



State of New Mexico

Office of the Governor

Bill Richardson
Governor

News Release

Governor Bill Richardson Hails Roswell's Millennium Transit Services' \$94 million contract

Order means 250 new employees in next 12 months

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SANTA FE – Governor Richardson today announced that Millennium Transit of Roswell has been awarded a \$94 million contract to supply 289 buses to New Jersey Transit.

The contract, awarded yesterday, puts the company on track to hire 250 employees within the next 12 months, according to Millennium officials. Millennium beat out significant competition to win the contract.

“This is a hard-fought victory that means high-wage manufacturing jobs and new revenue for Rowell and Chaves County,” said Governor Richardson. “The partnership among the state, Millennium Transit, and the Roswell community clearly demonstrates we can come together to bring business and opportunity to New Mexico. The state’s investment in Millennium is an investment in the future of Roswell and southeastern New Mexico, and I am confident it will pay off.”

Governor Richardson’s administration supported the company at critical points in the last two years by making a \$2 million loan to the company through the State Investment Office in partnership with \$2.3 million from the City of Roswell and the Pioneer Bank of Roswell.

The State of New Mexico has also approved \$2 million of training funds through the Job Training Incentive Program of the Economic Development Department, and the Governor has made telephone calls to potential customers on the company’s behalf.

Roswell Mayor Bill Owen added, "This is a huge event for our community. Having such a vibrant business here affects not just the hundreds of families directly involved with Millennium, but everyone, and every business, in the area."

In addition to the New Jersey contract, Millennium Transit announced two additional contracts today. The first is a contract from the City of El Paso, TX to convert 25 buses from Diesel to clean-burning CNG. The second is from Pueblo, CO for three buses.

"The bus we make in Roswell, the RTS, has a proud reputation as the workhorse of public transit systems," said Les Kolls, CEO of Millennium Transit. "We fought hard for the New Jersey Transit business, against four tough competitors, and the quality, reliability and reputation of the RTS bus tipped the balance in our favor. We couldn't have done this without help from the State of New Mexico, the City of Roswell and Pioneer Bank. Today is a great day for all of us."

Kolls also expressed his personal gratitude to Governor Bill Richardson, Roswell Mayor Bill Owen, Pioneer Bank President John Hitchcock, and Bill Armstrong Jr., who served as president of the Chaves County Development Foundation for the past two years. He said their personal involvement was critical to the company's success.

Kolls said that each bus will be fully compliant with the American Disabilities Act, equipped with both wheelchair lifts and a kneeling feature. The buses will also comply with the Clean Air Act, reducing emissions for the entire New Jersey fleet by nearly seven per cent.

"As Millennium adds jobs, the Roswell economy will grow in other ways – through new jobs in the retail, financial and construction industries," said Rick Homans, Economic Development Department Secretary. "The Economic Development Department will continue to work with Millennium and Chaves County Development Foundation to provide job training funds, and to recruit key suppliers to locate in southeastern New Mexico."

State Investment Officer Gary Bland added, "These contracts have been a while coming, but it appears the Richardson Administration's commitment and patience are now being rewarded. The State Investment Council anticipates this is just the first chapter in a book of good stories for Millennium Transport and the City of Roswell."