](mailto:mdrake@nm-ta.com) today!



## NMTA Board of Directors Contact Information

### Executive Board of Directors

#### **Elizabeth Carter, President**

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

#### **James Barela, Vice President**

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

#### **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

#### **Michael Bartholomew**

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

#### **Brent Roy**

Business Director  
Creative Bus Sales  
Contact Info:  
Office: (682) 808-9830  
Email: broy@creativebussales.com

#### **Todd Naktewa**

Director Representing Tribal Transit  
Pueblo of Zuni—A:Shiwi Transit  
Contact Info:  
Office: (505) 782-7288  
Email: todd.naktewa@ahiwi.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

#### **(Currently Open)**

Director Representing Enhanced Mobility of Seniors  
and Individuals with Disabilities



P.O. Box 15272  
Rio Rancho, NM 87174

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