



NMPTA

Spring 2011 Newsletter



Inside This Issue

News from New Mexico DOT	2
NMDOT Announces the FY 2012 Federal Transit Grant Awards	3
News from ABQ Ride	6
NCRTD Driver Is King Of The Road	7
Member Highlights	8

NEW MEXICO PASSENGER TRANSPORTATION ASSOCIATION

Letter From Our NMPTA President

What a wonderful experience the 2011 New Mexico Passenger Transportation Association’s Annual Conference was, this past April, at Buffalo Thunder Resort! Beginning with the ROAD-E-O on Sunday, and ending with the election of new NMPTA Board members Tuesday afternoon, the event is always valuable for those able to attend and participate. Thanks to all the members who work hard every year to make the conference a success – and particularly to NMPTA’s Melissa Drake – who made it all come together so marvelously. I’m please to announce that next year’s annual conference will be hosted at the same venue: April 15-17, 2012. The Board of Directors would very much appreciate hearing from attendees what they particularly enjoyed about the conference this year – and even more importantly what *you’d* like to see in April of 2012.

Reaching out to members, and ensuring that the NMPTA is meeting your expectations and needs, is something we hope to do throughout the coming year. At the most recent Board of Directors meeting, your representatives agreed to host upcoming board meetings at various locations throughout the state giving members the chance to interact and share ideas with us directly. These opportunities will not only include a business meeting – but also informal roundtable discussions tailored to topics of interest to the systems serving the region where the meeting is held.

Training for drivers, and the potential of hosting regional ROAD-E-O’s as a component of these gatherings, is also in the works. The first of these regional sessions is scheduled for October in the Rio Metro Area – stay tuned for further details.

In addition to the NMPTA Board “getting on-the-road”, we’ve decided to take some time over the summer months do some reflection about where we’ve been and where we’re going as an organization. More specifically, we’ve scheduled a “visioning” retreat on Friday, August 19, 2011 (exact meeting time and location to be determined) at which we hope to have members join the Board of Directors in a goal setting workshop. Please reserve that day to join us in a process of discovery and help chart the course for the future of the NMPTA. Once again, we exist as an organization to be of service to our members, so please join us to share your needs, hopes, and desires for the future!

Thank you for the opportunity to serve the New Mexico Passenger Transportation Association as your President this coming year.

All the best,
Jon Bulthuis

News from NM Department of Transportation



NMDOT Transit and Rail Division Presents Annual Awards at NM Transit Conference

At the 2011 New Mexico Transit Conference and Road-e-o held in Pojoaque April 17th to 19th, NMDOT's Transit and Rail Division presented their award for outstanding public transit agencies in New Mexico.

New Mexico State Transportation Commissioner Jackson Gibson presented Navajo Nation Transit System with the 2010 Rural Public Transit System of the Year Award. Commissioner Gibson congratulated Navajo Nation Transit System on behalf of the New Mexico Department of Transportation and mentioned Navajo Nation Transit System's ridership increase of 69% to over 88,000 passenger trips.



He further mentioned their emphasis on safety and federal regulatory compliance under the leadership of their Director, Lee Bigwater, and their provision of greater service to their customers, coordination with other transit systems, and their efforts to provide better buses and facilities.

The Transit and Rail Division also presented an award to Rio Metro Regional Transit District for being the 2010 Job Access and Reverse Commute Transit System of the Year, and to Z Trans – Zia Therapy Center, Inc. – for being the Elderly Individuals and Individuals with Disabilities System of the Year.

Federal Transit Administration staff also attended and presented awards to Farmington's Red Apple Transit System for ridership increases for an urban transit system and to North Central Transit District for ridership increases for a rural transit system.

(In this picture: left to right – NMDOT Transit and Rail Division Director Frank Sharpless, Commissioner Gibson, NMDOT Director of Government Affairs Muffet Foy Cuddy, Florinda Lynch from Navajo Nation Transit System, and Transit Manager David Harris).

Fiscal Year 2013 Letters of Intent due July 8, 2011 to NMDOT

For more information and details to send in a letter of intent for Sections 5310, 5311, 5316, and 5317 funding please go to: <http://nmshtd.state.nm.us/upload/images/Programs-Transit%20and%20Rail-Transit/FY13%20letter%20of%20intent%205311,%2010,%2016,%2017.pdf>

SAVE THE DATE! NMDOT Federal Transit Grant Application Workshop

Monday, July 11, 2011 in Santa Fe NMDOT Transit and Rail Division conference room, 9:30am – 12:00pm
1350 Alta Vista St, Building SB-4, Santa Fe, NM
RSVP to Sarah Sandoval at 505.827.5218

For more information go to: <http://nmshtd.state.nm.us/upload/images/Programs-Transit%20and%20Rail-Transit/Flyer%20for%20FY%202013%20Application%20Workshop.pdf>

NMDOT Transit and Rail Division Announces the FY 2012 Federal Transit Grant Awards

The New Mexico Department of Transportation's Transit and Rail Division announced the FY 2012 awards at its annual Statewide Transit Budget Award Meeting on April 28, 2011. Subgrantees submitted applications in

August 2010. The available federal funds will support capital, administration and operations at public transit agencies from September 1, 2011 through October 30, 2012. A total of \$10,752,915.11 in federal transit grant funds was awarded.

Section 5310

The agencies awarded funds under Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5310 for capital assistance providing transportation to elderly individuals and/or individuals with disabilities. The 18 applicants' funding requests were over the amount of Section 5310 funds available. Therefore, recommended budgets needed to be pared down in order to meet FY 12's needs and funding limits, as well as to accommodate future requests in FY 2013.

Requests were funded at \$1,031,867.39 in federal capital funds. Funded awards decreased by 23% from the FY 11 amount of \$1,336,009.60, but increased by 27% over the FY10 amount of \$811,199.92. Eligible applicants include private non-profit organizations, state or local governmental authorities, and operators of public transportation services including private operators.

Thirty transportation program vehicles were awarded to the following entities:

USC § Section 5310	Total Federal Budget Award (Capital Only)
Subgrantee	
Adelante Development Center	\$97,675.20
ARCA	\$80,400.00
Coyote Canyon Rehabilitation Center	\$53,862.40
Door of Opportunity	\$63,840.00
Family and Youth, Inc	\$64,000.00
Good Samaritan	\$78,240.74
Go Fors, Inc	\$53,600.00
Jewish Family Services	\$26,878.96
Las Cumbres	\$53,717.92
Life Quest	\$28,311.20
PB & J Family Services	\$26,120.00
Rio Metro Regional Transit District	\$115,200.00
Share Your Care, Inc	\$69,785.60
Sierra County	\$28,000.00
Transitional Living	\$28,543.37
Tresco, Inc	\$91,200.00
Zia Therapy Center, Inc	\$40,492.00
Zuni Entrepreneurial Enterprises	\$32,000.00
Total	\$1,031,867.39

Section 5311

Section 5311 funds are used to assist with administrative, operating, and capital expenses in the provision of general public transportation services in rural areas. There were 23 applicants for FY12 5311 funding, including one new applicant, Ohkay Ohwingeh Pueblo.

Recommended federal administration and operating grant awards for FY11 is \$7,786,470.42 – all rural public transit awards were kept flat from FY11. Recommended total (federal and local) administration and operating grant awards for FY11 is \$13,143,725.78. Although federal operating and administration awards were kept flat for FY 12, awards decreased by 2.4% from FY 11 due to a loss of operators in Angel Fire and Torrance County.

However, FY 12 awards still represent an increase of 2.7% from FY 10.

Capital requests for Section 5311 came in at \$2,311,495.34 federal. We will be utilizing Section 5309 funds towards 5311 requests. Section 5309 funds in the amount of \$1,205,513 are available for capital for FY12. However, we need to leave a balance in this account in order to conserve funds for next fiscal year. Fortunately, the recent \$4 million FTA State of Good Repair award NMDOT was awarded will help serve rural subgrantees capital needs. Therefore, capital federal awards for FY12 rural public transit (utilizing the Section 5309 funds) total \$885,316.80.

USC § Section 5311	
Subgrantee	Total Federal Budget Award (Administrative and Operation)
Adelante	\$18,611.20
Carlsbad	\$284,729.56
Clovis	\$479,844.81
Golden Spread	\$101,361.96
Hobbs	\$261,526.51
Laguna Pueblo	\$92,115.54
Las Vegas	\$143,037.86
Los Alamos Co.	\$709,684.35
Village of Milan	\$136,853.40
Navajo Nation	\$355,368.57
Na Nizhoozhi Center, Inc.	\$179,367.50
North Central RTD	\$1,087,040.01
Ohkay Owingeh	\$81,444.35
Portales	\$147,904.10
Red River	\$93,083.00
Rio Metro RTD	\$1,253,048.37
Roswell	\$669,824.80
City of Ruidoso Downs	\$146,465.34
City of Socorro	\$95,959.36
Southwest RTD	\$546,175.84
Taos	\$333,986.66
Zia	\$454,108.32
Zuni EE	\$146,679.00
Total	\$7,818,220.42

USC § Section 5311	
Subgrantee	Total Federal Budget Award (Capital Only)
Carlsbad	\$26,480.00
Clovis	\$80,000.00
Golden Spread	\$1,120.00
Hobbs	\$2,400.00
Los Alamos Co.	\$278,000.00
Navajo Nation	\$102,400.00
Na Nizhoozhi Center, Inc.	\$9,294.40
North Central RTD	\$64,000.00
Ohkay Owingeh	\$36,000.00
Rio Metro RTD	\$4,800.00
Roswell	\$138,960.00
City of Ruidoso Downs	\$33,320.00
Southwest RTD	\$26,542.40
Zia	\$50,000.00
Zuni EE	\$32,000.00
Total	\$885,316.80

Section 5316

The Job Access and Reverse Commute (JARC) program, Section 5316, was established to address the unique transportation challenges faced by financial assistance recipients and low-income persons seeking to obtain and maintain employment. Eligible activities include operating expenses for projects that transport low income individuals to and from jobs and activities related to employment and for reverse commute projects.

Eight Section 5316 Job Access and Reverse Commute (JARC) program applicants requested a total \$789,473

in FY 12 federal JARC funds, and are recommended to receive \$789,473—which represents a slight increase from the FY11 grant award of \$750,000 in federal JARC funds. As was discussed last year, this program will likely experience more reductions in funding next year due to JARC being converted to a formula appropriation program, as well as dwindling carry over balances from when NMDOT received earmarks. Also, the local match that many subgrantees received from Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) grants has been discontinued by NM Human Services Department.

USC § Section 5316	
Subgrantee	Total Federal Budget Award
Ben Archer	\$110,878.00
Carlsbad	\$35,679.20
Los Alamos Co.	\$192,856.30
Village of Milan	\$25,000.00
North Central RTD	\$151,955.00
Rio Metro RTD	\$188,304.50
SCCOG	\$65,000.00
Zia Therapy	\$19,800.00
Total	\$789,473.00

Section 5317

The New Freedom Program, Section 5317, provides new public transportation services and public transportation alternatives beyond those required by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) that assists individuals with disabilities with transportation, including transportation to and from jobs and employment support services. Eligible activities include capital and operating expenses for new public transportation services and new public transportation alternatives beyond those required by the American with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), that are designed to assist individuals with disabilities.

There were two applicants that received their full requests for a total of \$308,037.50 in federal funds for operating and capital. In FY10 \$226,479.50 was awarded, and in FY11 \$334,350 was awarded.

USC § Section 5317	
Subgrantee	Total Federal Budget Award (Operating and Capital)
Carlsbad	\$16,750.00
Los Alamos	\$291,287.50
Total	\$308,037.50

For more information contact Marcy Eppler at 505-827-5435 or marsha.eppler@state.nm.us .



News
From
ABQ Ride



ABQ RIDE Partnering with *Google Transit* for Easier Online and Smartphone Trip Planning

Planning bus trips through Albuquerque has gotten easier, now that ABQ RIDE and *Google*, the Internet search engine, have formed a partnership through *Google Transit*.

Albuquerque bus riders can now go to Google Maps to get step by step directions for taking trips on ABQ RIDE. This includes how to plan a trip from Point A to Point B in the city and which bus routes to take. The individualized trip plan also comes with an itinerary, step-by-step transit directions, maps and a calculation of walking distances. You can even click on the bus symbol Google has placed on its maps for every one of ABQ RIDE's designated bus stops- to get the next, regularly scheduled buses for that stop.

"*Google Transit* Trip Planner is just one of the ways we're making it even easier for people to discover and use public transportation in Albuquerque," said Mayor Richard J. Berry. "No other online mapping service links transit information with so much other useful information."

ABQ RIDE is the first bus system in New Mexico to partner with *Google Transit* and is now among 450 cities worldwide that have positioned themselves to take advantage of an innovation in the computer world to better serve its customers. Now, all ABQ RIDE route and schedule information will be available in a

smartphone application as well as online through Google Maps.

"With the ease of Google Maps, we want to turn potential riders into active riders," said Bruce Rizzieri, Director of ABQ RIDE. "We want to tap an audience that may not even know ABQ RIDE is an option for them as well as capitalize on the growing use of smartphones to access information."

You can plan a trip on ABQ RIDE via Google Maps by simply going to maps.google.com and selecting "Get Directions." The public transit link is shown each time driving directions are requested by the viewer who may not be aware that transit is even an option. For those using a smartphone, you can download the latest version of Google Maps for free from your respective app store or access it in your mobile browser. A link to Google Maps can also be found on www.myabqride.com.

In addition to *Google Transit*, riders can still use ABQ RIDE'S own online trip planner feature found at www.myabqride.com.

NCRTD DRIVER IS KING OF THE ROAD

North Central Regional Transit District (NCRTD) van driver, Mike Molina, successfully defended his title as the top van driver in the state of New Mexico. For a third straight year, Mike took home top honors and a trophy at the New Mexico Public Transportation Association Road-E-O. The competition was held at Buffalo Thunder Resort in Santa Fe in conjunction with the New Mexico Public Transportation Association Conference and Expo.

The competition is friendly challenge among driver participants from transit organizations across New Mexico. It's broken into two categories; Mike had 26 other competitors in the van competition including some of his NCRTD colleagues. There were 20 participants in the bus category. In addition to their driving skills, judges look for a contestant's ability to secure a wheel chair in the bus, the ability to follow ADA protocol, the conducting of a pre-trip inspection and customer service.

Mike's win qualifies him for the national competition sponsored by the Community Transportation Association. He will represent New Mexico for a third time in Indianapolis, IN on June 5th.

In his first national competition in 2009, Mike headed for Providence, Rhode Island, and



placed a notable seventh place among drivers from across the country. Long Beach, CA was the scene of the 2010 national competition and Mike impressively earned second place. In 2011, he is definitely a contender for top honors; and has the enthusiastic support of his family and the entire NCRTD family.

Road skills must race in the family genes; Nick Molina, Mike's son, can toot his van horn, coming in second at the Road-E-O. Joey Olonia, also an NCRTD van driver, took home the third place prize. As a whole, NCRTD drivers made an excellent showing at the New Mexico Road-E-O taking home the top three honors in the van competition.

"We believe that because the NCRTD is committed to providing extensive driver and safety training for our driver operators, it has increased our safety capacity and has elevated our drivers within the industry. Our drivers have represented us well. We will all be cheering for Mike as he competes in the national finals." said Ivan Guillen, Regional Operations Manager.



**Highlighting
New Mexico
Transportation
Providers**

**Submit
Your
Story**

Las Cruces marked the 25th anniversary of its RoadRUNNER Transit Service on April 21, 2011. The City began service on four fixed routes plus one route on the NMSU campus on April 21, 1986. Transportation for individuals with disabilities and senior citizens was accomplished through a partnership with the City’s Senior Transportation Program. In the early 1990s, with the implementation of the 1990 ADA law, RoadRUNNER assumed the transportation program for persons with disabilities, with senior transportation continuing to be offered by the City’s Senior Programs. By 1995, ADA and Senior Transportation were re-consolidated and operated under the auspices of RoadRUNNER Transit as Dial-a-Ride.

Today, RoadRUNNER operates 8 bus routes, Monday through Saturday, plus four campus routes on the New Mexico State University campus and one more connecting the East Mesa campus of the Dona Aña Community College with the Mesilla Valley Mall. Fixed route trips consistently exceed 600,000 annually and Dial-a-Ride trips exceed 52,000 trips annually.

For the entire week of April 18 – 23, 2011, the service was fare-free. On April 21, there was a modest celebration at the downtown transfer site with a live radio remote, refreshments, and a proclamation read by City Councilor Gill Sorg, declaring the day as RoadRUNNER Transit Day.



Leave the Driving to Us

By Tom Hartssock

Taking the bus used to be a popular mode of transportation and with gasoline prices moving towards \$4 per gallon; it may be the ride of choice in the near future.

Gallup is fortunate that the city and even the Navajo Nation have looked into the future to provide this transportation for area residents now!

The price is definitely right! For just \$2 a day, including transfers, you can ride on one or all of the 12 routes on Navajo Transit, and

\$1 a trip will get you from one end of Gallup to the other with one transfer.

Gallup Express is directed by Matthew Ortiz, who is also the Administrative Director of the Detoxification Unit at NCI.

“We were in conversation about maybe shutting the Gallup Express down,” said Jay Azua, the director of programs at NCI. “Matt walked in at just the right time and asked if we had an opening, and he has taken this operation out of the red and into the black in a very short time.”

Leaving the Driving to Us continued from page 8...



Gallup Express is also working with Navajo Transit and the City of Gallup to construct several shelters to protect passengers from the sun while they wait for the next bus. Two of them are already in use with another one ready to go once approval near Wal Mart is received. Contact has also been made with Santa Fe for additional shelters, but for now the Navajo Tribe is furnishing most of the materials and the city construction director is helping to coordinate the materials and construction to ensure that the units are put up safely, according to Superintendent James Saucedo.

Lee Bigwater, the Department Director of Navajo Transit Authority seems excited too about the possibilities these transportation systems make available to area residents. His buses currently operate in Arizona and New Mexico but plans are in the works to invade Utah as well in the near future.

Gallup Express currently serves about 40,000 riders every year while Navajo Transit has for times that many

customers. A charter service is also available on an Itinerary Schedule for a modest price, and the size of the buses vary from a 12 – passenger van up to the large Greyhound – sized buses (49 passengers) we have all seen on the highways.

Barbara Curtis is the Program and Project Specialist in charge of the Charter trips, and the City, Navajo Transit and Gallup Express all have a vital interest in the success of these transit systems to our community and the outlying area.

Facts supplied by Ortiz show that when he arrived in Gallup, the ridership on Gallup Express was down to 29,000 annually and he hopes that the current increase is a trend that will continue upwards as the service is able to expand to more needed, nearby areas like Church Rock, Williams Acres and Gamerco.

It is, or could be, a benefit to many in and near Gallup, and it only requires a small adjustment. Leave the driving, and the expense, to those in the business.

A Special Thank You to Town Talk Community Newspaper in Gallup, NM, for allowing New Mexico Passenger Transportation Association to include "Leave the Driving to Us" in the NMPTA 2011 Spring Newsletter.

National RTAP's Recently Released Free Website builder...

Our website templates have all of the features you need to build and manage a great looking website — all designed via familiar web-based tools — no programming or HTML knowledge is needed. Create pages using text, images, links, and even add video to your site. Blogs, calendars, file downloads, photo galleries, and more are easy to create and maintain. Want to view your website's traffic statistics? It's all built-in!

For more information, please visit: <http://www.nationalrtap.org/WebApps/WebsiteBuilder.aspx>

Here are some of the features that are available in the template. It's all included at no cost.

Website Features	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Simple Website Management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Video ▪ Social Networking
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ WYSIWIG Editing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Forums
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Website Search 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ RSS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Resource Library 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Calendar
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Website Stats 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Communication Management
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ HTML Code Access 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cross Browser
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Photo Gallery 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 508 Compliant
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ File Management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ FREE Hosting
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ And More



New Mexico Passenger Transportation Association

317 Commercial St. NE
Albuquerque, NM 87102

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